



**Community High School District 128  
Annual Report  
2003-2004**



*Libertyville High School*



*Vernon Hills High School*

**“Excellence is Our Standard”**

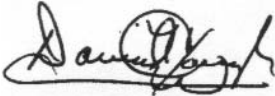
# Messages from the Superintendent and Board of Education President



I am pleased to present our community with the first Community High School District 128 Annual Report. This report features highlights of the 2003-04 school year, including data from our FY 04 audit which was presented to the Board of Education in December. It is our hope that the annual report will provide residents with an enhanced understanding of the curricular and financial state of our District.

We are fortunate on many levels in District 128. We are blessed with high achieving students and teachers at both Libertyville and Vernon Hills High Schools. We also are fortunate to have a community that is exceptionally supportive of its schools. We realize that with that support comes a responsibility to meet the community's continued high expectations. According to our recent community survey, the community holds our high schools in high regard. A strong majority of survey respondents (84.5%) gave District 128 schools a grade of A or B. Nearly 80% of respondents agreed that supporting public schools is the best thing people can do to protect the investments made in their homes, and just over 90% agreed that people move into our District because of the reputation of our high schools.

We look forward to receiving your comments on this report. We also look forward to continuing our open lines of communication with District 128 residents, and promise that District 128 schools will continue to live by our motto, "Excellence is Our Standard."



David L. Clough, Ph.D.  
Superintendent  
Community High School District 128



Community High School District 128 has had opportunities that few districts receive. We are a District with a long-standing tradition of excellence, and when we evolved to a two-high school district, we were able to build on that tradition. Our transition to a two-high school district has presented growth both in facilities and opportunities, and has also presented new challenges for our students. Our students have more than responded to the challenges and have shown continued excellence in academics, fine arts, extracurriculars and athletics at both schools.

District 128 residents should be proud of the standard of excellence at both Libertyville and Vernon Hills High Schools. As a Board of Education, we know that there will always be programs and facilities in our District that can be improved. However, we also know the reality of school finances: our funding comes from local taxpayers and we receive almost no funds from the state and federal levels. Unless this method of funding changes, financing school districts will continue to be a major challenge facing our Board and all school boards in Illinois.

On behalf of the Board of Education, I hope that this annual report will give residents a better understanding of academics and finances in District 128 schools. The Board of Education welcomes your comments and questions.



Janet B. Foreman  
President  
Community High School District 128  
Board of Education

# Mission Statement

The mission of Community High School District 128 is to provide quality educational opportunities for all students, including developing within each student:

- ♦ Respectful, responsible and ethical attitudes and behaviors
- ♦ An awareness and appreciation of the diverse cultures in our learning community and our world
- ♦ An ability to think critically and solve problems
- ♦ An ability to communicate effectively
- ♦ An ability to appreciate and demonstrate creativity
- ♦ A life-long desire to pursue knowledge



## A Foundation of Excellence

The schools of Community High School District 128 are rooted in a strong tradition of academic excellence. Following a successful transition to becoming a two-school district, and the passage of a successful education fund referendum in 2001, the major focus in District 128 continues to be providing students the highest quality academic and co-curricular programs and opportunities.

## North Central Association Process

District 128 is completing the third year in the five-year NCA school improvement process. LHS and VHHS steering committees reviewed student performance data, unique local insights, and current best practice literature to develop the building goals.

