



Proven Stewardship in Tough Times

There is no doubt that our country is experiencing one of its most significant economic recessions since the 1930s. With rising unemployment, a historic drop in stock prices, and significantly slowing consumer spending, many people across the country, in our state, and in our community are justifiably concerned about the economy and their personal and family finances. As you would expect, Adlai E. Stevenson High School District 125 is paying close attention to the economic crisis affecting our country and our community, and we are adjusting our short- and long-term financial plans accordingly.

Although there are certain aspects of public school funding that we cannot change at the district level, members of the District 125 Board of Education and the Stevenson High School administration have been working collaboratively over the past several months to navigate the tough decisions that come with needing to simultaneously reduce spending and conserve resources, while at the same time sustaining our commitment to providing a high-quality educational experience for our students.

The revised short-term financial plan that has been developed by the Board of Education and administration, and the corresponding assumptions that have been identified for the 2009-10 and 2010-11 school year budgets, represent the same type of financial belt-tightening that many families in our community are experiencing.

First and foremost, while we will be reducing or holding spending to current levels in our academic divisions, the District has made a strong commitment to significantly slow our spending in non-curricular areas of the school and campus.

Second, we will be postponing a number of capital projects, including the resurfacing of parking lot D, renovation of the Studio Theatre, and heating, ventilation and air conditioning work and updating of the Administration Building. (One project that will be done in the summer of 2009 is the replacement of the tennis courts on campus, which have become a significant safety hazard. We will replace the courts with a year-round, multi-use surface.)

Third, as student enrollment decreases over the next five to seven years, we will revise our staffing plans accordingly. With nearly 20 members of our faculty and staff retiring in June 2010,

we have a unique opportunity to more closely align staffing and student enrollment.

Fourth, while the primary purpose of our Green Initiative is to educate students, faculty and community on the importance of sustainable living and working, there is no doubt that it also has helped us more accurately identify significant cost savings in our school operations. For example, the District's developing sub-

metering initiative has already saved tens of thousands of dollars in energy costs.

Finally, we will continue to provide relief to our taxpayers in 2009 by abating the District's Loss and Cost Fund. This means that over the past four years, the Board of Education abated nearly \$2 million back to taxpayers.

While no school district would ever look forward to such difficult and challenging economic times, the Board of Education and administration of District 125 are prepared for the challenges that lie ahead. In addition to being included on the Illinois State Board of Education Financial Recognition Rating list for the last five years, Stevenson is one of only a handful of school districts in the state and the country to have received a AAA bond rating from Standard and Poor's. In fact, as measured by per-pupil spending and student achievement (see chart), Adlai E. Stevenson High School District 125 ranks first among its peers for proving the highest quality instruction

(as measured by results on the Prairie State Achievement Exam) at a reasonable cost relative to high school districts in Lake and northern Cook County. 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.

All of us at Adlai E. Stevenson High School are very proud of the school, and of our students' long tradition of academic and co-curricular success and achievement. While we 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*.

Bruce Lubin

President, District 125 Board of Education

Dr. Eric Twadell
Superintendent

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 |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Deerfield | \$18,808 | 86.3% |
| Highland Park | \$18,808 | 74.8% |
| Niles North | \$18,568 | 62.2% |
| Niles West | \$18,568 | 63.4% |
| Lake Forest | \$18,006 | 80.4% |
| Glenbrook North | \$17,988 | 83.8% |
| Glenbrook South | \$17,988 | 75.3% |
| Evanston | \$17,908 | 68.6% |
| New Trier | \$17,541 | 87.6% |
| Libertyville | \$16,061 | 80.6% |
| Vernon Hills | \$16,061 | 76.3% |
| Antioch | \$15,810 | 57.2% |
| Lakes | \$15,810 | 63.7% |
| STEVENSON | \$13,706 | 85.1% |
| Grayslake Central | \$13,088 | 67.3% |
| Grayslake North | \$13,088 | 64.1% |
| Mundelein | \$10,902 | 54.8% |
| Warren | \$10,431 | 62.0% |

¹ Operating expenditure per-pupil during 2006-07 school year

² Percentage of students meeting or exceeding state standards on 2008 Prairie State Achievement Exam

Source: 2008 Illinois State Report Cards



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

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2008-09 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 with 90% meeting or exceeding proficiency standards in each subtest area on the Prairie State Exam during their junior year.
2. The composite score on the ACT exam for the graduating class will continue to increase to at least 26.0.
3. The percentage of students in each graduating class who 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 transition to a new student information system for the 2009-10 school year.
2. We will implement succession and hiring plans for administrative team and faculty retirements in 2010.
3. We will develop and facilitate the implementation of a Response to Intervention (RTI) model.
4. We will complete the second phase of implementation of the District's data warehouse and develop action steps for integration and use across the District's programs.
5. We will work collaboratively with the Illinois Association of Schools Boards to complete a review of the District 125 Board of Education Policy Manual and make recommendations to the Board of Education for revisions and updates.
6. We will develop practices and procedures aligned with the District's new Support Staff agreement and its evaluation, mentoring, professional development and technology proficiency requirements.

