

Superintendent Report August 2026

Academy

Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Sept 24th which means we are already midway through our first quarter! Time flies when you are having fun, what can I say!!! Our plan is to host our families for conferences, dinner, and provide access to outside services such as nicotine prevention, counseling, etc.

Although our numbers are lower than I would have hoped for, I am constantly being impressed with our kids! The grit, resiliency, and heart of our students this year is quite impressive. I have asked Terry to feel free to take more ownership of the academy and I am so very grateful for all he has implemented. We have a mentor program for all of our MS students, freshmen, and any new students. The mentors for these younger/new classmen are our Juniors and Seniors. Watching the older students take responsibility for each other while offering support and encouragement has been amazing! This new program has really made a difference in our Academy Community!

As a staff, we have added five new employees and welcomed back seven. The combination of personalities, expertise, etc has made for a very impressive force! I see amazing team work and cohesiveness occurring and am so excited for this year! Some of our new additions include:

Justine Kinsman - Certified SpEd, Resource Room

Trevor Lantz - Certified SpEd, TLC

Melanie Cromwell - SpEd Para

Cora Sharkey - English

Ceci Rodriguez - Admin Assistant (Attendance, Title 3, and Academy)

Enrollment:

	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
HS	75	73					
MS	8	8					
Total	83	81					

Remodel / Building Update

Here is your update and a few new additions:

- ☒ ~~COMPLETED Delivery of the Salon Stations (delayed delivery by over a week)~~
- ☒ ~~Electrical finished for the Salon Floor~~
- ☒ ~~Finishing work for the plumbing. Sinks have been installed and plumbing is done but now we have to tie it all together and cover up the pipes.~~
- ☐ Finishing Trim on EMT
- ☒ ~~Ceiling Tiles cut and installed in EMT, Pharm, & CNA~~
- ☐ Sinks installed in CNA and EMT (possible Thanksgiving Break Project)
- ☐ Hallway door installed for Cosmetology

- ☐ Engineering door installed
- ☐ Washer/Dryer relocated into a central location for use
- ☐ Sheetrock replaced and patched above electrical box
- ☐ Conference Room Update (furniture, paint, and tech)
- ☒ ~~Painting on the 1/2 walls and trim work in Cosmetology.~~

CTE

This year, we have experienced a lot of change in our CTE Programs. Some of the changes have included the addition of new programs, moving some programs to a hybrid format, and increasing some of our dual-credit offerings. Even with all of our preparation we knew there would be some challenges that we would encounter. I have been very proud of the problem solving and flexibility many of my teachers have demonstrated. Here is a recap on just a few highlights:

Virtual Learning Week - although this did allow for some flexibility with various start dates, we were still disappointed by the number of students who did not access the material and/or who did access it but did not complete their safety cert's. I still feel this option has potential but we did learn that although we provided students with information last Spring, many never reviewed all we provided.

Hybrid Learning - Courses were set up but some of our students had difficulty access their classes from their home districts. This did take quite a bit of back and forth work between COSSA IT and districts' IT but we have it working! I am hoping this will no longer be an issue moving forward now that it is working.

Medical Pathways - we had a perfect storm with students maybe having too many options and some indecisiveness. Some of our students started with one option and then realized they could work from home, progress faster, etc if they made different choices so we had a whole lot of movement. This movement then caused confusion for counselors, teachers, and sometimes, even our students. For next year, we are hoping to maybe decrease flexibility while still providing options.

Dental - We have gone rounds with the state this summer. The state will allow students to use their Launch funds to cover the cost of the dental assistant pathway but was not allowing students to use their Adv Opp funds. After quite a bit of back and forth, we found a handful of programs that students would be allowed to participate in but instead of being the traditional 10 week program, they would have to participate in a 2 year program that resulted in the same certification. The cost would not only be greater but would require quite a bit more coursework. Mr. Sullivan has been working with LCSC on one more option. This option will go to the state for review on Oct 1st. If this does not work, we will be going with an option to get us through this current year but will not be sustainable for future students which will result in them having to do a 2 year program.

Night School

CNA did not end up with enough enrollments so we had to cancel our Fall Course but will offer this again in the Spring.

Our Welding class ended up with 5 enrollments. This course kicked off on the 14th and will run for the next 6 weeks.





