



North Cedar Community School District

From the Desk of Superintendent Dohmen

Governor Signs School Funding Bill – What It Means For Local Districts

The Governor recently signed Iowa’s annual school funding legislation, commonly referred to as Supplemental State Aid (SSA). This legislation determines how much funding public schools will receive from the state and outlines several additional provisions that affect school districts across Iowa.

For the upcoming fiscal year, the bill sets Supplemental State Aid at 2%, meaning the base per-pupil funding provided by the state will increase by two percent. While the increase does provide additional funding for school districts, many education organizations had advocated for a higher percentage to better keep pace with rising costs such as insurance, transportation, and staffing.



The legislation also includes several additional provisions:

Transportation Equity

The bill includes a 2% increase in transportation equity funding, which is intended to assist districts with higher transportation costs due to geography or student travel distances. The increase is capped at \$1 million per district statewide which will not impact North Cedar.

Budget Guarantee Funding

Approximately \$42.2 million has been allocated statewide to fund the budget guarantee, helping districts with declining enrollment avoid sudden year-to-year funding reductions. Because of how the guarantee is funded, initial property tax estimates for the upcoming school budget may appear slightly higher than originally projected. Current estimates show an increase of about \$0.20 in the initial proposal, but this is expected to adjust – and likely decrease – after the March 15 budget certification deadline, once final enrollment and funding calculations are completed.

Second Enrollment Count

One of the more significant policy changes included in the legislation is the addition of a second student enrollment count in January. The state will now average the October and January enrollment counts to determine a district’s certified enrollment. This change is intended to better reflect enrollment changes during the school year, though additional details are still being finalized by the state.

Support Staff Funding

The bill also includes \$7 million statewide to support school support staff salaries. The House of Representatives had proposed a larger amount, so discussions around additional support for these critical staff members may continue.

Quarterly State Aid Payments

Beginning in July, the state will transition to quarterly state aid payments to school districts rather than the current payment structure. The change is intended to improve budgeting predictability and financial planning.

What This Means Locally

School funding legislation plays an important role in how districts plan budgets, maintain programs, and support students. While the 2% increase provides some additional funding, North Cedar CSD will continue reviewing the legislation and its impact as further guidance is released from the Iowa Department of Education.

With appreciation,
Mark Dohmen
Superintendent

The Knight Times

March 2026 Issue

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Message from Principal Carlson

Celebrations at the Jr. / Sr. High

Students have been busy at the Jr./Sr. High over the past month! The winter is coming to a close, and we are transitioning to another busy time of the year at the building as well. As students head into spring break, we have Parent-Teacher Conferences March 10th and 12th, which is a great opportunity for parents and teachers to come together to best serve our students. After Parent-Teacher Conferences we head into spring break, and then we will return for the final few months of the school year. It is a crazy feeling that it is already that time of the year.

This past month our students hosted girls and boys postseason basketball games. We hosted the conference wrestling tournament, our students put on a fantastic performance at the 5-12 band/choir concert, JH winter dance, and much much more. Mr. Rouse and the FFA put on fun activities for National FFA Week consisting of “Drive your tractor to school day”, and an amazing assembly that had the gym rocking with fun and excitement from our students and staff.

We are heading into the 4th quarter of the school year, with the quarter ending on March 12th. When students return to school from spring break they will transition into their 4th quarter classes at the JH, while high school students will finish out second semester courses. At that time, the school year is 3/4ths of the way through, which doesn't seem possible at this time.

We have a lot of exciting things coming up for students still this year including our attendance challenge bowling trip for our winning classes (9th and 10th grade won first semester and get to go bowling), fishing club trip, district cleanup day, career fair, JH and HS Large Group Band Festival and much more. We are looking forward to finishing out the school year strong, and appreciate all of the support from the community in making education a priority for our students.

As always,
LET'S GO KNIGHTS!
Tanner Carlson 7-12
Principal



Thank You For Cheering On Our Knights!

At North Cedar, student success is a team effort, and we want to thank our community for cheering on our students. We're proud to celebrate a few recent success stories.

