



# EDEN PRAIRIE PROUD

Eden Prairie Schools parent/guardian opinions from 2021 and 2020 random-sample, scientifically-valid surveys

## PARENTS

**100%**

report warm welcome when entering school

**97%**

believe our community receives a good value on its investment in our schools

**98%**

quality of education rating

**98%**

quality teacher rating

**95%**

of parents have never considered moving their student out of Eden Prairie Schools

**95%**

trust EP to do what is right

**98%**

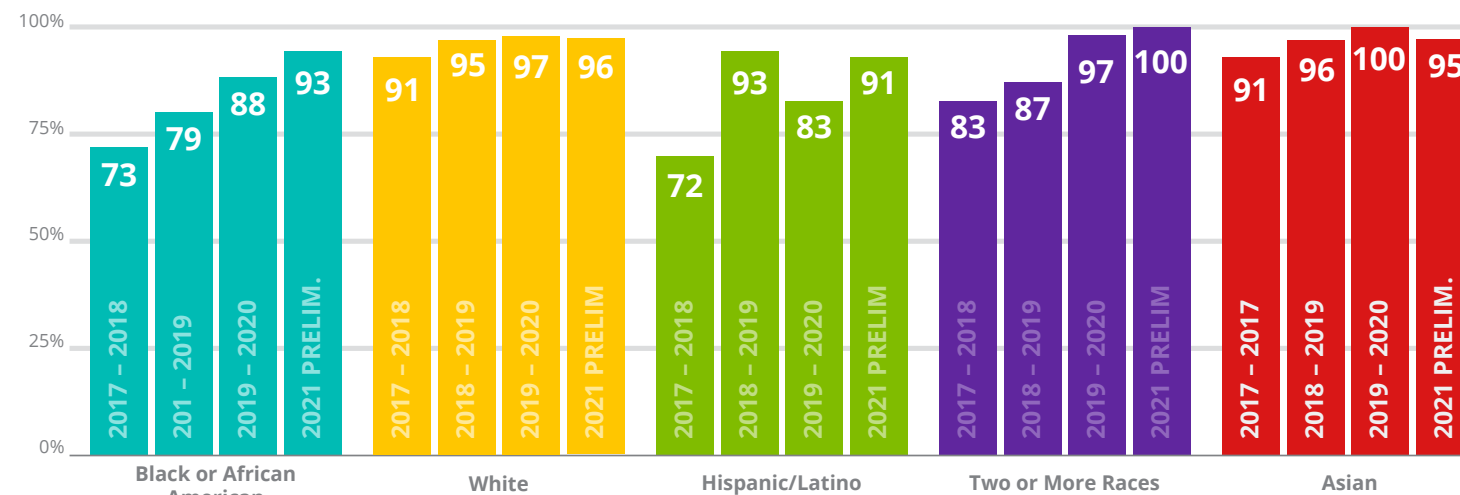
quality rating of district technology and digital resources

**96%**

quality rating of district technology and digital resources

## GRADUATION TRENDS

### 2018 - PRELIMINARY 2021



Eden Prairie Schools' increasing graduation rates show the district delivering strong academic achievement for all, and narrowing gaps in historical educational disparities. The district's four-year graduation rate overall is 95 percent.

"This reflects intentional work at all levels in Eden Prairie Schools," said Dr. Josh Swanson, Superintendent. "Seeing more students graduate in four years is an outcome of the broad range of support we provide our students, while inspiring each student to achieve at high levels."