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 Lesson Study, Descriptive Review, and similar 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 from the Green Committee that will reduce the District's Carbon Footprint.
9. We will monitor each division's community engagement initiatives and provide training, support, and resources for strengthening the District's outreach to the Stevenson community.

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 three areas tested in April — reading, mathematics and science — Stevenson topped the state. At least 82.9% of SHS students met or exceeded state standards on all three test areas, while the state's highest percentage in any one subject was 53.3%.

Class of 2009 Prairie State Achievement Exam Results

| | Stevenson | | | | State | | | |
|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | % Level 1 | % Level 2 | % Level 3 | % Level 4 | % Level 1 | % Level 2 | % Level 3 | % Level 4 |
| Reading | 1 | 16 | 55 | 28 | 10 | 37 | 43 | 10 |
| Math | 1 | 11 | 49 | 39 | 11 | 36 | 42 | 11 |
| Science | 2 | 14 | 53 | 32 | 10 | 39 | 40 | 11 |

due to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100.

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

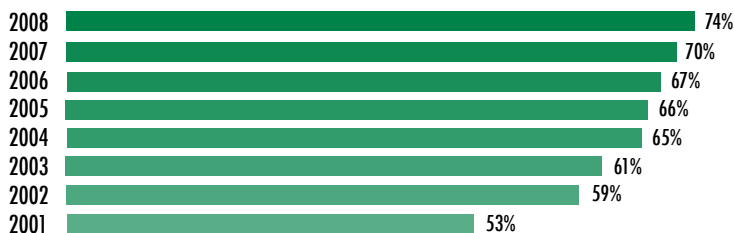
During the 2007-08 academic year, Stevenson administered a school-record 3,601 AP exams to a record 1,510 students. The average AP score at Stevenson was 3.78, on a scale of 1 to 5. The percentage of students earning honor grades (a score of 3 or higher) was 84%. In 20 of 35 AP exam subjects, 90% or more of the tests earned honor grades. Thirty-five percent of AP exams taken last spring received a 5, and top scores were earned on at least half the exams taken in 10 subjects.

SHS Advanced Placement Results 2001-2008

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Total Exams | 1842 | 2467 | 2295 | 2503 | 3028 | 3186 | 3273 | 3601 |
| Total Students | 1015 | 1125 | 1211 | 1286 | 1314 | 1402 | 1478 | 1510 |
| Average Score | 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.9 | 3.84 | 3.75 | 3.78 |
| % Honor Grades | 85 | 87 | 87 | 85 | 87 | 89 | 84 | 84 |

Advanced Placement exams are scored on an ascending scale from 1 to 5. In 2008, 84% of Stevenson students who completed an AP exam received honor grades by scoring 3 or higher.

% Graduating Seniors Taking At Least One Advanced Placement Class



College Enrollment

98% of the Class of 2008 is pursuing post-secondary education, with 88% attending four-year schools. The Class of 2008 can be found on 193 different campuses.

ACT Exam Scores

The Class of 2008 posted the highest average ACT score in school history. This marks the eighth time in the last 10 years that Stevenson has established a new ACT scoring record.

ACT Composite Scores 1998-2008

| Year | SHS | Illinois | U.S. |
|-------|------|----------|------|
| 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 |
| 1999 | 24.5 | 21.4 | 21.0 |
| 1998 | 24.4 | 21.4 | 21.0 |

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

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 2003-08

| Year | SHS | Illinois | U.S. |
|------|-----|----------|------|
| 2008 | 663 | 601 | 515 |
| 2007 | 664 | 611 | 515 |
| 2006 | 657 | 609 | 518 |
| 2005 | 653 | 606 | 520 |
| 2004 | 651 | 597 | 518 |
| 2003 | 643 | 596 | 519 |

SAT Critical Reading Scores 2003-08

| Year | SHS | Illinois | U.S. |
|------|-----|----------|------|
| 2008 | 611 | 583 | 502 |
| 2007 | 615 | 594 | 502 |
| 2006 | 600 | 591 | 503 |
| 2005 | 614 | 594 | 508 |
| 2004 | 602 | 585 | 508 |
| 2003 | 597 | 583 | 507 |

SAT Writing Scores 2006-08

| Year | SHS | Illinois | U.S. |
|------|-----|----------|------|
| 2008 | 613 | 578 | 494 |
| 2007 | 617 | 588 | 494 |
| 2006 | 607 | 586 | 497 |

2006 was the first year of this section.

