





Oak Park and River Forest High School: An Overview

January 2025

Agenda

- 2024 Illinois Report Card
- Strategic Priorities
- Trends in Education
- Finance
- Facilities

Illinois Report Card 2024



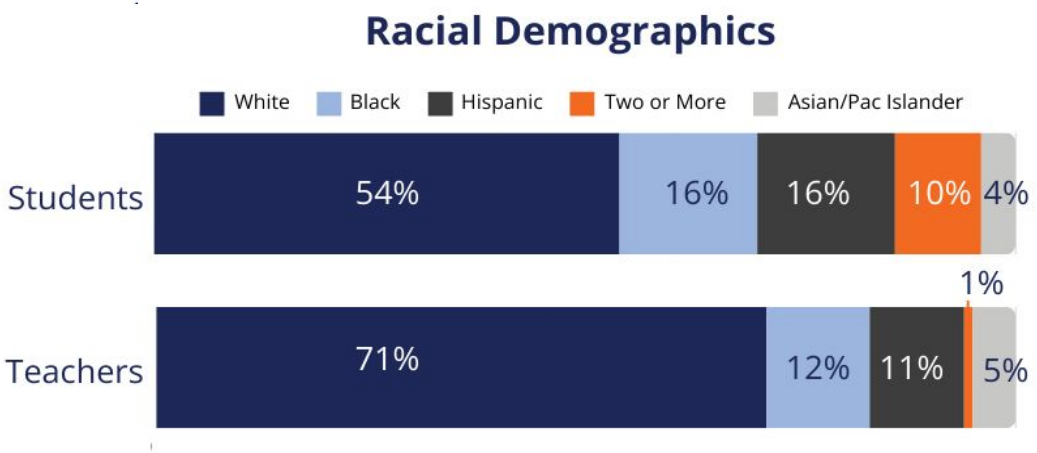


- Summative Designation Commendable
- Total Enrollment 3,226
- Students Receiving Special Education Services 16%
- Low Income 20%
- Homeless 1%
- English Language Learners (ELL) 2%
- 9th Graders on Track 90%
- Average Class Size 22
- Student Discipline
  - Students with Infractions 142 (4%)
  - Total Incidents 203

- Graduation Rate 95%
- Enrollment w/in 16 months 82%
  - University 67%
  - Community College 15%
- Teacher Retention Rate 96%
- Average Teacher Salary $107,645
- District Funding 127% of State Adequacy Target
- Per Pupil Spending $24,186

Illinois Report Card 2024

Proficiency	OPRF	State Avg.
English/Lang. Arts*	64%	39%
Math*	55%	28%
Science#	72%	53%



*Based on state-administered SAT taken by 11th graders.
#Based on state-administered Illinois Science tests taken by 11th graders.

Comparative Districts: Exemplary High Schools

To better understand how our student performance compares to schools across the state, we utilized two groups of high schools. The first consists of large high schools across the state who achieved exemplary status.

Factor	Range	Result
High School Size	At least 2,000 students	Results in 74 schools
Summative Designation	Exemplary Status	Reduces 74 Schools to 11

- Hinsdale Central
- JB Conant
- John Hersey
- Lincoln-Way East
- Lyons Township
- Metea Valley
- Naperville North
- Neuqua Valley
- New Trier Township
- Schaumburg
- Wm Fremd

Comparable Districts: Exemplary Schools

How does OPRF Compare to the 11 Large Exemplary High Schools in the State Across Key Indicators?

Report Card Metric	OPRF Ranking
ELA Proficiency	4
English Learners Progress to Proficiency	4
Science Proficiency	7
Math Proficiency	8
Graduation Rate	8
Chronic Absenteeism	9
9th Graders on Track	12
5 Essential Indicators	
Involved Families	5
Effective Leaders	8
Collaborative Teachers	10
Ambitious Instruction	10
Supportive Environment	11

Identified Schools

- Hinsdale Central
- JB Conant
- John Hersey
- Lincoln-Way East
- Lyons Township
- Metea Valley
- Naperville North
- Neuqua Valley
- New Trier Township*
- Schaumburg
- Wm Fremd

*Does not administer 5E Survey

	top third
	middle third
	bottom third

Comparable Districts: Similar Profiles

For the second comparison, we looked at large, diverse high schools with similar per-student spending.

