

# Collinsville Community Unit School District #10



## State of the District Report

August 2020





## Collinsville Community Unit School District 10

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Kahok Families and Community Members,

In an ongoing effort to maintain regular and transparent communication with our families and community members, the following is the first “State of the District Report” that includes information regarding communication, curriculum, facilities, finances, special education, student services, and technology.

The “State of the District Report” will outline initiatives and projects underway in our school district as well as highlight our successes. The purpose of the report is to provide increased transparency as outlined by the Districts’ Short and Long Term Planning Committee earlier this year.

As we navigate a pandemic and strive to improve cultural awareness and knowledge, we are committed to celebrating the successes of our staff and students, while striving for improvement. Our focus remains, to provide a quality education for all students in a safe environment as we navigate an ever changing world.

On behalf of the Board of Education and the Collinsville CUSD #10, thank you for your constant dedication to our students, staff and the pride shown by our communities for our school district.

Mark B. Skertich Ed.D  
Superintendent

# Communication

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During the 2019-20 school year, we expanded our existing communications to focus on providing timely and accurate information to stakeholders.

We utilized our website to post and archive information useful to families and the community. A major effort - dubbed “Future Families” - created a dedicated space for information useful to potential district families and real estate professionals. To launch the “Future Families” initiative, we hosted a reception for Realtors, which included CHS students as speakers, and created a video with testimonials from CHS seniors. In addition, we developed and distributed a print brochure with district highlights.

We expanded district social media so each school would have their own Facebook and Twitter accounts. This became especially useful during the unanticipated COVID-19 shutdown in March when families and schools needed to maintain connectedness.

Dr. Skertich launched biweekly video messages to update families about news and initiatives. Because this was his first year in the district, he embarked on a widespread effort to speak and present to community groups to introduce himself and re-calibrate their perceptions of CUSD 10.

Three committees have been formed to provide regular communication regarding our strengths and areas of opportunity throughout our school district.

- The first committee is the Kahok Diversity and Equity Committee that is focused on cultural awareness, diversity training and recruiting a diverse population of students to choose education as a career.
- The second is the Collinsville High School Student Advisory Committee that will receive feedback and input from an ethnically diverse population of students and help identify our district’s strengths and opportunities for improvement.
- Last, the district initiated a Short and Long Term Planning Committee earlier this calendar year to analyze the district’s strengths and opportunities for improvement. The purpose is to gain knowledge and perspective from varied stakeholders and establish goals, objectives and next steps for improvement.

# Curriculum

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Collinsville Unit 10 curriculum is designed to meet the individual needs of all of our students. Curriculum is designed using current best practices in education in all classrooms, however, instructional strategies may vary from room to room. Core curriculum areas, including language arts, mathematics, science and social science are aligned to Illinois Learning Standards.

In addition to the core curriculum, the elementary schools offer music, physical education, STEM, social emotional learning, as well as instrumental music and vocal music programs at the intermediate school (grades 5-6). Services are provided by Title I Specialists for students in need of additional support at the elementary schools. Dorris Intermediate School has an intramural program for students during the lunch hours, and band, chorus and basketball programs are offered as extracurricular activities.

In addition to the core curriculum, the middle school (grades 7-8) offers music appreciation, physical education, art, health, Spanish, Project Lead The Way (PLTW), vocal music and band. Collinsville Middle School also offers a wide range of sports and organizations for students to participate in outside of the regular school day.

Collinsville High School offers two curricula areas, college preparatory and career and technical. Courses are taught in the areas of art, business, foreign language, family and consumer sciences, industrial arts, language arts, mathematics, music, science, social studies and special education. Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Credit courses are offered at CHS in many of the core academic areas. A variety of sports and organizations are offered to students outside of the educational setting.

Collinsville Area Vocational Center, adjacent to the CHS Campus, offers courses in auto body, automotive maintenance technology, building trades, early childhood education, criminal justice, electronics, engineering, food services, health occupations, precision machining technology, web & graphic design and welding. Dual credit is offered in conjunction with Southwestern Illinois College for students meeting the requirements of the program at CAVC.

The Pre-K Early Childhood program is currently able to serve 216 students in half-day and full-day PreK programs. As an inclusive program, we are able to serve 66 students with identified special needs and 150 students without. The District's two Early Childhood Special Education classrooms can serve up to 40 students with identified special needs. This brings our District's capacity to 256 students between the ages of 3 and 5 within the spectrum of preschool services offered. In recent years, we have added 3 additional classrooms with plans to continue increasing our early intervention services.