Oscar Muniz Receives Annual Heritage Award

Each year, the District 125 Board of Education gives the Heritage Award to individuals who have made a significant impact on Adlai E. Stevenson High School. Since its inception in 1985, Heritage Award



Oscar Muniz

recipients have included former faculty and staff, community members, and alumni. Their contributions have been vast and varied, and their stories provide powerful legacies for the Stevenson community. On

January 14, the School Board presented the 2008-09 Heritage Award to Oscar Muniz.

Oscar's 40 years of service to Adlai E. Stevenson High School District 125 spanned from 1967 to 2007. As a custodian in his early years and then as one of the school's longest-serving security personnel, Oscar had a tremendously positive impact on the lives of students, and he was a living embodiment of Stevenson's mission of *Success for Every Student*.

From helping students with stuck lockers, to making change for the vending machines, to correcting their behavior when needed, Oscar always went above and beyond the call of duty to help shape a strong

Heritage Award Winners

| | |
|---------|--|
| 2008-09 | Oscar Muniz |
| 2007-08 | Dr. Richard P. DuFour |
| 2006-07 | Barbara La Piana, Elliott Hartstein |
| 2005-06 | Sam Ritchie |
| 2004-05 | First District 125 School Board: Richard Cromartie, Roger Nelson, Travis Nelson, William Salzman, Lorenz Schmidt, Daniel Schuffman, George Weiland |
| 2003-04 | Tom Hoyne and Bill Misik |
| 2002-03 | Andrea Jaeger |
| 2001-02 | Tom Baumann and Jim McGrath |
| 2000-01 | Inez Freed |
| 1999-00 | Kelly Cox |
| 1998-99 | Pat Wilder |
| 1997-98 | Harold Banson |
| 1996-97 | Frank and Verna Clayton |
| 1995-96 | Milton R. Herzog |
| 1994-95 | William Salzman |
| 1993-94 | Dave Hanson |
| 1992-93 | Ralph and Bev Valdes |
| 1991-92 | Bill Ebenezer and June Bergquist |
| 1990-91 | Alice Moody |
| 1989-90 | Ed Ellis |
| 1988-89 | William and Virginia Park |
| 1987-88 | Conrad Thorne and Gloria Helke |
| 1986-87 | Lydia Jesse |
| 1985-86 | Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Ward |

Stevenson culture of care and compassion.

Long before schools placed the value they do today on increased safety and security, Oscar helped to create policies and procedures for the Stevenson Security Team that continue to be used today, and serve as a model for schools across the country interested in creating a professional school security team.



Dr. John Carter

Janet Gonzalez

Carter to Succeed Gonzalez as Principal

The Adlai E. Stevenson High School District 125 Board of Education on December 15 approved by unanimous vote the selection of Dr. John Carter as the next principal of Stevenson High School. He will succeed Janet Gonzalez when she retires on July 1, 2010.

Carter, 43, is currently the school's assistant principal for teaching and learning. He first came to Stevenson in 1993 as a mathematics teacher. After one year, he left to become the director of mathematics at West Chicago High School, where he had taught prior to joining SHS. Carter returned to Stevenson in 2000, and was elevated to director of mathematics a year later. He led Stevenson's mathematics division until assuming his current post in 2006. Carter will become the school's 11th principal since it opened in 1965.

Gonzalez, 54, became the first female principal in Stevenson's 44-year history when she was selected to replace Dr. Douglas Domeracki in 2006. Gonzalez joined Stevenson in 1999 as assistant principal for curriculum and instruction, and served in that capacity until becoming interim principal in December 2005 when Domeracki left SHS to become principal of Warren Township High School.

U.S. News Ranks SHS Among Nation's Best

Stevenson High School has once again been named one of the best high schools in the country by *U.S. News and World Report*. The December 4 issue of the magazine listed Stevenson among the top 2% of America's 21,069 high schools based on a variety of factors, with preparing students for college leading the way.

This marks the second time Stevenson has been honored by *U.S. News*; the magazine also spotlighted SHS in 1999. *Newsweek*, meanwhile, has listed Stevenson among the nation's top high schools six times: in 1998, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2008.

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