

DATE: June 8, 2026
TITLE: APS Site Reports
TYPE: Informational [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)
PRESENTER: Dr. Joey Page, Superintendent

BACKGROUND:

The following is a summary of events and items from our sites.

Austin High School:

- Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment.
 - Senior walk on the Friday before graduation was again an emotional/fun day for our students.
 - Students behaved wonderfully over the past three weeks of school. No vandalism, inappropriate behavior, toilet paper like in past years.
 - This past Tuesday, we had the opportunity to meet with our School Leadership Team during the Site Improvement Planning Retreat. We reviewed our SIP plan and drafted our staff development calendar with the team for the 26/27 school year. It was a great opportunity to plan ahead with our team.

- Packer Profile for all learners.
 - Thank you to everyone, including board members that helped review ninth grade portfolios. It was a positive experience for both students and staff.
 - Next year will be the first year students will graduate with the portfolio being a grad requirement.

- District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners.
 - We have completed our three-year commitment with BARR. The quantitative and qualitative data produced over the past three years has been incredible.

- Excellence in resource management.
 - We had 396 graduates this year. Thank you everyone for making this a special night for our students. The celebration after the ceremony on the front lawn lasted for a long time. If you have witnessed it before, it is a must see.
 - Our new laptop distribution/collection process continues to go well. The number of missing laptops continues to decrease.
 - The master schedule building is on schedule, and we were able to have teacher schedules in their hands before they left for the summer.

Austin Online Academy/Austin ALC :

- Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment. This past month was an opportunity for students, families and staff to celebrate the success of the school year for Austin Online and Austin ALC. Students earned trips to Valleyfair, Rochester Mall and other activities based upon attendance and credit attainment criteria. Staff utilized BARR wrap up meetings to review the positive feedback from student surveys and to celebrate the record number of positive postcards that were sent home this year.
- Packer Profile for all learners. ALC and AOA students wrapped up their first year of the Experience Courses in grades 9-12. These classes allow students to go deeper into the portfolio work and develop a comprehensive view of who they want to be and what they want to do after high school. ALC had pathway visitors from law enforcement and a local author share their stories.
- District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners. We are excitedly awaiting our end of year data to celebrate the success of credit attainment and attendance growth with the implementation of flex days and full BARR at AOA. Last month we celebrated the 15 ALC students who will be graduating this year as well as over 50 students in Austin Online that will receive their diploma.
- Excellence in resource management. Today marks the start of a busy summer season. We have over 500 students in the K-8 programming and at least 180 students in the ALC 9-12 courses. Very grateful for the work of Gina Williams, Jessica Stanley and Rebecca Deyo for their leadership in these programs.

Ellis Middle School:

- Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment.
 - Sadly, the last day of school was again affected by the traumatic experience of one of our students being involved in a serious accident. The reason I am choosing to include this is because there were numerous Ellis and Holton staff at the scene when it happened or shortly after. They handled the incident with professionalism and compassion. Their first-hand experience dramatically helped us put a plan of support for students and staff together for the last day. This was extremely well executed and allowed for the day to move forward appropriately. Thank you to the district crisis team and the support from the central administration.
 - We had a wonderful send-off for our retirees and departing employees at the end of the day.
 - Joni set up an "exit line" for our 8th graders so we could all say goodbye to them as they left the building.
 - Both the 7th and 8th graders were able to watch their end of year videos. Liz Blinn put those together and organized the viewing.
 - Ed Schmit came over and met with the 7th grade football players to discuss an opportunity to go to a Vikings event. That was organized by Jesse Synoground and Hunter Anthony.
 - Katie Carter had an excellent assembly for all athletes discussing next year. This was also organized by Jesse Synoground.

- Packer Profile for all learners.
 - I was able to go to AHS to review freshman portfolios. This was an excellent opportunity which really helped me gain clarity about how we are preparing students for 9th grade.
 - Emily Hoveland met with our Leadership Team and discussed her role at Ellis next year. This was very well received.
 - Rod Pesch and Joni Irvin are working on a Hormel Grant for funding our Eagle Bluff Trip.

