

PLANNING for our FUTURE



www.msdt.k12.in.us/future-planning/

Newsletter

April 2020

All Student Achievement Matters

How did our students perform compared to similar large, urban, minority-majority public school districts in 2018-2019?

1 st	IREAD**
2 nd	ILEARN English***
2 nd	ILEARN Math
2 nd	ISTEP+ Grade 10 English**
3 rd	Graduation Rate

*Data represent a comparison of 11 school districts across Indiana with similar enrollment size (10,000+) and demographic representation (at least 50% + majority-minority and at least 50% + Free and/or Reduced Lunch). The 10 other districts are Elkhart, Fort Wayne, Hammond, IPS, Lawrence, Pike, Perry, South Bend, Warren, Wayne.

**Indiana Reading Evaluation and Determination (IREAD-3) assessment measures foundational reading standards to grade 3 students each spring.

***Indiana Learning Evaluation Assessment Readiness Network (ILEARN) measures student achievement and growth according to Indiana Academic Standards.

**Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress-Plus (usually referred to simply as ISTEP or ISTEP+) is an annual No Child Left Behind test designed by the Indiana Department of Education to measure students' mastery of basic skills, particularly reading, writing, and mathematics.

What is our focus for improvement?

Our efforts to engage all staff, students, and families in a culturally responsive and inclusive manner is at the forefront of our continued strategic development as a learning organization. Our district and school improvement efforts moving our organization forward will focus on equity, pedagogy, curriculum, and community as well as family partnerships.



Equality



The assumption is that everyone benefits from the same supports. This is equal treatment.

Equity



Everyone gets the supports they need (this is the concept of "affirmative action"), thus producing equity.

Justice



All 3 can see the game without supports or accommodations because the cause(s) of the inequity was addressed. The systemic barrier has been removed.

The mission of Washington Township Schools is to develop lifelong learners and globally-minded citizens by fostering the academic, creative, and social skills needed to achieve excellence in a multicultural environment.



Washington Township Schools
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—As most parents do, I place a high priority on quality education as well as positive individual and social growth for my children. Washington Township Schools recognizes and welcomes involved parents, inviting them to partner in educating our students. The curriculums are both fundamental and progressive, while the student body is diverse. From the dedicated teachers and administration, to the active, supportive community, we have been very pleased with our experience with Washington Township Schools.

I am confident that my children will be prepared to compete in and contribute to the global economy.
Quote by Shannon Fountain along with daughters Aaris and Abeni Moore

PLANNING for our FUTURE

2020 Referendum

- Improve Student Safety & Achievement
- Better Pay for Teachers & Staff
- Complete Major Re-Investment in Schools for Next 20-30 Years
- Protect Property Values

Operating



Operating Referendum - \$16 million annually for 8 years

Renew current 2016 referendum at \$6.5 million so that we can:

- Continue funding of 50-60 teachers
- Continue funding of 2-4 administrative positions
- Continue funding of approximately 15-20 classified positions
- Replaces 2016 Operating Referendum (no overlap).

Adjust compensation at \$3.9 million so that we can:

- Increase teacher pay
- Increase ALL classified staff compensation such as bus drivers, instructional assistants, office, and support staff
- Increase compensation for staff positions identified across the District where we are not competitive with surrounding districts

Add additional staff at \$5.6 million:

- School Police Officers
- District Equity Specialist
- Counselors
- Bus Drivers
- Social Emotional Learning Coaches
- Alternative Learning Teachers
- School Psychologists
- Athletic Coaches

What supports are included in the 2020 Operating Referendum specific to your school? <https://www.msdt.k12.in.us/referendum-support-to-each-school/>

The referenda will be on the May 5, 2020 ballot for WT Voters



For complete details
<https://www.msdt.k12.in.us/future-planning/>



WASHINGTON
TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS



Construction



Construction Referendum - \$285 million to sustain facilities for 20-30 years

Inflation Adjustments for 2016 Projects = \$47 million

In 2015, architects and construction managers budgeted 2.5% to address rising costs of construction (based on the industry standard at that time).

Since 2017, the rate of inflation for construction has increased to an average of 5-6% annually. The industry predicts the high inflation rate to continue, and this will impact current and future construction projects.

Project Examples:

Eastwood Middle School

2015 Project Estimate	2019 Project Cost
\$ 29,912,000	\$ 33,203,337 (*)

Crooked Creek Elementary School

2015 Project Estimate	2019 Project Cost
\$ 8,724,080	\$10,432,070 (*)

(*) with compounding inflation rates

New Renovations & Improvements = \$238 million

Expanded space for student support programs:

- Additional student safety improvements (all schools)
- Additional building system replacements (all schools)
- Improved access for individuals with disabilities, ADA (all schools)
- Additional site improvements to improve traffic flow/safety and parking (all schools)
- Additional furniture and casework replacements (all schools)
- Athletic facility improvements and renovations (secondary schools)
- New Operations Service Center
- Move transportation and bus storage from secondary school properties to:
- Improve traffic circulation
- Enhance safety on school sites
- Increase space for student programs

The referenda will be on the May 5, 2020 ballot for WT Voters



For property tax implications
<https://www.msdt.k12.in.us/referendum-calc.html>

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COVID-19 Update: All Washington Township Schools are currently closed
by order of the Governor due to the Coronavirus.

Please check the district website for the latest updates and information.
www.msdt.k12.in.us/covid19

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MSDWT START

Bags of Books for Kindergartners Spark Love of Reading

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.” – Dr. Seuss.

Reading is indeed key to success, and all Washington Township Schools kindergarten students got a special gift to help them as they start reading. The Advancement Center teamed up with a special donor to provide a bag of books and reading tools to all 837 kindergarten students just as they went on winter break.

It was a team effort with MSDWT literacy specialists working with the kindergarten teachers in all eight elementary schools to utilize the reading assessments done in the fall. This data was used to personalize the packets for each student’s reading level. To engage parents with the new materials the students were bringing home, introductions were provided in the top five languages spoken by kindergarten families. This fun and functional gift surprised and delighted our kindergartners!

“Small grants can have big impact, and we were thrilled to support a project through the Advancement Center that can help foster a love of reading from the very beginning of a student’s school experience,” says John Fortune, President, Brooks and Joan Fortune Family Foundation, and North Central Class of 1968 graduate.

We’re excited to see these students continue reading and learning – and be the North Central Class of 2032!