Factor	Range	Comments
High School Size	At least 2,000 students	Results in 74 schools
School Spending Per Student	67-150% of OPRF amount of $25,390	Reduces from 74 to 46 schools
Diversity	At least 5% and no more than 200% in each of the demographic areas (White, Black, Hispanic, multiracial) that comprise at least 5% of our population	Reduces from 46 to 8 schools

- Carl Sandburg High School
- Downers Grove South
- Evanston Township
- Lockport Township
- Minooka Community
- Naperville North*
- Niles West
- Victor J. Andrew

*Appears in both comparable groups

Comparative Districts: Similar Profiles

How Does OPRF Compare to the 8 High Schools Across the State with Similar Enrollment, and Financial and Demographic Profiles?

Report Card Metric	OPRF Ranking
ELA Proficiency	1
English Learners Progress to Proficiency	1
Math Proficiency	2
Science Proficiency	3
Graduation Rate	4
Chronic Absenteeism	4
9th Graders on Track	9
5 Essentials Indicators	
Involved Families	2
Effective Leaders	3
Collaborative Teachers	5
Ambitious Instruction	6
Supportive Environment	8

Identified Schools

- Carl Sandburg High School
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2024 AP Exam Participation and Performance

College Board AP Honor Roll: Silver Status

Increase in AP Scholar Awards: 30%

OPRF AP Scholar Awards

- **AP Scholars:** Score of 3 or higher on 3 or more exams
- **AP Scholars with Honor:** Average score of at least 3.25 on all exams AND score of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams
- **AP Scholars with Distinction:** Average score of at least 3.5 on all exams AND score of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams
- ***AP International Diploma:** Exceptional achievement across a variety of disciplines



Strategic Plan Priorities: 2024-2025

Priority 1: Racial Equity
Eliminate race, socioeconomic status, and other social factors as predictors of students' academic achievement and social emotional growth.

Priority 2: Transformative Education
Take a holistic, supportive, and transformative approach to providing engaging, equitable learning experiences.

Priority 3: Transformative Leadership
Hold leaders to high expectations in responsibilities, policies, practices, and professional development, and create opportunities that support effective teaching, learning, and leadership.

Priority 4: Operations, Facilities, & Finances
Make fiscally responsible, student-centered decisions that allocate resources to ensure equitable excellence for all.

Priority 5: Communications
Support the district's mission and goals by facilitating effective, timely, transparent, two-way communication with internal and external audiences.





Strategies Currently Underway

- Restructured freshman curriculum
- Increasing access to honors and AP classes
- College Career Pathway Endorsements
- Equity-driven resource allocation review
- Shift from punitive discipline to a behavior education model
- Implementation of a talent management plan to recruit and retain highly qualified, diverse teaching force





Trends in Education: Dual Credit

- Partnership with Triton College to earn Triton credit with high school courses
- 21 dual credit courses, in areas such as Mathematics, Education, Business, Culinary Arts, etc.
- Advantages:
  - Free to OPRF students, saves $148+ per credit hour in college tuition
  - Advance more quickly toward associate's or bachelor's degree
  - Do not necessarily have to attend Triton—many colleges and universities accept the dual credit from Triton





Trends in Education: College & Career Pathway Endorsement (CCPE)

- Endorsements on high school diplomas for graduates who have demonstrated readiness for college and careers.
- State offers seven pathways:
  - **Health Sciences and Technology — OPRF approved in 2022 for Nursing**
  - **Human and Public Services — OPRF approved in 2022 for Education**
  - **Finance and Business Services — next up for approval for Business**
  - Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
  - Arts and Communications
  - Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology, and Trades
  - Information Technology
- Rigorous process to earn an endorsement:
  - Course sequence specifically focused on the career pathway
  - At least two years of coursework
  - Early college-credit classes aligned with the career pathway that offer at least six credit hours
  - At least two team-based challenges with professional mentorship
  - Completion of a 60-hour career development experience



