



Fremont
SCHOOL DISTRICT 79

BOOSTING SCHOOL TO HOME COMMUNICATIONS: PROVEN STRATEGIES AND TACTICS

FREMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT 79

<http://vimeo.com/107740218>

Gildea 02/04/2015

Meet Jill Gildea and Read Her Interview

Fremont School District 79 Superintendent, Dr. Jill Gildea, was drawn to the large rural fringe district in southwest Lake County, Fremont Township in Illinois due to its beautiful 100 acres of natural forest preserve, its potential for future growth and its focus on whole child development. Four years later, she describes the district as student-centered and future-focused. Jill says, "I'm proud of the accomplishments of an amazing team of educators and an involved and innovative community."



[Read more...](#)

VISION

“Fremont School District 79 will serve its community by providing an exemplary education focused on whole-child development, collaboration and fiscal responsibility.”

Creating the environment that celebrates collaborative practices as central to its vision promotes home-school connections!

CORE BELIEFS

- Parents and school staff should be equal partners in children's learning.
- The responsibility for building partnerships between schools and home rests primarily with school staff, especially school leaders.
- Schools are a reflection of the communities they serve.



RESEARCH

- “A New Wave of Evidence,” by Dr. Karen Mapp (Harvard Graduate School of Education) is an expert in school, family, and community partnerships.
- ISBE “Family Engagement Framework: A Guide for Illinois School Districts, Schools and Families” DRAFT



FINDINGS

- Students with involved parents are more likely to:
 - Earn higher grades and test scores
 - Be promoted, pass their courses, and earn credits
 - Attend school regularly
 - Have better social skills and improved behavior
 - Attend school regularly
 - Graduate and go on to post secondary education

FREMONT FINDINGS...

- Average ACT score of students attending Stevenson High School: 26.5
- Students attending post secondary education: 94%
- Scholarship awards in excess of \$5,000,000 per year for Mundelein High School

HOW DOES THAT HAPPEN?

- CHARACTERISTICS OF HIGH PERFORMING SCHOOLS
- Alignment of strategies, processes and activities to the Vision/Mission
- Desire to improve
- Commitment to learning
- Use of data to measure/improve performance
- **Concern for people**
 - **Home/School Partnership**

FOUR STRATEGIES

1. Proactive programs to foster positive interactions with parents.
2. Offer opportunities to become involved.
3. Inform parents of classroom management and instructional activities.
4. Make accommodations to meet the needs of families of diverse backgrounds.



WHAT WORKS

- Summer e-newsletter
- Opening the year with Meet the Teacher/Supply Drop-Off
 - Informal interaction and engagement before the year even starts
- Back to School Night
- Family Nights Focused on Reading, Science, Tech
- Partnership Events such as Fitness Festival

