

Press Clippings 4/6/2018

---Daily Herald--- 4/6/18

Millions more for schools

Final appropriations released; U-46 will get an extra \$22.5 million

BY MADHU KRISHNAMURTHY



Elgin Area School District U-46, of which Lowrie Elementary School here is a part, will be getting more than \$24 million in state funding, according to data released by state officials Thursday. Rick West | Staff Photographer, November 2017

School districts statewide will receive roughly \$395 million in additional funding, including \$29 million allocated for English learners in highest-need districts.

State education officials Thursday released final calculations for how much school districts will receive this fiscal year. Appropriations stem from the state's new evidence-based funding formula lawmakers approved last August, which aims for a more equitable funding structure.

For some suburban districts, it will mean unexpected millions of dollars to be distributed starting next week.

Elgin Area School District U-46 -- the state's second-largest school district educating roughly 39,300 students -- will get an extra \$22.5 million on top of \$134 million in base funding, and a \$1.8 million supplemental grant for English learners.

The \$22.5 million is not included in U-46's \$518 million spending plan for this fiscal year. Officials will discuss where to spend that money in coming months, CEO Tony Sanders said.

"It's a good problem to have," Sanders said. "We have not budgeted for our infrastructure. We need to set aside funds for capital improvements."

However, lingering concerns over school districts potentially being saddled with more pension costs down the road could somewhat dampen the elation educators are feeling now.

"Any gains made through the evidence-based funding model could be easily wiped out by a pension shift," Sanders said, referring to proposals to move some of the state's teacher pension costs onto individual school districts.

U-46 was expecting anywhere from \$12 million to \$25 million in additional funding with various iterations of the funding bill widely supported by suburban superintendents.

"This is absolutely a step in the direction of equity, and I'm thrilled about it," Sanders said. "I don't care about the dollars. I care about equity. We are at 54 percent adequacy ... a little over half of what we should be spending per pupil."

The evidence-based formula defines an adequate funding target for each district based on enrollment and 34 factors, including teacher-to-student ratios and low-income populations.

"The numbers show staggering inequity," state Superintendent Tony Smith said.

Five previous state grant programs -- General State Aid, and funding for special education personnel, services, summer school and English learners -- now are merged. No school districts will lose money, at least initially.

The new formula requires an additional \$7.2 billion to provide adequate funding for every school district in the state. Chicago Public Schools will get an extra \$60 million.

"School districts that fall below the adequacy target will receive extra funding to be able to catch up and be in a more equitable position," said Scott Thompson, superintendent of Palatine Township Elementary District 15, which will receive an additional \$324,000. "We think that is good for everyone in the state."

District 15 is the state's third-largest elementary system serving 12,800 students in seven communities.

Round Lake Area Unit District 116 will receive roughly \$5.8 million. Officials hope to use the money for improvement projects this summer that they wouldn't be able to afford otherwise.

"I'll believe it even more when it hits our account," school board President Kevin Daniels said. "It's a really good day for the district."

Queen Bee Elementary District 16 in Glendale Heights expects to receive about \$452,000, which Superintendent Victoria Talbert said will help fill a roughly \$500,000 hole in the district's \$30 million operating budget. That's a positive for a district serving roughly 1,890 students, "but in no way is this newfound money that we can just spend," she said.

In Villa Park Elementary District 45, the additional \$85,000 in state funding is a drop in the bucket considering the district's roughly \$60 million budget. Yet, "it's helpful to ensure we're meeting the needs of our students and providing best practices," Superintendent Anthony Palmisano said.

New state funding for schools

The Illinois State Board of Education released new state funding numbers for all school districts

Adequacy target: The calculated cost to educate students within a district based on factors outlined in evidence-based funding formula.

Tier: The new evidence-based funding formula divides districts among four tiers based on need. Tier 1 is highest-need districts.

Base funding: Five previous state grant programs — General State Aid and funding for special education personnel, services, summer school and English learners — have merged into one distribution.

New funding: Extra funding to help districts achieve adequacy target.

Total state contribution: Includes base and additional tier funding

Supplemental English learner grant: Extra money not included in base or tier funding to support large English language learner populations.

