

The Challenge of Balancing Academics & Finances

**Bruce Lubin, President • Steven Frost, Vice President • Terry Moons, Secretary
Gary Gorson • Lori Lyman • Lester Raff • Merv Roberts**

The Board is pleased to report that 2010 was another very good year for Stevenson High School and its students, both academically and in their personal growth. Among other accomplishments, students posted a record-high score on the ACT exam, and set new highs for participation in the Advanced Placement program. Almost all of our students participated in clubs and activities, and 85% volunteered their time for community service and raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for a wide variety of charitable causes.

Financially, we are able to report that the average taxpayer will see a reduction in his or her 2011 tax payments to District 125. This is good news in light of the local and national economic picture. While the experts are suggesting that the economy is showing signs of life, there can be little argument that times are still tough for many Americans, including many families and businesses in Illinois and Adlai E. Stevenson High School District 125. During this economic period the District 125 Board of Education has continued its strong commitment to financial stewardship of District resources and to provide a high-quality educational experience for our students. Last year, we reduced staff levels in advance of declining enrollment, cut capital spending on major maintenance projects, and saved in excess of \$100,000 in energy costs.

Stevenson is fortunate to have significant local support of its school. While Springfield has fallen behind on all of its payments – including \$2.3 million owed to Stevenson as of June 30, 2010 — our dedication to fiscal restraint and our long-range financial planning has allowed District 125 to continue its history of being financially competitive with other schools in similar communities. In addition to being included on the Illinois State Board of Education Financial Recognition rating list for five of the last six years, District 125 is one of only a handful of school districts in the state to have received a AAA bond rating from Standard and Poor's.

Weathering the recession has not been easy in our community, as housing prices have dropped for most of the past three years, and many families are struggling financially. To provide taxpayer relief during this tough environment, four out of the past five years the Board of Education has abated — returned to taxpayers — a portion of the tax levy, and in December 2010 the Board of Education voted to abate at least 100% of the tax levy increase. Which is to say that for nearly all residents, special circumstances notwithstanding, if your property tax bill increases, it is not due to a tax levy from District 125. In fact, due to new construction in the district the average taxpayer will observe a 1% decrease in the District 125 portion of the tax bill.

In 2002, nearly 70% of voters approved a referendum that

Spending & Performance Comparison: Area High Schools

(Does Not Include High Schools in K-12 Districts)

High School	Spending Per Student ¹	% Meet/Exceed IL Standards ²	Average ACT Score ³
Lake Forest	\$23,789	84.3%	26.3
Deerfield	\$21,566	89.8%	26.3
Highland Park	\$21,566	80.3%	25.2
Glenbrook North	\$19,704	84.2%	25.2
Glenbrook South	\$19,704	78.3%	24.5
New Trier	\$19,415	89.5%	27.2
Libertyville	\$18,617	82.5%	25.3
Vernon Hills	\$18,617	79.5%	24.7
STEVENSON	\$15,171	82.7%	26.2

¹ Operating expenditure per-pupil during the 2008-09 school year

² Percentage of students meeting or exceeding state standards on the 2010 Prairie State Achievement Exam

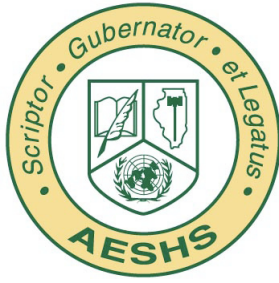
³ Based on Class of 2010 ACT exam results

Source: 2010 Illinois Interactive Report Card

stabilized our financial situation. At the time, a major goal of the referendum was to avoid asking taxpayers for another tax rate increase until 2010. We are pleased to report that as a result of thoughtful financial stewardship of your investment in Stevenson High School, not only has the District been able to delay a tax rate referendum through 2010, we believe that our financial plan will enable the District to postpone the need for a tax rate referendum until closer to 2020.

The Board of Education has a long record of making solid financial and investment decisions that support the educational mission and vision of the high school. In fact, as measured by per-pupil spending and student achievement, Stevenson ranks first among its peers for providing the highest quality instruction at a reasonable cost relative to high school districts in Lake and north Cook County. In addition, our Index of Academic Leading Indicators clearly demonstrates Stevenson High School's continued success as one of the premier high schools in the United States. We are extremely confident that your decision to purchase a home in District 125 has been, and will continue to be, a very wise investment.

As a Board of Education we are extremely proud of all the wonderful accomplishments of Adlai E. Stevenson High School and of our students' long tradition of academic and co-curricular success and achievement. While we continue to face the tough economic realities that lie ahead, you can be certain that we will continue to be unrelenting in our mission of *Success for Every Student*.



