



**Creston Community School District
Deron Stender, Superintendent
Creston, Iowa 50801**

The vision of the Creston C.S.D. is to provide the foundation for students to become lifelong learners and positive, confident, and compassionate citizens.

**Board Report
September 16, 2024**

[Legislative Priorities 2024-2025](#)

[District Goals](#)

Italasiced content reflects new content added after board packets are released publicly and before the board meeting.

1. District

- 1.1. The start of the school year went well and everyone adjusted to the new routines. Thanks to our students, staff, parents, and guests for making the transition to one-way traffic go smoothly.
- 1.2. School Safety & Security:
 - 1.2.1. I want to acknowledge our volunteer [First Responders](#) who are willing to go above and beyond to support and save lives if necessary. As a district, each building has First Responders who are trained and certified in First Aid, CPR, Defibrillators, Stop the Bleed, and emergency response.
 - 1.2.2. As a district, our Emergency Operations Planning team and administrators are always working to improve our safety and security protocols. We use age-appropriate instruction to practice ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) training and conduct drills with our children and staff to help prepare them for crisis situations.
 - 1.2.3. We collaborate with local law enforcement and emergency agencies to support communication and effective practices. We met with local law enforcement, emergency personnel, and public organizations to develop a uniform protocol for communication so we are informed and can take necessary safety actions. Our work to improve safety and security is never-ending.
 - 1.2.4. The safety and well-being of our students and staff remain our top priority. As part of our ongoing commitment to maintaining a safe and secure environment, we need your help in addressing an important issue: statements made about weapons.

It is essential for all students to understand that any statements regarding weapons—whether said in jest or seriously—are deemed as threats and will be taken seriously. In today’s environment, these types of comments can cause fear and disrupt the learning environment, and we are obligated to address and investigate every situation thoroughly. I shared this [document](#) with our families and community to remind them to visit and teach their children what is and isn't appropriate at school.

- 1.3. Billie Jo and I have been formulating financial options as we review one-time funds that earned interest from debt service, and other grant programs. Many of the funds are not available until the new ECC project is complete and are likely to impact FY 25, 25, and 27 budgets.
- 1.4. The ECC construction is on schedule and Gary meets weekly with a team of members from DLR and DDVI. There is a time capsule on the district website that captures the progress of the project over time. I will keep you posted as needed and at each board meeting.
- 1.5. Orient-Macksburg Superintendent Jeff Kruse and I visited on September 4. He indicated that OM continues to work on options and will know more later this winter. He acknowledged they received the district's offer of support and collaboration and he will keep me posted. At this point, the process will play itself out.
- 1.6. I continue to provide opportunities for community members to meet with me and share what's on their minds through the monthly community [Coffee and Conversations](#) hosted at various establishments on a rotating basis. I enjoy these opportunities to get to meet and know our community members.
- 1.7. *The education reporter for the Des Moines Register interviewed district and AEA staff to get their perspective on the impact of the new legislation on children, services, and staff. She said she would let me know when the story would run. I will keep you posted.*
- 1.8. *New legislation and district goals have guided our focus to improve student and staff attendance. We will engage in a communication campaign to educate students, staff, and families about the new requirements and expectations and how we can make a difference together. The following provides insight into expectations and our focus:*
 - 1.8.1. *Student attendance:*
 - 1.8.1.1. *This [attendance flier](#) was sent to students and parents to inform them of new requirements and expectations.*
 - 1.8.1.2. *This [attendance notice](#) was sent to students and parents to notify them of the new requirements and expectations.*
- 1.9. [District goals:](#)
 - 1.9.1. *I will provide the board with an update on the progress toward achieving district goals using the logic model/4DX to guide our work. In short, you will get a scoreboard that will identify how we are doing, holding us accountable.*
 - 1.9.1.1. *Each week the six champions meet for 15 minutes to report commitment completion and identify new commitments.*
- 1.10. *The district has been on the fringe of postponing events due to driver shortages. We have developed [driver incentives](#) to attract applicants and staff to obtain the appropriate license to drive a bus. Mr. Busch has worked hard to provide the necessary support and bring the required training to the district to simplify the process of getting licensed. I met with all coaches before school and encouraged them to have at least one coach from each program to get licensed to ensure their programs are not impacted because routes have priority over programs. We cannot depend on applicants to meet our needs and unfortunately, need to depend on our staff to fill the void. The more licensed drivers we have access to decreases the burden on all and supports our students, families, and programs.*
- 1.11. *A preliminary review of enrollment reflects an estimated decline of 30 students. Last year we projected a decrease of 41 students. Again, this is preliminary, and enrollment changes daily as we prepare for the October 1 count day. Typically, the Department of Education provides the district with enrollment data in late October or early November. We will keep you posted.*
- 1.12. *The district continues to work on having 100% of our staff fully licensed with the BOEE. Each year, we are making progress toward the goal and this year 97% of our teachers are fully licensed and 3% have a substitute or conditional license.*

2. Leadership

2.1. Associations

- 2.1.1. American Association of School Administrators (AASA) Executive Board
- 2.1.2. Rural School Advocates of Iowa (RSAI) Legislative Board
- 2.1.3. Northwestern School of Education Advisory Committee
- 2.1.4. Buena Vista School of Education Advisory Committee
- 2.1.5. Green Hills AEA Superintendents Advisory Board
- 2.1.6. Green Hills AEA Special Education Advisory Board
- 2.1.7. Green Hills AEA Professional Development Advisory Board
- 2.1.8. School Administrators of Iowa (SAI) Legislative Committee
- 2.1.9. School Administrators of Iowa (SAI) Legal Committee
- 2.1.10. Iowa School Public Relations Association (ISPRA)
- 2.1.11. Creston Rotary
- 2.1.12. Creston Lions

3. **Announcements**

3.1. To stay informed of District activities and events, follow the district on:

- 3.1.1. Website
- 3.1.2. Twitter: @CCSD_Panthers
- 3.1.3. Facebook: Creston Panthers
- 3.1.4. Monthly Community Coffee
- 3.1.5. KSIB Radio
- 3.1.6. Creston News Advertiser
- 3.1.7. Panther Pitch

3.2. I thank our community and families for their support and for making **Creston Community Schools** the pride of our community!