District	Adequacy target	Tier	Base funding	New funding	Total state contribution	Supplemental English learner grant
Palatine Dist. 15	79%	2	\$15,281,268.19	\$323,981.76	\$15,605,249.95	\$454,988.41
Wheeling Dist. 21	87%	2	\$11,890,965.48	\$161,376.71	\$12,052,342.19	\$516,593.26
Prospect Heights Dist. 23	92%	3	\$1,668,541.36	\$35,302.83	\$1,703,844.19	
Arlington Heights Dist. 25	100%	3	\$4,546,091.18	\$108,695.10	\$4,654,786.28	
River Trails Dist. 26	116%	4	\$1,473,140.62	\$2,268.50	\$1,475,409.12	
Schaumburg Dist. 54	93%	3	\$15,643,432.56	\$333,692.59	\$15,977,125.15	
Mount Prospect Dist. 57	82%	2	\$1,772,209.03	\$55,485.88	\$1,827,694.91	\$21,281.16
Comm Cons Dist. 59	98%	3	\$11,401,673.32	\$174,927.01	\$11,576,600.33	
Des Plaines Dist. 62	116%	4	\$7,976,777.18	\$7,759.53	\$7,984,536.71	
East Maine Dist. 63	81%	2	\$6,898,672.39	\$85,812.45	\$6,984,484.84	\$213,489.72
Maine Twp. H.S. Dist. 207	123%	4	\$5,586,498.90	\$10,578.64	\$5,597,077.54	
Twp. H.S. Dist. 211	109%	4	\$10,820,176.98	\$19,760.16	\$10,839,937.14	
Twp. High Dist. 214	117%	4	\$10,053,739.43	\$19,895.60	\$10,073,635.03	
Rosemont Elem Dist. 78	130%	4	\$268,792.64	\$377.35	\$269,169.99	
Leyden Comm H.S. Dist. 212	106%	4	\$4,612,190.34	\$5,986.03	\$4,618,176.37	
Bensenville Dist. 2	87%	2	\$4,091,908.09	\$55,697.01	\$4,147,605.10	\$133,780.42
Addison Dist. 4	68%	2	\$10,811,243.20	\$326,314.36	\$11,137,557.56	\$242,799.26
Wood Dale Dist. 7	104%	4	\$1,689,256.94	\$1,747.54	\$1,691,004.48	
Itasca Dist. 10	99%	3	\$598,487.51	\$19,570.56	\$618,058.07	
Medinah Dist. 11	102%	4	\$738,169.97	\$1,054.68	\$739,224.65	
Roselle Dist. 12	97%	3	\$569,844.32	\$15,228.95	\$585,073.27	
Bloomington Dist. 13	112%	4	\$914,814.72	\$1,788.67	\$916,603.39	
Marquardt Dist. 15	73%	2	\$9,574,345.75	\$211,227.53	\$9,785,573.28	\$111,374.54
Queen Bee Dist. 16	62%	1	\$6,404,516.00	\$452,064.37	\$6,856,580.37	\$131,151.76
Keeneyville Dist. 20	72%	2	\$2,376,883.56	\$89,196.99	\$2,466,080.55	\$38,827.29
Benjamin Dist. 25	130%	4	\$566,723.33	\$906.65	\$567,629.98	
West Chicago Dist. 33	54%	1	\$18,487,177.21	\$2,790,104.73	\$21,277,281.94	\$365,002.92
Winfield Dist. 34	126%	4	\$277,760.04	\$435.40	\$278,195.44	
Glen Ellyn Dist. 41	105%	4	\$2,614,148.16	\$5,141.48	\$2,619,289.64	
Lombard Dist. 44	109%	4	\$3,347,167.39	\$4,852.31	\$3,352,019.70	
Villa Park Dist. 45	81%	2	\$5,565,620.93	\$85,993.23	\$5,651,614.16	\$155,647.41
Salt Creek Dist. 48	146%	4	\$465,849.55	\$742.14	\$466,591.69	
Butler Dist. 53	162%	4	\$291,352.62	\$707.34	\$292,059.96	
Hinsdale Twp. H.S. Dist. 86	132%	4	\$2,787,099.75	\$6,800.79	\$2,793,900.54	
Glenbard Twp. H.S. Dist. 87	94%	3	\$7,061,242.33	\$198,180.09	\$7,259,422.42	
DuPage Dist. 88	88%	2	\$4,974,426.96	\$105,622.70	\$5,080,049.66	\$46,608.61
Glen Ellyn Dist. 89	97%	3	\$1,472,222.41	\$45,727.85	\$1,517,950.26	
Community Consolidated Dist. 93	108%	4	\$3,896,650.25	\$5,752.76	\$3,902,403.01	
Community H.S. Dist. 94	64%	2	\$2,614,902.65	\$234,462.04	\$2,849,364.69	\$43,063.46
Community High Dist. 99	111%	4	\$4,017,346.92	\$7,959.54	\$4,025,306.46	
Fenton Comm H.S. Dist. 100	109%	4	\$1,840,652.88	\$2,663.64	\$1,843,316.52	
Lake Park Comm H.S. Dist. 108	109%	4	\$2,055,149.39	\$4,322.22	\$2,059,471.61	
Hinsdale Dist. 181	133%	4	\$2,237,865.46	\$4,921.54	\$2,242,787.00	
Community Unit Dist. 200	90%	3	\$12,234,224.02	\$283,046.57	\$12,517,270.59	
Lisle Dist. 202	147%	4	\$1,248,555.32	\$2,262.70	\$1,250,818.02	
Naperville Dist. 203	115%	4	\$12,605,872.68	\$24,250.39	\$12,630,123.07	
Indian Prairie Dist. 204	79%	2	\$37,447,994.67	\$731,678.24	\$38,179,672.91	\$276,522.44
Elmhurst Dist. 205	100%	3	\$6,298,427.56	\$173,911.32	\$6,472,338.88	

