



# the author

The purpose of District 21 schools is to provide a learning environment for all students to become life-long learners and productive citizens.



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Community members,

Though our students are home for the summer, these months remain a busy time for school districts. Our staff members continue to work and learn throughout the summer and we're hard at work preparing our facilities and resources for our students' return this fall.

Summer doesn't mean that learning should come to a stop for our families, either! Our communities have a number of resources for families and friends of all ages to continue learning and growing together. It's not too late to visit your local library and sign up for a summer reading program! Thanks to a community partnership, CCSD21 students, no matter their home address, are welcome to participate in the summer reading programs at Arlington Heights, Indian Trails, Mount Prospect, and Prospect Heights Libraries.

Our park districts and forest preserves also offer free and economical recreational activities for the whole family, and we have a number of museums right in our backyard. Talk with your children, discover new things, and continue to share in these learning opportunities with your family this summer!

Sincerely,

## Field students celebrate Arbor Day



*First graders from Field Elementary School celebrated Arbor Day by planting a tree with help from the Village of Wheeling. In addition to learning about trees, students presented posters, sang a song, and read a poem about the importance of trees to our environment.*

## Rotary Club of Wheeling partners with Whitman

Wheeling Rotarians returned to Whitman Elementary School this spring to visit with kindergarten and first grade students and celebrate their reading growth. In the fall, the Rotarians read to classes and then presented each student with a book to take home. The favor was returned in May when students read to the Rotarians.

"Our students were so excited to have our Rotary guests return, and we're so grateful to have such dedicated and generous supporters in our community," said Patty Puetz, Principal of Whitman Elementary School.

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# Holmes students share tech story with legislators in Springfield

Three students from Holmes Middle School visited Springfield in May to share with legislators how the use of technology enhances their learning experience.

The Holmes team showed how Chromebooks, virtual reality headsets, and Skype brought to life the history and current conflicts of the Middle East in their Global Awareness class. Students connected with *New York Times Magazine* journalist Scott Anderson who helped them learn about and compare life in the Middle East with the students' experiences.

"Through the use of technology, students are deeply engaged in their learning and are inspired to take action to improve their world," said



*Above, Holmes students pose with State Reps. Sente and Nekritz at the State Capitol after sharing about CCSD21's use of technology within the classroom. At right, the representatives interact with virtual reality headsets like those used by students.*

Martin Hopkins, Principal of Holmes Middle School. "We appreciate the time our elected officials took to visit with our students and learn about their experiences."



## School Spotlight: Poe Elementary School

Poe Elementary School opened in 1968 and will soon be celebrating its 50th anniversary. Poe serves more than 400 students in kindergarten through 5th grade and houses the district's Russian bilingual program and English as a Second Language (ESL) program, supporting students from across CCSD21.

"The father of the detective story," Edgar Allan Poe revolutionized American fiction with groundbreaking mysteries ("The Murders in the Rue Morgue"), gothic short stories, and timeless poems like "The Raven" and "Annabel Lee."

## Riley students pilot Peer Tutoring program

Third graders from Riley Elementary School shared their success in implementing a Peer Tutoring program with the CCSD21 Board of Education this spring.

The students reflected on the training they received before becoming tutors. As one student said, "We learned how to help classmates work through a problem and not just give them the answer. We try and say things like 'You can do it,' 'Good job' and 'Do you need a break?'"

The students also reflected on the mutual benefits for tutor and tutee. "Every time we get to tutor, we learn



from each other. While I taught the group one way to solve the problem, my tutee showed me a different way. This builds our classroom community and we all feel warm and fuzzy inside," said another student.

The work at Riley will expand and complement a peer tutoring program in effect at London Middle School.

# CCSD21 Financial Snapshot

CCSD21 manages an annual budget of \$110 million. These resources support instructional and extracurricular programming, while maintaining the buildings and properties within the district.

Illinois school districts largely rely on property taxes for revenue; 81% of CCSD21's budget comes from this

source. The remaining revenues are generated from state and federal governments and other sources, including student fees, building use fees, and interest on investments.

To meet the needs of our students and community, CCSD21 employs

more than 725 full- and part-time teachers, administrators, operational and support staff. As a people-centered profession, salaries and benefits comprise 86% of our budget.

This investment represents our dedication to providing all

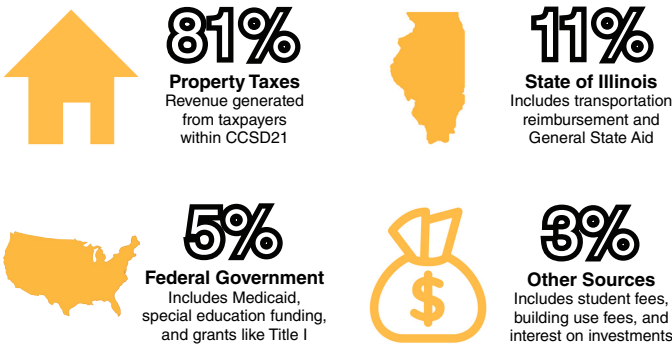
children with a supportive environment in which to learn and grow.