Libertyville High School goals include:

**Goal 1:** All students will improve their reading comprehension skills.

**Goal 2:** All students will develop and demonstrate life skills.

Vernon Hills High School goals include:

**Goal 1:** All students will increase their awareness and appreciation of cultural diversity in our learning community.

**Goal 2:** All students will exhibit an improved ability to read and demonstrate comprehension in all curricular areas.

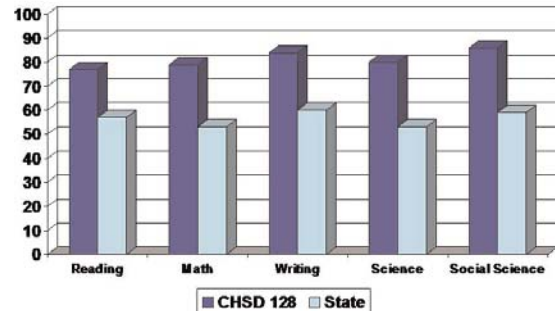


# Student performance, standardized testing and report card highlights

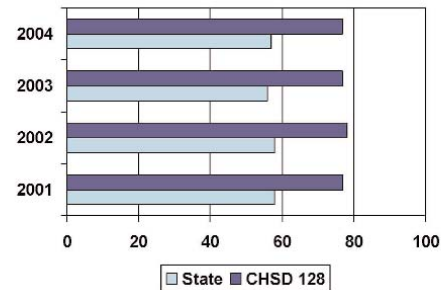
In response to federal No Child Left Behind requirements, Community High School District 128 staff members have been analyzing student data and conducting program reviews rigorously at both schools. New programs have been developed and implemented in response to taking a closer look at student achievement patterns of both individual students and various student subgroups. An at-risk program was developed at both schools designed to support 9th and 10th grade students to prepare for and meet academic challenges in a small group setting on a daily basis. Intense tutorials are available during study halls and lunch study halls for select junior students in preparation for the PSAE and ACT testing process in April. Each department has begun to integrate the core academic themes and skill sets that students will need to experience success on the PSAE. The District has expanded its testing program to include the EXPLORE test for all incoming 8th grade students and the PLAN test for all current 10th grade students to assist in identifying those who may benefit from additional support as well as to give students more experience with standardized testing. Both English departments are conducting pilots on the use of diagnostic pre- and post-testing programs in reading and basic grammar. Additionally, both schools are working on motivational strategies to help students see the importance of these state and national testing initiatives.

## 2004 PSAE Data Summary

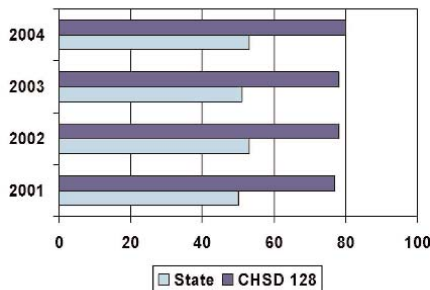
Percent of Students Meeting and Exceeding Standards



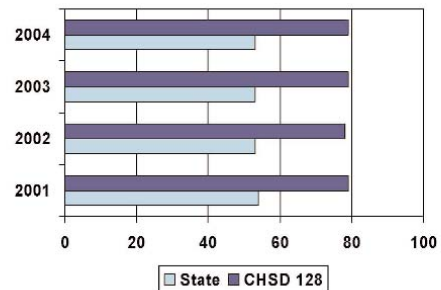
## Four Year Reading Data Summary



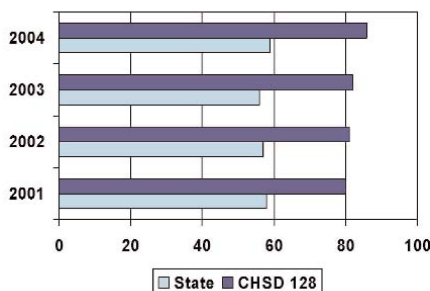
## Four Year Science Data Summary



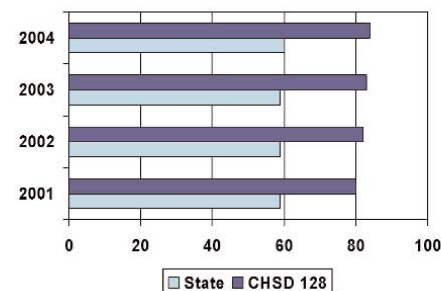
## Four Year Math Data Summary



## Four Year Social Science Data Summary



## Four Year Writing Data Summary



The NCLB Act of 2001 was designed to support education in this country by requiring high standards and to create a system of accountability.