District	Adequacy target	Tier	Base funding	New funding	Total state contribution	Supplemental English learner grant
Elgin Unit Dist. 46	54%	1	\$134,195,312.13	\$22,491,810.55	\$156,687,122.68	\$1,860,121.43
Batavia Unit Dist. 101	91%	3	\$4,791,347.53	\$126,599.23	\$4,917,946.76	
Aurora West Unit Dist. 129	56%	1	\$44,682,961.31	\$6,410,495.31	\$51,093,456.62	\$342,748.61
Aurora East Unit Dist. 131	51%	1	\$106,646,994.23	\$12,672,754.83	\$119,319,749.06	\$859,486.44
Comm Unit Dist. 300	66%	2	\$48,847,900.83	\$1,903,440.10	\$50,751,340.93	\$497,565.30
Central Comm Unit Dist. 301	80%	2	\$6,728,638.38	\$113,291.40	\$6,841,929.78	\$25,026.44
Kaneland Dist. 302	85%	2	\$6,671,197.73	\$116,156.18	\$6,787,353.91	\$5,796.74
St. Charles Dist. 303	99%	3	\$9,587,293.99	\$265,554.66	\$9,852,848.65	
Geneva Comm Unit Dist. 304	100%	3	\$4,235,763.03	\$120,028.73	\$4,355,791.76	
Millburn Dist. 24	81%	2	\$3,581,024.45	\$37,113.71	\$3,618,138.16	\$6,529.83
Emmons Dist. 33	108%	4	\$217,513.30	\$447.69	\$217,960.99	
Antioch Dist. 34	79%	2	\$5,883,235.67	\$94,449.91	\$5,977,685.58	
Grass Lake Dist. 36	173%	4	\$150,692.56	\$244.73	\$150,937.29	
Gavin Dist. 37	65%	2	\$2,018,863.25	\$77,164.20	\$2,096,027.45	
Big Hollow Dist. 38	62%	1	\$4,383,578.97	\$332,853.91	\$4,716,432.88	\$15,655.42
Lake Villa Dist. 41	68%	2	\$6,749,127.15	\$210,139.81	\$6,959,266.96	\$32,390.78
Grayslake Dist. 46	64%	2	\$11,214,124.12	\$408,817.45	\$11,622,941.57	\$76,767.22
Woodland Dist. 50	83%	2	\$9,713,818.05	\$161,416.56	\$9,875,234.61	\$161,061.16
Gurnee Dist. 56	76%	2	\$2,525,034.32	\$87,941.57	\$2,612,975.89	\$49,967.66
Oak Grove Dist. 68	135%	4	\$430,361.29	\$1,255.26	\$431,616.55	
Libertyville Dist. 70	107%	4	\$1,786,360.38	\$3,258.69	\$1,789,619.07	
Rondout Dist. 72	283%	4	\$103,142.19	\$190.85	\$103,333.04	
Hawthorn Dist. 73	82%	2	\$3,725,735.09	\$108,504.27	\$3,834,239.36	\$109,935.87
Mundelein Elem Dist. 75	67%	2	\$3,777,194.11	\$146,130.92	\$3,923,325.03	\$74,499.45