**Adlai E. Stevenson High School
District 125**

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Dr. Gwendolyn Zimmermann, Mathematics

This annual report was published by
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District 125 Board of Education.

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2010-11 Goals, Projects and Initiatives

GOALS

1. All students will meet or exceed the proficiency standards established by the State of Illinois for the Prairie State Exam prior to graduation.
2. All students will meet or exceed expected growth on the Educational Planning and Assessment System (Explore, PLAN, ACT).
3. The percentage of students in each graduating class that will complete a college-level course (AP, dual credit, and articulated credit courses) will increase each year.
4. The percentage of students in each graduating class who perform at the high level, as measured by the District's social/emotional learning instrument, will increase each year.

PROJECTS

1. We will complete the third phase of implementation of the District's data warehouse and develop an action plan for integration and use across the District's programs.
2. We will develop and implement a curriculum and intervention review process in order to more fully utilize Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), Explore, Plan assessments to inform curriculum team decision-making and improve student achievement.
3. We will implement the third phase of a Response to Intervention (RtI) model.
4. We will work collaboratively with the Adlai E. Stevenson High School Education Association to successfully negotiate the Board/Faculty Agreement.

INITIATIVES

1. We will continue integration of reading initiatives across all divisions by focusing on essential skills and strategies that foster comprehension.
2. We will continue to provide training, support, and focus for curriculum teams and their use of research-based collaborative protocols.
3. We will develop programs to ensure equity within the curriculum and school environment.
4. We will support each team's development, implementation, and analysis of formative assessment data in order to facilitate student learning and support our Response-to-Intervention program.
5. We will implement the recommendations for short and long-range campus improvement plans.
6. We will evaluate our long-term financial plan and determine how we will maintain quality and fiscally responsible programs.
7. We will implement the recommendations for short and long-range technology improvement plans.
8. We will implement recommendations for enhancing our community engagement outreach and creating connections between the community and school.
9. We will continue to implement recommendations from the Green Committee to reduce the District's carbon footprint and promote sustainability.

PRAIRIE STATE ACHIEVEMENT EXAMINATION

Stevenson maintained its standing as one of the best schools in Illinois based on results from last year's Prairie State Achievement Exam results. In all four areas tested in April — reading, mathematics, writing and science — Stevenson topped state averages. At least 80% of SHS students met or exceeded state standards on all four test areas, while the state's highest percentage in any one subject was 55%.

Class of 2011 Prairie State Achievement Exam Results

	Stevenson				State			
	% Level 1	% Level 2	% Level 3	% Level 4	% Level 1	% Level 2	% Level 3	% Level 4
Reading	2	17	55	26	9	37	44	10
Math	2	13	50	35	11	37	42	10
Writing	1	11	66	22	7	38	50	5
Science	2	16	51	31	10	38	41	11

Explanation of Scores

- Level 1 – Academic Warning – Student work demonstrates limited knowledge and skills in the subject.
- Level 2 – Below Standards – Student work demonstrates basic knowledge and skills in the subject.
- Level 3 – Meets Standards – Student work demonstrates proficient knowledge and skills in the subject.
- Level 4 – Exceeds Standards – Student work demonstrates advanced knowledge and skills in the subject.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

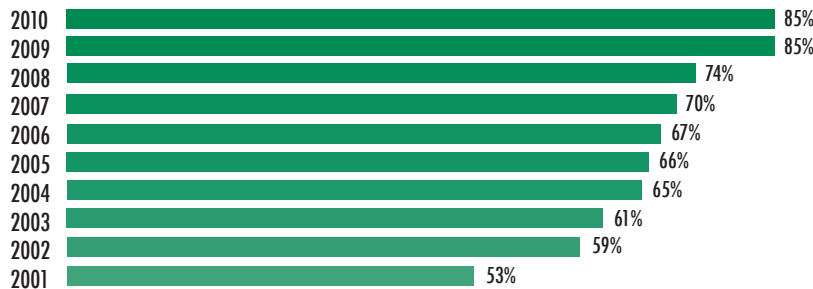
Stevenson High School's Advanced Placement program had its best year ever during the 2009-10 school year. The school set records for most students taking AP exams, and for most AP exams taken — all while posting an average test score that stands among the finest in SHS annals. In 19 of 30 AP exam subjects, 90% or more of the tests earned honor grades. 37.4% percent of AP exams taken last spring received a 5.

SHS Advanced Placement Results 2003-2010

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Exams	2295	2503	3028	3186	3273	3601	3502	3772
Total Students	1211	1286	1314	1402	1478	1510	1540	1605
Average Score	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.84	3.75	3.78	3.86	3.88
% Honor Grades	87	85	87	89	84	84	88	87

Advanced Placement exams are scored on an ascending scale from 1 to 5. In 2010, 87% of Stevenson students who completed an AP exam received honor grades by scoring 3 or higher.

