



**GLENBARD TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 87**

# Newsletter

**From Superintendent David F. Larson, Ed.D.**

**WINTER 2022**



**SUPERINTENDENT**  
**David F.**  
**Larson, Ed.D.**



**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**PRESIDENT**  
**Judith Weinstock**

## MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESIDENT

### Students participating in in-person engaging lessons, pursuing interests

We have much to be thankful for in Glenbard District 87. We are very thankful that our students are in school, participating in engaging lessons that involve lively discussion and critical thinking.

We are grateful for the following experiences for our students provided by our dedicated faculty and staff:

- Students are connecting with their teachers, counselors, coaches and club sponsors every day.
- Students in science classes are working in quality labs, conducting experiments that leverage curiosity.
- Students are collaborating to generate original ideas, solutions and products in imaginative ways in our schools' media centers.
- Theatre and music students are performing in front of an audience again.
- Student athletes are developing skills, learning about teamwork and pursuing an area of interest in our comprehensive athletic programs.
- Students involved in clubs and activities are engaged in service projects and developing leadership skills.

### Academic success

Despite the pandemic, our students are doing well academically. Here are just a few examples that reflect the strong instruction, programming and partnership of Glenbard District 87 and our associated six school districts:

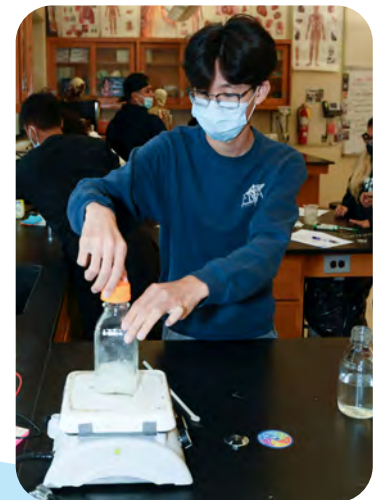
- In Glenbard, 74% of our students take college-level coursework, either through Advanced Placement (AP) courses or dual credit courses. We've seen a 27% increase in college-level course enrollment in the past eight years, giving many more Glenbard students access to college-level courses while in high school.
- We have increased the percent of students taking a rigorous course sequence in math and science. Today, 89% of our juniors are taking Algebra 2 with Trigonometry or higher compared to 62% nine years ago and 84% of our juniors are taking Physics or higher compared to 42% nine years ago.
- In the past 10 years, our students' average AP exam passing rate is 71%. Our students' exam passing rate exceeds the national average AP passing rate of 64%.
- During the past three years, our annual AP College Board Equity and Excellence score averaged 43%. This score, which notes the percentage of all graduates who earn college credit through AP classes, continues to exceed the state and national averages, which are 29% and 24%, respectively.
- Glenbard students' average SAT score of 1031 continues to outpace the state average SAT score by 46 points.

## MEETING EACH STUDENT'S NEEDS

Like school districts across the country, we recognize that some of our students are struggling as they adjust to challenges related to the pandemic. When planning for this school year, we were intentional about taking the following steps to help our students:

- Offering free summer school
- Hiring additional social workers
- Providing activities that focus on students belonging, engaging and acquiring skills
- Continuing tutoring during the school day, including peer tutoring, and introducing a new virtual evening tutoring program
- Leveraging academic supports that include academic assistance before school, during lunch and study halls and after school; math and writing centers; and identifying students who are struggling and assigning them to meet with a teacher for assistance.
- Implementing a wellness curriculum
- Providing social emotional supports that include wellness programs; family outreach; promoting healthy relationship skills, responsible decision making and self-awareness skills; mentoring programs for students; knowledgeable, supportive school counselors and mental health staff; upperclassmen student leaders who help freshmen transition to high school; and helplines for bullying prevention, crisis assistance and anonymous tips.

We are very thankful for the community's continued support of our students and staff.



# FINANCE UPDATE

We continue to maintain a high standard of accountability and transparency with district finances.

