

Flora CUSD #35 Newsletter

Children are our most precious possession.

February 2015

Illinois 5Essentials Survey

Beginning January 12, 2015, teachers, parents, and students across Illinois will have an opportunity to participate in the third annual statewide Illinois 5Essentials Survey. This survey is designed to generate a detailed picture of the inner workings of your child's school. As a parent, this opportunity will allow you to share your thoughts on the important elements of school effectiveness in a survey about your child's school.

On behalf of the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois 5Essentials Survey will be administered online. The survey gathers data related to five indicators that can predict important student outcomes. These five indicators that affect and predict success are:

- Effective Leaders
- Collaborative Teachers
- Involved Families
- Supportive Environments
- Ambitious Instruction

Prior research in more than 400 schools has shown that schools that were strong on at least three of these "5Essential" indicators were 10 more times likely to improve student learning gains in math and reading than those that were weak on three or more Essentials.

All teachers and 6th through 12th grade students will also be asked to respond to the survey. 5Essential Reports will be generated for schools if their teachers and/or students meet the response rate threshold of 50 percent. These reports will be sent to schools and districts in May 2015 and will also be included in the State School Report Card. Additionally, if at least 20 percent of Flora CUSD #35 parents complete this survey, a parent supplement will also be generated.

Your participation in the parent portion of the survey will help us understand the conditions at your child's school and guide improvement. Your identity and survey responses will be kept completely confidential and will never be connected to you or your child.

The Illinois 5Essentials Survey will be conducted January 12 through March 13, 2015. To take the survey, please visit <https://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/> and select the appropriate survey to begin or you can access the survey by going to www.floraschools.com and click on the 5Essentials survey link on the main page.

For more information about the Illinois 5Essentials Survey, please visit <https://illinois.5-essentials.org>.

Elementary School Progress

If you have driven by the elementary school construction site recently, you have hopefully noticed that a lot of progress has been made and the building is really taking shape. The anticipated completion date is still projected for August 1, 2015 which means we will likely reach our goal of having the building ready for students at the start of school this fall.

As with any construction project, whether it's building or renovating your home or building a new school, there are inevitably obstacles to overcome in the process but the architects, construction management company, contractors, administration, and staff have done a tremendous job of working together to keep the project on schedule and make the process as smooth as possible. With the weather/elements outside, which with construction means dealing with/mitigating moisture problems inside, we have lost some days of work. Despite the number of days lost, we have still been able to keep on schedule and not adjust our target date.

We are excited about the progress of the school to date and looking forward to the day we can open it to students, staff, parents, and community members. Please feel free to contact me with any questions about the new school.

Important Upcoming Dates:

February 4th-Curriculum Advisory Committee Meeting-Unit Office-8:45 a.m.

February 6th-Mid-term for 3rd Quarter

February 11th-Mid-term progress reports sent home

February 13th-School Improvement Day-12:30 Dismissal

February 16th-No School-President's Day

February 18th-Board of Education Meeting-Unit Office-5:30 p.m.

**“Education is learning what you didn't even know you didn't know. “
~Daniel J. Boorstin**