Trends in Education: Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Committee in the School is Working on Providing Guidance for AI that:

- fosters an educational environment that empowers students to become independent thinkers and lifelong learners
- integrates technology into the classroom
- embraces teacher-student interaction
- upholds the importance of academic integrity within our school community

To support the continued integration of instructional technology and the development of students' AI literacy, OPRFHS educators commit to:

- ✓ **Professional Development**: Integrate AI into pedagogy, curriculum, and assessment while fostering collaboration and innovation
- ✓ **Best Practices Alignment:** As determined by course teams use AI to support learner agency, collaboration, feedback, and critical thinking
- ✓ **Ethical & Safe AI Use:** Ensure equitable practices, protect data privacy, address biases, and promote digital citizenship.
- ✓ **Academic Integrity:** Emphasize independent thinking and writing, with clear policies against submitting AI-generated or AI-enhanced work as one's own.

Report from Center for Democracy and Technology

Use of Generative AI:

- 70% of students
- 67% of teachers
- 37% of teachers receive guidance

Trends in Education: Media Literacy

The ability to critically analyze information presented in the mass media and to determine their accuracy or credibility has become increasingly necessary.

- Addressed in the required Digital Literacy course, required of all students and taken mostly by freshmen
- Explicitly taught by our Library teachers through core courses during research writing units in History, English, Science classes and several electives
- Reinforced by teachers throughout the academic process

Civic Engagement

- **Service clubs:** Environmental Club, Huskie Helpers, Huskies for Hope, Letters of Love, Self Improvement Club, Students in Service, Tau Gamma
- **Semester-long Civics course:** state graduation requirement since 2017-2018
  - State requirement for course is three service hours; OPRF requires five
  - OPRF faculty created twice-yearly Civics Fair in 2023-2024
    - Tables with two dozen local organizations that offer volunteer opportunities
    - Panel discussion with U.S. and state legislators, local government representatives, local organization leaders





Promoting Girls and Marginalized Populations

- **Academic classes**

  African American Literature, LGBTQ Voices in Literature, Asian American Voices, Latinx Literature, Women's Literature, African American History, Women in History, Asian Studies, African History, Middle Eastern History, Holocaust Studies, Latin American Studies, Youth and Social Justice, Hip Hop in U.S. History and Society, Equity and Youth Action
- **English Language Learner courses and supports**
- **Professional development**

  Monthly racial equity staff training sessions, annual implicit bias trainings, racial equity coaches
- **Extracurriculars**

  ASPIRA, Jewish Student Connection, Middle Eastern/North African (MENA) Alliance, Pan Asian Leadership Society (PALS), Black Leaders Union, Females Reaching Educational Excellence, Multicultural Leadership Club, Pride Club, Women in Leadership





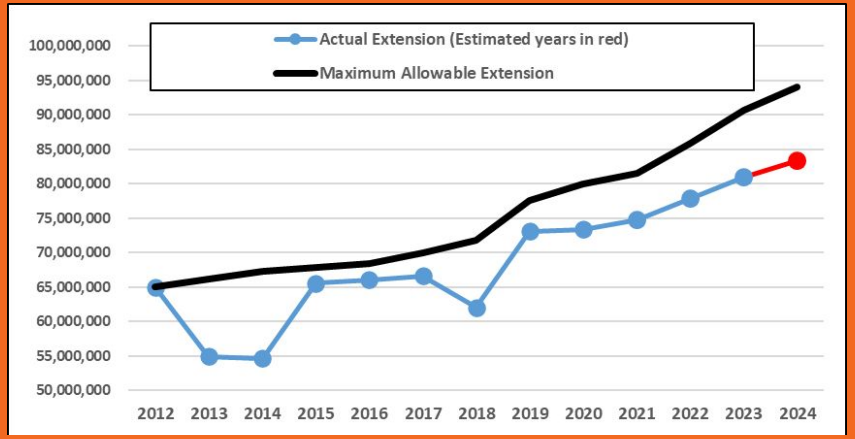
District Finances

Excellent Financial Management

1 of the 6 Illinois school districts (0.7%) with
AAA bond rating + Strong rating for fiscal management
from S&P Global