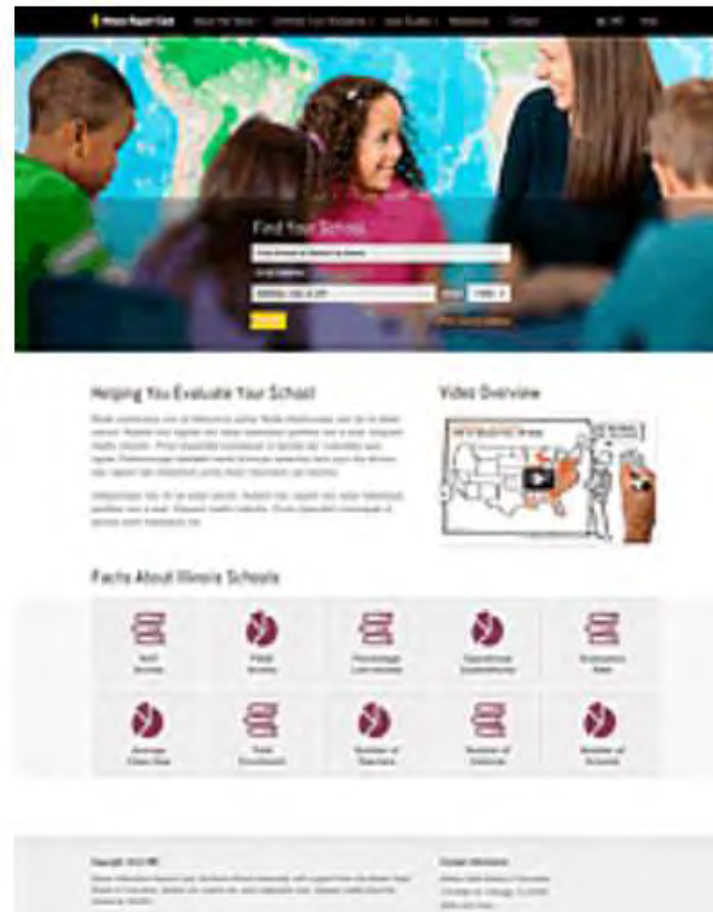
INDICATOR OF SUCCESS



Fremont Jr High/N

Most Implementation

SURVEYS



The screenshot shows the 'Find Your School' website. At the top is a navigation bar with links like 'Home', 'About Us', 'Contact Us', 'Privacy Policy', 'Terms of Service', and 'Help'. Below the navigation bar is a large banner image of a diverse group of children and adults. Overlaid on the banner is a search form titled 'Find Your School' with fields for 'Enter your location or school name', 'Enter your zip code', and a 'Find School' button. Below the banner, there are two main sections: 'Helping You Evaluate Your School' and 'Video Overview'. The 'Helping You Evaluate Your School' section contains text about school evaluation and a 'Video Overview' section with a map of the United States and a video player. Below these sections is a 'Facts About Hispanic Schools' section with a grid of icons and text. At the bottom, there is a footer with contact information and a disclaimer.

Find Your School

Enter your location or school name

Enter your zip code

Find School

Helping You Evaluate Your School

Make informed decisions about your child's education. We provide you with the information you need to make the best choice for your child. Our website provides you with the information you need to make the best choice for your child. Our website provides you with the information you need to make the best choice for your child.

Video Overview

Get to know us better. Watch our video overview of our website and our services. We provide you with the information you need to make the best choice for your child. Our website provides you with the information you need to make the best choice for your child.

Facts About Hispanic Schools

Hispanic Enrollment	Hispanic Enrollment	Hispanic Enrollment	Hispanic Enrollment	Hispanic Enrollment
Hispanic Enrollment	Hispanic Enrollment	Hispanic Enrollment	Hispanic Enrollment	Hispanic Enrollment

Disclaimer

This website is not a substitute for professional advice. We provide you with the information you need to make the best choice for your child. Our website provides you with the information you need to make the best choice for your child.

TIPS & TACTICS

Current in Best Practice Strategies – Moving to Student-Directed

Students from middle school present how they are incorporating iPads, Blogging, Doc Cams, and Apple TV for Board of Education Presentation!

Success in a 21st Century Learning Environment





Fremont SCHOOL DISTRICT 79



You are now viewing the Dashboard for: School District

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

- State Performance
- National Performance Reading
- National Performance Mathematics
- College Readiness - Reading
- College Readiness - Mathematics

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

- Teacher Credentials
- Attendance Rate (ADA)
- Pupil-Teacher Ratio
- Post-Secondary Plans

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Board of Education
- Community Awareness
- Communications
- Parent Satisfaction
- School Rating

FINANCES

- Fiscal Health
- Operating Expense per Student
- Tax Rate
- Fund Balance

Welcome to the Fremont District 79 Public Quality Dashboard



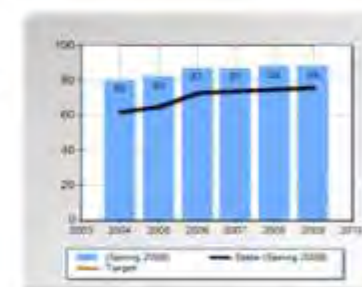
is intended to provide a comprehensive, customized assessment of our progress toward that goal.

In the spirit of continuous quality improvement, Fremont District 79 maintains transparent, open communication about the quality of its schools through a public quality dashboard. As a user of the dashboard, you have access to student achievement, financial and other data that is important to you as a community member. Increasing academic achievement and maintaining fiscal responsibility are our top priorities as a school district. This dashboard

How to use this Dashboard

Under each section, you can view performance data related to the specific areas of student achievement, human resources, and finance & operations. To view quality data for each section, just click on one of the indicators below it. You'll then see a series of charts and graphs which allow you to observe and compare relevant data. Each metric contains current and historical data.