SHOW YOUR WINGS

**Name:** COLE NELSON **Grade:** 12  
**School:** Eden Prairie High School

**My Wings:** The thing that inspires me the most about Eden Prairie High School is that everyone is given the opportunity to be whoever they want. We are given the options to join clubs or take classes in which we have interest, and no one is looked down upon for trying something new. What I love most about EPHS is the school spirit. Everyone is proud that they go to Eden Prairie, and I know I could never imagine going anywhere else.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**October 6 & 11** - EPHS Conferences

**October 12** - CMS Conferences

**October 14** - CMS Conferences & Elementary Conferences

**October 15** - No School

**October 19** - Elementary Conferences

**October 21 & 22** - No School: MEA

**November 11** - End of 1st Quarter

**November 12** - No School

**November 24-26** - No School: Thanksgiving Break

## EXCERPT EP EXPRESS

EDEN PRAIRIE NEWS IN 30 SECONDS



### 01 No charge for school meals in 2021-2022

There will be no charge for school meals for all students during in-person learning in the 2021-2022 school year. Students are able to purchase extra items if they have funds in their account. Learn more about our meals program at [edenpr.org/child-nutrition](https://edenpr.org/child-nutrition).



### We're hiring! 02



Are you interested in working for EP Schools? We're currently hiring bus drivers, paraprofessionals and custodial staff across the district. Check out these openings and other opportunities at [edenpr.org/jobs](https://edenpr.org/jobs).

### 03 New to EP Schools?

We want to welcome you to our amazing school district! Schedule a tour to learn more about our schools, or register today at [edenpr.org](https://edenpr.org).



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Thanks to the EP community for providing our CMS students with unmatched opportunities!

**EDEN PRAIRIE SCHOOLS**  
Inspiring each student every day  
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EDEN PRAIRIE SCHOOLS



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# SCHOOL BOARD MESSAGE:

## Welcome to a New School Year and New Opportunities

### SOME THINGS ARE CHANGING . . .

The Eden Prairie School Board would like to welcome students, families, and staff back for a new school year with many exciting new opportunities for students. Exciting changes include:

- Welcoming sixth graders to an amazing, updated Central Middle School.
- Engaging students in Inspire Choice programming to give them more options to pursue rigorous, engaging, and authentic learning experiences.
- Giving preschoolers the opportunity to create a school community connection, reduce transitions, and prepare for kindergarten through Little Eagles preschool, now available at each Eden Prairie boundary-area elementary school.
- Continuing to provide and enhance EP Online, which will be available to students in Eden Prairie and throughout Minnesota. The curriculum blends proven online curriculum strengthened by Eden Prairie School's high-quality curriculum – taught by teachers who know it well.

We recognize the importance of effectively managing the forthcoming changes and helping students and families to adjust and thrive in new environments. Although these changes might be uncomfortable at first, every family can expect caring and prepared staff ready to welcome our students back.

### WHILE MANY THINGS ARE STAYING THE SAME...

The Eden Prairie School Board remains committed to:

- Delivering academic excellence and opportunity to each student,
- Closing the achievement gap,
- Driving outstanding graduation rates, and
- Providing these outcomes in an equitable and fiscally responsible manner for the community.

Despite challenging circumstances, our staff worked hard to support continued student success and it's reflected in the data. Overall, Eden Prairie's 2020 graduation rate was 95%, well above the state average, and 80% of our

### EDEN PRAIRIE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

- Adam Seidel, Chair
- Beth Fletcher, Vice Chair
- Debjyoti "DD" Dwivedy, Clerk
- Aaron Casper, Treasurer
- Karla Bratrud, Director
- Kim Ross, Director
- Charles "C.J." Strehl, Director

third-grade students were reading at grade level, well above the FastBridge national average. Our teachers are committed to identifying and addressing any learning loss experienced by students during the trying times of the pandemic.

We extend our sincere thanks to the community members who participated in the School Board's Listen and Learn session in June. We look forward to future opportunities to engage with the community to better understand our shared values and identify opportunities to grow and thrive.

In May of this year board member Veronica Stoltz resigned due to a family relocation. We thank her for her service. In June, the board appointed a previous board member, Karla Bratrud, to temporarily fill the seat from July 26 until the special election which will be held on November 2. We encourage you to participate in the process of electing a new school board member this fall.

Strong communities result in strong schools and the tradition of excellence in Eden Prairie schools continues because of the tremendous support of our diverse and vibrant community.