- District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners.
 - Our MCA testing was completed successfully. We won't know reading scores until next school year as the test was changed. Our preliminary math scores aren't what we would have hoped for. However, that is the reason we are adding math intervention and reading intervention next year.
 - Our ALC program will be offering math intervention next year for students who meet certain criteria. This is optional and has to be agreed upon by parents. We are having great success with enrollment.
 - Our Reading Intervention class will take the place of our Writing class for students who qualify.

- Overall, it was a very successful year for BARR. Karen Dubar's presentation to the School Board outlined our success. We are adjusting our schedule for next year to accommodate more teacher participation.
- Our new Digital Music class is well organized and ready to go for next year. We appreciate Andrea Malo's support and Ethan Wightkin's work preparing. We will offer two sections next year with hopes of expansion.
- Excellence in resource management.
 - We are preparing reductions to our supply budgets for next year as per our agreement with the district. 7% budget cuts are what we are prepared for.
 - We have also worked with Teaching and Learning to align funding for the software to run our Digital Music class.
 - We had two secretary position reductions for next year and one teaching position (social worker) to prepare for as well.
 - We will meet with the remaining secretaries to re-align duties. We are confident that we can effectively cover all tasks.
 - We had a few of our concerts at Ellis this year and received positive feedback. We may add some next year.

IJ Holton Intermediate School:

- Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment.
 - Sadly, the last day of school was again affected by the traumatic experience of one of our students being involved in a serious accident. The reason I am choosing to include this is because there were numerous Ellis and Holton staff at the scene when it happened or shortly after. They handled the incident with professionalism and compassion. Their first-hand experience dramatically helped us put a plan of support for students and staff together for the last day. This was extremely well executed and allowed for the day to move forward appropriately. Thank you to the district crisis team and the support from the central administration.
 - We had an excellent program for our departing educators after school on Wednesday. This was organized by our social committee.
 - We had a fantastic parent meeting for our new Pi families for next year. We are confident in our Pi program, and the parents were very receptive. Again, thanks to Andrea Malo for organizing this.
- Packer Profile for all learners.

- We are working with Emily Hoveland to monitor ways she can support the Profile at Holton. We would like to have artifacts for their portfolio, but I believe this will start by having Emily meet with the teachers during the school year to offer ideas and support.
- Our new class "Magic of Electrons" will be offered next year. Thanks to Andrea Malo for her support investigating and choosing this option.
- District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners.
 - Overall, we were able to get all aspects of the elementary schedule in place by March: Whole group reading, small group and intervention. The teachers had to make a huge adjustment but were able to make it happen. Our instructional coach did a great job keeping them prepared. We are ready to hit the ground next year.
 - Our Math Corps data was very good, and hopefully we will be able to get two tutors next year. One of the tutors said, "Dewey, I've been in several schools, this building is by far the most controlled and well run." Yes, the staff at Holton is incredible.
 - Our motto this year: Grace and Reflection, was a belief our staff leaned into heavily this year. We made adjustments based on staff feedback consistently all year long.
- Excellence in resource management.
 - We are preparing reductions to our supply budgets for next year as per our agreement with the district. 7% budget cuts are what we are prepared for.
 - We had two secretary position reductions for next year and one teaching position (social worker) to prepare for as well.
 - We will meet with the remaining secretaries to re-align duties. We are confident that we can effectively cover all tasks.
 - We have 4 new teacher hires for next year. All non-tenured teachers will be paired with a veteran teacher in 6th grade. We had an excellent group of teachers to choose from in our interviews.
 - We had a few of our concerts at Ellis this year and received positive feedback. We may add some next year.

Banfield Elementary School:

- Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment.
 - Banfield held two family events in May; Spring Fling with our PTC group and a kindergarten welcome event. For the Spring Fling event, we welcomed over 400 people for all of the activities. For the kindergarten event, we had almost 50 future kindergarten students join us.