In some cases, you will also be able to view additional details or compare Fremont District 79's performance to national and state benchmarks or other comparison data where available. A text explanation is included with each chart to help you interpret what the data means.



The following chart displays the performance of the district's schools in the area of student achievement. The chart compares the district's performance to the state's performance. The chart is color-coded to indicate the trend in performance. Please use the key at left to interpret each metric.

[Home](#)

[Compare](#)

[Details](#)

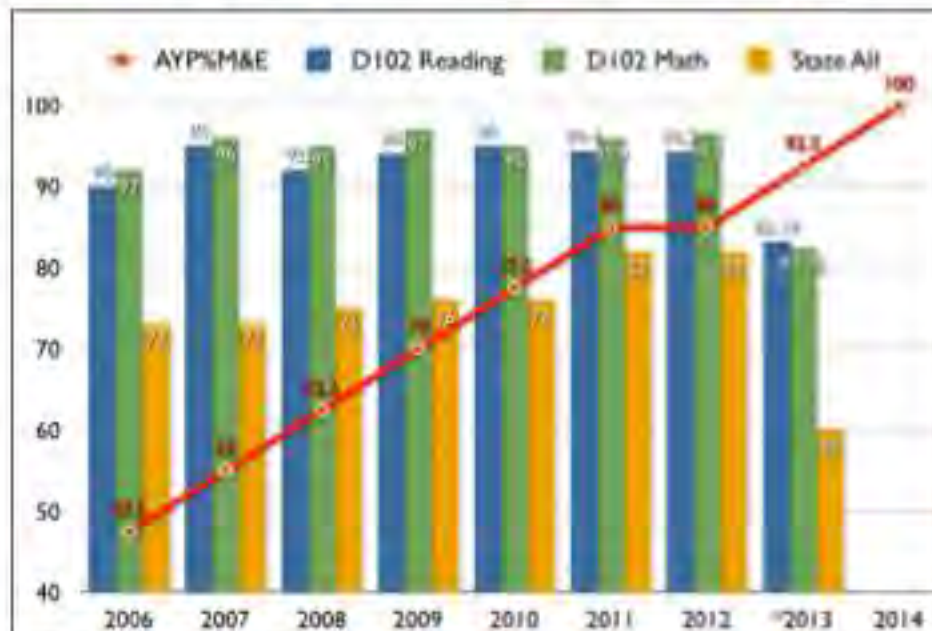
- Meets Fremont District 79 Target
- Does not meet Fremont District 79 target, but meets or outperforms benchmark
- Does not meet benchmark

Indicator Key

Included with each dashboard indicator and text explanation is a color-coded bullet indicating the trend in performance. Please use the key at left to interpret each metric.

Student Achievement

Increased rigor establishes new learning benchmarks



Illinois State Board of Education changed the 2013 grading scale to better align ISAT with state standards and the PSAE. ISBE projected a drop in state scores to 60%.

due to changes in instruction or student achievement, but simply as a result of “raising the bar” on cut scores. Based on the release of 2013 preliminary data, overall results for students “meeting” and “exceeding” learning standards in Reading and Mathematics indicate a drop to approximately 83%. D102 will stay the course in providing rigorous and engaging learning opportunities for all students to attain and demonstrate mastery.

*(*Please note that the 2013 ISAT scores displayed are based on preliminary data released from the ISBE. The final reports will be available sometime early fall, and student reports will be sent home shortly thereafter.)*

In January 2013, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) announced that it would change the cut scores (grading scale) for the 2013 Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) to better align the ISAT with the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) and the Common Core State Standards. At its January 28 meeting, the District 102 Board of Education was presented with a projection of how these new cut scores would affect ISAT results by applying them to the 2012 results. (Based on this projection, D102 ISAT proficiency in Reading and Mathematics was expected to drop from 94% to 83%.)

The State projected that scores across Illinois would drop from the 2012 average of 82% to 60% - not

“A drop in scores is a result of raising expectations, not a reflection of student or teacher performance.” -Illinois State Board of Education

CHALLENGES

- # of Clicks...
- 90-7-3...
- Incorporating Visuals
- Gaining Media's Positive Interest
- Personalized, Targeted Communications
- Meaningful Interaction
 - Student-Centered
 - Positive
 - Enhances Home-School Partnership



“We need to improve morale around here. For starters, let’s remove those screensaver photos of the Titanic.”

