

May 2026 Superintendent Report

Board of Education • Monday, May 18, 2026 • 5:00 PM • Crosslake Campus

Members of the Board — May is the month the work shows. Six school days remain for our in-person program; two weeks for our online program. Beneath the celebrations sits a stack of consequential strategic work, several pieces of which appear separately on tonight's agenda. This report focuses on items not otherwise represented there — statewide leadership, authorizer relations, grant activity, legislative posture, and the late-week emergency response that activated district operations.

Enrollment Snapshot

SY 2025-26 (current): 586 students district-wide (84% of cap) — In-Person 138 (74%); Online 451 (84%). **SY 2026-27 (current projection):** 589 students based on Intent-to-Enroll and Intent-to-Return data to date. **Active growth goal:** 630+ students across both programs, with continued enrollment momentum building through summer. No lottery required for either program. Online 6–8 at full capacity; In-Person PreK approaching its 15-seat limit. SY27 hiring plans for both programs are guiding staffing decisions in alignment with this growth trajectory — Rose Bierce presented the Online plan at the April 27 meeting; Mindy Glazier presented the In-Person plan earlier this evening.

Statewide Leadership & Recognition

Elected to the MACS Board of Directors. I have been elected to the Minnesota Association of Charter Schools Board of Directors for a two-year term (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2028). The election was conducted by charter school executive directors and superintendents across the state of Minnesota — a peer-elected seat that places CCS at the state policy table at a moment when charter school equity issues are in active motion. Onboarding is in June, with the annual Board Retreat scheduled for Wednesday, June 17 at the Minnesota Humanities Center. Regular meetings will be Wednesday mornings, alternating in-person and virtual every other month. I will manage these responsibilities in alignment with CCS duties and flag any conflicts to this Board proactively.

MN Charter School Innovation Award Finalist — Second Consecutive Year. CCS was named a finalist on May 6 in the category of Creating New Professional Opportunities for Teachers, recognizing our staff mental health and well-being work. A ten-person CCS contingent represented the district under the Minnesota Charter Schools banner.

Charter Renewal & Authorizer Relations

Osprey Wilds completed the Online School site visit virtually on Wednesday, May 13, with Beth Ann Peck and Emily Edstrom Moore — in addition to the In-Person School site visit conducted earlier this school year. Classroom visits, leadership conversations, and operational reviews occurred across the day, and both visits went well. Together they form a meaningful authorizer record heading into our SY 2026-27 charter renewal preparation, building on our 105% Fast Track Charter Renewal foundation. Materials development continues with Kelly Bittner and the cabinet through Summer 2026.

Grant Activity

- **MnMTSS Infrastructure Development Grant** — Submitted April 3. \$238,287 over two years to support the District MnMTSS Coordinator role and continued Tier 1–3 alignment.
- **FSCS Startup Grant (In-Person PreK–8)** — Submitted May 15. Up to \$600,000 over three years for an in-person FSCS Site Coordinator and expanded wraparound services through ReGroup, LAKE Foundation, and Crow Wing County partnerships.
- **FSCS Startup Grant (Online K–12)** — Submitted May 15. Up to \$600,000 over three years to position CCS as a statewide virtual community school model.

Combined potential: up to \$1.2M FSCS plus the MnMTSS award. Each application was reviewed by legal counsel prior to submission. The Electric School Bus Grant (MN Dept. of Commerce) remains under evaluation pending confirmation of charter eligibility (window open through June 18).

Legislative Update — 2026 Session Concluded

The Minnesota legislature adjourned in alignment with the constitutional deadline under a universal agreement negotiated by Governor Walz, Senate Majority Leader Murphy, and House leadership. The education supplemental budget was minimal but includes items relevant to CCS. Outcomes awaiting the Governor's signature:

- **\$10M Targeted Compensatory Aid Relief** — Provides a floor for FY27 compensatory revenue at 65.98% of each site's FY26 amount, adjusted for enrollment decline between October 2024 and October 2025. Kelly Bittner and Creative Planning will review MACS-released spreadsheets for CCS-specific impact.
- **\$12M School-Linked Mental Health + \$4M Anonymous Threat Reporting Grants** — Plus \$1M for the Department of Public Safety to monitor a free threat-reporting system schools may use. Both align with our existing ReGroup partnership and student safety infrastructure — worth pursuing as they open.
- **Policy Items** — Qualified paraprofessional definition updated to align with federal requirements (relevant to our Group C work); Read Act screening refinements and stronger early literacy field experience for prospective teachers; new criminal offense for grooming of minors by school personnel; and a November 2026 ballot question on Minnesota Land Trust / Permanent School Fund distributions to schools.
- **Not in the Final Bill** — Safe Schools Revenue Equity (HF3653 / SF3713) did not make it into the final education package despite active MACS-led charter advocacy. Lease Aid remains intact in current statute. ESP Minimum Wage (HF2133) did not advance.
- **Federal Watch** — \$144M added for IDEA Parts B & C (with new Part C prenatal eligibility). U.S. Dept. of Education staff reduced 45% since 2024; proposed "MEGA" block grants would consolidate \$6.5B into \$2B. Tracking with Osprey Wilds and MACS.

MACS will host a final legislative wrap-up call Friday, May 22 at 9:00 AM, with detailed primers on new law changes to follow in late May and June. The legislature reconvenes in January 2027 after every seat (including the Governor) is up for reelection.

Emergency Response — Flanders Fire

The Flanders Fire active in the Crosslake area through the weekend activated district emergency response. Operational decisions were made across the weekend in real time — Saturday in support of the Online Prom and Sunday for In-Person School operations Monday — in direct coordination with our Transportation Director and local emergency personnel. Throughout the weekend, the cabinet tracked all students, families, and staff impacted by the fire or serving in the response, ensuring full wraparound support across both programs. All roads remained open for buses, wind subsided, and overnight rain reduced active risk. District-wide family communication and internal one-pagers went out in advance of Monday morning. Our crisis response was top notch — grateful for the steady weekend partnership of Mindy Glazier, Rose Bierce, Mitch Swaggert, Matthew Wadman, and Board Chair Garcia, among many more.

End-of-Year Highlights

Saturday, May 16 marked the first-ever Online Prom "Where Moonlight Meets Magic" — three months from concept to execution on zero starting budget, built on community donations and student voice. The May 14 School-Wide Picnic, the May 15 Global MN Classroom Connections capstone, the May 13 Spring Music Program, and MCA testing completion rounded out a celebration-dense two weeks. Earlier this afternoon, we celebrated In-Person 8th Grade Graduation; the Staff Recognition Celebration (May 28) and Senior Graduation for 69 seniors (May 29) follow.

Rooted in this work, and in each other.

With grit and grace,

Dr. Jenna Leadbetter

District Superintendent | Crosslake Community Schools