- As we continue to partner with the community on maintaining our garden, there have communities members active this spring already with planting and maintaining the current school garden.
- Packer Profile for all learners.
 - Banfield teachers wrapped up another year with the use of SeeSaw and uploading artifacts. As we look to next year, non-classroom teachers have started to plan what the use of SeeSaw could look like in their classrooms to help document student growth.
- District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners.
 - During May, Banfield Elementary staff and MTSS teams reviewed multiple data sources to reflect on student growth and identify priorities for the upcoming school year. Data reviewed included newly released 3rd and 4th grade MCA math results, Spring Benchmark assessment data through FAST and STAR, and ACCESS results for multilingual learners. We spent a significant amount of time looking at our growth profieciency , along with making plans for instructional adjustments for the upcoming year.
 - Our staff is proud of the growth and accomplishments demonstrated by Banfield students throughout the year. One area of celebration includes 15 students who met language proficiency requirements and will be exiting English Language services. This milestone reflects the hard work of students, families, and staff in supporting language development and academic success.
 - The team also reviewed attendance data for the 2025-2026 school year. Currently, 6.6% of Banfield students are identified as chronically absent.
- Excellence in resource management.
 - We are looking forward to a quiet summer in the building with no major building projects. The summer custodian crew has been hard at work of getting the building ready for the school year.

Neveln Elementary School:

- Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment.

Neveln welcomed over 400+ attendees to our Spring Family Event – the Backyard Bash. It was a joyful celebration of learning and a great opportunity to build a community of Knights. We were excited to connect with many new families, including those with incoming kindergarten students, as we continue to foster a welcoming environment for all.

We held a Kindergarten Welcome Event on May 5. We welcomed 25 new students and their caregivers to Neveln. The parents participated in an information session with the principal and the students had the opportunity to visit a classroom and took a short ride on a school bus!

- Packer Profile for all learners.

Neveln teachers used Seesaw throughout the year to share student progress in math, reading, and writing. This tool strengthens the home-school connection by giving families real-time insight into their child's learning journey.

- District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners.

In May, our staff and MTSS teams reviewed our data and celebrated the accomplishments of this year. We reviewed our new 3rd/4th grade MCA data in math, Spring Benchmark data (FAST & STAR) and ACCESS data. There are many successes at Neveln. We are proud of our Knights and the great things they have accomplished.

We are excited to celebrate the 16 students that met language proficiency this year and will be exiting English Language services.

We also reviewed our attendance data for the 2025-26 school year. We have 13.7% of our students that are considered chronically absent. We will be working with families next year to decrease this percentage and find creative ways to support families to get their children to school.

- Excellence in resource management.

We look forward to partnering with ISG to begin the planning and design process for Phase 1 of the Summer 2027 facilities projects, including restroom upgrades. This collaborative work will help ensure the project aligns with district priorities and supports the long-term needs of our students, staff, and school community.

A special welcome to Carol McAliister, our school board Ambassador! We are grateful for her partnership. Thank you Carol for the cards and special visit to Neveln on our last day of school.

Southgate Elementary School:

- Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment.

Southgate hosted several family connection events including the 4th grade send-off, the Backyard Bash and our annual Tree Trust Day.

We held a Kindergarten Welcome Event on May 7th. We welcomed 40 new students and gave them the chance to see our Kindergarten classrooms and tour a bus.

- Packer Profile for all learners.

Seesaw was used to house artifacts for Gators to share student progress in math, reading, and writing. This tool strengthens the home-school connection by giving families real-time insight into their child's learning journey.

- District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners.

In May, our staff and MTSS teams reviewed our data and started setting goals for the next school year. We reviewed our new 3rd/4th grade data (FAST & STAR).

We also reviewed our attendance data for the 2025-26 school year. We have 7% of our students that are considered chronically absent. We will be working with families next year to decrease this percentage and find creative ways to support families to get their children to school.

- Excellence in resource management.

This summer we will be having some building updates done in our kitchen and serving area. We appreciate the support of the district and community for these upgrades. We will also be working to hire our open positions and train in new staff for another fantastic school year!

Sumner Elementary School:

- Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment.

Sumner Elementary was thrilled to welcome more than 450 attendees to our Spring Family Event, which served as a celebration of a successful year of learning and growth. The event provided a wonderful opportunity to connect with families and strengthen our school community. We were especially excited to meet many families who are new to Sumner, including those with students entering kindergarten this fall.

In addition, our Kindergarten Welcome Event, held on May 7, welcomed 43 incoming kindergarten students and their families. This event provided an important opportunity for students and families to become familiar with our school, meet staff, and begin building connections within the Sumner community. Both events highlighted the strong partnership between our school and families and helped foster a sense of belonging for all.