The federal NCLB act states that all students will:

- \*Reach high standards
- \*Be taught by highly qualified teachers
- \*Be educated in environments that are safe, drug-free and conducive to learning
- \*Graduate from high school

Once the NCLB priorities were identified and communicated, all states were directed to create their own individual plan to address these priorities. The NCLB act calls for all students in this country to meet or exceed standards by the year 2014, and yet, no common student performance standards or assessments were identified! Each state was left to develop independent plans to improve student achievement, staffing and funding.

In response to the NCLB act, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) identified three priorities that are considered critical to meeting the vision for Illinois education:

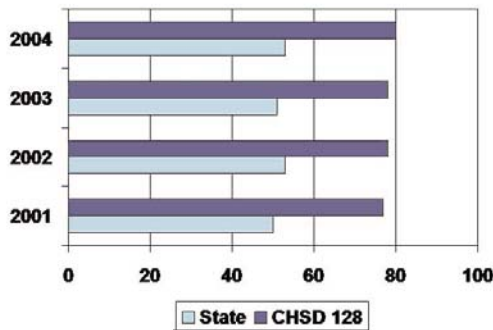
- \*Eliminating the achievement gap
- \*Eliminating the educator gap in quality and quantity
- \*Eliminating the funding gap

The ISBE developed a plan-The Illini Plan-to address these critical priorities. The Illini Plan was presented by the ISBE and approved by the Federal Department of Education in July 2003. The Illini Plan calls for all students to meet standards at incremental rates annually, using 2002 test data as the baseline.

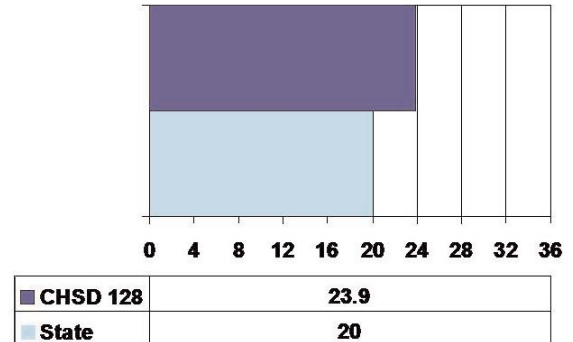
A last minute aspect of the Illini Plan, unique to the state of Illinois, has caused quite a stir everywhere-including here in Community High School District 128. This calls for schools to be identified as making "Adequate Yearly Progress" (AYP) based on the performance of all student subgroups, not just on the overall composite school scores. The ISBE designated student subgroups include any subgroup with a minimum of 40 or more students from any one of the following student subgroups: American Indian; Asian; Black; White; Hispanic; Students with Disabilities; Low Income; Limited English Proficiency. Schools were identified as not making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) if less than 40% of the students in any one subgroup did not meet or exceed standards as reported in the 2003 and 2004 PSAE school report card data, regardless of the school's overall achievement.

Students in District 128 also continue to perform well above the state average on standardized tests. The ACT composite score for the LHS and VHHS classes of 2004 were 24.2 and 23.4 respectively.

