

From the Superintendent

It's a wonderful time to be in Racine Unified! Our theme for the 2014-2015 school year has been **MOMENTUM**. And momentum is exactly what we are experiencing across RUSD! Graduation rates have increased by 5.8 percent in the past four years, faster than the state average and we expect that trend to continue this year. With more structural support, hundreds more freshmen are finishing their first year of high school on track to graduate in four years (six percent increase in 2014 over the previous year). The largest group of students to increase their earned credits in 9th grade are our African American students followed by our Hispanic students. We are closing achievement gaps. In addition, our elementary and middle school students are making gains in reading and math as demonstrated on measures of student growth. This is all exciting and promising progress. I am thrilled by the efforts of our excellent educators and support staff. Their hard work and dedication is paying off. It is also encouraging to witness the effects of the growing support of our community.

Racine businesses, organizations, faith communities, parents and individual community members are increasingly stepping forward to partner with RUSD in ways that will make a collective positive impact for our students, our schools and for our community. We are so eager to see our High School Transformation efforts get underway. By next fall, RUSD comprehensive high schools will engage our sophomores in career pathway courses to prepare for a field of study or a job after graduation. This would not be possible without the partnership of many individuals as well as RAMAC, Higher Expectations, business leaders, Gateway Technical College and UW-Parkside.

Our teachers are assuring so much progress for our students and we know many more great results are on the horizon. I encourage you to learn more by visiting our website: www.rusd.org. It is a wonderful time to choose RUSD and become part of the success of our children, our teachers, and our community. With your support, we will keep the momentum growing – and together, we will Raise Racine!



Dr. Lolli Haws

Important Reminders

Register now for 4 or 5-year-old kindergarten at your attendance area elementary school or during the summer at the Administrative Service Campus, 3109 Mt. Pleasant St.

Summer School brochures are available on the District website. Classes are open to all RUSD students and students attending another school or district.

Mark Your Calendar

- **Graduation**
REAL & Walden High Schools: June 5
Case High School: June 6
Horlick High School: June 7
Park High School: June 7
- **Last day of school** June 11
- **Summer School** June 22 - July 30
- **First day of school 2015** Sept. 1



