



# Year in Review



# Board of Education


A 7-member Board of Education governs District 99. Elected members are unpaid volunteers who serve 4-year, staggered terms. Members represent the voices and opinions of the community and set the policies, goals, and budget of the district. The Board also oversees the Superintendent, who is responsible for the daily operations of the district.



Front row (l-r): Board President **Dr. Nancy Kupka**, Board Vice President **Terry Pavesich**, Board Member **Sherell Fuller**. Second row (l-r): District 99 Superintendent **Dr. Hank Thiele**, Board Members **Michael Davenport**, **Rick Pavinato**, **Daniel Nicholas**, and **Donald E. Renner III**.

Thank you to outgoing Members **Julia K. Beckman** (24 years of service) and **Deborah Boyle** (8 years of service). Each leaves a positive legacy.

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**Dr. Hank Thiele**  
*District 99 Superintendent*

**Dear Friend of District 99:**

I am proud to share our Year in Review of the 2016-17 school year at Downers Grove North High School (DGN) and Downers Grove South High School (DGS). We have continued to grow student achievement in our student-centered, challenging and caring district, and both schools are ranked nationally by U.S. News & World Report as “Silver Medal Schools.”

The success of our students reflects the efforts of our community working together. Teachers, staff, parents, and volunteers make our schools outstanding places for students to learn, grow and prepare for the future. Thank you for your support.

 **Public** [Post](#)

# Facts at a Glance

## Our Mission

Provide a **caring** and **challenging** environment where all students develop as **lifelong learners**.

## About District 99

Our award-winning schools, DGN and DGS, are well-known for exceptional academics, high-performing extracurricular and athletic programs, and quality faculty. In fact, 88% of our 411 certified faculty members hold advanced degrees. Students come to us from 5 public elementary districts (Downers Grove 58, Maercker 60, Darien 61, Center-Cass 66 and Woodridge 68), as well as private schools.



## Your Voice Matters

You may comment at our regular public meetings, which are held on Monday evenings throughout the year at our Administrative Service Center (6301 Springside Avenue in Downers Grove). Check [www.csd99.org](http://www.csd99.org) for times. You may also email the Board Members at [BoardMembers@csd99.org](mailto:BoardMembers@csd99.org).

## 2016-17 Enrollment

Our 4,956\* students live in 7 communities:



Community	DGN 2,213* students	DGS 2,743* students
Bolingbrook	–	3%
Darien	–	12%
Downers Grove	65%	42%
Lisle	2%	–
Oak Brook	2%	–
Westmont	11%	7%
Woodridge	20%	36%

\* Enrollment figures as reported on most recent Illinois Report Card.

According to an outside demographer, enrollment through 2025 is expected to remain level.

# Academics



## Challenging Academics, Supportive Programs

District 99 offers over 200 distinct courses, including Honors and 27 Advanced Placement (AP) courses. AP courses are rigorous, preparing students for college-level coursework. Many courses support STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) learning, including AP Environmental Science, Calculus and Computer Science. We also offer 4 “Project Lead the Way” (PLTW) engineering courses, through which students can earn college credit and scholarships.



## Raising expectations for all students

District 99 offers a host of targeted interventions for our students who need extra help. In addition, in 2013, we launched AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination), a college prep program for students traditionally underrepresented in higher education. It provides academic instruction, tutorial support and college and career activities for select students. The inaugural class will graduate in 2017.

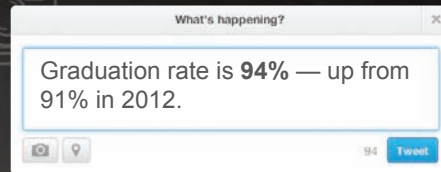




# Student Achievements

## Student Achievement Continues to Rise

- The ACT average is 23.0, up from 22.6 last year, and ahead of the state and national average of 20.8.
- Student growth, as measured by test scores over time from when students first enter high school through their junior year, is 37.4%, up from 36% last year.
- Participation in AP and Honors courses is up to 48% of all students, up from 45.6% last year.
- More students are stretching themselves and taking AP exams. This year, 994 students took 2,050 AP tests.
- Graduation rate is 94%—up from 91% in 2012.
- 79% of graduating seniors enroll in a 2 or 4-year college or university.



