

FINANCIAL DATA

EAV	\$ 351,013,546
Bonds Outstanding	\$ 1,607,562
Total Budget Revenue	\$ 35,894,554
TAX RATE	
Education	3.3000
Operations & Maintenance.....	0.0050
Transportation.....	0.2000
Working Cash.....	0.0500
I.M.R.F.....	0.1100
Tort Liability.....	0.5600
Bond & Interest.....	0.6200
Fire Prevention, Safety.....	0.0500
Other.....	0.0500
TOTAL	5.6100

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Prairie Central CUSD 8 Board of Education is comprised of citizens dedicated to providing the best education possible for every student it serves. Board members establish sound written policies and expect the superintendent to function as the chief executive officer in implementing those policies.

Name	*Years
John Wilken, President.....	7
Corey Steffen, Vice President	7
Dana Kafer, Secretary.....	5
Ted Bachtold, Board Member	7
Brad Duncan, Board Member.....	1
Brian Plenert, Board Member	7
Ben Stoller, Board Member.....	1

*Years served on the Prairie Central CUSD 8 Board of Education.

IDEAL CANDIDATE

Candidates will be evaluated on their professional merits and successful experience that demonstrates a good match for the district, with emphasis on the following, specified by the Board of Education. The Superintendent of our district should be an educational leader who:

- Develops and works cooperatively/effectively with BOE
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills/collaborative
- Develops with stakeholders, district goals/strategic plan
- Facilitates meaningful and ongoing family/community engagement
- Has finance/budget expertise
- Develops a shared mission, vision and core values
- Fosters a professional culture for educators

Previous successful teaching experience is required.

Previous successful administrative experience is preferred but not required.

Residency in the district is preferred but may be required based on distance and expertise.

APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO CONTACT BOARD MEMBERS.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

IASB has an online application process and does not accept mailed, emailed, hand delivered or faxed application packets.

Applicants will need to establish a user name and password. Applicants will be asked to give consent to a limited background inquiry. Completed responses to statements identified in this announcement will be required.

Please begin your application process at:
<https://www.applitrack.com/IASB/onlineapp>

All applicants must apply online by Noon (CT) January 24, 2025 and upload the following documents to receive consideration:

1. A **formal letter of application** indicating your desire to be a candidate for this position.
2. A **formal resume** that includes a summary of achievements in administrative positions, educational vision/goals, personal leadership philosophy and reasons for your interest.
3. At least **three recent letters of reference dated within the last 3 years.**
4. **Copies of transcripts** from each college/university attended. **(Please redact/remove your social security number and birthdate before uploading any of these items).**
5. **Proof of qualification and licensure to be a superintendent in the state of Illinois** (copy of the administrative licensure with all related endorsements*) or other evidence showing qualification to be a superintendent in another state. **(Please redact/remove your birthdate before you upload this document).**

*Information on certification can be obtained by contacting the Illinois State Board of Education, Division of Professional Preparation, 100 North First Street, Springfield, Illinois 62777 or by visiting the ISBE website at www.isbe.net.

**Announcement of Vacancy
 Superintendent
 of Schools
 Prairie Central
 CUSD 8**



MISSION STATEMENT

The School District, in an active partnership with parents and community, will promote excellence in a caring environment in which all students learn and grow. This partnership shall endeavor to empower all students to become responsible learners and decision-makers, to develop strong self-esteem, and to seek the highest career and personal aspirations possible. The School District is committed to developing and using a visionary and innovative curriculum, a knowledgeable and dedicated staff, and sound fiscal and management practices.

December 2024

ANNOUNCEMENT OF VACANCY

The Board of Education of Prairie Central CUSD 8 is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Superintendent of Schools. The selection for the position to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Paula Crane, who served in this capacity for eight years. The Board wishes to select a superintendent who will begin work on July 1, 2025.

A multi-year employment contract is expected to be negotiated with the final candidate. Salary and benefits will be based on experience and expertise with a salary range expected to be \$130,000 to \$160,000 and benefits expected to include health insurance, life insurance, sick days, personal days, vacation days, professional dues, and TRS pension.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE DISTRICT AND THE AREA

LOCATION — Prairie Central's unit office is located in Fairbury, Illinois; and its attendance centers are in Fairbury, Forrest, Chatsworth, and Chenoa. The school system is located 25 miles north/north-east of Bloomington, IL.