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Inside Unified

Your Guide to the Racine Unified School District

Spring 2015

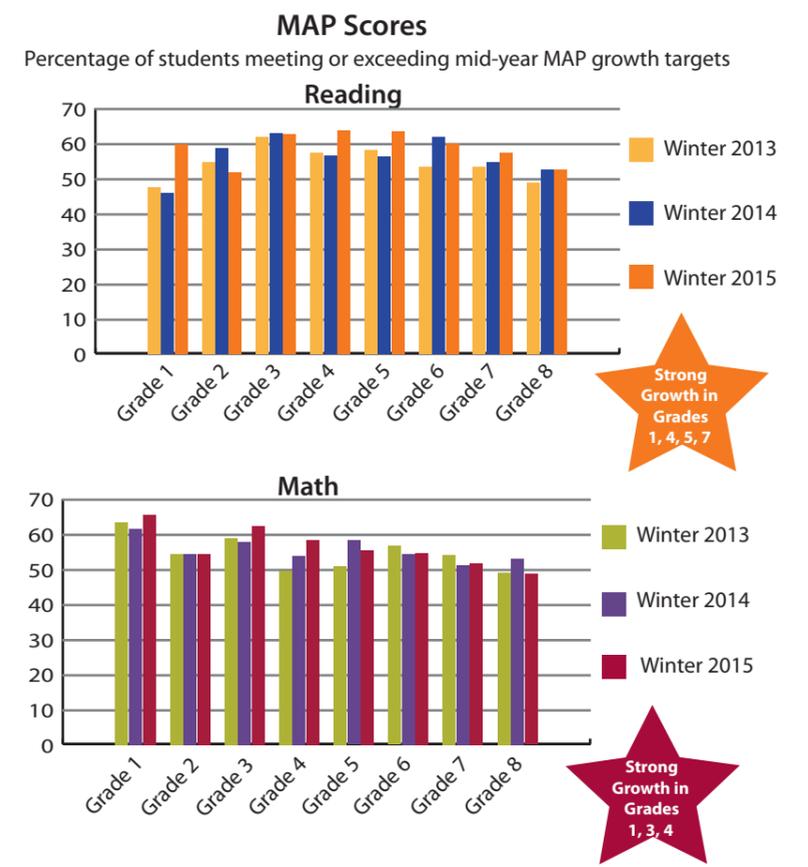
www.rusd.org

Points of Pride

- Mitchell Middle School students **Sara Bollendorf, Addy Herman and Greg Jenkins** were named overall champions at the National Fluid Power Association Challenge at MSOE.
- **Giese Elementary School** was named a 2014-2015 Title I School of Recognition for the second consecutive year.
- Park High School student **Jason R. Donald** was one of four WI nominees for the ACT College and Career Readiness Award.
- Case High School senior, **Mary Graebner**, was named a distinguished finalist for a Prudential Spirit of Community award.
- In 2015, **seven** RUSD students earned prestigious Scholastic Arts and Writing awards, including one national award winner.
- In March, the Horlick Cheer and Stunt team won a national title at the Xtreme Spirit MidWest National competition
- Two Case High School students, **Elizabeth Skantz and Carsten Kromke-Gottfredsen** earned Silver awards on the National German Exam, placing them in the top 20 percent of German students in the nation.
- The **Gilmore Middle School Madrigal Choir** earned a Gold Award at the Worldstrides Heritage Festival sending them to New York City this summer for a chance to perform at Carnegie Hall.
- The **Horlick High School powerlifting team** earned third place at the national competition in Milwaukee.
- In 2014, **57** RUSD students were named AP Scholars.

Raising Racine

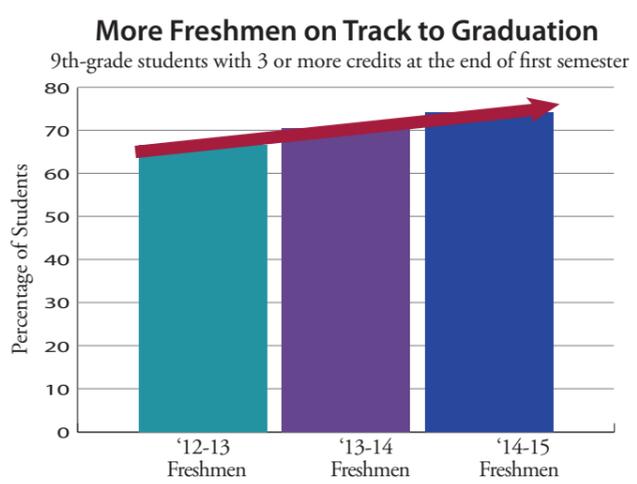
It's an exciting time to be in the Racine Unified School District! Introduced in 2013-2014, Raising Racine is our 3-year plan that represents the goals and work of Racine Unified School District. Implementation of Raising Racine began in January 2014. This year's MAP winter results show positive growth for RUSD students. During the last two years, data shows students have consistently made small gains in math. In reading, the data shows a significant increase since winter of last year.



Freshmen Cohorts

This fall, freshmen cohorts were created at Case, Horlick and Park High Schools. Cohorts are designed to help support freshmen as they enter their first year of high school by placing them in specific homeroom groups with a great deal of support from teachers, counselors and a freshmen advocate. This is the first phase of High School Transformation at RUSD.

Studies show that freshmen who have six or more credits by the end of their ninth grade year are four times more likely to graduate. In RUSD, at the end of this first semester, 74.3 percent of freshmen have 3 or more credits. This is up from 70.6 percent last year.



Referendum Update

Advisory Councils

To ensure accountability, the District has established two advisory councils: **Facilities** and **Technology**.

Both advisory councils include community and School Board members, facility and technology experts, District employees and parents who will assess needs, set priorities and make recommendations to the Board for using referendum funds wisely and prudently.

Summer School It's Academic!

The summer of 2015 is right around the corner.

Have you made your plans yet?

Racine Unified is offering summer school classes for any RUSD student or students attending another school or district.

We are pleased to offer several new classes and camps along with some previous summer favorites. It's not too late to sign your child up!

Visit our website at www.rusd.org for a look at all of our classes and enrichment programs. When you've found your favorites, download the registration form, fill it out and return it to any RUSD school.

Summer School
Monday – Thursday
7:45 a.m. – 1 p.m.
June 22 – July 30

In November 2014, the Racine community demonstrated its support and belief in our Racine Unified schools with its vote to support a referendum. Since then, we have been hard at work!

Facilities Projects

In April, the Board of Education approved the construction of two new elementary schools; Knapp and Olympia Brown and an addition to Gifford Elementary School making it a K-8. Construction for these schools is set to begin this summer. The District is committed to hiring local and minority workers.



Knapp Elementary School

Bray Architects designed the new Knapp Elementary School. The new Knapp School will be a community school. A community school builds partnerships with community resources to focus on academic, health, social services and community development and engagement. The goal of a community school is to improve student learning while building stronger families and healthy communities. The projected opening date is Sept. 1, 2016.