% Graduating Seniors With At Least One College-Level Experience



COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

98% of the Class of 2010 is pursuing post-secondary education, with 88% attending four-year schools. The Class of 2010 can be found on 182 different campuses.

ACT EXAM SCORES

The Class of 2010 posted the highest average ACT score in school history. This marks the seventh time in the last 10 years that Stevenson has established a new ACT scoring record.

ACT Composite Scores 2000-2010

Year	SHS	Illinois	U.S.
2010	26.2	20.7	21.0
2009	25.7	20.8	21.1
2008	25.7	20.7	21.1
2007	25.3	20.5	21.2
2006	25.6	20.5	21.1
2005	25.1	20.3	20.9
2004	24.9	20.3	20.9
2003	24.8	20.2	20.8
2002 [%]	24.4	20.1	20.8
2001	24.7	21.6	21.0
2000	24.6	21.5	21.0

% - first year all students in Illinois required to take ACT as part of Prairie State exam

SAT EXAM SCORES

Stevenson's most recent graduates also did well on the SAT exam, outperformed the state and nation on the mathematics, critical reading (formerly verbal) and writing sections of the exam.

SAT Mathematics Scores 2006-2010

Year	SHS	Illinois	U.S.
2010	699	600	516
2009	683	604	515
2008	663	601	515
2007	664	611	515
2006	657	609	518

SAT Critical Reading Scores 2006-2010

Year	SHS	Illinois	U.S.
2010	650	585	501
2009	631	588	501
2008	611	583	502
2007	615	594	502
2006	600	591	503

SAT Writing Scores 2006-2010

Year	SHS	Illinois	U.S.
2010	650	577	492
2009	636	583	493
2008	613	578	494
2007	617	588	494
2006	607	586	497

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2010 Achievements

SHS Earns Fine Arts National Honor

Stevenson was one of five schools in the country to receive the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Schools of Distinction in Arts Education Award. The award is considered one of the highest honors for a high school fine arts department.



Academic Recognition for Stevenson

Stevenson was listed in the top 3% of 21,786 public high schools nationwide by *U.S. News and World Report*, and was one of only 83 Illinois school districts chosen to receive the SchoolSearch 2010 Bright Red Apple Award for educational excellence.



Teacher Wins Golden Apple Award

Mathematics teacher Darshan Jain was one of 10 recipients of the Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Teaching. Jain, who was selected from a pool of 562 nominees, is the second Stevenson teacher to receive the Golden Apple Award. Charles Hamberg, who also taught mathematics, was a member of the inaugural Golden Apple class of 1986.

2010 Heritage Award Recipients

Lincolnshire residents John and Dottie Westerberg, longtime Stevenson supporters who established the school's first endowment scholarship in 1995, were selected to receive the District 125 Heritage Award.

Stevenson received its second Energy Star Award for energy efficiency and conservation by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy. SHS also moved closer to becoming the first public high school in the country to earn Gold LEED-EB certification from the U.S. Green Buildings Council, a major goal within Stevenson's Green Initiative.



The Class of 2010: One of Stevenson's Finest

Stevenson High School's Class of 2010 left an impressive legacy when it graduated in June. Among its achievements:



- Set a school-record composite score of 26.2 on the ACT and also established new marks on the SAT exam.
- Received more than \$16.5 million in scholarships.
- Four were named National Merit Scholars, 27 were named National Merit Scholarship finalists, and 34 were named National Merit Commended Students. The number of National Merit finalists and Commended students were school records.
- More than one-third of the class (362) were named Illinois State Scholars.
- 85% had a college-level experience while at SHS, up from 52% 10 years earlier.
- 94% participated in clubs, sports or other activities.
- 85% volunteered their time for community service.
- Many seniors led charity fundraising efforts that collected more than \$100,000 for a wide variety of causes, most of them based locally.

Students Win Several State Championships

The Scholastic Bowl, boys gymnastics, Color Guard and Patriettes (poms) teams won state championships. Stevenson athletes won individual state championships in wrestling, girls gymnastics and girls diving, while another 25 students captured state titles in a variety of academic competitions.



12 Receive State Board Award

Twelve members of the SHS community received Those Who Excel awards from the Illinois State Board of Education for outstanding service to education: the Music teaching team (Jeff Slepak, Alice Nuteson, Clark Chaffee, Debbie Durham, Joyce Haqq, Enrique Vilaseco and Gerry Peters), science teacher Sara Cahill, Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator Stephanie Elsass, mathematics teacher Kate Hoopes, retired Assistant Principal for Operations Pat Ihmels and parent volunteer June Daar.