## ELL Program

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The ELL Program currently serves 724 ELL students which makes up 10.8 percent of our student population. We provide two programs: Dual Language and Transitional Bilingual Education. The Dual Language program is a one-way dual language approach that helps bridge student's Spanish knowledge to help improve their understanding of fundamental concepts and skills which will increase the students' English vocabulary. Dual Language differs from Transitional Bilingual Education by maintaining the heritage language and using the home language as a springboard to development. The approach of Dual Language is not that the student has a deficit but is adding to the students' knowledge. One of our district's goals is to nurture our bilingual students' skills so that when they graduate from high school they will receive the Seal of Biliteracy as a bilingual student. It is our goal to continually add bilingual classrooms so that there will be continuous Spanish language support from Kindergarten throughout their elementary school experience.

Collinsville High School and The Hispanic Arts Council of St. Louis have joined partnership since 2015 to improve college and career readiness among Latino students. This past year we reached our highest participation rate of 52 junior and senior Latino students attending Universidad Ya College Preparation seminars led and organized by Virginia Braxs and EL Coordinator Carla Cruise. Topics addressed were financial aid, scholarships ,resumes, college entrance essays, FAFSA, maintaining a high G.P.A. and mentoring.

## Instructional Coaching

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In 2017, the district hired our first instructional coach. Instructional coaches support classroom teachers by modeling research based instructional strategies, reinforcing the curriculum, and providing professional development. Coaches have enhanced teacher practice in reading, math, and social emotional support. Each year, we have increased the number of instructional coaches to three full time positions for grades K-6. The current coaches have provided teachers with a continued level of professional development through book studies, in-person and virtual training, PLC support, and classroom observations. They have attended many conferences throughout the region, state, and country to keep up to date on current practices and deliver the best practices possible to our district.

## Recent Initiatives

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Collinsville School District has continued to meet the needs of all students by implementing the following innovative programs and services.

- \* 2 additional Pre-K classrooms in the last 2 years
- \* 5 additional bilingual classrooms in the last 4 years
- \* 3 Instructional Coaches
- \* Positive Behavior Intervention Systems (PBIS)
- \* PATHS Social Emotional Learning Curriculum
- \* Project Lead the Way- Pre-Engineering Program at CMS
- \* Increases in after-school tutoring programs
- \* Spanish Courses at CMS
- \* Additional Dual Credit Courses at CHS-Forensic Science
- \* SIUE Upward Bound
- \* Kahok Academy Credit Recovery Program
- \* Seal of Biliteracy
- \* JumpStart to Education Program
- \* Summer Learning Programs
- \* Summer Learning Packets for all K-4th grade students

## Facilities

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Over the past twelve months the Board of Education, Facilities Committee and Director of Building & Grounds, Josh DeWitte, have created a tentative five year plan for facilities improvements. The improvements will be funded using reserves, annual revenue and ten million dollars in Working Cash Bonds that were sold in April. Each school facility will see improvements over the next five years, but the primary focus over the next five years will be Collinsville High School, Dorris Intermediate, and Webster Elementary. The district is excited about the progress our families and communities will see in the years ahead.

Planned improvements include the following:

- Blacktop and Playground Replacement/Sealing
- Bathroom and Locker Room Renovations
- Ceiling Grid and Panel Replacement
- Door Replacement (Interior and Exterior)
- Flooring Abatement and Renovations
- Handicap Accessibility
- Heating and Cooling Replacement and Control Upgrades
- LED Lighting Upgrades
- Locker Replacement
- Painting (Interior and Exterior)
- Other

## Finances

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The Collinsville CUSD #10 maintains the highest level of financial profile provided by the State of Illinois, Recognition. The district's overall annual budget amounts to approximately \$75,000,000. The district maintains a healthy balance in the Operating Funds (Education, Operations & Maintenance, Working Cash and Transportation). Collectively, these funds have a surplus that exceeds \$34,000,000. The Transportation Fund has a deficit on an annual basis and the district is currently exploring ways to eliminate the annual deficit for the coming fiscal year.

