

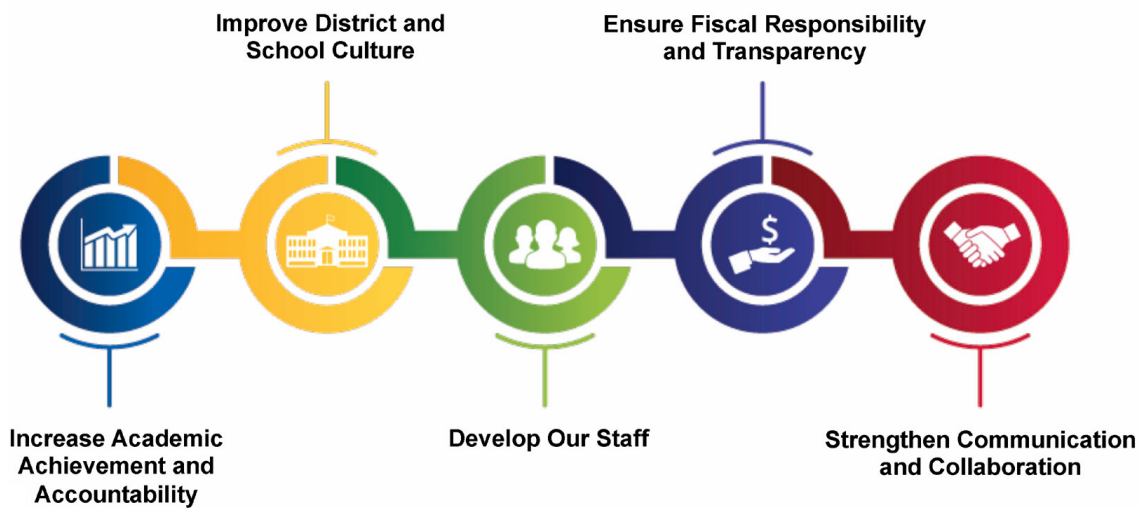


**MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



Superintendent’s Report – October 2020

The Superintendent’s Report is designed to provide the Milwaukee Board of School Directors and the MPS community with an update on current activities underway to support the district goals of academic achievement; student, family and community engagement; and effective and efficient operations as they are aligned to the district’s strategic objectives and the Five Priorities for Success.



United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County sets \$55 million Campaign Goal

During the month of September, the United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County kicked off its 2020-2021 Community Campaign with a goal of raising \$55 million. As part of this community effort, Milwaukee Public Schools kicked off its 2020 MPS Combined Giving Campaign. The MPS campaign started on October 12, 2020, and will run through November 13, 2020. The MPS community has been especially generous through this important effort that provides funding to over 200 health and human services agencies in our community. Last year we raised nearly \$200,000 and remained the number one educational unit (K-12 through higher education) throughout metro-Milwaukee. In just the first week of this year’s campaign we raised \$24,301! Thank you to all who have donated so far. Your contributions make a positive impact within our community.

Giving online is simple and easy—donate here: <https://www.givingnexus.org/mpscampaign/>.

October is Time to Thank a Principal

This month is National Principals Month. Each October, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and the American Federation of School Administrators honors the hard work and dedication of America's principals. National Principals Month is a great opportunity to show appreciation to principals everywhere.

Principals are often taken for granted, and few people understand the long hours and hard work that are needed to run a school. Principals are accountable to the school district, school staff, and families—a balancing act that requires patience, compassion, and dedication. In addition, principals continually drive student achievement while maintaining a positive environment and managing school safety, family engagement, a wide range of student needs, transportation, extracurriculars, and minor emergencies. Very often, the principal is the first person in the door in the morning and the last person to leave at night.



Virtual learning during the pandemic has brought new challenges to all our principals, who are working to support students, families, and staff as they navigate at-home learning. In MPS, we are hearing that virtual learning is working—but that principals miss seeing students and staff each day. Yet they persevere and rise to the challenge of keeping education on pace until students and teachers can safely return to classrooms.

MPS is grateful for the dedication and commitment of our school leaders, especially during this ever-changing school year.

MPS Families Can Pick up Free Fresh Produce Each Thursday in October

During October, Milwaukee Public Schools offered families free weekly produce bags at [MPS Stop, Grab, and Go locations](#).

Produce bags were provided during regular meal distribution hours (11:00 a.m. through 1:30 p.m.) by the MPS Department of Nutrition Services through a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture **Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program** (FFVP).



- The FFVP produce bags celebrated culture through food. The four cultures celebrated were Hispanic, European, Asian, and African American.
- Each produce bag offered fresh fruits and vegetables from around the world, nutrition facts, and ethnic recipes.

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program is designed to promote healthy eating. It encourages adults to be role models for children by trying new fruits and vegetables together.

Milwaukee Public Schools Receives Donation of Backpacks and School Supplies for Students

Milwaukee Public Schools announced the donation of 4,000 backpacks, courtesy of [Educators Credit Union](#) and assembled and delivered by [Beyond Vision](#). These backpacks, stuffed with school supplies from [BestEd](#), have been donated for MPS students experiencing homelessness.