IT

Last year, we worked pretty hard to work on COSSA's technology. The server was rebuilt, student devices were placed on the network, safety monitoring software was purchased and implemented, and we began to replace very outdated devices. Fast forward to this year, our IT is still needing quite a bit of TLC. Most of our classrooms have smartboards that are so out dated they are no longer supported if they even work. Many are being used as a screen. Our projectors are also starting to die. For those needing new bulbs, we are finding that purchasing new projectors is often more cost efficient. Since we do not have a large IT budget, we have started to replace our projectors and smart boards with smart TVs that allow for casting. We are currently trialing this in two of our classrooms and will make a decision on the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of this option after we have used them for a month or two. On our classroom devices, our academy is using chromebooks instead of laptops due to the high number of students attempting to place VPNs, download programs, etc on the laptops. Using chromebook make things a lot easier for our IT to wipe clean, remote access, and update devices. For next year, I would like to move the academy to one-to-one devices with the option of parental insurance. CTE will continue to have classroom sets of devices but many of those devices are laptops.

Building & Maintenance

A recap on our goals from last year included:

1. Fixing the fence surrounding the solar panels
2. Fixing the highway sign
3. Selling the A-frame
4. Removing the solar array

I am happy to report that all of these projects have been completed although we still are hosting our A-frame:). Unfortunately our projects/needs for this upcoming year are going to be a bit more challenging and expensive. I am very interested to gain input and suggestions on how to proceed on the following projects:

1. Safe removal/disposal of multiple 5 gallon buckets filled with unknown hazardous substances that require specialized removal.
2. Safe removal/disposal of a 50 gallon bucket filled with automotive waste that requires specialized removal.
3. HVAC evaluation on the entire building to determine what needs to happen to more efficiently heat/cool the COSSA.
4. Outside Sprinkler overhaul. This last year, our maintenance staff worked hard to make repairs and fixes throughout our grounds. Unfortunately the work needed to repair our existing lines was greater than we could keep up with. After consulting some professionals, we received the recommendation that our pumps and lines need to be updated and replaced throughout the campus.
5. Bandwidth. The internet COSSA has is not effective. Our existing internet relies heavily on Wilder SD as the closest lines go to Wilder and then come to COSSA. The speeds are unreliable and often buffer/time out. This causes disruption with our phone lines, computer use, cell phones, and much more. This year, I would like to explore our options

and determine what is the most cost efficient and effective way to bring better wifi to COSSA.

6. Academy fitness and food service. The academy currently shares the kitchen with our culinary classroom. Although this has worked for years, we are struggling with the growing culinary CTE program and the efficiency of running our school food program. The second building need is for a location for our academy to run some kind of physical fitness class. We are currently using our cafe to conduct our fitness class but this is not only less than ideal but it is inefficient with the amount of time and man power required to constantly be moving tables.
7. This project has been moved to the 26-27 school year - Construction in the front entry will be starting as time becomes available. The front entry area will be moving forward roughly 4ft and a sliding window will be installed. The safety team has been meeting and reviewing our existing safety check-in equipment and software to determine how we will proceed. This project has been put on hold until the classrooms in the CTE Hallway are completed!

Once we get a game plan on how to proceed, I will provide updates on these projects each month.

Campus Security & Safety

COSSA has its triannual Threat and Safety Assessment scheduled for September 17th. Although we have worked hard to go through the provided safety rubric to ensure we have things in place to meet standards, I am anticipating many findings after this review. I will keep you posted as things progress and changes are identified.

Foundation Update - None

Grants -

- Application Submitted: Office of Drug Policy - Substance Use Primary Prevention Grant - Still not notification.
- Southwest District Health Drug Prevention Grant - applied in Aug. Waiting for notification
- Currently working on the Idaho Career Ready Micro-Grants. Application should be submitted mid October.

Policy Update

- 1st Reading - Board Policy 1315 - District Planning
 - No Optional Language
- 1st Reading - Board Policy 2395 - Idaho Digital Learning Academy Classes
 - No Optional Language
- 1st Reading - Board Policy 8705 - Generative Artificial Intelligence

- No Optional Language
- 1st Reading - Board Policy 2530 F - Learning Materials Form
 - No Optional Language
- 2nd Reading - Policy 2445 - District Provided Virtual Instruction
 - Line #10, after last month's meeting we discussed leaving both options in policy to give more flexibility.
- 2nd Reading - Policy 5260 - Abused and Neglected Child Reporting
 - No Optional Language
- 2nd Reading - Policy 5265 - Employee Responsibilities Regarding Student Harassment.
 - No Optional Language
- 2nd Reading - Policy 5410 - Family Medical Leave
 - No Optional Language
- 2nd Reading - Policy 5410(P1) - Family Medical Leave Procedure
 - No Optional Language