### Four Year Comparison of PSAE Scores



### 2004 ACT Composite Score



# District financial review and forecast

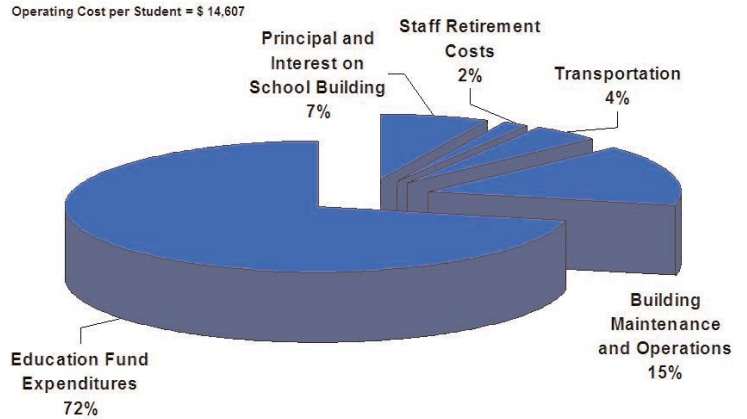
The independent audit firm of William F. Gurrie & Co., Ltd., presented Community High School District 128's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2003 and ending on June 30, 2004 to the Board of Education at its Dec. 13, 2004 meeting. The CAFR, comprised of more than 100 pages, contains audited financial statements, notes to the financial statements and additional schedules to give the reader an in-depth account of the District's finances. The CAFR has been prepared according to generally accepted accounting principals for government agencies and has an unqualified opinion from the auditors. The District converted its audit reporting method in Fiscal Year 03 to be in compliance with GASB 34.

## Excellence in financial reporting

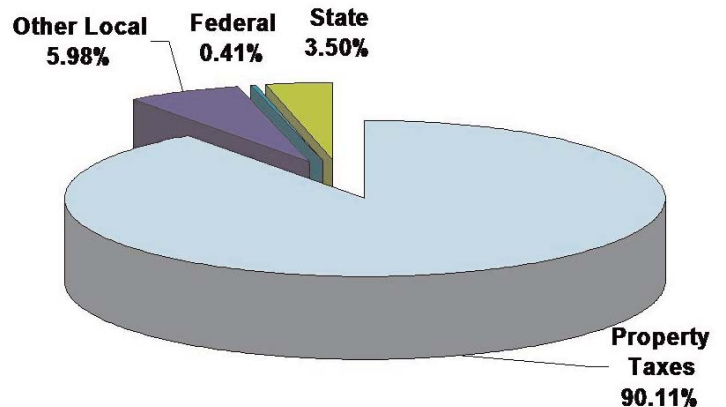
District 128 is consistently recognized for excellent financial reporting. For 11 consecutive years, the District has received a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Association of School Business Officials. Additionally, the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to District 128 for its comprehensive annual financial report for 10 consecutive years. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

In addition to being recognized for excellence in financial reporting, District 128's financial profile is classified in the highest category of recognition by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). The ISBE has used its School District Financial Profile System for the last three years. The profile is based on five financial indicators, and based on a sum of its five scores, a district can be placed in one of four categories. Districts placing in the highest category, Financial Recognition, have the highest level of financial strength and require little or no review or involvement by ISBE. District 128 has placed in this category for all three years. This year, District 128's profile scored 3.9 on a 4.0 scale.

