

District Reporter

STEGER
DISTRICT 194

Spring 2021

Steger School District 194 Receives Commendable Rating from ISBE

When the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) released their latest annual School Report Card, it showed how well our schools are progressing on a wide variety of educational goals. According to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) data released, all three Steger School District 194 schools attained the summative designation of “Commendable” per ISBE benchmark metrics. A “Commendable” designation, which is the second highest designation a school in Illinois can earn, and recognizes a school that has no underperforming student sub-groups at or below the all students group of the lowest 5 percent of all Title I schools, and is not in the top 10 percent of schools statewide.

Per ESSA's designation criteria schools are ranked on a number of indicators. Elementary and middle school designations are based on students' Math, English, Language Arts, Science and English Learners proficiency as well as Math and English Language Arts growth. Indicators also include data related to the annual 5 Essentials survey, and chronic absenteeism rates.

The progress we have made reflects the investments made by our taxpayers, Evidence-Based Funding, and the Title I 1003(a) School Improvement Grant.

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Learning and Growing



Together

School Board Waives the 2021-2022 Student Registration Fee

The Steger School District 194 Board of Education recognizes and understands the impact that the COVID 19 pandemic has had on our communities, especially the economic impact on our families. At the February 2021 Board of Education meeting, the Steger School District 194 Board of Education unanimously approved a resolution to waive the \$135 student registration fee for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year.



District 194 Food Service Serves as a Steady Hand During Pandemic

On March 16, 2020 Food Service began the challenging task of making sure children ages 18 and under had appetizing and nutritious meals while their world was flipped around with remote learning. Since the start of remote learning, Food Service has served over 40,000 grab-n-go breakfasts and lunches to children within our community. Switching over to the grab-n-go model created many new challenges, but our dedicated team of food service staff conquered them without hesitation. How would we get these meals out to the community, how would we serve the meals, how could we do meals that were not just cold sandwiches? The staff put our heads together and came up with TV style meals that were easy to transport and that students could warm up at home in their microwave.



Special treats were given every once and a while as we miss spoiling our students. We miss everyone and cannot wait until our lunch lines are back open and we can serve everyone in person. Until then, all of us lunch ladies from SD 194 hope you stay safe. We cannot wait to see you!

Meals can be ordered by logging into sendmoneytoschool.com. If your student is not in the district you can order by calling 708-753-4787. If you have any questions, please call Rachael Diehl Food Service Director at 708-753-4715.



Technology Department Accelerates at Light Speed

The move to remote learning at the beginning of the school year posed a monumental hurdle for the tech department at District 194. Faced with the challenges of getting 21st century technology into the hands of every learner in the community was a task that required countless hours and more than a few sleepless nights for Technology Director Tim Tufts. "Our school district has deployed 1377 mobile devices for students to use at home during remote learning. In addition, 53 hot spots have been provided to families, which include internet service," said Tufts. The task of acquiring that many computers was one of the larger struggles this year, as technology companies and retailers struggled with the demands of all sectors going to remote work. "We couldn't buy them fast enough in the beginning," added Tufts. Through perseverance and commitment, Steger School District 194 has moved to a one-to-one school district at light speed. "What's taken many districts five years, we've been able to do in one." smiled Tufts.



Commendable Rating

continued

Our school board, administrators, teachers, and staff, in partnership with our community, have maintained our focus on continuous improvement efforts.

For the first time ever, summative designations and academic indicators appeared alongside site-based expenditures – how much money our school district spends per student at each school. With these two data points, we have taken a closer look at the relationship between financial investments and student outcomes.

We welcomed this opportunity to dive into our data and talk about additional improvements and investments we can make to support every student in reaching their goals. Steger School District 194 is strongest when we all work together, so we encourage you to give us your feedback. I invite you to contact the Administration Center and/or join us at a school board meeting.

At Steger School District 194 we continue to hold high expectations for all students and believe every student can meet our expectations with the right supports.

Thank you for your continued partnership to ensure every child in Steger School District 194 is thriving!

Intermediate Center Student Council Fundraiser

Steger Intermediate Center Families - There is still plenty of time to sign up for the Student Council fundraiser with SchoolStore.com! Use the school ID#: 174215 to get your individual online shopping code, and return that code to school so your child can receive his/her prize! Feel free to share that code with family, friends, and neighbors! When you shop at over 400 online stores through the SchoolStore.com website, our school receives a portion of the sales! Thank you for your support!