Olympia Brown Elementary School

Zimmerman Architectural Studio designed the new Olympia Brown Elementary School. The work will include construction of a single story elementary school facility. Olympia Brown is considering a science focus for its new school. The projected opening date is Sept. 1, 2016.



Gifford Elementary School Expansion

Partners in Design, an architectural firm based in Kenosha, designed the addition to Gifford Elementary School to make it a K-8. Gifford Elementary School will remain open during the construction. The projected opening date is Sept. 1, 2016.

Summer Projects

Thanks to the referendum, several schools will undergo some major renovations this summer. Some of the work includes:

- Renovating the Case High School fieldhouse
- Installing secure entrances at four schools
- Remodeling Mitchell Middle School library
- Roof replacement at Case High School, Gifford and Dr. Jones Elementary Schools
- ADA compliance improvements at Giese Elementary School



The Case High School gymnasium floor will be torn up and a new floor will be put in as part of the field house renovations beginning this spring.

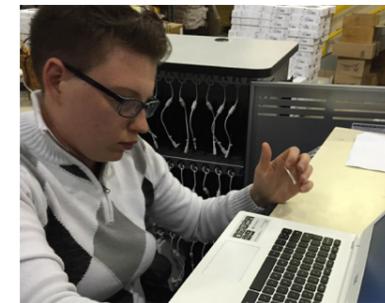
For more information about upcoming referendum work and projects please visit www.rusd.org/referendum.

More Technology in the Hands of RUSD Students

New laptops are the first major purchase with funds from the November referendum. In January, the Board of Education approved the purchase of 5,250 Chromebooks, making the student to Chromebook ratio 4:1 at all RUSD schools. The Chromebooks compliment existing technology and computers at RUSD schools.



Feb. 26
Chromebooks delivered to RUSD central office.



March 2-6
Every Chromebook was tagged and entered into the system.



March 4
Principal training.



March 6
Chromebooks delivered to schools.

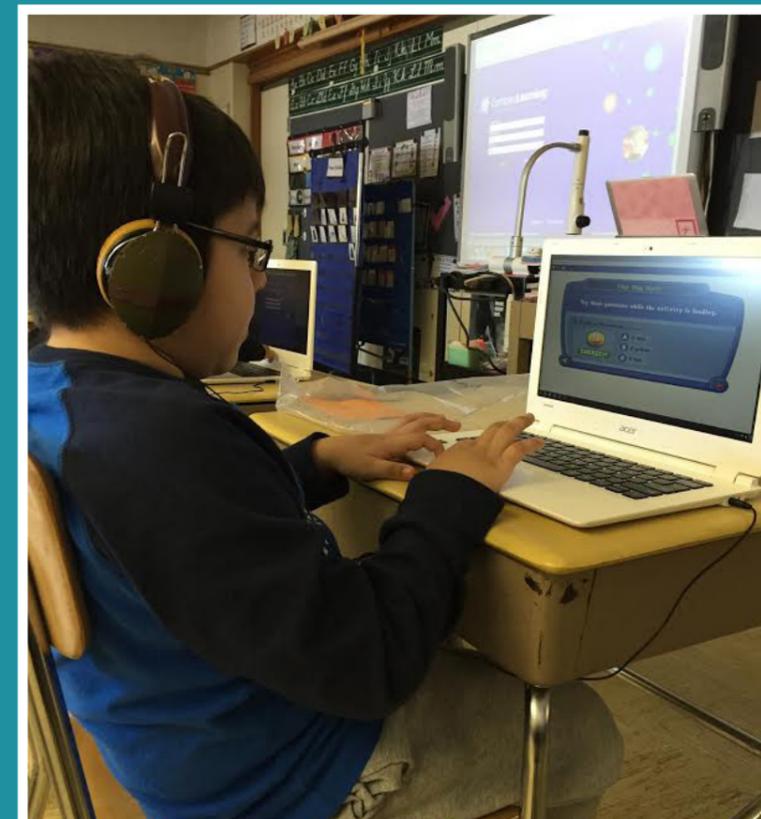


March 9
5,250 Chromebooks in all RUSD schools.

What's Next?

A Technology Advisory Council, made up of District employees, Board and community members have been working diligently to develop an 18-month technology plan. The group formed three subcommittees; Technology Infrastructure, Instructional Technologies and Career Technical Education (CTE) and Career Pathways.

The Technology Infrastructure subcommittee is primarily focused on establishing technology standards in new or remodeled schools. The Instructional Technologies subcommittee is focused on designing 21st century classrooms that can be replicated at each school, while the CTE and Career Pathways subcommittee is working hard to identify technology needs for each career pathway.



We're really thrilled to have this kind of technology at our students' fingertips. It creates a better way to learn.

-Giese Elementary School Principal Tom Hyland