FACT...

- **51%** of supervisors say that they recognize employees who do a good job
- **17%** of employees at that same organization report that their supervisors do well at recognizing them

Ice cream secrets



STEVE LUNDY/slundy@dailyherald.com

Fremont Elementary School second-graders Kaelyn Pearson, left, and Angelina Lagori taste ice cream they made at school Thursday. Kids made ice cream as part of a science unit called Secret Formulas.

Students learn current events t



SUCCESS STORIES

Your 5 Most Recent Posts

■ Reach: Organic / Paid
 ■ Post Clicks
 ■ Likes, Comments & Shares

Published	Post	Type	Targeting	Reach	Engagement	Promote
07/18/2014 2:31 pm	 F79 Supt. Jill Gildea was named a 2014 national superintendent of the year finalist. http://ow.ly/zjJ0D			782 <div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: orange;"></div>	110 57 <div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: lightblue;"></div>	Boost Post
06/24/2014 1:01 pm	 Some 750 students splashed in the water, dissected every kind of sea creature, created original artwork,			744 <div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: orange;"></div>	2K 28 <div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: lightblue;"></div>	Boost Post
06/13/2014 8:01 am	F79 Celebrates Diversity: https://vimeo.com/97723263			256 <div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: orange;"></div>	7 2 <div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: lightblue;"></div>	Boost Post

BEST PRACTICES



Fremont School District 79 Priority Projects

Urgent Projects 2012-2013	Pressing Projects 2013-2014	Exploration Projects 2014-2015
Student Information System	SEL Curriculum (Calm Classroom, Diversity Training)	Technology Plan
Student Course Assignments	World Language	Standards-Based Grading
Fiscal Stability – Shared Services Study	Teacher Evaluation	Differentiated P.D.
Collective Bargaining	Facility Plan	Curriculum Materials/Resource Cycle
CCSS	Dashboard Reports	Campus Safety – Cameras, etc.
	Mandated Topics – Electronic Delivery?	

RECOGNIZE SUCCESSES

Fremont School District 79

You are posting, commenting, and liking as Margaret Van Dijk - Change to Margaret Van Dijk

Page Activity Insights Settings Build Audience

Dayna Crisaf (Madame)

Wind chill temps are supposed to be -30 to -45 below tomorrow, and I... See More

Like Comment

Jill Gildea

Fremont School District 79 schools will remain closed on Tuesday, January 7, 2014 due to the extreme cold temperatures.

Like Comment

REVIEWS

Danyssa Merseus

is there school tomorrow? Tuesday due to weather conditions? ???

Like Comment

Help people find great places. Write Review

LIKED BY THIS PAGE

Hawthorn Woods Village Chatter

Fremont PTO

Fremont Education Foundation

8th Graders Reach Out to Community (56 photos)

Despite the rain, mud and chilly air, a little over 260 eighth graders headed into the Lake County Forest Preserve behind Fremont's west campus school to pull invasive species from around Oak trees as part of a Fremont Middle School commu...

See More

Like Comment Share

52 people like this.

Lori Noriega Donohue Way to go eighth graders (and their teachers)!

Fremont School District 79 Students were cutting down buckthorn, an invasive species to the forest preserve. It grows quite large and the forest preserve personnel were directing them to remove it so more desirable trees can then flourish.

Fremont School District 79

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Fremont PTO

Fremont Education Foundation

The F79 School Board honored employee Dan Wagner for his certified Maintenance Manager status. <http://ow.ly/hall>

Like Comment Share

50 people like this.

Lisa Davis Congratulations Dan!

Lisa Fields Bonnar Congrats Dan! Hattie Wagner - show your Dad that he made Facebook!

Hattie Wagner Doh! I'm so proud of him!

Hand Jank Harman Wow! You clean up good!

Karen Daecher Erickson DAN...you look so snappy! CONGRATS!!

Jennifer Fischer Parney Congrats Dan!!