## Academic Accolades

- 5 National Merit Finalists (DGN: Alexander Book, Robert Falconer, Emma Wilson and DGS: Vanessa Copeland, Chandana Sooranahalli)
- National Hispanic Merit Scholar, Emma Wilson
- 25 National Merit Commended Scholars
- 215 Illinois State Scholars
- 800+ students are members of the National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, and National Spanish, French and German Honor Societies
- DGN and DGS both named “Silver Medal Schools” by U.S. News & World Report



# Highlights of Honors

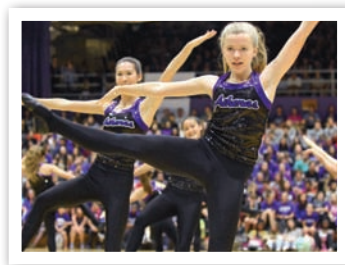


## Extracurricular Accomplishments

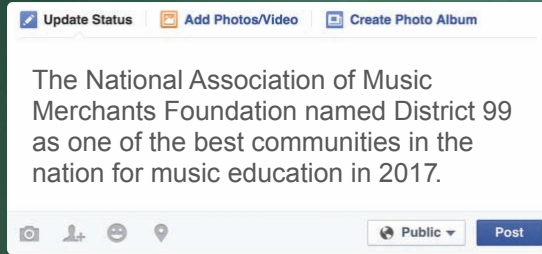
We offer 50+ competitive and enrichment clubs and activities, from math team and language clubs to philanthropic and character-focused activities. Some proud moments from 2016-17:

- DGS Speech Team – State Champions
- DGN Abigail (Abbe) Murphy – Illinois Journalist of the Year
- DGS Brianna Leys – Individual Speech State Champion
- DGN Emma Moravec – Illinois High School Association All-State Academic Team
- DGS SkillsUSA Team – J.J. Urgello and Ammar Khan, State Champions in Mobile Robotics; Joe Dobosenski, State Champion in Architectural CAD

- DGN Imani Steppers – First Place at AA IL Drill Team Association
- D99 Hoops, Special Olympics Basketball Teams – Champions of Special Olympics Illinois



# Staff Achievements

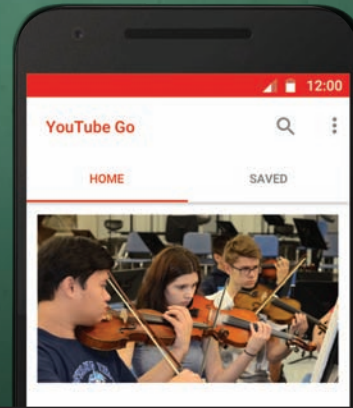


## Giving Back to the Community

Community service is integral to developing student character. On DGN Gives Back Day, students and staff serve numerous local organizations. Every year, DGS students and staff focus on one philanthropy; this year, they raised \$20,000+ for Special Olympics. Both schools also organize holiday gift giving, recognize area Veterans, and perform countless other service projects every year.

## Staff Achievements

- DGS Glenn Williams and Laura Coster – 2017 Mary Hoffman Award of Excellence from Illinois Music Education Association
- DGS - Designated a Recognized Model Program (RAMP) school by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA)
- DGN Dr. Ken Sorensen – Assistant Principal of the Year by the DuPage Illinois Principal Association



# Technology



## A Leader in Online Learning

Technology has dramatically changed how students learn--and what they need to learn. Every student at District 99 has a Chromebook for 24/7 access to content. Students have infinite online resources, can collaborate with others, and can check assignments and grades easily. This year:

- Google selected District 99 as an “Education Reference District.” The elite designation signifies our innovation and excellence in using technology for positive learning outcomes.



- Director of Technology Rod Russeau earned the “Certified Education Technology Leader” designation from the Consortium for School Networking, proving mastery of what’s needed to lead technology initiatives successfully.
- Superintendent Dr. Hank Thiele presented to lawmakers in Washington D.C. about the work we’ve done to ensure **all students have equal access** to the internet outside of school.





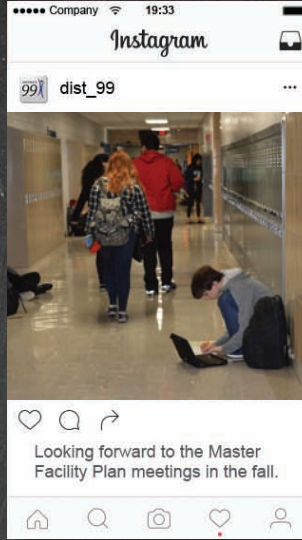
# Facilities

Our facilities cover one million square feet. We invest up to \$2 million per year from our operating funds for ongoing maintenance and repairs and small scale upgrades. This year, we spent \$1.3 million in projects, which included replacing roofs at DGS and upgrading the DGN baseball field.



## Master Facility Plan

Technology has impacted every classroom and facet of how we teach students, and we need to adapt. With our Board of Education, we've identified priorities for modernization. In April, 70+



community members attended community meetings to learn about our ideas and tour the schools. This fall, we will hold additional community meetings.

Large-scale improvements will require **community support and approval**. In 2019, the district will pay off existing facility bonds from the additions built in 1999. The timing provides an opportunity to address needed facility updates.

