



INTO FOCUS

WITH DISTRICT 303

TOGETHER
BUILDING
PATHWAYS TO
EXCELLENCE



A Message from Superintendent Gordon

As we near the halfway point of the school year, many of District 303's key initiatives are coming into focus. From the implementation of a new five-year Strategic Plan to future decisions on our attendance boundaries, we are approaching a period of significant change. This publication offers updates on the work that District Administration, our Board and staff have been engaged in and are working toward to elevate our students' learning experiences.

Grounding us in this challenging work is our Commitment Statement: "Together building pathways to excellence," and three Core Values: Belonging, Perseverance and Achievement. With every discussion and final decision, we aim to fulfill the pillars of this plan and improve our overall service to students, families and our community.



District 303 School Board

Top, L to R: Becky McCabe, Matthew Kuschert, Kate Bell, Thomas Lentz.
Bottom, L to R: Joe Lackner (Secretary), Heidi Fairgrieve (President), Ed McNally (Vice President)



D303 BOUNDARIES

District 303 contracted with a demographer last winter to address urgent overcrowding concerns in order to provide safer, more equitable and effective academic and social-emotional experiences within our school buildings. This has resulted in plans to repurpose three buildings and implement boundary changes, effective to begin the 2024-2025 school year. Boundaries will impact each school to varying degrees. **On November 28 and 29**, the community is invited to meetings to review the boundary scenarios developed by our demographer. A survey will also be launched at this time. The Board will take action on a final boundary scenario in February.

Follow Updates at
District.D303.Org/Boundary-Updates

Schools Earn High Marks on Illinois Report Card

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) awarded all District 303 schools with exemplary or commendable Annual Summative Designations, the two highest results schools can earn based on their accountability data. Four schools earned exemplary designations, which represents overall performance in the top 10% of all Illinois schools.

"We're proud to see the hard work of our students and our employees' commitment to their success reflected in this report," said Dr. Christine Igoe, Chief Academic Officer. "We look forward to building upon these achievements through the implementation of our Strategic Plan and the PLC work among our educators."

The summative designations are included in the annual Illinois Report Card, which provides a snapshot of academic achievement, student and teacher information, and financial data from the 2022-2023 school year.

District 303 is also routinely monitoring academic progress through its Success Indicators, a component of its Strategic Plan. Updates on student attendance, behavior and course content are shared at monthly Board meetings.



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St. Charles, IL 60174

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SHORTER ELEMENTARY DAY AND ALL SCHOOL SCHEDULES

In order to support District 303's long-term financial stability, Administration and the Board negotiated a shorter elementary day as part of the new contract with the St. Charles Education Association (SCEA). By reducing the elementary day by 40 minutes, District 303 can implement several strategic priorities. This includes expanded teacher development through Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), which focus on instructional strategies that support student learning in specific content areas.



Given the transportation logistics within District 303, changes to school start and end times at the elementary level **will impact our early childhood, middle, and high schools.** District Administration is working with the Transportation Department and school leaders to set these times and plans to announce them before winter break.

WHAT IS CHANGING AND STAYING THE SAME FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS BEGINNING IN 2024-2025?

CHANGES:

DAY LENGTH

Reduced from 7 hours to 6 hours and 20 minutes.

START/END TIMES

Will be adjusted and shared prior to winter break.

COURSE SPECIALS

Reduced from 10 to 7. Each stays 40 minutes, and includes weekly:

- 3 physical education/wellness
- 2 focused on elementary science standards
- 1 music
- 1 art

NO CHANGE:

CORE INSTRUCTION

Remains the same for literacy, math, science, and social studies.

ELEMENTARY EARLY RELEASE

Remains once per month.

LUNCH AND RECESS

Remains the same length.