**Welcome back everyone and remember, Eagles fly high!**

## SUPERINTENDENT: BEING TOGETHER AND STAYING TRUE TO OUR MISSION

We are so glad to have our students back in school, learning in-person this year. I have heard so much excitement expressed by teachers, staff, students, parents/guardians, and grandparents as we welcomed over 8,700 students back to schools on Sept. 8. We remain committed to multiple, layered health and safety strategies in our buildings. We also learned last year that flexibility and preparation matters. We will adjust our mitigation layers as necessary and stay focused on supporting our students and their learning.

We are also excited that EP Online is now a permanent part of our school district. With EP Online, students anywhere in the state can experience the benefits of an Eden Prairie Schools education. This was a part of the Designing Pathways vision created by the community and on our road map prior to COVID-19, but implementation was accelerated to meet the needs of our students. Last year, EP Online was one of the most successful

comprehensive online programs in the state. As our residents know, Eden Prairie teachers and our educational experience are of the highest quality, whether it is in-person or online.

I cannot describe the pride I have in this community after what we experienced together last year. We came together as an Eden Prairie community in so many different ways -- too many to name. There was food for people who needed it, support for families and students who needed additional help, technology to keep students learning online – and so much more! Our sense of community in Eden Prairie is incredibly strong and is part of what makes our city and school district a special place.

Thank you for being a part of Eden Prairie Schools. With your on-going support we are staying true to our mission of inspiring each student every day.

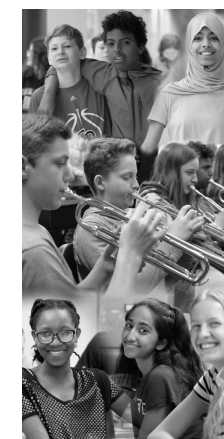
**Dr. Josh Swanson, Superintendent**



## SCHOOL BOARD SPECIAL ELECTION NOV. 2

The Eden Prairie School Board is required by law to hold a special election to fill a vacancy. Five people have filed for candidacy in the Nov. 2 special election to fill one seat on the School Board. All Eden Prairie School Board members are elected at-large. **Remember to vote Nov. 2!**

**Find information about the candidates at [candidates.sos.state.mn.us](https://candidates.sos.state.mn.us). Find your polling location at [pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us](https://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us) (polling locations will be combined for this special election).**



# Thank You Voters

✓ For Approving the  
2019 Referendum

**EDEN PRAIRIE SCHOOLS**  
Inspiring each student every day

There has been much careful planning and hard work leading up to this fall. We welcome sixth graders to CMS while welcoming preschoolers to our elementary schools. Community members, parents, students and staff were integral members of our input and design teams to bring these plans to life. We are grateful for each and every community member whose support made this possible for our wonderful students.

### SPOTLIGHT ON NEW LEADERSHIP



**STEPHEN SHEPHERD**  
Associate Principal of  
Cedar Ridge Elementary



**DR. NICHOLAS KREMER**  
Principal of EP Online



## ARE YOU AN EXPERT OR LEADER LOOKING TO THE FUTURE?

Eden Prairie High School students might need your help! Support the next generation of leaders, organizers and entrepreneurs. We have a commitment to providing students real-world experiences in their education. As we increase Pathways that connect students to their personal interest areas, they will complete a Capstone course before graduation. A Capstone is about solving real-world problems, creating new opportunities, or connecting authentically with business and community.

### You can support our students in different ways:

- You can speak with students about an opportunity or problem area, hear their potential solutions and help refine their ideas.
- You could also be a guest instructor and share your professional experience and insights with students.
- Or you could host a group of students at your place of work to witness the profession in action.

**Scan the QR code above and complete the form to share your expertise. Or contact Victor Johnson, [victor\\_johnson@edenpr.org](mailto:victor_johnson@edenpr.org), 952-975-8073 to learn more.**