Diamond Lake Dist. 76	82%	2	\$1,790,253.36	\$25,624.32	\$1,815,877.68	\$55,204.47
Fremont Dist. 79	97%	3	\$1,549,861.72	\$43,914.41	\$1,593,776.13	
Lake Zurich Dist. 95	101%	4	\$3,946,245.40	\$8,093.93	\$3,954,339.33	
Kildeer Countryside Dist. 96	120%	4	\$2,468,285.43	\$4,584.24	\$2,472,869.67	
Aptakisic-Tripp Dist. 102	111%	4	\$1,758,836.79	\$3,275.33	\$1,762,112.12	
Lincolnshire-Prairieview Dist. 103	134%	4	\$1,028,202.38	\$2,358.37	\$1,030,560.75	
Fox Lake Dist. 114	81%	2	\$1,138,838.61	\$18,665.95	\$1,157,504.56	
Round Lake Area Dist. 116	52%	1	\$47,334,354.19	\$5,756,103.01	\$53,090,457.20	\$295,374.00
Antioch Comm H.S. Dist. 117	78%	2	\$5,647,054.57	\$125,082.01	\$5,772,136.58	
Wauconda Comm Unit Dist. 118	74%	2	\$10,229,047.67	\$243,990.62	\$10,473,038.29	\$82,293.71
Mundelein Cons H.S. Dist. 120	91%	3	\$1,902,355.58	\$50,496.96	\$1,952,852.54	
Warren Twp.H.S. Dist. 121	66%	2	\$6,042,052.24	\$391,614.15	\$6,433,666.39	\$15,712.59
Grant Comm H.S. Dist. 124	65%	2	\$3,950,838.91	\$207,112.76	\$4,157,951.67	\$1,089.11
Stevenson Dist. 125	166%	4	\$2,541,272.98	\$6,239.15	\$2,547,512.13	
Grayslake Comm H.S. Dist. 127	63%	1	\$9,323,512.21	\$481,878.63	\$9,805,390.84	\$4,947.13
Libertyville Comm H.S. Dist. 128	168%	4	\$2,111,453.36	\$5,101.21	\$2,116,554.57	
Barrington Dist. 220	106%	4	\$6,506,981.33	\$12,507.41	\$6,519,488.74	
Fox River Grove Cons Dist. 3	90%	3	\$1,029,309.73	\$9,978.36	\$1,039,288.09	
McHenry Dist. 15	75%	2	\$8,757,706.98	\$240,003.67	\$8,997,710.65	\$82,575.30
Cary Dist. 26	80%	2	\$3,045,859.45	\$62,210.17	\$3,108,069.62	\$26,371.25
Crystal Lake Dist. 47	78%	2	\$12,338,881.65	\$267,324.25	\$12,606,205.90	\$95,996.93
Community H.S. Dist. 155	71%	2	\$13,889,918.29	\$504,068.52	\$14,393,986.81	\$14,381.27
McHenry Comm H.S. Dist. 156	65%	2	\$4,758,379.94	\$247,631.93	\$5,006,011.87	\$7,369.19
Huntley Cons Dist. 158	67%	2	\$24,965,852.32	\$775,426.01	\$25,741,278.33	\$43,934.64