The district's tax rate, \$4.31 from December 2019, remains the lowest in Madison County, the only exception being two school districts that have a refinery located within their boundaries. 55% of the district revenue is collected through local property taxes, 35% from state revenue and 10% from federal grants and meal reimbursement. The Board of Education is committed to maintaining fiscal responsibility while ensuring staff and students are provided with the adequate resources to provide students with a quality education in a safe environment.

## Special Education

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The Collinsville Community Unit School District #10 currently serves approximately 1200 students with identified disabilities who are eligible for special education services. The Special Education Department staff includes 87 Special Education Teachers, 4 IEP Coordinators, 6 School Psychologists, 15 School Social Workers, 13 Speech and Language Pathologists, 1 Occupational Therapist with 3 Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants, 1 Physical Therapist with 2 Physical Therapy Assistants, 1 Hearing Itinerant, 1 Vision Itinerant, and 2 Adapted Physical Education Teachers.

Collinsville Community Unit School District #10 offers a wide continuum of services to meet the needs of each student in their least restrictive environment for children ages 3-21. These services include consultation and co-teaching in the general education classrooms to very targeted instruction in the smaller, special education classrooms to address specific deficit areas which have been identified through the evaluation process and then progress monitored using Aimsweb Plus. Supports in all classrooms are outlined based on the students' individualized education programs. There are specialized classrooms within the special education program for students with significant social emotional needs, Autism, Intellectual Disabilities and Multiple Disabilities. Currently, the classrooms for these specialized programs are located at Webster Elementary School, Dorris Intermediate School, Collinsville Middle School and Collinsville High School. The district also has it's own special education alternative school for those students needing a more specialized educational setting. Including students with disabilities in the general education setting with their non-disabled peers is a primary focus of Special Education and as of May 2020, 75% of students with disabilities attending Collinsville Community Unit School District #10 receive their services in the general education setting at least 40% or more of the school day.

Special Education Services are initiated through Child Find activities at every age and grade level through a collaborative multidisciplinary team of General Education Teachers, Special Education Teachers, School Psychologists, School Social Workers, Speech and Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, School Nurses, Administrators and when applicable Vision and Hearing Itinerants and Adapted Physical Education Teachers. Children who have been identified through Early Intervention (Birth-3) are transitioned into the Collinsville School District to an Early Childhood Classroom at the age of 3 years old to receive the appropriate services as outlined in their initial Individualized Education Programs. Additionally, for children who did not receive Early Intervention through the state program, multiple Child Find Screenings are held in the community using the Developmental Indicators for the Assessment of Learning (DIAL) by Pearson throughout the school year. Children who are identified through the DIAL are then referred for a play based assessment conducted by a multidisciplinary team to determine eligibility and services for students who qualify. Early Childhood Education services are provided at Maryville, Renfro, Webster and Kreitner School.