Budget Overview

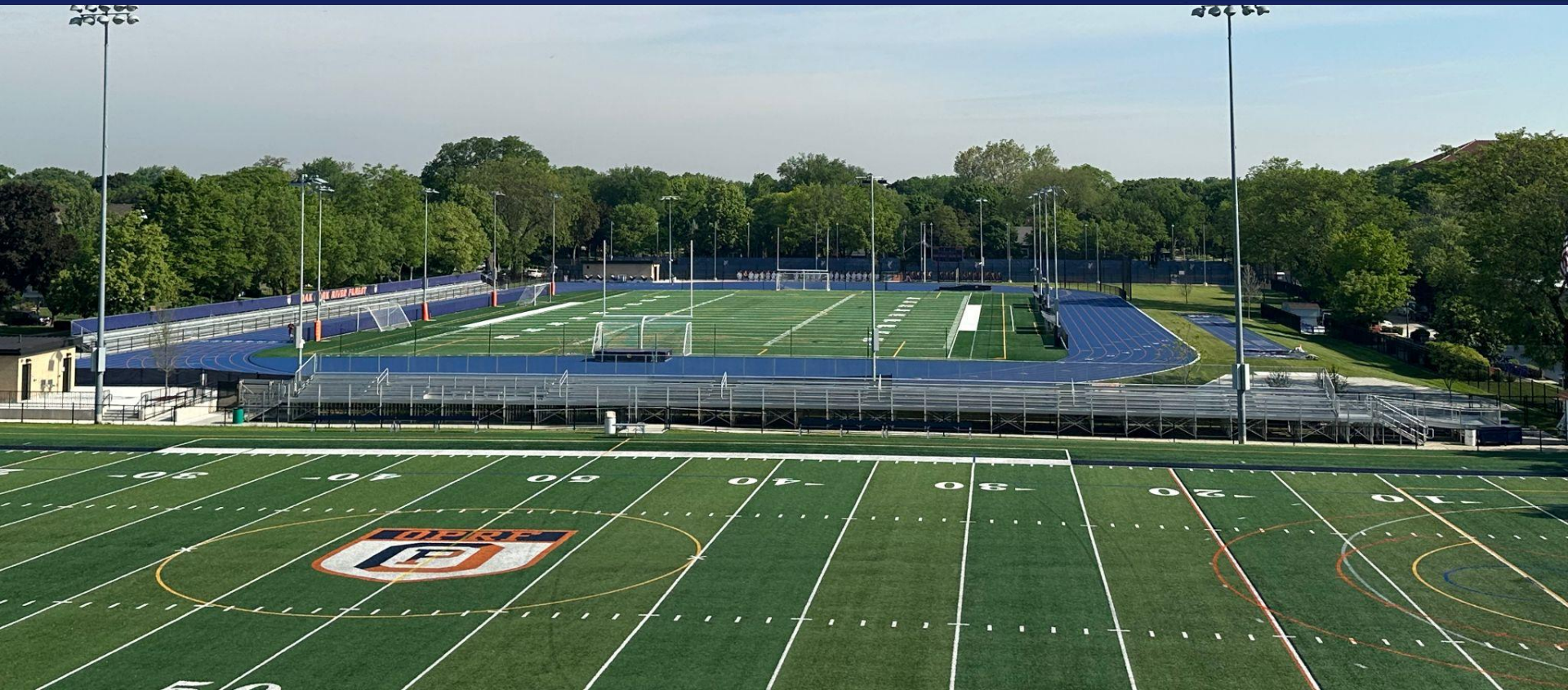
- **FY24 fund balance:** $65 million (77% of expenditures)
- **Budget for fiscal year 2025:** $139 million
  - *Operating expenditures: $91 million*
  - *Capital expenditures: $48 million*
- **Projected fund balance for June 30, 2025:** $70 million (77% of operating expenditures)



Maximum Allowable Levy vs. Actual Levy

Approximately 80% of the district's revenue comes from local property taxes. Since the 2013 tax year, D200 has levied $87 million less in property taxes than permitted by the tax cap law.

