



Community Consolidated School District 21

# Preparing all students for success with future ready facilities

## Who are we?

Community Consolidated School District 21 (CCSD21) serves 6,500 students across 13 schools, including one early childhood, nine elementary and three middle schools. Students reside in Wheeling, Buffalo Grove, Arlington Heights, Mt. Prospect, Prospect Heights or Northbrook and, upon completion of middle school, attend Wheeling or Buffalo Grove High Schools. More than 65 languages are spoken in homes of District 21 families, and CCSD21 offers bilingual instruction in Spanish, Polish, and Russian.

## Our Mission

The mission of CCSD 21 is to prepare all students for success.



## A commitment to being good stewards of taxpayer dollars.

CCSD21 last asked property owners within the district for an operating tax rate increase in 2003 with a commitment to not place another referendum question on the ballot for five to seven years. Since that time, the District has weathered the Great Recession, and several years of budget uncertainty as a result of the State of Illinois' financial crisis. As expenses increased, the District drew down its reserves to protect educational programs. In 2016, the District began implementing cost-saving measures with a commitment to maintaining high-quality programs and services for all students, while looking to ensure future fiscal stability. CCSD21 enacted budget changes for FY16, FY17 and FY18 resulting in a savings to the District of over \$19 million.

Category	Notes	Savings in \$ millions
Licensed staff	Consolidation of positions, lower enrollment and larger class sizes has created fewer licenses positions	\$7.9
Support staff	Reduction of support staff positions to align with student enrollment needs	\$2.2
Administration	Reduction in costs of administrative salaries, department budgets, overtime expenses, and seasonal help	\$2.8
Benefits	Conversion to a self-insured program	\$2.2
Technology	Reduction of internet access costs and increase of Federal E-Rate grant funding	\$1.4
Transportation	Restructuring of Early Childhood Education transportation costs and modification of after school activity routes	\$0.4
Other cost saving measures	Savings from new food service contract, reduction of building budgets, elimination of early retirement expenses.	\$2.2
Total		\$19.1

## Current Financial Status

CCSD21 is committed to being responsible stewards of taxpayer funds, producing balanced budgets, and maintaining modest fund balances for day-to-day operations. Our facility needs are beyond what can be supported by our current operating budget and available reserves.

A commitment to fiscal responsibility:

- Balanced budgets in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.
- The District's Financial Profile designation from the Illinois State Board of Education increased two levels in one year (2015 to 2016.) CCSD21 is no longer on the state's Financial Watch list.
- Fund reserves have improved from 8% in 2015 to 17% in 2017
- Over \$19 million of cost savings have been implemented since 2016.

## Ensuring safe, secure and future ready facilities.



A community investment of \$69 million through a voter-approved bond issue would provide CCSD21 with critical resources which will be used to:

- Ensure safe and secure schools including building entrances with secure vestibules, updated and expanded security cameras, exterior lighting, and improved internal security systems.
- Provide a healthier learning environment for students through the installation of air conditioning districtwide.
- Prepare learning spaces for a district wide full-day kindergarten program.
- Improve energy efficiency and lower future utility costs by converting to LED lighting districtwide and replacing aging mechanical systems with updated and higher efficiency units.
- Provide up-to-date, 21st century learning spaces for all children, through the replacement of aging and obsolete classroom furniture, meeting the needs of the learners of today and tomorrow.
- Ensure the efficient operation of school buildings for decades to come by addressing facility needs such as paving, roofing, plumbing, flooring and other critical mechanical systems.



## What does this mean to taxpayers?

This investment would have an estimated annual tax impact on a home valued at \$200,000 of \$49, or less than \$5 per month.

For more information and updates, visit [www.ccsd21.org/referendum](http://www.ccsd21.org/referendum).

Questions? Email [referendum@ccsd21.org](mailto:referendum@ccsd21.org)