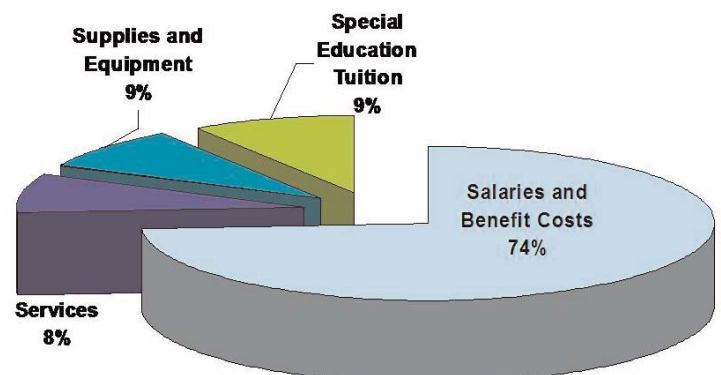
## Operating Cost per Student



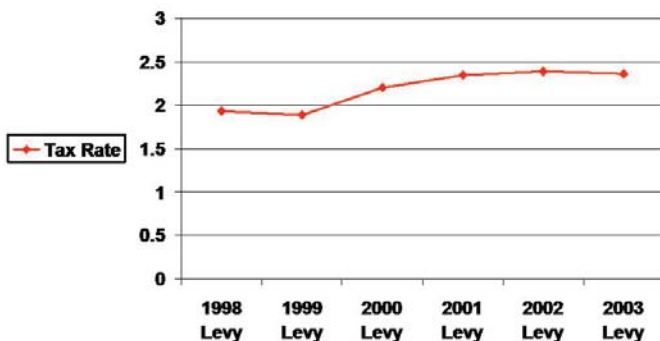
## FY 04 Sources of Revenue Educational Fund



## FY 04 Expenditures Educational Fund



## Tax Rate History



**A look at the FY 04 financial picture**

The fiscal year closed with the District in a positive cash position in all general funds. Total revenues for the District for FY 04 were \$68.7 million. Expenditures for the year were \$58.5 million. The FY 04 CAFR shows local sources, which include property taxes, user fees and interest, accounting for 92.34% of total revenues. State revenues accounted for 7.27%, whereas federal sources accounted for .39% of total revenues. On the expenditure side, the FY 04 CAFR shows that expenditures for instruction and pupil support services accounted for 77% of total expenditures, maintenance and operation of buildings were 10.9% of the expenditures, and transportation of students was 4.1% of total expenditures. Administration and business operations of the District accounted for 8% of total expenditures.

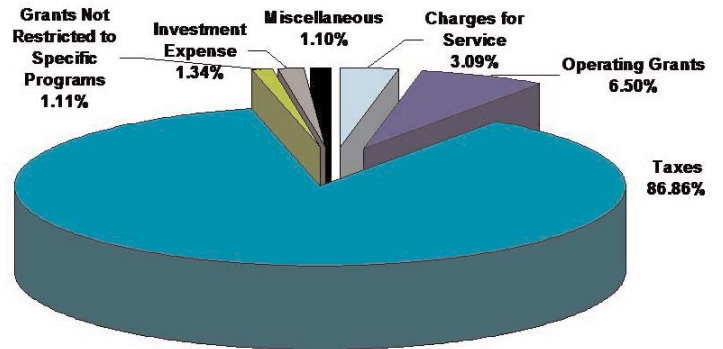
District 128 continues to allocate significant resources towards improving and expanding facilities. Construction of a 40,000 square-foot addition to Libertyville High School took place during the 2003-04 school year. Additionally, the District began work on Life Safety projects, roof replacement, improvements to the football field and construction of a new Rekertan Running Track at Libertyville High School. At Vernon Hills High School, construction of a stadium concession and storage building, and studio theater catwalk was underway. The District funded these projects through existing operating dollars.

**What does the District's financial future hold?**

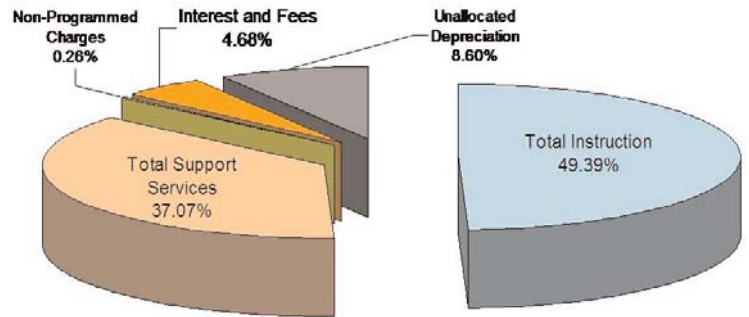
Even with a healthy fund balance, financial projections for District 128 indicate that the District's financial position will be on a downward slide as a result of tax caps, which limit the property tax increase to the annual CPI, and declining state and federal funding. State and federal mandates continue to increase, however, limited funding is provided for these new mandates. In 2001, District 128 taxpayers approved a rate increase in the Education Fund. The community group studying the District's financial condition expected the rate adjustment to allow the District to remain in the black for five to seven years.