Learn more and see concept plans at [www.csd99.org/d99buildingfutures](http://www.csd99.org/d99buildingfutures).



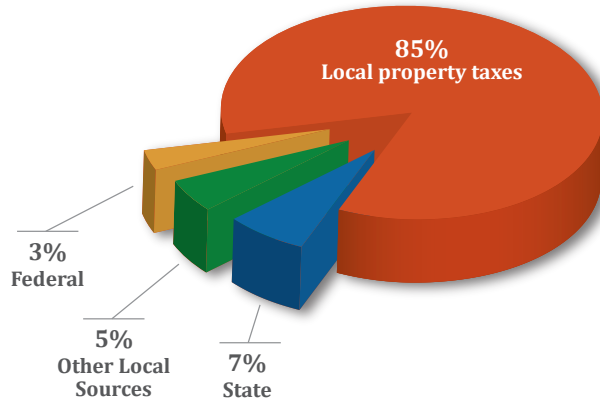
# Financial



We strive to deliver the highest quality educational program in the most cost-effective and responsible way possible to our community. Our instructional expenditure per pupil is \$10,274; the pie charts below reflect our Operating Funds for the 2016-17 school year:

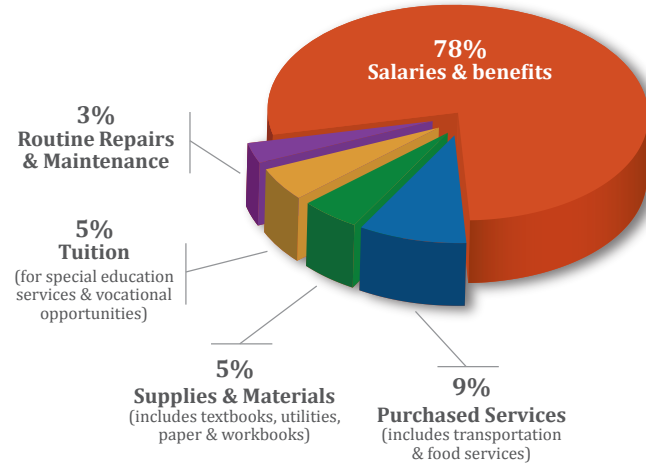
## Revenues

\$87.6 million



## Expenditures

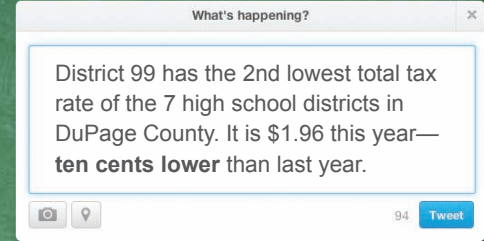
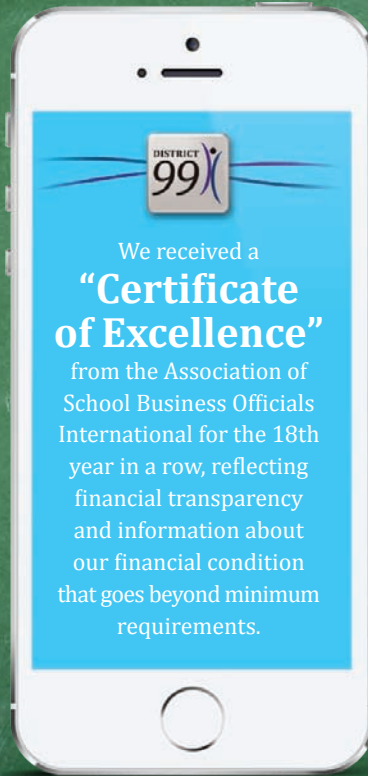
\$83.8 million





District 99’s approach to debt management is prudent and focused on being responsible to our taxpayers. In addition to our annual expenditures, our Operating Funds covered \$2.7 million of annual debt service costs for facility improvements – instead of raising new debt service taxes. Also this year, we:

- reduced our annual budget by \$1.1 million to help build reserve levels, adding stability during the payment shortfall period from the state.
- saved \$730,000 by refinancing debt certificates issued in 2007



and 2008 and soliciting/issuing lower rate bonds to bidders in the local market.

- consolidated printer services with Konica Minolta, which has offices in Downers Grove, for a projected savings of at least \$50,000 per year.

We also replaced boiler systems at each school, greatly reducing energy costs.







**Administrative Service Center**  
6301 Springside Avenue  
Downers Grove, IL 60516-2488



### Visit our Websites...

For news, calendar and event info, visit:

- [www.csd99.org](http://www.csd99.org)
- [www.csd99.org/north](http://www.csd99.org/north)
- [www.csd99.org/south](http://www.csd99.org/south)

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#WeAreDGN



#DGSPride