- Our Jazz Band earned 3rd place in Class 1A at the Coe College Jazz Summit, their first competition in five years.
- 21 students in grades 6–12 also participated in honor bands at the University of Iowa and Clear Creek Amana.
- In shop class, a Foundry Educational Foundation representative taught 56 students about die-casting on February 27. Competition winners were Owen Kahl (1st), Max Schroeder (2nd), and Joel Morris (3rd).
- We also cheered on Maddy Walshire, representing North Cedar on the All-Iowa Dance Team in Des Moines.

These accomplishments highlight the talent, dedication, and team spirit of our North Cedar community, and none of it would be possible without the support of everyone cheering on our students.



Ms. Green's 2nd Grade

February was a fun and busy month for our 2nd graders. We built wooden tow trucks, made Valentine's crafts, worked on puzzles, and shared treats with classmates. In math, we practiced adding and subtracting with regrouping. In writing, we expanded sentences and wrote about being trapped in a snow globe. We also worked on summarizing and using text evidence to answer questions.



Mrs. Elloren's Art Class

Our preschool artists explored music and art, painting fast beats with bold strokes and slow melodies with gentle lines while having fun and building coordination. Clay season is underway at North Cedar! Students in every elementary grade are hand-building unique projects with pinch, slab, and coil techniques. Mrs. Elloren is taking the Mechanicsville pieces to the Lowden kiln, and students are excited to see their finished, glazed creations. Clay is a favorite because it is hands-on, creative, and always fun.



Mrs. Jackson's 3rd Grade

Mr. Groundhog didn't see his shadow, so third graders wrote fun opinion letters about wanting an early Spring versus six more weeks of Winter—and made great groundhog drawings!

Teresa Bohlmann from the Cedar County Extension visited via Zoom for another Agriculture lesson, teaching us about beef cattle, feed rations, and farm life. We loved asking questions and exploring the farm virtually. In class, we're learning fractions, celebrated the 100th day of school, and enjoyed a Valentine's party. We're ready for warmer weather!

Mrs. Rolwes' 5th Grade

February was a busy month in 5th grade! In math, we practiced adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions. In reading, we explored biographies, culminating in a readers theatre about Clara Barton's life. We also finished our class read-aloud, *Holes*, and celebrated with a Purple Ticket Party, watching the movie and enjoying themed snacks. We wrapped up the month with a book charm ceremony to honor all the books our class read in February.

Additional North Cedar News

Parents, don't miss these exciting and informative events to kickstart your child's educational journey!

Preschool Round-Up Family Fun Night

Incoming Preschoolers and their parents are invited to attend. Preschoolers must be 4 years old by September 15, 2026. Date: March 26, 2026 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at both Lowden and Mechanicsville Elementary Schools

Kindergarten Round-Up

Meet our amazing teachers, explore the classrooms, and learn about our engaging curriculum designed to spark curiosity and creativity. We'll have activities for the kids and all the information you need to get started! Children must be 5 years old by September 15, 2026. Date: March 27, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at both Lowden and Mechanicsville Elementary Schools

Get registered for both of these events at north-cedar.org/2026-roundup

Set Your Child Up For Success!

Preschool Family Night
March 26, 2026
from 6:00-7:00 p.m.
at Lowden or Mechanicsville

Kindergarten Round-Up
March 27, 2026
from 8:00-1100 a.m.
at Lowden or Mechanicsville



Major
SCHOLASTIC
BOOK FAIR
announcement

THE BEST. DAY. EVER.
IS COMING!

Grab Some New Books at the Book Fair

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Book Fair! The in-person fair will be held at both elementary schools during Parent-Teacher Conference Week, March 9–12. It's a great chance to pick out new books for your kids while supporting our school libraries.

Board Notes – Thank You to Our Generous Community Members

North Cedar's School Board would like to thank several community members for their generous support. We appreciate Ed Thompson for his \$2,000 donation to the Ed Thompson Scholarship, an anonymous community member for a \$2,100 donation to Food Service, and former North Cedar teacher Constance Kelly for her \$1,500 contribution to our Silver Cord program. Their generosity helps make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students.



Elementary News Continued

Mrs. Rouse's Lowden Library

We celebrated another month of fantastic reading during our January Book It Celebration! Students enjoyed hot cocoa topped with marshmallows and whipped cream as a special treat for their hard work. Congratulations to all of our January Book It readers!