## Special Education (continued)

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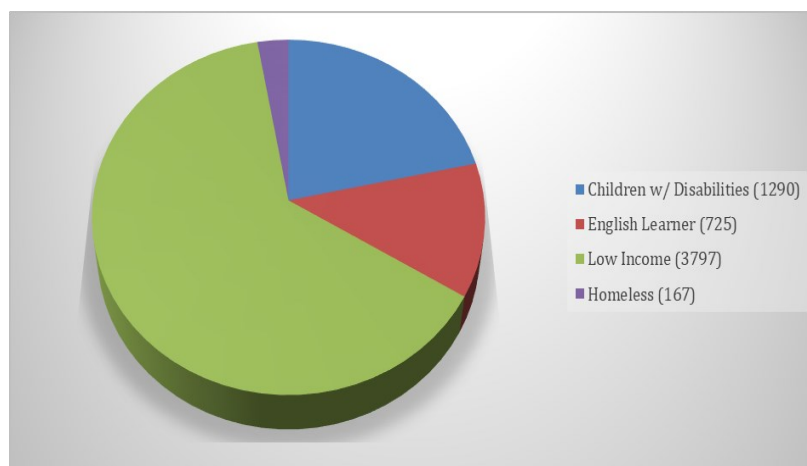
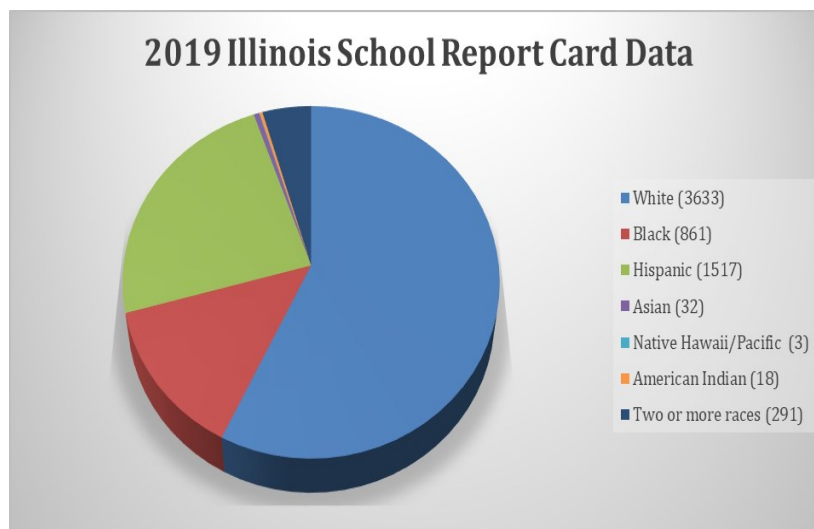
Ensuring students with disabilities have access to the general curriculum and make progress towards IEP goals is a priority of the Special Education Department. Therefore, appropriate accommodations and modifications are made to lessons and assignments in order to support students in the general education setting as outlined in their IEPs. Students who receive instruction in a smaller, special education setting for Language Arts and Math use a supplemental curriculum which is aligned to the appropriate common core standards. Specifically, Read Well, Language Live, My Math and Glencoe Math 1-3 are utilized in Grades K-8 in the instructional special education setting. The specialized self contained classes for students with Autism, Intellectual Disabilities and Multiple Disabilities have been using Unique Learning Systems and this will expand to the self-contained Early Childhood Special Education classes starting with the 2020-2021 school year. This past year, the district has started implementing a new social emotional curriculum, AIM, in the specialized emotional support classes. This curriculum was co-authored by Dr. Mark Dixon, BCBA, who provides on site continuous professional development to the Collinsville staff. Dr. Dixon also provides ongoing, continuous supervision and professional development regarding the delivery of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) services through the PEAK Curriculum. Over the past several years, Indicator 13 regarding transition planning for students with disabilities for their post-secondary lives has driven many improvements in programming at Collinsville High School. Specifically, the STEP/Co-Op program has continued to thrive with competitive employment outcomes. EnvisionIT and various supplemental transition curriculum has been embedded in current special education courses and various transition assessment tools have been adopted. Additionally, the Life Skills program at Collinsville High School is increasing their community based instructional opportunities and have developed collaborative partnerships with local community agencies such as restaurants, animal shelters, and the public library to name a few. This has allowed multiple authentic experiences for our students with disabilities to learn on the job skills they will need post high school. These partnerships have also potentially paved the way for post secondary employment opportunities. The primary focus of the Department of Special Education in Collinsville Community Unit School District #10 is educating the whole child while taking their individualized needs into consideration and preparing them for success.

## Student Services

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The information below outlines enrollment data, programs and services available to students and families throughout our school district including transportation, enrollment, registration, and before and after school services.

### 6,355 Students - 410 Teachers - 12 Schools - 1 District



**Transportation:** Each day, the Collinsville School District transports approximately 3,400 regular education students and approximately 400 students with IEPs to and from school within our District, and to and from athletic and activity events throughout the state of Illinois. Our buses travel a total of 4,729 miles each day and are staffed by approximately 80 bus drivers and 40 monitors. During the period of Remote Learning, the Collinsville Unit 10 School District partnered with First Student Bus Services and Sodexo Food Services to provide meals throughout the District, ensuring that students continued to receive breakfast and lunch during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Homeless Education: Collinsville CUSD10 serves over 300 students who qualify for services under the provisions of the Federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act. McKinney-Vento requires every school district to have a homeless education liaison who works with young people, schools, and service providers to make sure that homeless youth have a smooth transition into school and receive the support services for academic achievement they are guaranteed under law.