Source: Illinois State Board of Education

---Courier News--- 4/6/18

Educational excursion

Spring break road trip takes Larkin student on tour of out-of-state colleges

BY RAFAEL GUERRERO



Larkin High School students and staff pose for a photo at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pa., one of several out-of-state colleges and universities they toured during spring break. (Brittney Walker)

For six years, Brittney Walker hasn't had a traditional spring break away from her Larkin High School job. She's been on the road, traveling cross country.

But she doesn't mind. Walker spends her time driving from one college campus to the next, accompanied by Larkin students on a week-long expedition to visit universities they might want to attend after they graduate.

"The trips are always to out-of state schools so students can experience different types of options, different areas, explore the horizon beyond Illinois," said Walker, Larkin's college readiness coordinator.

Last week, Walker and 44 students traveled east, visiting nine colleges and universities in Ohio, Pennsylvania and the Washington, D.C., area. The schools included Ohio State, Penn State and Temple universities.

Larkin educators have conducted the alternative spring break trips for the last nine years, the last six of which have been led by Walker. The visits are funded with federal education Title I money. Students only have to worry about paying for some of their meals, Walker said.

Each spring, a group of students — most of them juniors, although seniors and sophomores can also sign up — and adult chaperones drive to a specific region and visit college campuses, tour the facilities and take in the sights and sounds of the towns in which they're located. In past years, the groups have visited schools in Texas, Florida, Georgia and elsewhere.

A wide variety of higher education institutions are picked to give students a view of the options available. This year, in addition to such big schools as Ohio State and Penn State, they made stops at smaller, lesser-known schools like Bucknell University and Slippery Rock University, both in Pennsylvania.

"Maybe they will apply (to a big school), maybe they won't," she said. Regardless, Larkin staff "want them to see the schools" and know they exist.

This year's trip also included visits to Howard University and [Central State University](#), schools designated as Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Larkin senior Chevelle Clements said touring those two schools were meaningful to him.

"I liked how (Central State) felt like family. I liked the small college experience," Clements said. The alternative spring break trip is the only way he could check out colleges and universities outside of Illinois, he said.

K.J. Redmond, also a Larkin senior, said he didn't mind using his spring break for the trip. The group he traveled with was "fun," he said, and he enjoyed experiencing new campuses and cities.

"Seeing the colleges out there, getting an idea of what I'm missing, it was definitely a learning experience," Redmond said.

Some of the questions the students had were typical — how much is tuition, what are the admission requirements, Walker said. Others focused on such things as campus diversity, what the town was like and if they would feel homesick being so far from Elgin, she said.

Those are important questions, especially since three-quarters of the students in her group will be first-generation college students, Walker said. The possibility of leaving family and home for a strange city or campus is a "scary proposition" for a family who's never dealt with the scenario before, she said.

The next campus visit trip is already being planned, she added. The region they will visit in 2019 will be announced this spring.

SPORTS SECTION

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Girls Soccer: Munoz, Elgin trip up South Elgin in the snow

BY ALLEN OSHINSKI



Elgin's Guadalupe Sanchez (5) congratulates teammate Hayly Munoz after a first half goal put the Maroons up 1-0 over South Elgin during Thursday's game in Elgin. *Rick West | Staff Photographer*

The big snowflakes slowly wafting down made for a lovely winter scene. Unfortunately, this is April.

But such is the state of spring in the Midwest in this crazy year, and the Elgin and South Elgin girls soccer teams made the best of it Thursday.

One person not affected by the conditions was Hayley Munoz. The Elgin junior scored twice, and Emily Graves added a goal as the Maroons prevailed, 3-0, in the nonconference matchup at frigid Memorial Field.

Munoz scored the only goal of the first half, taking a long feed from Guadalupe Sanchez and, after the South Elgin goalkeeper slipped a bit, put it in from short range.

"I saw a great opportunity," said Munoz. "I followed the ball and had a great shot."

Regardless of the conditions, Munoz was anxious to face the Maroons' rivals to the south.

"I was excited to play South Elgin," she said. "I was hoping for a goal and a win."

The snow tapered off in the second half, and the conditions never really became an issue.

"The conditions actually ended up being way better than I thought they were going to be," said South Elgin coach Laura Szwaja. "That became a nonfactor, I think. If you're in spring soccer, it's something you're used to."

The weather might even have brought the Maroons (2-5) together a little bit.

"I'm just happy that the girls all came together and were working really strong," said Elgin coach Alicia Knoll. "What could have been a not-good situation with the weather, they decided to really work hard together, play to each other's strengths, and it ended up being a positive outcome for us."

Munoz notched her second goal early in the second half on a breakaway. She found herself all alone in the offensive zone, deked the keeper to the left, and fired the ball in from about 20 yards out.