## 2020-21 Financial Performance

We achieved our three primary financial objectives:

- **Balanced budget** in our operating funds
- Strong cash position
  - No short-term borrowing required to meet obligations.
- Solvency position threshold achieved
  - 196 days cash on hand was achieved. This is higher than the target 180 days established by the Illinois State Board of Education

## We've maintained a strong credit rating:

Standard & Poor's AA+ rating. Moody's rates Glenbard at Aa1.

**We've earned Financial Recognition** – highest financial performance rating – from the Illinois State Board of Education 15 years in a row.

## 2021-22 Operating Budget approved in September 2021

- Net Operating **Surplus** = **\$139,995** (gross operating surplus less transfer to Debt Service)
- Operating Revenue = \$168,101,190 (3.3% increase)
- Operating Expenditure = \$165,326,510 (.6% increase)
- Gross Operating Surplus = \$2,774,680
  - Permanent Transfer to Debt Service Fund = \$2,634,685
- Total Ending Fund Balance is estimated to be \$86,976,514

## Debt Issuance Among Lowest in State

- Despite making more than \$120 million of capital improvements to facilities in recent years, our debt rate levied is one of the lowest of all high school districts in the Chicago suburban area.
- The debt rate has dropped for six consecutive years and will drop again this year to .0667 or \$66.70 for a \$300,000 homeowner.

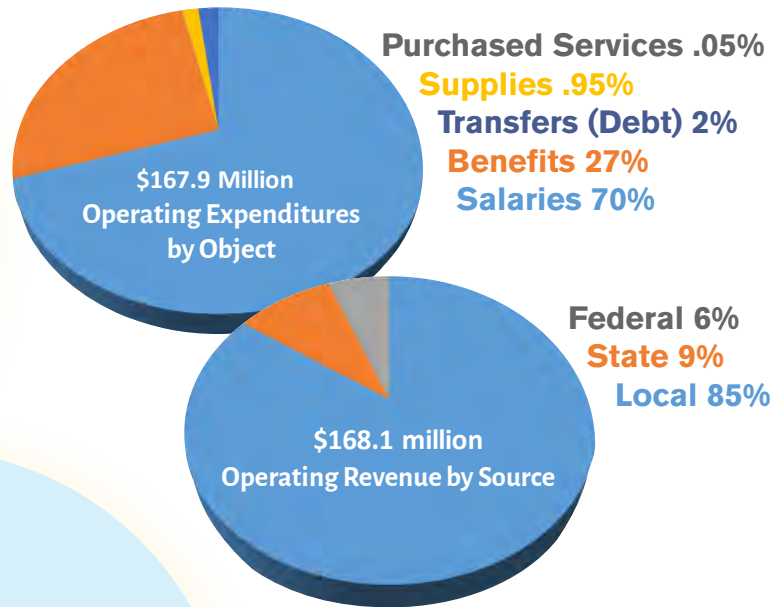
## Key Takeaways

Roughly \$4 million per year in scheduled debt payments

- Represents less than 3% of total budget allocated to debt servicing is financially sound and ensures exceptional bond rating and financial profile score

Relatively flat debt schedule ensures that increases go to fund curricular and operational needs.

- District uses operating budget for ongoing capital projects.



**89% of our juniors** are enrolled in Algebra 2 with Trigonometry or higher math class. Students who take more rigorous classes are prepared for college and the global workforce.



**89% of students** district-wide passed all of their first semester classes in 2020-21.



**84% of our juniors** higher science communicators students develop them for a variety of careers.



# EQUITY AND BELONGING PART OF EMPOWERING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS

We have been on an equity and belonging journey for many years, and we are committed to continued progress in this work. Each of our students deserves a school that is committed to their wellbeing and academic success.

Our beliefs and practices, which are foundational to our culture and practice of equity, are a response to the unfortunate reality of society's long-standing challenges of poverty, racism and injustice, which continue to be strong predictors



**68% of our students** participate in athletics or activities. Students who are involved in their school have greater academic success.