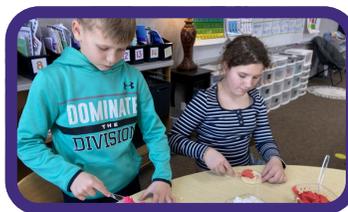


Ms. Eichinger's 4th Grade

February has been a busy month! Students celebrated their January reading goal with mega-sized games in the gym, thanks to Ms. Charity. Cold days meant indoor recess in her room with snowball fights and other fun activities. We also celebrated Valentine's Day with heart-shaped cookies, and 4th graders participated in NAEP testing. Students continued earning PBIS rewards, including Show and Tell items and a Purple Ticket Party celebration.

Mrs. Weber's 1st Grade

First grade enjoyed celebrating the 100th day of school and Valentine's Day on the same day. We had some fun activities centered around 100 items. First graders also enjoyed partner reading with 3rd graders during library.



Ms. Kent's 4th Grade

To kick off our math unit on fractions, Ms. Kent's 4th grade did some tasty review using Sour Patch Kids!

Ms. Schindelar's 5th & 6th Grade

The 5th and 6th grade band students have been hard at work preparing for their March concert. In addition, eight elementary students were selected to perform in two honor bands, the Marion Junior Honor Band and the Clear Creek Amana Honor Band. These students rehearsed alongside advanced musicians from schools across Iowa and performed in excellent concerts. It is a great honor, and we are proud of the way they represented North Cedar.



Follow our Story

Be sure to follow us on Facebook to see more pictures, get school updates, and read North Cedar news! facebook.com/nccsd

March 2026 Calendar

Mon., March 2:

- No School–PD Day



Tues., March 3:

- Lunch: Walking Tacos
- 6:30pm Jr/Sr High Band & Choir Concert

Wed., March 4:

- Lunch: Breaded Cheese Ravioli

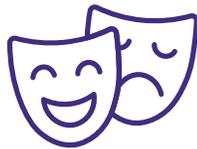
Thurs., March 5:

- Lunch: Breaded Savory Chicken
- 7pm NHS Induction Ceremony



Fri., March 6:

- Lunch: Pizza
- 7pm Spring Play @ Jr/Sr High



Sat., March 7:

- 7pm Spring Play @ Jr/Sr High

Mon., March 9:

- Lunch: Orange Chicken

Tues., March 10:

- Lunch: Chicken Drumstick
- 1:30pm Dismissal–P/T Conferences

Wed., March 11:

- Lunch: Hot Ham & Cheese

Thurs., March 12:

- Lunch: Corn Dog, Hot Dog or Cheddarwurst
- 1:30pm Dismissal–P/T Conferences

Fri., March 13:

- No School

Mon., March 16:

- No School–Spring Break
- 6pm School Board Meeting



Tues., March 17 - Fri., March 20:

- No School–Spring Break

Mon., March 23:

- Lunch: Chicken Nuggets

Tues., March 24:

- Lunch: BBQ Rib

Wed., March 25:

- Lunch: Chicken Alfredo

Thurs., March 26:

- Lunch: Beef Nachos
- 4:30pm V. Girls and Boys Track @ A.Y. McDonald Indoor Track
- 6-7pm Preschool Round-up



Fri., March 27:

- Lunch: Pizza
- 8-11am Kindergarten Round-up

Mon., March 30:

- No School–PD Day

Tues., March 31:

- Lunch: Elem.: Chicken Strips; Jr/Sr High: Totally Tacos
- 3:30pm V Girls and Boys Track @ Tipton



Thurs., April 2:

- 4:30pm V Girls and Boys Track @ Northeast

Fri., April 3:

- No School

Want to stay up to date on North Cedar News?

If you haven't signed up yet, please make sure to join Remind, as all notifications are sent through this platform. For families with children in multiple buildings, be sure to subscribe to updates from each school. More information can be found at northcedar.org/remind-app.

NAVIGATE & EDUCATE



QUESTIONS? CONTACT MS. EMILY : ESMITH@NORTH-CEDARSTU.ORG



What is Spend Smart Eat Smart?