Changes in state and federal policy, however, could affect revenue, expenditures, and school district operations. We continuously monitor the impact of potential changes and advocate to Springfield and Washington for our students and district residents.

Want more details about CCSD21 budgeting and finances? Check out [www.ccsd21.org/business-services](http://www.ccsd21.org/business-services).

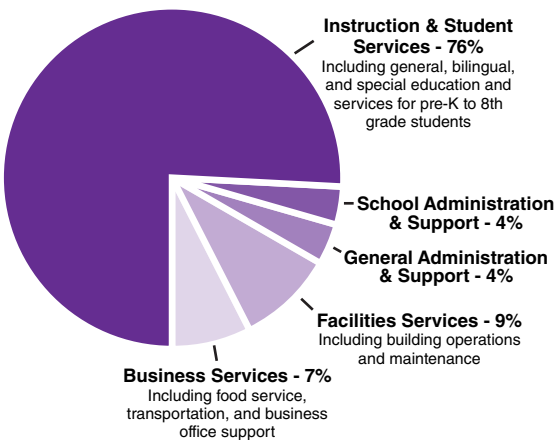
## REVENUES

Throughout Illinois, school districts rely on property taxes for the majority of their revenue. Revenue from state and federal sources is subject to appropriation and can fluctuate from year to year.



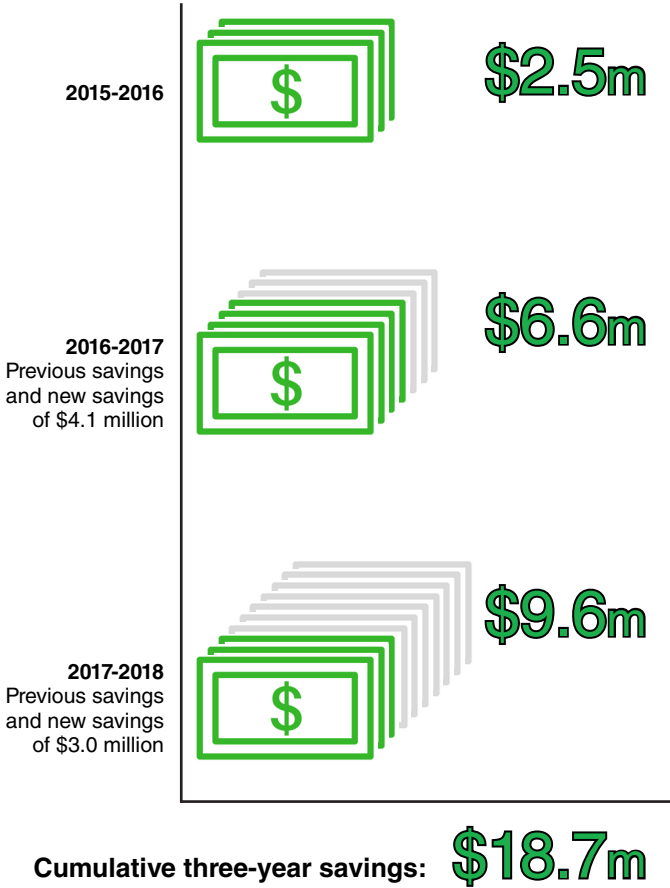
## EXPENDITURES

Our focus remains on providing students with enriching and supportive educational environments, while maintaining fiscally-responsible expenditures.



## THREE-YEAR COST SAVINGS

This upcoming school year will mark the last of three consecutive years of cost-saving measures. In 2015-16, CCSD21 reduced expenditures by \$2.5 million. An additional \$4.1 million of savings were implemented in 2016-17. These initial reductions have been maintained. We project \$3.0 million in further cost savings in 2017-18. Over three years, these measures have reduced the budget by a cumulative \$18.7 million, as depicted below. These savings are critical to ensuring fiscal stability in the future.







**Community Consolidated School District 21**  
999 West Dundee Road  
Wheeling, Illinois 60090  
[www.ccsd21.org](http://www.ccsd21.org)



## **Hats off to the Class of 2017!**

**Congratulations to the more than 700 CCSD21 eighth grade students advancing from Cooper, Holmes, and London Middle Schools this summer. Best wishes at Buffalo Grove and Wheeling High Schools!**