Last school year, MPS' [Homeless Education Program](#) (HEP) identified 5,008 students experiencing homelessness within the district. HEP works with community partners, like Educators Credit Union, BestEd and Beyond Vision, who offers a variety of career opportunities the blind and visually impaired, to provide these students with supplies and remove barriers that prevent full participation in school. The donation from Educators Credit Union is worth \$80,000, which includes the backpacks and supplies for students. We thank our partners and our staff who continue to support our students.

MPS Celebrates 15 Years of AEDs Saving Lives in Schools

Milwaukee Public Schools is celebrating AEDs. Automated external defibrillators, also known as AEDs, are portable devices capable of starting a person's heart during an episode such as a heart attack. MPS has had AEDs in schools for 15 years.



AEDs are easy to use and can be operated with little or no training. Since AEDs have been placed in MPS schools, nine lives have been saved – two children and seven adults, [including one in 2019](#).

MPS placed AEDs in schools through the [HeartSafe Schools](#) program. The program, in partnership with [Children's Wisconsin](#), the [Milwaukee Fire Department](#), and [Project ADAM](#), places AEDs, provided professional development for district staff, and offers drills to keep schools prepared for emergencies.

In 2005, the first AEDs in MPS were installed at Bradley Tech and Washington High Schools, the only locations with full-time nurses. Within two years, with assistance from the [Wisconsin Masonic Foundation](#) and other fundraising efforts, AEDs were placed in every MPS school. MPS currently has 225 AEDs throughout the district, with at least one in each of 156 school sites.

In MPS, 22 CPR/AED instructors provide professional development to Code Blue teams, the name for first responders in the school setting. Every year, at least 70 CPR classes are provided to MPS staff, and the school Code Blue team leaders run at least four drills per school year to monitor reaction time and increase chances of survival. All MPS safety assistants are also certified via the Heart Saver CPR/AED Program.

The goal for MPS is to have all sites designated as HeartSafe Schools, meaning a cardiac plan is in place and a knowledgeable team of community members and professional staff are ready to respond with up-to-date equipment. AEDs for MPS cost just under \$700 for a new unit and around \$150 to maintain per school year. From the program's inception until now, the Wisconsin Masonic Foundation has provided the funds to replace 23 aging-out AEDs in MPS buildings. Currently, 195 AEDs are aging out and will need replacement.

The MPS HeartSafe Schools program has been represented at multiple national conferences as a model of a high-quality AED program in an urban school district.

Virtual Enrollment for MPS High Schools and Middle Schools is Open: September 26 Through November 1, 2020

Enrollment for MPS high schools and middle schools for Fall 2021 opened on September 26 and will continue through November 1, 2020. Families are encouraged to research schools, [attend virtual open house events](#), learn about programs and transportation, and find the best fit for student needs such as bilingual programs, art, music, college prep, career pathways, special education, and more.

Enrolling during the Early Admissions timeframe improves the chances of students getting their first-choice school. Families of students applying for schools with selection requirements must submit required information by the **November 1** deadline.

All enrollment activities will be conducted virtually this year due to building closures during the pandemic.

For more information on enrollment, call the district enrollment office at (414) 475-8448, email the enrollment manager at spidelmg@milwaukee.k12.wi.us, or visit our enrollment [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page.



We Energies Information Sessions for Youth Apprentices and Interns

We Energies is looking for students to train as line mechanic or gas technician interns, or as natural gas design youth apprentices. These opportunities allow students to get paid while still in high school.

Line Mechanic Intern: Maintain power lines and climb electrical poles. Learn about electric distribution, basic electric theory, safety, and materials and operations.

Gas Technician Intern: Maintain equipment, repair leaks, and troubleshoot problems with natural gas lines. Understand how natural gas is used in homes and businesses.

Natural Gas Design Engineer Youth Apprenticeship: Work 900 paid hours and learn natural gas design and engineering concepts. Design construction prints and see them implemented on job sites. Earn up to 12 college credits transferable to MATC.

For more information on these opportunities, contact Tamera Coleman at colemat@milwaukee.k12.wi.us and complete the We Energies Internship application by **November 2, 2020** at mpsmke.com/we-energiesapp



Design Engineer Youth Apprentice

For more information on this opportunity, contact Terri Salzer at salzertj@milwaukee.k12.wi.us and fill out the Wisconsin Youth Apprentice application at mpsmke.com/yaapp

Completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

High school seniors should begin the process of applying for financial aid for college. The first step is to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This application determines eligibility for grants and loans and is used by colleges across the country to develop each student's financial aid package.

MPS has College and Career Centers in 20 high schools to help students fill out the FAFSA, explore colleges, write essays, and complete college applications. Virtual access varies by school. MPS students can contact any College & Career Center to get the help they need from a college and career advisor. For more information about College & Career Center locations, hours, and services, visit the MPS [College & Career Centers page](#).

College Goal Wisconsin is offering free virtual sessions so students can receive information and assistance completing the FAFSA. Students can register at <https://collegegoalwi.org/register/> to sign up for one of the dates listed below.

College Goal Wisconsin Dates

November 4

November 11

FAFSA for the 2020–21 school year opened on October 1, and more money is sometimes available to early applicants. Students who wish to fill out the FAFSA should visit this website to avoid being charged a fee: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa>.