Facilities Improvements: Athletic Fields



Facilities Improvements: Sustainability

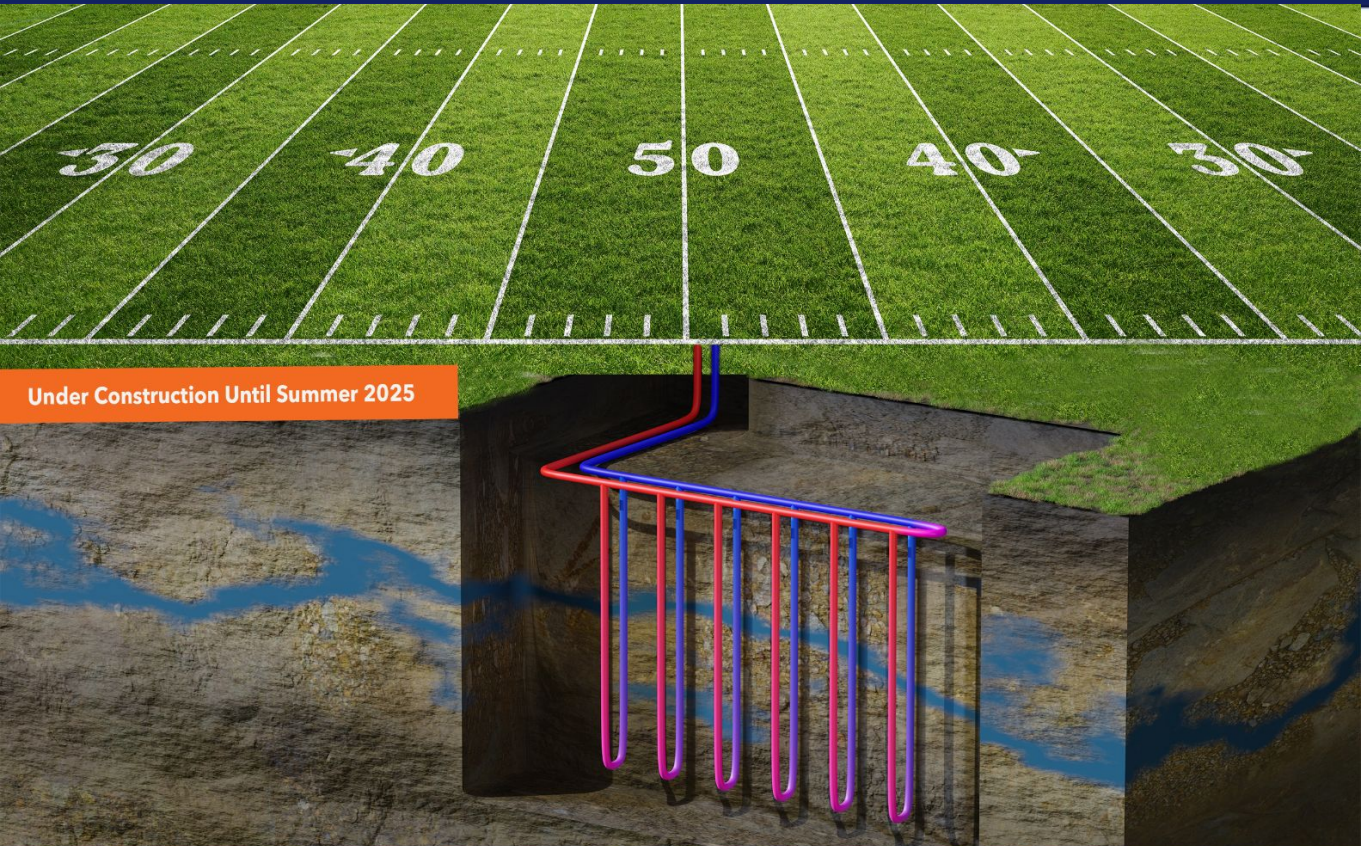
Earned EPA's Energy Star designation for energy efficiency in 2013.

Comprehensive Sustainability Policy approved in June 2022.

- Collaboratively developed by students, staff, Board members, community members.
- Includes reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 45% of 2012 levels by 2030 and 100% by 2050.
- Mandated creation of current Sustainability Plan—also collaboratively developed—with specific deadlines and metrics.