District Enrollment & School Registration: Each year, the CUSD10 Enrollment Office enrolls new members of the Kahok Family (for 2020-2021, our newest Kindergarten members represent the CHS Class of 2033). Currently, the Collinsville School District educates over 6,350 students from Early Childhood through grade 12 at twelve schools and the Collinsville Area Vocational Center (CAVC). New for the 2020-2021 school year, families are completing the new student enrollment and school registration in an electronic format. The online platform is conducted via the Skyward Parent Access Link on the Collinsville School District website using the parent's personalized username and password. Parents/guardians are able to utilize their Skyward Family Access account throughout the year to access school information for their child(ren) including: grades, teacher/class assignment, bus transportation information, student and parent handbooks, school supply lists, student health forms, cafeteria information, school fee schedules, Open House schedules and the District calendar. To learn more about enrolling your child into the Collinsville School District, please visit the CUSD 10 New Student Online Enrollment Parent Guide.

Graduate Student Records: The CUSD10 Student Services Office processes a number of Transcript Requests and Health Records each day for students who graduate from Collinsville School District. Student Records Requests may be submitted online via the Web Store on the CUSD10 Website (<https://kahoks.org/student-records> or <https://kahoks.revtrak.net/Transcript-Requests/>) for graduates to order and pay for graduate transcript requests through this electronic media. Graduates may also order requests in person at the CUSD10 Enrollment Office (and pay electronically via a credit or debit card) or via mail (via check).

Annual Electronic Residence Verification: The Collinsville Community Unit School District No. 10 Student Services Office is happy to share that Unit 10 is updating District practice for student residence verification for compliance with District Policy and Illinois School Code. In an effort to honor parent and staff time, Collinsville Community Unit School District No. 10 will be working with a third-party vendor who uses a system called CLEAR Batch to automatically verify parent/guardian residency within the Collinsville CUSD10 boundaries. The CLEAR Batch system reviews public records to verify the parent/guardian name and address. In the past, all households were required to verify residency at the initial time of student enrollment for continued enrollment in the District. This new process will allow Collinsville CUSD10 to annually verify parent/guardian residence within the boundaries of Collinsville CUSD10.

YMCA Y Club Before and After School Enrichment Program: The YMCA Y Club Before and After School Enrichment Program is a cooperative effort between local schools and the Gateway Region YMCA. The program provides children, grades K-6, with a safe, well-supervised environment when an adult is not home before and/or after school. Participating schools in the Collinsville CUSD10 include: Caseyville Elementary, Dorris Intermediate School, Jefferson Elementary (after school only), Maryville Elementary, Renfro Elementary, Twin Echo Elementary and Webster Elementary. Children can attend the Y Club program at their school from 6:30 a.m. until the beginning of the school day; and after school from dismissal until 6:00PM. All sites are directed by competent, experienced YMCA staff. Policies have been created with the child's safety as the top priority. To enroll your child into the Y CLUB "A Before & After School Enrichment Program," complete the Y Club Registration Form 2020-2021.

## Technology

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Every classroom in Unit 10 will be completely state-of-the-art following our planned technology updates this summer. Starting with the 2020-2021 school year, every classroom will be equipped with a Promethean Interactive whiteboard, 1:1 Chromebooks, high-speed wireless infrastructure from Aruba, and top-of-the-line Dell desktops, featuring newer Intel and SSD technologies, as well as a wide-screen format monitor. New Promethean boards that we are installing this summer won best of show at the premiere International Society for Technology in Education conference in Philadelphia last year. Unit 10 is also building a brand new fiber network that will connect our buildings together, allowing them to share the resources in our datacenter. The network will be a private, dark-fiber network, owned and managed by PARTA, but solely for use by Unit 10. The build will cost just over a million dollars to complete and will offer significant monthly savings to the district for many years to come. We were able to utilize Federal and State funds to completely cover the cost of the build so no district funds were needed for this project. Last, Unit 10 has purchased 3000 brand new Chromebooks this year to support our 1:1 and remote learning initiatives. Students at both CMS and CHS will receive a brand new HP G7 Chromebook to start the 2020-2021 school year. Those students will be allowed to take those devices home every single day to work on assignments and projects and collaborate with other students and their teachers. Each Chromebook will be outfitted with a hard-plastic, snap-on plastic case to help avoid damage to the units and the resulting fees charged to our families.

## Conclusion

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Collinsville CUSD #10 consists of departments that provide oversight to our faculty, staff and families throughout the school year. While each department provided information regarding programs, initiatives, facts, and planned improvements, the key elements that play a major role in the success of our district not discussed at length above continue to be our communities, our faculty, our staff and of course, our students. Thank you for your constant dedication to our students!

#THEKAHOKWAY