Each year, as required by the Illinois School Code, the Board of Education holds a public hearing prior to adopting the annual budget. This year, the public hearing was held on Sept. 27, 2004. The adopted budget shows revenues of \$59.4 million and expenditures of \$57.8 million for operating expenses. An additional \$5.7 million has been allocated for construction projects throughout the District. The FY 05 budget is available for review on the District web site ([www.d128.org](http://www.d128.org)) and at the District Office located at 940 W. Park Ave., Libertyville, Ill.

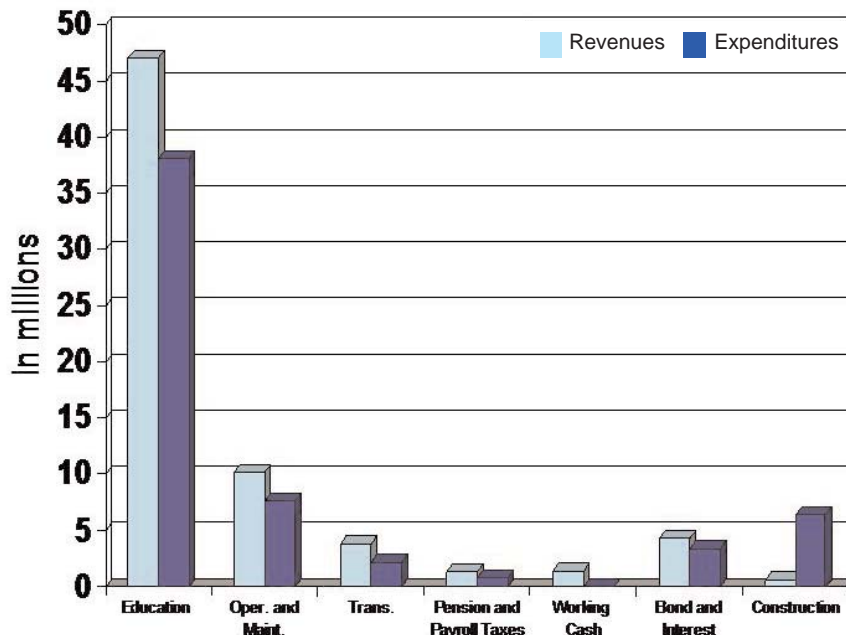
**Composition of Revenues FY 04**



**Composition of Expenses FY 04**



**FY 04 Revenues and Expenditures**



## District Achievements

The District is proud of the achievements, awards and recognition bestowed upon its staff as well as those received by the District that are based on student achievement—a direct reflection on the District's excellent staff.

SchoolSearch, a Missouri-based firm that works with major companies throughout the world in providing relocating families with school information, awarded District 128 the **Bright Red Apple Award of Excellence** for the 11th consecutive year. This award is based on five important factors: academic performance, pupil/teacher ratio, expenditures per pupil, educational level of teachers, and average teacher salary. Only 70 of the 894 Illinois school districts received this honor. District 128 was also named recipient of the **6th Annual SchoolSearch 2004 Bright A+ Award of Academic Excellence**.

This award honors school districts with academic performance in the top 5% of the school districts in Illinois.

The District faculty also earn many honors during the year. Numerous teachers were recognized in the current volume of *Who's Who Among American Educators*. In addition, one teacher was named Illinois Physics Teacher of the Year.



*Libertyville High School science teacher Mike Bush, seen here assisting a student in launching a rocket as part of a class project, was named Illinois Physics Teacher of the Year in 2004 by the Illinois Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers (ISAAPT).*

## Connecting with the business community

District 128 is fortunate to be located in an area rich with many corporate resources. Not only are the high schools able to enjoy many partnerships with their corporate neighbors that benefit the students, the schools also work with the businesses to make the partnerships beneficial for the businesses as well. Students participate in internship and work programs at many local businesses.

