

A report to the community 2016-17

# The value of a Butler education

**Butler District 53 uses a number of measurements to monitor and continually improve its academic and fiscal performance. We want to share some of the performance and trend data with residents.**



## Home Values

In a recent study, *Chicago Agent* magazine noted that Butler District 53 was the No. 1 in-demand school district in DuPage County.



## Student Achievement

Butler District 53 ranked 2nd on recent state tests of 18 high performing schools with similar achievement and demographics in the Chicago region.



## Finances

The District continues to improve its efficiency and reduced its cost per student (instructional and operating) by 13 percent since 2010 while investing \$6.8 million in capital improvements.

We know that school districts with reputations for quality education and high student achievement draw people who are willing to pay a higher price for property. In a recent study, *Chicago Agent* magazine noted that Butler District 53 was the No. 1 in-demand school district in DuPage County. Its analysis showed that home buyers are willing to pay a top premium on a home within District 53 compared to other properties in DuPage County.



# No. 1

**Butler District 53 is the most in-demand school district in DuPage County.**

*Source: Chicago Agent Magazine, October 2016*

# Academic Achievement

Historically on state test scores, either the ISAT or PARCC, Butler District 53 students score in the top 3 in the State. On the 2016 Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) exam, students ranked No. 3 in the State. We also compare ourselves to a more rigorous peer group of 18 high performing schools. The chart below identifies the 2016 results. Additionally, Butler Junior High and Brook Forest are 2 of only 30 schools statewide that obtained passing rates higher than 80 percent in 2016, out of 3,700 schools.

Additionally, while many schools—even high achieving ones—have seen PARCC scores decline as academic standards rise, District 53 average scores have risen from 78 percent meets/exceeds in 2015 to 80.1 percent in 2016.

Source: 2016 Illinois State School Report Card, Chicago Tribune Oct. 31, 2016



## No.2

**Where Butler District 53 ranked compared to 18 schools in the region of similar caliber and demographics.**

### Historically Comparable School Districts

### PARCC Readiness %

Lincolnshire 103	81.9
<b>Butler D53</b>	<b>80.1</b>
Kenilworth 38	77.3
Northbrook/Glenview 30	76.8
Avoca 37	75.6
Sunset Ridge 29	74.8
Bannockburn 106	73.9
Western Springs 101	73.1
Kildeer 96	71.5
Wilmette 39	71.1
Aptakistic-Tripp 102	70.5
Glencoe 35	70.4
River Forest 90	69.7
Hinsdale 181	68.9
Winnetka 36	66.2
Gower 62	65.7
Lake Forest 67	61.0
Pleasantdale 107	59.9
Glen Ellyn 41	57.7

Source: 2016 Illinois State Report Card <http://www.illinoisreportcard.com>

## 30

**Brook Forest and Butler Junior High are two of only 30 schools out of 3,700 schools in Illinois in which students marked readiness scores of 80 percent or more on the PARCC exams.**

Source: Chicago Tribune

## Top 3

**Consistently, District 53 student test scores have ranked in the top 3 in Illinois on state achievement tests.**

# Lauded Programs

## Common Core

The District has integrated the more rigorous Common Core State Standards into the curriculum.

## Professional Development

The District has developed a professional growth model to continue improving and aligning the curriculum and teaching practices, recognizing that an excellent teacher is one of the most important criteria for schools.

## Instructional Blueprint

In collaboration with parents, community, teachers and administrators, the District developed an *Instructional Blueprint* which provides the framework for instructional philosophy, instructional goals, curricular review and program enhancements.

## Nurturing culture

The District is continually working on creating a nurturing and safe environment where each child feels safe to take risks and where each child's needs are met.

## 21st Century Learning

Appropriate technology learning tools have been incorporated at every level. Students in grades 3-8 use a Chromebook for class and home, providing seamless instruction. Plus, large touch screen computers and iPads are part of the elementary experience.

## Leadership

A leadership and character education program was developed, called the Eight Keys of Excellence, based on research of what skills best help a student succeed in life.

## New innovative programs

New programs include a Readers and Writers Workshop model, new STEM and Broadcast Journalism classes at Butler Junior High and Digital Citizenship instruction at every level.



## National Blue Ribbon Award of Excellence

- 2006** Butler Junior High
- 2014** Brook Forest
- 2015** Butler Junior High

Butler District 53 is a three-time winner of the National Blue Ribbon Award of Excellence, a coveted academic recognition that rigorously examines all elements of a school's instructional program.

# Financial planning

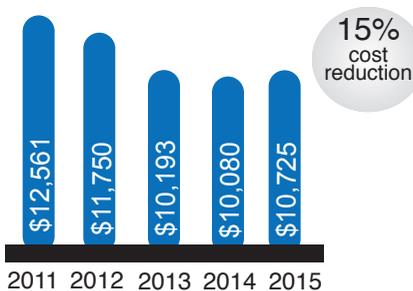
## Fiscal Health

The Board is committed to improving the District's efficiency and strengthening its finances and sustaining them during times of challenging state resources. Here are some of the examples of how it is doing that:

- The District has reduced its instructional spending per pupil 15 percent in the last 5 years; and its overall operational spending per pupil 13 percent in the same time period. At the same time, it has enhanced its educational program.
- The District's bond rating from Standards and Poors is AAA, the highest possible.
- The District has low long-term debt, about \$157,000 per year, which is among the lowest of all school districts in the state.
- Its tax rate has been among the lowest of all school systems in the state in the last 10 years.
- The Board has a tradition of adopting balanced budgets.
- The District has worked hard at reviewing all areas of the budget and taking cost-cutting measures where it can, employing zero-based budgeting.
- The Board has put away \$500,000 yearly to help maintain its aging buildings.

## Reducing costs

### Instructional cost per pupil



The District has been able to decrease its instructional cost per pupil from \$12,561 in 2011 to \$10,725 in 2015 while making substantial investments in teacher training, technology, academic programs and maintaining its aging buildings. The total cost per child (instructional and operating) shrank from \$20,100 in 2010 to \$17,700 in 2014, a total 13 percent reduction. The philosophy of the Board of Education is to internally fund academic enhancements and capital projects without bond referendums. This has been done by reviewing all areas of the budget and taking cost-cutting measures where it can, as well as using zero based budgeting, competitive bidding and careful planning to fund future capital projects.

Most importantly, the District's long-term financial planning allows it to keep the focus on the classroom by funding a progressive curriculum and an excellent teaching staff.

## Enrollment

While many schools have seen flat or declining enrollment over the last several years, enrollment in District 53 has increased 26 percent (+108 children) in the last six years as new families learn what Oak Brook has to offer and seek a superior education for their children. Brook Forest School (K-5) is now at its maximum capacity and highest level ever, presenting new challenges for the Board and administration.



## Investment

**Butler District 53 has internally funded \$6.8 million in capital improvements in the last 3 years. An additional \$2.5 million will be spent by 2020 to improve/maintain the aging physical plants.**