- Packer Profile for all learners.

Our teachers engaged in sharing student artifacts on Seesaw to highlight learning progress in math, reading, and writing throughout the school year. Seesaw is a powerful tool that allows teachers to document and celebrate student growth in real time, while also giving families a meaningful window into their child's learning journey. This ongoing communication strengthens the home-school connection and fosters greater engagement and support. At the conclusion of the school year, our students and teachers have posted over 10,000 Seesaw posts, 336 students have logged in and over 200 families have logged in.

- District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners.

Following the completion of MCA and spring benchmark assessments, Sumner teachers engaged in a comprehensive spring data reflection process. Through collaborative analysis of student performance data, staff identified key insights related to instructional practices, intervention systems, assessment use, and student support structures. Reflections highlighted the impact of intentional strategies such as differentiated small-group instruction, responsive teaching practices, and consistent progress monitoring. Teachers also emphasized maintaining high expectations for all students, implementing strong classroom systems, and utilizing interventions as a supplement to core instruction rather than a replacement. The insights gathered through this process will help guide continuous improvement efforts and inform planning for the 2026–2027 school year.

A continued focus on student belonging and engagement remains central to supporting academic and social-emotional success. Belonging Survey data is regularly reviewed to inform school climate initiatives and staff engagement strategies.

Additionally, Sumner has implemented and sustained a comprehensive attendance system designed to promote student engagement and reduce absenteeism. Key components include:

- Implementation of the Sumner Attendance Process with staff beginning in August 2025
- PBIS-aligned attendance incentives, including the Golden Goose recognition program and monthly attendance celebrations, launched in December 2024
- Ongoing review of attendance data through School Leadership Team (SLT), Student Support Team (SST), and Instructional Support Team (IST) meetings to ensure timely monitoring and response

These intentional, schoolwide efforts have contributed to improved student attendance over the past two years, increasing from 92.4% to 93.52%.

- Excellence in resource management.

We look forward to partnering with ISG to begin the planning and design process for Phase 1 of the Summer 2027 facilities projects, including restroom upgrades at Sumner. This collaborative work will help ensure the project aligns with district priorities and supports the long-term needs of our students, staff, and school community.

Community Learning Center: [Year in Review](#)

- Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment.
 - The Wellness Committee shared insights and tips for staff wellness in every 492 Happenings for the school year. They also completed a survey of staff to determine staff needs around the topic of wellness and used this data to support further committee work throughout the year.
 - All of our Community Education teams continue to use the language and learnings from Strengths in our day to day operations with colleagues, self-reflection and improvement, and have started using Strengths spotting for our students.

- Packer Profile for all learners.
 - We completed the MCEA Audit of our Community Education programs during our Local Community Ed Review process in May. We look forward to receiving these results so that we can enhance all of our programs, but specifically Youth and Adult Enrichment. The addition of Arux to the system will also provide a much needed upgrade to our registration and promotion process for enrichment.
 - Beyond Blue and More Than Pink will continue to run this summer as well as a whole host of youth enrichment activities found [here](#).
 - During our preschool graduation ceremonies our preschool students shared their intended future careers. We are going to be well protected and cared for with all the doctors, nurses, fire fighters and police officers. In addition, we will also have a lot of moms and dads, and a few princesses and youtube content creators. The future indeed looks bright.

- District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners.
 - Kids Korner will be partnering with Austin Aspires this summer to offering tutoring opportunities for 18 students. We are grateful for their partnership.
 - Our first year using Burlington Curriculum with our ABE students was a success. We had more “hours” of class time this school year than in 24-25 and exceeded the state's goal for level gains for our students.
 - Our final family engagement opportunities for early childhood were extremely successful this May. Our annual Flight and Float event featured music by Austin alumna “Will Sings Songs” and kite flying and root beer floats. On the last two days of preschool we hosted 10 graduation ceremonies for our preschool students who are moving on to Kindergarten and had between 450-500 loving family members join us for our celebrations.

- Excellence in resource management.
 - We are grateful for the continued support from the state of MN to support our Kids Korner employees through the Great Start Grant program.

- We continue to seek funding options to support more preschool classroom options so that any child who wants to attend preschool in Austin, Minnesota can do so!