That was more than enough offense for keeper Joana Mercado, Kylie Graves, and the Elgin defense. But Emily Graves made sure that Elgin's lead was safe, knocking in a shot in the 69th minute. The keeper again appeared to slip, and was unable to get to Graves' bouncing shot.

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Baseball: Huntley's 8-1 start due to solid pitching, defense

BY JERRY FITZPATRICK

The Huntley baseball team is 8-1 though the offense is still a work in progress, according to veteran coach Andy Jakubowski.

The Red Raiders stayed in northern Illinois over spring break, overcoming local opponents and cold weather with pitching and defense.

Paced by senior left-hander Kyle Morgan (3-0, 0.47 ERA) and junior right-hander Elijah Paplanus (2-0, 0.70), Huntley pitching has limited nine opponents to 21 earned runs in 62 innings. That translates to a 2.37 team ERA.

The defense, led by slick-fielding shortstop Jordan Goldstein, owns a .969 fielding percentage. Huntley has committed 8 errors in 9 games.

An offense that returned few players with varsity at-bats has experienced the expected ups and downs. Bright spots thus far include No. 3 hitter Matt Rodriguez and leadoff batter Evan Tocmo. Rodriguez, a 6-foot-1, 230-pound senior, owns a team-best .407 batting average (11-for-27) to go with 6 doubles and 5 RBI. Tocmo, a 5-9, 160-pound sophomore, is batting .321 (9-for-28) with 2 doubles, 2 triples and 6 RBI.

Though Huntley averages 7.4 runs per game, many runs have been the result of mental or physical errors by opponents.

"I'm happy about our defense, I'm happy about our pitching and our offense is our worst spot right now," Jakubowski said. "We're finding ways to score runs, but from a coach's perspective we're taking advantage of some mistakes you're not going to see against a Prairie Ridge, Cary-Grove, McHenry or Jacobs. A passed ball here, or bases loaded and there's a triangle and you score 3 runs. Those types of things. We just need to be more efficient when we get runners in scoring position."

The Red Raiders are batting .371 with runners in scoring position, but Jakubowski thinks they can do better.

"Hopefully, we get better offensively as the year goes on," he added. "We're preaching to the kids and showing them video of where we need to get better. Situationally, we're not doing bad but we can improve."

The groundhog was right: Burlington Central hoped to escape the cold weather during spring break last week, but the pervasive Midwestern chill followed the baseball team to South Carolina.

In the Rockets' fourth trip under coach Kyle Nelson to the Ripken Experience in Myrtle Beach, they played 4 games, mostly wearing long sleeves. The temperature never rose above 55 degrees. In fact, the Rockets played a night game when it was 42 degrees at first pitch.

"Not exactly what you expect when you drive halfway across the country," Nelson said.

The Rockets went 1-3 in the Palmetto State, losing to Pennsylvania schools Council Rock North and Mars and Olentangy of Ohio. They defeated Dublin Scioto (Ohio) 3-2 in the final game of the trip.

Central's coach said Colton Wallace, one of two catchers splitting time, is hitting well. So is sophomore Ethan Krieger. Wallace is batting .357 (10-for-28) with 2 doubles and 4 RBI. Krieger is batting .368 (7-for-19) with 4 RBI.

Defense is Central's backbone, led by Northern Illinois recruit Paddy McKermitt at shortstop. The senior's glove work was on display Monday in a 5-4 victory over Marengo in the Kishwaukee River Conference opener.

"He made a play on a ball hit right over his head," Nelson said. "He jumped, backhanded it and snow-coned it. That ended an inning for them. He has great range at shortstop, the way he's able to go in the hole and go up the middle and make what are really very difficult plays look routine. He's been doing that all year."

McKermitt leads off. He has scored a team-best 9 runs despite 3 hits in 21 at-bats (.143). He scores because he reaches base 45.5 percent of the time. McKermitt has drawn a team-high 8 walks and has been hit by a pitch 4 times in 31 plate appearances. That's why he'll play division-I baseball.

"That and his work ethic and his energy and the way he approaches the game," Nelson said. "It's just great to have a guy like that on your team to build up the guys around him. His energy is really contagious."