Facilities Improvements: Sustainability



Geothermal system will supply 100% of heating, cooling, and ventilation for Project 2.

Pursuing **LEED certification** for Project 2.

Facilities Improvements: Project 2

Total Cost: $102 million

Funding from three sources

- **$44.2 million** from fund balance
- **$45.3 million** in debt certificates*
- **$12.5 million** in donations through the Imagine Foundation

***Debt certificates**

- Payments are budgeted and paid from fund balance - $3 million annually over 20 years
- No separate, additional debt levy on property tax bills
- Maintains fund balance within range specified by Board policy (25% - 50% of operating expenses)



Facilities Improvements: Project 2



Replaces century-old Physical Education facilities with primarily new construction.

- 25-yard x 40-yard pool with spectator balcony
- Multi-purpose/multi-court competition gym
- All-gender locker rooms
- PE classrooms, PE and athletics offices, PE equipment storage, conference room
- Green Room renovation plus new dressing rooms
- Costume shop/storage, prop shop/storage
- ADA-compliant elevator
- Multi-purpose/dance gym
- Yoga/self-defense studio
- Weight room
- Athletic trainers treatment room
- Boys locker rooms
- Girls locker rooms
- Student commons and pre-function space
- Green roof to manage stormwater runoff, designed to incorporate future solar array

Those Things That Are Best

2024-2025

- **Rex Ovalle** elected chair of the Secondary Section Steering Committee of the Executive Committee for the National Council of Teachers of English.
- 25% of senior Huskies named as **State Scholars**, compared to approximately 10% of graduating seniors across Illinois.



2023-2024

- **Alejandro Medina** — 2024 Outstanding High School Student in Speech/Theatre, Illinois Communication and Theatre Association
- **Sophia Lynn—**first place in headline-writing, Illinois High School Association state journalism tournament
- **Amelia Hammersley—**first Huskie ever chosen for Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair, world's largest pre-college STEM competition
- **Abby Falkoff**, **Noah Campbell**, and **Anne Claud—**only high schoolers in Illinois selected to give oral presentations, Illinois State Academy of Science's university-level competition; all won first in their categories in the undergrad level



Those Things That Are Best

2023-2024 continued

- **Nate Kane, Anderson Langfield, Yaroslav Rozvodiuk, Cy Canniff, Alex Dysico**, and **Oliver Doobay—**first freshman Huskie robotics team to qualify for state competition
- **Dr. Tyrone Williams, Jr.**—2023 Illinois History Teacher of the Year
- **Anja Hermann—**honored by First Lady Jill Biden for disability rights advocacy, White House International Day of the Girl celebration
- **Mateo Nery** and **Grace Koch**—invited to present original climate-change research posters, 2024 U.S. Ice Drilling Climate Change Summit.
- **Jessica Li**—Gold Key for paintings, Chicago Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, advanced to nationals
- **Maxine Gimbel**—chosen by Carnegie Hall for 2024 National Youth Orchestra
- **Kaden Garland**—Indoor Track State Champion, shotput
- **Gigi Osei-Yeboah** and **Caleb Schultz—**Indoor State Track silver medals for, respectively, long jump 200-meter dash
- **Leen Alaraj**—National Football Foundation Scholar-Athlete Award, only female recipient from Chicagoland





Those Things That Are Best

2023-2024 continued

- **Boys soccer—**3rd in state.
- Illinois High School Soccer Coaches Association named **Easton Bogard** Player of the Year and Coach **Jason Fried** Coach of the Year.
- **Sarah Epshtein—**2024 Girls Scholastic Wrestler of the Year, Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association
- **Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning Dr. Laurie Fiorenza—**Tech & Learning Innovative Leader Award for Innovative Superintendent, Midwest Regional Live Summit
- **Boys Track**—Class 3A state champion, with three individual state champions: **Kaden Garland** in shot put, junior **Caleb Schulz** in the 100-meter dash, and junior **Kwabena Osei-Yeboah** in long jump.
- **Buster Torrez**—2024 Illinois High School Driver Education Association Early Career Teacher of the Year award





Questions?

