



The BOARD REPORT

January 27, 2026 • Issue 33

➤➤ i-Ready shows gains

Mid-year results from the i-Ready universal screener show measurable gains in student learning across grades and subject areas. August and December assessments highlight consistent improvement in both reading and math, with fewer students performing below grade level and more reaching on- or near-grade-level expectations. A final round of i-Ready testing later this year will provide full-year growth data.

The district's instructional priorities are proving effective, with strong gains seen in phonics. Reading comprehension emerged as an area needing additional support, leading the district to begin piloting new resources and provide targeted professional development.

In math, lower performance was noted in measurement, data, and geometry—areas taught later in the school year. District and school teams are using the detailed i-Ready data to guide instruction at every level.

[View full story in THE CARDINAL RULE](#)

[VIEW i-Ready Presentation](#)

➤➤ Flight Academy closing gaps

Flight Academy, the district's after-school program for remediation and enrichment, is proving highly successful with enrollment growing and gaps closing.

Funded through the 21st Century Learning Grant, the program extends the school day by two hours for all four elementary schools, running from 2:45 PM to 4:45 PM. Transportation and a meal are provided through the grant.

Data collected since the program's launch in September shows positive outcomes in both reading and math.

[View full story in THE CARDINAL RULE](#)

[View Flight Academy presentation](#)

➤➤ NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, February 24 - 6pm

“NOTABLE & QUOTABLE”

“I want to give a huge shoutout to our custodial and maintenance crews this week. They have worked 12- to 16-hour shifts to ensure that we can get back to school as soon as possible. This is the unseen work that isn't in the spotlight, but is crucial to our district. I can't say enough about their hard work.”

-Superintendent Dustin Howard

AN ICY WEEK

A massive snow and ice storm, accompanied by sub-zero temperatures, swept across Kentucky January 24th and 25th, leading to a virtual shutdown for many parts of the state.

CCPS called a snow day Jan. 26, and several NTI days to follow. The Board meeting was virtual/hybrid this month, as residents continued to dig out.

During his Superintendent's Report, Mr. Howard praised our Maintenance and custodial teams who worked diligently beginning Sunday to clear our properties across the county. Shoutout to our Team!



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Carl Kiser, Vice Chair (District 1)

Ben Dorsey (District 4)
Ashley Ritchie-Rowland (District 5)
Paula Thomas (District 3)

CCPS
Supt. Dustin Howard
CAO/Asst. Supt. Kelly Fithen
COO Brandon Watkins
Full Admin Team

➤➤ ADDITIONAL BOARD BUSINESS

In other business, the Board...

- > Approved the purchase of 12 new school buses to address aging vehicles in the district's fleet. Transportation Director Daren Snell cited rising maintenance costs on older buses as a key factor in the decision. The purchase will be funded through the district's bonding capacity, using a financing approach similar to previous bus purchases that resulted in cost savings.
- > Approved construction documents for renovation at RDC Junior High School. According to project architect Brian Buckner, the work will include a full HVAC replacement throughout the building, window replacements, ceiling upgrades in select areas, lighting improvements in the media center, and replacement of approximately 30 doors and door hardware to meet updated school safety standards. Approved roofing projects at RDC and Baker Intermediate will be bid separately. Construction is expected to begin in April following the bidding process.
- > Approved a payment to Ross Tarrant Architects for design and construction document work related to the RDC/Baker renovation project.
- > Approved final closeout documentation for the Shearer HVAC renovation, a project completed approximately 18 months ago. Closeout had been delayed due to issues with building controls, which have since been resolved.
- > Approved BG-4 closeout forms for the Clark County Preschool, which district officials said was completed on an accelerated timeline. "That is just impressive how quickly we got that done," Board Chair Dr. Dora Hall said. "It seems like we just broke ground."
- > Approved consent agenda items. [VIEW AGENDA](#)

➤➤ FINANCE DECISIONS

The Board reviewed the district's monthly financial update with Finance Director Aleshia Ellis, and took the following action:

- > Approved the draft 2026-27 budget, currently based on rolled-over allocations and preliminary enrollment projections, with further adjustments expected as legislative decisions are finalized.
- > Approved acceptance of the School Facilities Construction Commission (SFCC) offer of assistance for annual debt service. The offer increases the district's bonding capacity and provides funding to help repay bond-related debt.
- > Acknowledged a procedural update regarding the budget cycle timeline in order to reflect current practices and replace outdated language.
- > Approved seeking bids related to the district's educational broadband service. Technology Director Justin Cason explained that the wireless spectrum, originally provided by the FCC, is largely unused due to the availability of state-provided broadband. By bidding out interest in the service, the district could explore potential financial benefit while remaining compliant with state and federal guidance.
- > Authorized payment of salaries and accounts payable.





SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Howard began by addressing the district's response to recent severe weather, emphasizing coordination and safety. The district has been included on twice-a-day calls with the local Emergency Operations Center team, which includes several public service and government leaders. "All of us work together to make sure we're aligned," he said. "This is not the case in some counties."

He also highlighted the extraordinary efforts of the custodial and maintenance staff, who have worked extended shifts clearing sidewalks and grounds.

Mr. Howard praised literacy initiatives, noting, "We're making gains not just through adopting the curriculum, but through growing greatness in our staff with professional development, and specifically, coaching."

He stressed the importance of early reading: "If you can learn how to read by third grade, the kids and families of Clark County are going to win for the rest of their lives."

The district continues to monitor legislative developments and plans to invite state representatives for updates in March.

Howard shared that the district's swim and dive team placed second in the regional competition, applauding the board and the Parks and Rec partnership for prioritizing opportunities for students.

Finally, BCTC is expanding dual credit opportunities in both academics and CTE programs, with future updates planned for the board.

GROWING GREATNESS CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Greatness Recognitions were postponed until the February meeting.

HANNAH MCCLURE



Connecting Community. Inspiring Greatness.

Open House coming soon



CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Spring Lunch

Spring lunches will take place at schools across the district in March. Make plans to join your student for this delicious meal!

March 17th

Clark County Preschool
RDC Junior High
Cardinal Innovation Center

March 24th

Justice Elementary
Shearer Elementary

March 25th

Conkwright Elementary
Strode Station Elementary

March 26th

Baker Intermediate
GRC High School

Cost: \$5.25 per guest

Specific lunch times, schedules, and procedures will be released by each school.



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