PARENT FOCUS GROUPS



HOME SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

- Teacher Websites
- Learning Management System!
- eBlast
- Virtual Backpack
- Specific Targeted Communication Campaign
 - Multimedia Monday
 - Technology Tuesday
 - Wild about Learning Wednesdays
 - Throwback Thursday
 - Fun Event Friday

WEBSITE

Fremont SCHOOL DISTRICT 79

ELEMENTARY INTERMEDIATE MIDDLE

HOME OUR DISTRICT DEPARTMENTS BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR PARENTS COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT

WELCOME

Fremont School District 79
Superintendent - Dr. Jill Gildea
28855 N. Fremont Center Road
Mundelein, IL 60060
847-566-0169
District Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Questions? Email [Margaret Van Dugh](#)

Superintendent's Welcome: On behalf of the Board of Education, I would like to welcome you to the Fremont School District 79 website! The district website is continuously updated to provide information and resources for our school community. (Read more about [Fremont's educational programs](#) from Dr. Gildea)

upcoming EVENTS

Today
Book Fair - Preschool/EC/K

First Day of School Grades 1-8

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM K/PreK Meet & Greet

1:45 PM - 2:45 PM K/PreK Meet & Greet

7:30 PM FEF Board Meeting

Tomorrow
First Day of School for EC, PreK, K

6:30 PM PTO Meeting

[View Calendar](#)

quick LINKS

TeacherEase
Web-based Software for Teachers

Calendar

COMMON CORE
STATE STANDARDS BENCHMARK

FREMONT
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

latest NEWS

Superintendent Recognized
Fremont School District 79 Superintendent Jill Gildea was named a 2014 national superintendent of the year finalist just before receiving her advanced leadership designation. Read the story [here](#).

SOCIAL MEDIA

**National Association of
School Superintendents**
United in Common Purpose: Each Other's Success

**CollegeDinero**

**An investment in
an investment**

HomeForumsMy ContractBlogsBest PracticesIdeas to UseLessons LearnedLinksMembers

United in Common Purpose: Each Other's Success

HOME

Home

About NASS

JOIN NOW!

Forums

Ideas to Use

Lessons Learned

Best Practices

Blogs

Links

My Contract

Featured Members

News

4 Board - Time Saving Tips for New Superintendents - Organize Your Weekly Update



Dr. Jill M. Glida, Superintendent
Fremont School District #79
Mundelein, IL
jglida@fsd79.org

For the first three years as Superintendent at Harrison School District 36, my last task each Friday was the compilation of the dreaded Superintendent Report to the Board, a weekly message that updated the Board on activities, events, and happenings across the district.

Initially, I wrote this Superintendent Report to the Board from scratch on Friday at the end of the workday. It served as an effective reflection piece from the previous week and was written in a conversational tone not unlike this article.

In taking over this communication tool strategy with mentor superintendents, I gleaned the idea of opening a Word® doc and leaving it as a desktop document throughout the week. Each day, I could then take a few moments at the end of the day to add items of interest to the Board in a bulleted list format. On Fridays, I was left with adding an opening and closing paragraph to the document. During these first two versions of the Superintendent Report to the Board, the papers were then printed and mailed to members on Friday evening.

After facilitating a more formalized strategic planning process, the memorandum-style of the Superintendent Report to the Board communication changed from a random bulleted list to an organized topical listing aligned to the strategic goal areas: communication, curriculum, facility, finance, technology, and transportation. During the week, as an activity or event that supported the area occurred, I'd jot the item down under the specific heading or topic. This approach proved to be a timesaver because when it was time for goal area updates, I had a rich original data source that marked progress by the week on key initiatives.

