

Skokie School District
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Abstract

We Are All Together (WAAT), a project of Skokie/Morton Grove School District 69 (SD69) and its Community School Action Team—a broad-based consortium of nearly 30 local partners including schooldistricts, public-sector agencies, community- and faith-based nonprofits, funders, healthcare providers, and SD69 parent groups—will enhance SD69’s existing Community School Model by expanding early childhood education, Out-of-School Time (OST) academic and enrichment programs, family engagement and parent education, and health and wellness supports across all three Title 1 District schools: Madison (pre-K–2), Edison (grades 3–5); and Lincoln Junior High (grades 6–8).

WAAT will also introduce transition supports for grades 5 and 8 and launch juvenile crime prevention initiatives at Lincoln. SD69 serves one of Illinois’ most diverse communities, with a growing refugee population and rates of poverty, foreign-born residents, Limited English Proficiency, unemployment, truancy, and student mobility that exceed state averages and put children at increased risk of academic failure. More than 52% of SD69 students qualify as low income; 25.6% have Limited English Proficiency, 1.9% are homeless, and 11.7% have Individual Education Plans.

WAAT’s key enhancements include 1) transition supports and OST academic interventions for grades pre-K–8, designed to increase the number of students who meet annual growth targets/performance standards in reading and math; 2) new health and wellness services, including expanded mental health and nutritional supports, for underserved District parents and children ages 0–3; and 3) school-based, multidisciplinary staff teams (including diverse, multilingual community peers) to promote family engagement, identify students at risk, work with families to coordinate a comprehensive service/intervention plan and link them to WAAT’s continuum of resources.

Currently, SD69’s Community School Model engages 3,177 students and 975 parents (duplicated). By year five of the FSCS grant period, WAAT will have the capacity to serve approximately 1,800 unduplicated children/students from birth through grade 8 and their families.