**GLENBARD  
DISTRICT 87**

CULTURE AND PRACTICE OF  
*Equity + Belonging* JOURNEY



of student achievement, career and college success and successful life experiences for some ethnicities and classes.

We are committed to confronting the effects of poverty and any systemic racism or injustice by cultivating a Glenbard culture of inclusion, belonging and high achievement for every student.

**Read about our Equity and  
Belonging Journey under the  
About menu tab at  
[glenbard87.org](http://glenbard87.org).**

Through our culture and practice of equity, our students, families and staff will be affirmed, treated fairly, impartially and non-judgmentally. Each student will receive the tools and resources they need to develop their full academic potential. Organizational equity will be achieved through shifting, adjusting and investing in policies, procedures, academic and cocurricular programming, intentional professional development and strategic hiring practices.

In the past 15 years, several initiatives and programs have contributed to our culture and practice of equity. The progress of our equity and inclusion work today is, in part, due to

- Minority Student Achievement Committee
- Courageous Conversations About Race professional development
- Guaranteed and viable curriculum and a course sequence that supports the growth of every student
- Board of Education commitments and goals
- Equal Opportunity Schools partnership and increasing Advanced Placement enrollment
- Opportunities through student leadership experiences
- Glenbard Parent Series outreach to families
- Diverse staff

We cannot realize our vision of being an effective and thriving school system without eliminating practices that limit opportunity and cause harm.

This work is not to lay blame, but to create policies, practices and ways of working that ensure the healthy learning and development of each student.



**Seniors** are enrolled in Physics or AP Science class. The critical thinking, problem-solving and collaboration skills developed in rigorous classes prepare students for a variety of career paths.

## Administration

David Larson, Superintendent

Josh Chambers, Assistant  
Superintendent for Human  
Resources

Seth Chapman, Assistant  
Superintendent for Finance and  
Operations/CSBO

Janet Cook, Assistant Superintendent  
for Student Services

Melissa Creech, Executive Director  
for Teaching and Learning,  
Innovation and Instruction

Patrick McGill, Executive Director  
for Teaching and Learning,  
Curriculum and Pathways



Glenbard Township High School District 87

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Non-Profit  
Organization  
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**glenbard87.org**

## Board of Education

President Judith Weinstock

Vice President Margaret DeLaRosa

Parliamentarian Robert Friend

Kermit Eby

John Kenwood

Martha Mueller

Mireya Vera

## Like us

on Facebook and follow us on  
Instagram and Twitter.

**Facebook** @GlenbardDistrict87

**Instagram** @glenbarddistrict87

**Twitter** @GlenbardDist87



## Stay connected

You can keep up with Glenbard  
information throughout the year.

**Visit [glenbard87.org](http://glenbard87.org)** and enter  
your email address in the "Click here  
to sign up for Glenbard 87 news" in  
the blue bar near the bottom of the  
page. You will receive news about  
students' achievements, upcoming  
events, Board of Education discussions  
and actions and more.

Glenbard Township High School District 87 does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, marital status, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Glenbard offers classes in several college preparedness courses, as well as career classes at TCD, admission to which is non-discriminatory. Lack of English-language proficiency will not be a barrier to admission and participation in those programs.

## Check out free Glenbard Parent Series webinars

**GPS GLENBARD**  
**PARENT SERIES**  
*Navigating Healthy Families*



The Glenbard Parent Series (GPS) Navigating Healthy Families provides families with support and tips from national parenting experts – now through several free webinars every month.

GPS shares parenting skills by engaging nationally acclaimed speakers, families and school staff. Each month, we host free webinars during the afternoon, evening and on Saturdays. Watch from the comfort of your home. If you miss a webinar, many are available on demand on YouTube.

There are webinars for parents/guardians of teens, middle school children and children as young as age 3. Check out the schedule of Glenbard Parent Series webinars at **[www.glenbardgps.org](http://www.glenbardgps.org)**

Programs include webinars hosted by the Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee/Glenbard Parent Series-Spanish and Families United in Support of Excellence and Equity of all Students, Especially Those That Identity as African American or Black (FUSE).