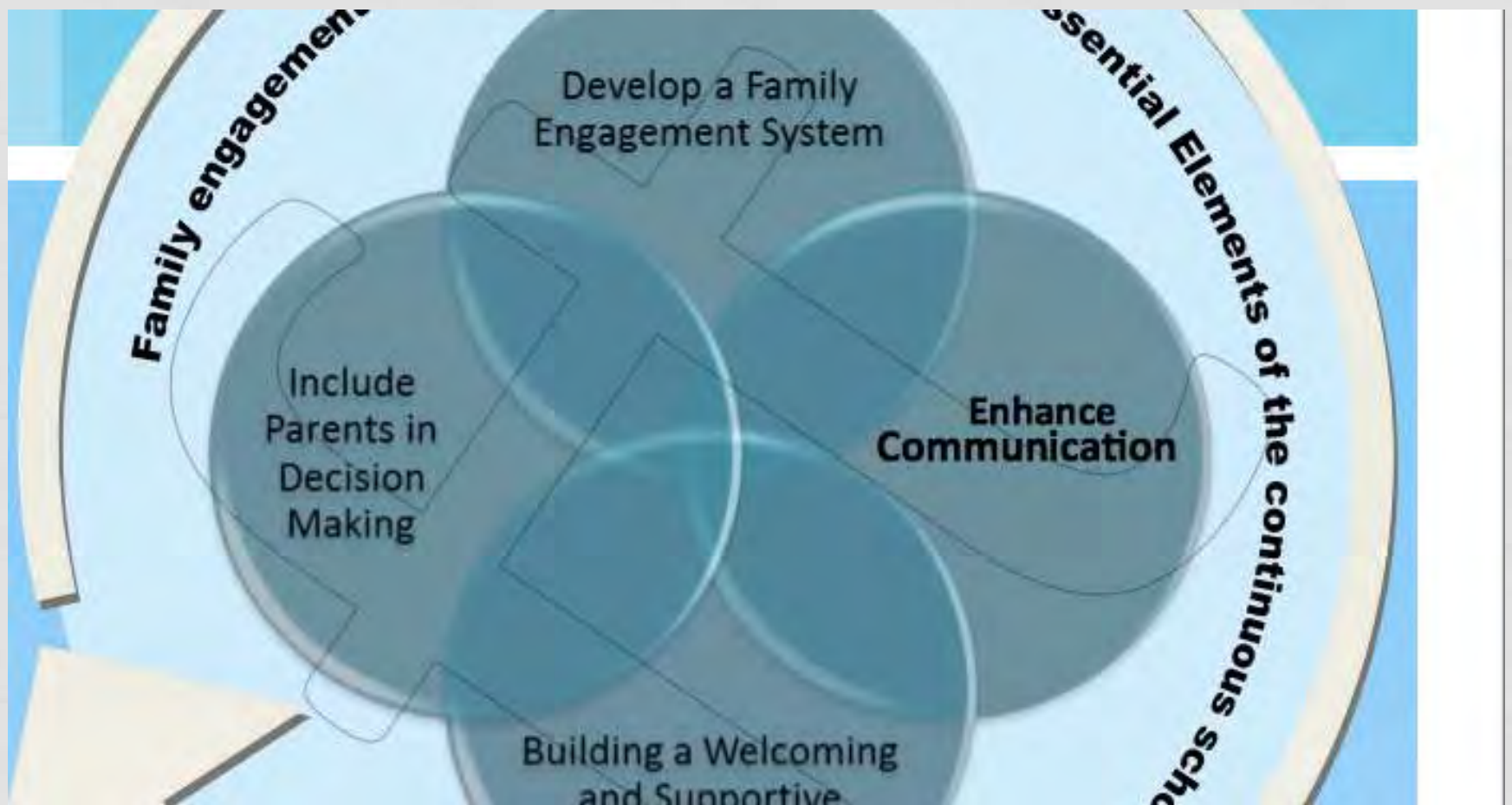
Next, I added a calendar of events to the bottom of the word document to remind the Board of upcoming activities. These improvements met with positive feedback from the Board, and continued to take a great deal of superintendent time.

As work with Word® and templates continued to develop, so did the weekly information update. I added some color, boxed borders, and other design features to further enhance the weekly publication. This newsletter type communication served as my weekly communication with the Board, so it was created for an audience of seven.

Then, through a district administrator dialogue at a team meeting, I realized that the information flow related to the creation of the Board communication tool was truly a one way process from the variety of departments to me and then that information was funneled to the Board. The administrative team did not realize how much information that the Board of Education did receive. The approach that I took in positive communication did not promote team collaboration.

This weekly memorandum might take a few hours to draft as the superintendent would need to reflect on their knowledge and proximity to each of the projects in the district. I realized that with the advancement of technology, I could try an updated template model in a Shared Google Doc and save time through creating the This Week report.