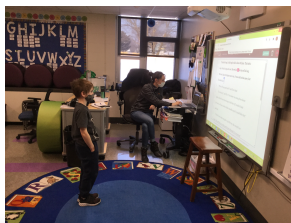
Columbia Central Innovates and Excels

On January 25th, approximately 170 Columbia Central students returned to in-person learning. Teachers welcomed back students across all four grade levels while continuing to provide learning to Columbia's remote learners. This hybrid method of instruction continues to be refined as teachers seek new ways of engaging both sets of students. Classrooms have been set up to be socially distanced to ensure safety. Transitions of students throughout the building have been closely monitored as well. Building administration has worked closely with the district nurse and other district administrators to track staff and student illnesses.

Columbia educators have and will continue to embrace the challenge with an eye on even more students returning for the 3rd trimester of the 2020-2021 school year. We sincerely thank all of our stakeholders in partnering with us to provide a safe learning environment for our students.

Safety Comes First at Intermediate Center

Students at the SIC are working hard each and every day. Whether remote or in-person, students are focused on learning objectives all while practicing safe social distancing and following all safety procedures. "The students have shown outstanding responsibility," remarked Mrs. Ingles. "We're so proud of them."



Steger District 194 Hosts the Silver Walkers

After all the students have gone, Columbia Central's practice gym remains lively each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday as Steger District 194 hosts the Silver Walkers for a bit of exercise and friendship. Attendees are encouraged to walk laps in the gym while maintaining a safe social distance and observing all district safety protocols. "It's a great way for many of our community's seniors to get out for some exercise during the colder months," said Eric Diehl, "we're happy to host them."



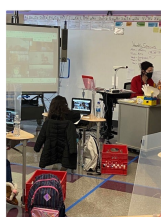
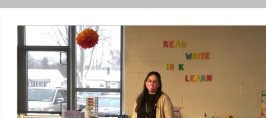
Teaching and Learning Corner

After 291 days, on January 25, 2021 Steger School District 194 welcomed back 428 In-Person Learners! The staff was so excited to have the kids back in the buildings!

Although it looks a little different, we want to assure you that we have taken precautionary measures in all aspects to create a safe learning environment for our students. Whether you choose in-person instruction or remote/online learning, the SD 194 staff is here to support our students and families. Monday, March 1st begins the third trimester. We are looking forward to a positive and successful remainder of the school year!

Those who have elected Remote Learning, we will continue to see you online!

Jan Lenci,
Director of Teaching and Learning



STEGER DISTRICT 194

Administration Center
3753 Park Avenue, Steger, IL
753-4300
Columbia Central
94 W. Richton Road, Steger, IL
753-4700
Steger Intermediate Center
3411 Hopkins Street, Steger, IL
753-4200
Steger Primary Center
3341 Miller Ave, South Chicago Heights, IL
753-4100

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
[HTTP://www.sd194.org](http://www.sd194.org)

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AND TWITTER

A Word From Superintendent Frusher

Dear Steger School District 194
Community Members,

I am very proud to share with you that on January 25, 2021, our families that selected In-Person Learning for their children returned to their school building. The past several weeks have been exciting, where students have been learning inside all three school buildings with every day bustling with energy. Our SD 194 Board of Education has done, and continues to do so on a daily basis, an amazing job through their leadership, decision making, and policy development to reach the point to have In-Person Learning, and to have our school buildings remain open incorporating health and safety protocols.

Our students and staff returning to our school buildings has been very successful, and it's because we follow the guidelines from the Illinois Department of Public Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Illinois State Board of Education.

The COVID 19 pandemic has been difficult in many different ways. The SD 194 Board of Education recognizes

and understands the impact that the COVID 19 pandemic has had on our communities, especially the economic impact on our families. At the February 2021 Board of Education meeting, the SD 194 Board of Education unanimously approved a resolution to waive the \$135 student registration fee for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year.

For the latest information and updates, please visit our SD 194 website and Facebook page.

Thank you for your continued partnership!

Yours in Education,

David Frusher, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



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