

# Superintendent Report

Crosslake Community Schools | April 27, 2026

## External Recognition

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Three pieces of work from CCS have been recognized statewide this school year — a meaningful pattern reflecting the depth of work across this district.

The first is our Title I Family and Community Engagement Plan, featured by MDE on April 15 in their statewide Title I, Part A training as an example of best practice. Formal written acknowledgment is forthcoming directly to this Board and to Osprey Wilds.

The second is the COMPASS Local Literacy Plan template our District Teaching and Learning Coordinator Abi Swenson rebuilt last summer. Sourcewell has since adopted it as the standard template across every school and district in their region.

The third is our naming as a Minnesota Charter School Innovation Award finalist for the second consecutive year. Twelve staff are attending the Awards Luncheon on May 6.

## Enrollment, Assessment, and Teaching & Learning

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District-wide enrollment is at 595 students, approximately 85% of capacity. PreK is approaching capacity and Kindergarten Round-Up is May 5. In-person MCA testing is a 100% completion. Online MCA participation has jumped to 24% (119 of 486 tests), with proctors traveling Mankato to Moorhead and everywhere in between. Universal Screening rolls out May 1.

From District Teaching and Learning Coordinator, Abi Swenson: significant SY 2026–27 academic planning is underway. The online program is finalizing its course catalog with a focus on narrowing offerings, simplifying navigation, and tightening alignment with rigor and Minnesota state standards. Cabinet and instructional teams are deep in conversation around data-based decision making and personalized instruction. Our staff capacity and toolset — Capti ReadBasix, the STAR screener, and our LMS rebuild — are pulling into closer alignment with CCS's unique student needs.

## Operations, Hiring, and Compliance

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- **Marketing Coordinator (0.5 FTE).** Offer extended for a May 2026 start.
- **Mental Health Therapist (ReGroup).** On-site Crosslake position has been filled, expanding our wraparound clinical support.
- **Teaching Pipeline.** Elementary, STEM/STEAM, and Title I Interventionist roles posted for SY 26–27. PELSB Tier 1 postings live through July 16.

- **Lottery & Enrollment Compliance.** OW has confirmed no formal lottery is required. A Policy 101/110 reconciliation recommendation will come to the May board meeting alongside an expanded dissemination strategy.
- **Authorizer Annual Site Visits.** Each program receives one annual OW visit. The in-person visit was completed earlier this year. The online program's visit, originally April 29, has been rescheduled to May 13.
- **Stakeholder Surveys.** District-wide satisfaction surveys for staff, students, and families launch May 11–22.

## New Grants Portfolio

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- **MnMTSS Infrastructure Development — Submitted.** \$238,287 over two years. Notable acknowledgment to Abi Swenson for last-minute work that materially strengthened the application.
- **Small, Rural School Achievement (SRSA) — Submitted.** \$50,669 estimated through the U.S. Department of Education's REAP program; ahead of the May 18 federal deadline.
- **Full-Service Community School (FSCS) — In Development.** \$350K–\$600K per site, three years. Pursuing for both programs. Deadline extended to May 15.
- **Law Enforcement Emergency Device — Round 2 Planned.** MDE will soon open a second round; CCS plans to apply.
- **Clean Air School Challenge (American Lung Association) — In Development.** Mini-grant program for K–12 charter, public, and Tribal schools to assess, plan, and act on indoor air quality. Up to \$9,500 per school. Charter and rural priority — a strong fit for CCS.

## Legislative Update — 2026 Session

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- **Safe Schools Revenue (HF3493 / SF5111).** The most consequential charter funding equity opportunity in over a decade. Would extend Safe Schools revenue to charters at \$68 per pupil for FY 2027. Both bills laid over for omnibus inclusion.
- **Repeal of Automatic \$250M SPED Cut (HF4114).** Advanced from House Education Finance with bipartisan support. Would repeal the automatic cross-subsidy reduction triggering in 2027.
- **Charter SPED Bill-Back (HF1099 / SF2839).** Held over and potentially omnibus-bound. Would shift unreimbursed SPED cost from resident districts to the state — meaningful relief for both our programs.

## Events on the Horizon

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- **In-Person Service Breakfast — Monday, May 4.** Annual breakfast honoring local first responders and community partners.
- **In-Person Kindergarten Round-Up — Tuesday, May 5.** Open to current PreK families and prospective SY 26–27 families.
- **In-Person Track & Field Day — Wednesday, May 6.**
- **In-Person Trout Release — Tuesday, May 12.** 5th/6th-grade culminating science experience.
- **In-Person Spring Musical Program — Wednesday, May 13.**
- **Online Prom — Saturday, May 16.** Where Moonlight Meets Magic, 6–10 PM at Crosslake. Our first-ever.
- **District Staff Recognition Celebration — Thursday, May 28.** 2–3:30 PM at Crosslake. State of the District, awards, retirements, and years-of-service recognition. Our first.
- **Online Class of 2026 Commencement — Friday, May 29.** 2 PM at Crosslake. 69 seniors plus our January graduates. Broadcast live on Facebook.

*Nineteen instructional days remain. The work is heavy, the team is steady, and CCS is well-positioned. Grateful, as always, for this Board's partnership.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

***Dr. Jenna Leadbetter***

*District Superintendent*