In the 2003-04 school year, the District also began a Speakers Bureau program. Members of the administration are available to speak with local community, business, and civic organizations regarding topics of interest about District 128 schools.



*Vernon Hills High School honored three of its corporate sponsors by presenting them with bricks that are now part of the school's Pathway of Pride.*

*Representatives of American Hotel Register, Rust-Oleum and CDW are seen here with members of the District 128 Board of Education and administration at the spring 2004 brick presentation.*

# Student Achievements

Community High School District 128 students continue to bring honor to the District through their achievements in the areas of academics, fine arts, athletics and student activities. Academic honors received by seniors in the 2003-04 school year included:

- ◆69 Honors Graduates
- ◆159 Illinois State Scholars
- ◆1 Presidential Scholar
- ◆12 National Merit Scholarship Finalists
- ◆1 Robert C. Byrd Scholar
- ◆1 National Achievement Scholarship
- ◆1 National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar

Other achievements earned in the 2003-04 school year included:

- ◆Math Team - State Champions
- ◆Wind Ensemble - First place in Superstate Band Competition
- ◆Music Programs - Second and third places in the IHSA Music Sweepstakes Competition
- ◆Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering Teams - Both second in state
- ◆1st Year Physics Students - First in region, fourth in nation
- ◆2nd Year Physics - First in region, first in nation
- ◆17 IMEA All-State Music Students
- ◆2 All-State Theater Students
- ◆1 student scored in nation's top 20 on the Chemistry National Test
- ◆National FBLA Champion in Accounting II
- ◆2 U.S. Physics Team Semifinalists
- ◆6 students placed in top 5% in nation in the American Mathematics Competition
- ◆Varsity JETS Team - Second in state
- ◆Junior Varsity JETS Team - First in state

The District is home to very strong athletic programs that earned many honors in 2003-04 including all-conference athletes, all-state athletes, individual and team state qualifiers, conference and division titles. Nearly 200 District 128 students were three-sport athletes in the 2003-04 school year.



*Clockwise from top: Vernon Hills High School Principal Ellen Cwick congratulates a senior at the annual senior honors assembly; the Libertyville High School Math Team poses with its state championship trophy; the Libertyville High School football team competed in the 2003 IHSA Class 7A state football championship game and received the runner-up trophy.*

# District 128 Staff

Many staff members make District 128 schools their home for the duration of their careers. The District receives more than 1,000 applications annually from individuals wishing to be a part of the District 128 tradition of excellence. The District said good-bye to 16 teachers and two support staff members as they retired in the Spring of 2004. Pictured at right at the District's end-of-the-year celebration honoring employee service, the group represented a combined total of over 500 years of experience in the field of education.



## Staff Stats

Percentage of highly qualified teachers (those certified in their subject area) teaching in District 128  
**100%**

Average years of teaching experience  
**14.79 years**

Number of certified employees  
**259**

Number of educational support personnel  
**146**

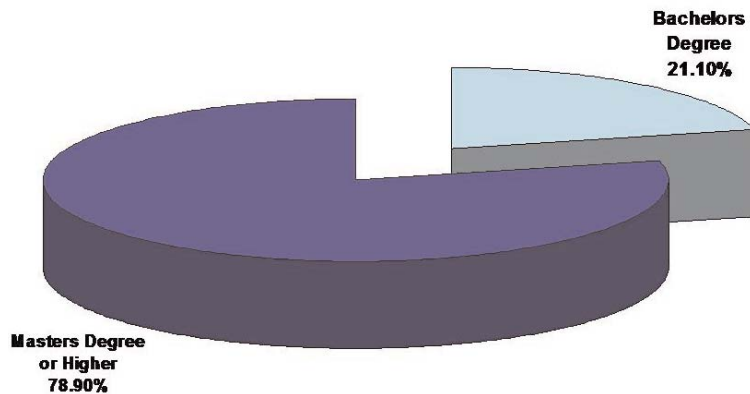
Number of contracted employees  
Aramark  
**37**