RECOGNIZING FRAMEWORK

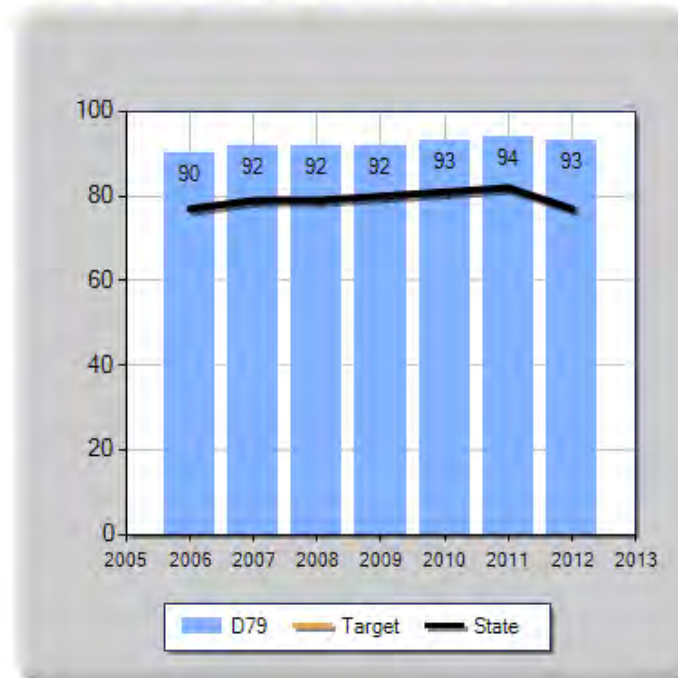


SURVEY

State Performance

The following graph shows the overall percentage of Fremont D79 state tests scores categorized as meeting or exceeding Illinois state standards.

(METRIC: % ISAT MEETS OR EXCEEDS STATE STANDARDS)

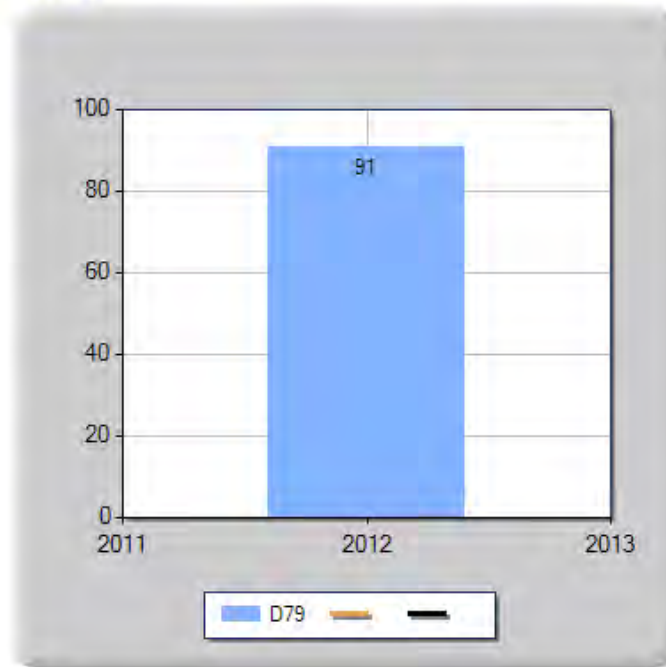


QUICK POLLS

School Rating

The following graph shows the percent of parents rating their child's school as "Excellent" or "Good".

(METRIC: PERCENT PARENTS ANSWERING "EXCELLENT" OR "GOOD")



TELEPHONE AND FACE/FACE



COMMUNITY INFORMATION

- 1. Districts/schools develop a family engagement system that cultivates and empowers adults to jointly support student growth, address any barriers to learning, and ensure college and career readiness.**
- 2. District and school personnel foster a welcoming environment for families that is responsive to student and family needs.**
- 3. District and school personnel engage in ongoing and meaningful two-way-exchanges of information with families to support student learning and healthy**

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Welcoming Environment
- ☐ Policies and Practices
- ☐ Home-School Communication
 - ☐ Authentic Engagement
 - ☐ Prompt Response Times

RESOURCES

- Checklist for Schools – Making your Family-Community Partnership Work
 - <http://titleone.dpi.wi.gov/files/titleone/pdf/checklist-for-schools.pdf>
- Edutopia.org – Parent Leadership Education Resources
 - <http://www.edutopia.org/parent-leadership-education-resources>
- A Family Friendly School Walkthrough Checklist –
 - <http://www.cesdp.nmhu.edu/toolkit/docs/pdfs/improving-communication/A%20Family%20Friendly%20Schools%20Walkthrough%20Checklist%202014.pdf>

- file://localhost/<iframe
src="::player.vimeo.com:video:107740218"
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webkitallowfullscreen mozallowfullscreen
allowfullscreen><:iframe> <p>Fremont District
79 - Where Communication