

NORTHBROOK SCHOOL DISTRICT 28 DRAFT SWOT ANALYSIS

STRENGTHS: What do we consider to be our strengths? What advantages do we have? What do others say our strengths are?

- 4.0 perfect state financial recognition
- History of financial stability, excellent financial stewardship and no debt
- 95% of parents surveyed gave the district a grade of A/B for quality programs and services
- 90% or more students meeting and/or exceeding achievement expectations on MAP and Terra Nova assessments in reading and mathematics
- Well-rounded curriculum, educating the whole child
- Class size significantly low compared to state and most districts
- High quality staff at all levels/positions
- Over 90% teacher retention rate last 5 years
- Community support/positive perception

WEAKNESSES: What do we consider to be our weaknesses? What are we most criticized for or receive the most complaints about? What do we seem to have a hard time doing well?

- 45% students not meeting/exceeding achievement performance in English language arts and 42% not meeting/exceeding achievement performance in mathematics on PARCC college readiness assessment
- Differentiating instruction to meet the needs of ALL students to close achievement gaps
- Student anxiety/ social emotional pressures
- A little less than half of the students reported they would feel comfortable approaching an adult
- Expenditures outpacing revenues means district is drawing from the cash reserves
- Balancing assessment with instructional time
- Communication with parents and the community

OPPORTUNITIES: What opportunities for improvement do we know about, but have not addressed? Where with a little work could we change a weakness into a strength?

- Enhance technology-infused curriculum/cohesion
- Provide more educational programming to meet needs of diverse students (ELL and low-income) and students in the middle
- Investigate why students perform well on MAP and Terra Nova and not as well on PARCC
- Communicate district performance to the community
- Implement a few priority initiatives with high quality, rather than many initiatives without high quality

THREATS: Who or what threatens us the most? What challenges are coming that we must respond to? What might block our progress?

- Maintaining financial stability during state financial crisis
- State mandates
- Increasing enrollments threatening facility issues
- Demographic changes may require specialized programs and services leading to more costs
- Political instability in Illinois