Chartwells  
**21**

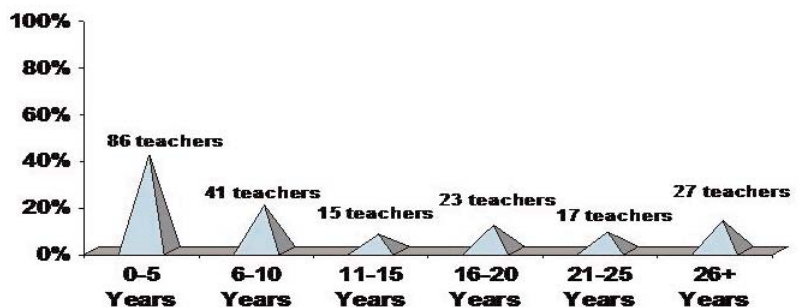
SEDOL  
**29**

District 128 also contracts transportation services through Laidlaw Education Services.

### Degrees held by District 128 Teachers



### Years of Teaching in District 128

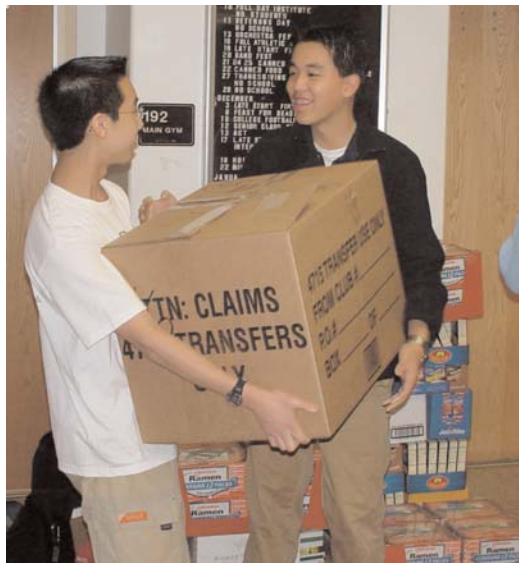


# Giving back to the community

Libertyville and Vernon Hills High Schools have a tradition of giving back to the community. Just some of the events and activities coordinated by students and staff in the 2003-04 school year to benefit those in District 128, Lake County and beyond included:

- Food Drives
- Blood Drives
- Books and Supply Drives for Troops Overseas
- Clothing Drive
- Pet Food Drives
- Senior Citizen Proms, Dinners and Concerts
- District Adopt-A-Family Program
- Making Blankets and Caps for Cancer Patients
- Volunteering at Winchester House
- Monetary Drives to Support Local Service Organizations
- Mentoring Elementary Students
- And the list goes on!

The District 128 staff is also a key contributor to the annual United Way of Lake County Campaign. Last year the staff contributed \$3,747 to the campaign. These funds will stay in Lake County and will benefit programs and services for those in need in our own community.



*Clockwise from upper left: Students join forces to move the food items collected in the annual Libertyville High School food drive; District 128 students pose for a photo after presenting a retro fashion show for Winchester House residents; students gather gifts for the annual Adopt-A-Family program; students serve senior residents at a reception and play for seniors at Vernon Hills High School.*

## Community High School District 128 Board of Education



Standing: Scott Adams, George Sachs, Vice President John Snow, Dennis Ryan, (seated) Secretary Anne Landgraf, President Janet Foreman, Judy Sugarman

### Community High School District 128 Administration

David L. Clough, Ph.D., Superintendent  
Catherine M. Finger, Ed.D., Associate Superintendent  
Yasmine Dada, CPA, Assistant Superintendent for Business  
Ellen D. Cwick, Ed.D., Principal, Vernon Hills High School  
Joseph S. Wojtena, Ed.D., Principal, Libertyville High School



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