Feed your family nutritious meals for less money! Recipes and ideas to help you eat healthy, save money, and stretch your food budget. Visit the website or download the APP.

<https://spendsmart.extension.iastate.edu/>

LSI VIRTUAL PRENATAL CLASSES

FREE
Register for as many classes as you like.



HEALTHY PREGNANCY

Thursday, March 5, 1:00 pm (90 minutes). A healthy baby starts with a healthy pregnancy! Learn the answers to all the questions you have from what to eat to what activities to avoid, what symptoms are normal and when to talk to your provider.

CHILDBIRTH EDUCATION

Thursday, March 12, 1:00 pm (90 minutes). This class will cover everything from when to go to the hospital to what to expect during labor and immediately after the birth. Class is taught by a Certified Labor Doula.

BABY'S 1 YEAR MILESTONES ST

Tuesday, March 24, 1:00pm (90 minutes). What to expect the first year, tips on encouraging baby's development, and appropriate activities for each month.

COMFORT IN LABOR

Thursday, March 26, 8:00 pm (90 minutes). Go beyond the basics of childbirth to create your own tool kit to use in labor. This class is intended to follow the Childbirth Education class.

Online Mom Group Wednesdays at 10am. All Iowans welcome.

Classroom Clinic – Available for NC Jr/Sr High Students Reach out to Ms.Emily for Info

SCHOOL BASED SERVICES ARE NOW AVAILABLE



WHAT IS CLASSROOM CLINIC

Classroom Clinic provides behavioral supports and mental health services to students at school via telehealth.

At the request of a parent, a student can receive an evaluation by a Classroom Clinic provider. Examples might include: behavioral evaluation, medication management (if needed), implementing therapy, and/or collaborating with the school regarding classroom strategies to ensure student success.

HOW DO I KNOW MY CHILD MIGHT BENEFIT FROM SERVICES?

Signs that a child may need help through therapy or a behavior evaluation varies from child to child. Some examples may include:

- Difficulties paying attention, can't sit still, fidgets
- Argumentative, defensive, defies authority
- Hyper verbal, interrupts, difficulty knowing boundaries
- Getting "in trouble" often
- Excessive worry or sadness
- Separation anxiety and clinginess
- Does not want to go to school
- Frequent temper tantrums, meltdowns
- Visits school nurse often or complains often of stomach aches, headaches, or other aches and pains with no cause

DO SERVICES COST ANYTHING?

Services function just like a visit to any other medical provider. Insurance information is collected during the intake process. Any co-pays or co-insurance not covered by health insurance are the family's responsibility and will be billed accordingly.

HOW TO ACCESS SERVICES



Contact your child's teacher, school nurse, counselor, or principal.

WHO PROVIDES SERVICES?

Licensed mental health specialists including Nurse Practitioners and Therapists.

WHERE ARE APPOINTMENTS HELD?

Appointments are held at the school in a private and secure room. No school staff will be present during the visit unless requested by the parent.

DO PARENTS ATTEND THE APPOINTMENTS?

Parents are required to attend all initial appointments and all appointments with the nurse practitioner. Parents do not need to attend the majority of therapy appointments.

The mission of North Cedar Community School District, in partnership with its community and staff, is to ensure a safe and caring environment for each student, providing the essential knowledge, values, skills, and attitudes to create lifelong learners who are responsible, contributing, and productive citizens in a changing and increasingly diverse world.

Everything we do at NCCSD is for our students, and we encourage them all to take part in the enrichment and extracurricular opportunities for which they are eligible.

- Athletics for junior high school and senior high school students
- Fine arts activities for 5th through 12th graders
- Extracurricular clubs and organizations for junior high and senior high school students
- Counseling services for all grades

An active, supportive community strengthens NCCSD. Parents and patrons who elect to get involved and support our students and their activities aid the district.

- Athletics Boosters bolster our student athletes and the athletics programs
- Encore Club supports our fine arts programs
- Knights Community Organization fosters the relationships between parent, student, staff, and community
- North Cedar Education Foundation provides financial support to help broaden the district's education opportunities.

Postal Customer

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