TYPE — PreK-12; 1,740 Students

OFFICE — 605 N. 7th Street, Fairbury, IL

STAFF — 6 Principals, 2 Assistant Principals, 158 Teachers, 116 Support Personnel

CENTRAL OFFICE PERSONNEL — Superintendent, District Financial Officer, Accounts Payable Officer, Payroll/HR Technician, Administrative Assistant. Director of Transportation, Director of Maintenance, Director of Food Services, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Educational Technology, Director of Curriculum & Instruction (K-6).

CURRICULUM — Prairie Central offers and continually develops its PK-12 curriculum. The district emphasizes the core curriculum and adapts it to a variety of learning styles; and introduces students, at an early age, to vocational education and the fine arts. Prairie Central High

School offers a balanced curriculum of the core/mandated learning areas, vocational, and the fine arts, in a four-block format.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS — Prairie Central supports a comprehensive special education program, including in-house community-based instruction. The district operates its own special education department, overseen by a special education director; however, it enjoys membership in the Livingston County Special Services Unit (LCSSU). Preschool For All Program.

SPECIAL SERVICES — ROE 17 Alternative/Safe School and Truancy Intervention Program. Collaborative relationship with Livingston County Boys and Girls Club for after school care and programs.

HEALTH SERVICES — Prairie Central contracts its health services through Gibson Area Hospital and the Institute for Human Resources.

FACILITIES — Primary-East (Chatsworth), PreK/ECSE, K, 1 (split/eastern half of district), Primary-West (Chenoa), Grades PreK/ECSE, K, (split/western half of district), Prairie Central Elementary (Fairbury) Grades 2-4 (all) Prairie Central Upper Elementary (Forrest) Grades 5-6 (all), Prairie Central Junior High (Forrest) Grades 7-8 (all), Prairie Central High School (Fairbury) Grades 9-12 (all)

TRANSPORTATION — The District owns its own fleet and operates its own transportation service with a Transportation Director.

CAFETERIA PROGRAM — Prairie Central maintains its own food services, overseen by a full-time food services coordinato.

WEBSITE — www.prairiecentral.org

MEMBER OF — Illinois Association of School Boards, ROE #17, LCSSU, Livingston Area Career Center, Illinois High School Association, Illinois Elementary School Association, and Illinois Grade School Music Association.

MEDICAL — OSF Health Care, OSF St. James Medical Center, Gibson Area Hospital & Health Services, OSF St. Joseph Medical Center

Advocate Health Care, Carle Medical Center, Gibson Area Hospital Emergency Services, South East Livingston County Ambulance Service.

CULTURAL — A variety of cultural opportunities are a short drive from the district's communities.

RECREATION — The district's communities support many opportunities for recreation.

PLACES OF WORSHIP — Apostolic, Catholic, Baptist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Methodist, Christian, and Church of the Nazarene denominations are represented in the communities of Prairie Central.

RETAIL — A variety of retail outlets and services are available in the area.

FRATERNAL AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS — Lions Club, Rotary International, American Legion posts, the Prairie Lands Foundation, Masons, Veterans of Foreign Wars, FFA Alumni, FCCLA Alumni, the Knights of Columbus, women's clubs, historical societies, and restoration societies.

COLLEGES — Illinois State University, Normal; Wesleyan University, Bloomington; University of Illinois, Urbana; Bradley University, Peoria; Eastern Illinois University, Charleston; Parkland College, Champaign; Heartland Community College, Normal/Pontiac; Illinois Central College, East Peoria.

INDUSTRY — Prairie Central enjoys a number of active industries with employment opportunities in the area.

STUDENT WAIVER — Children of non-resident district employees may attend school in the district without paying tuition.

PROJECTED TIMELINE

Application Deadline:
January 24, 2025 by Noon (CT)

Candidates Presented to Board:
February 10, 2025

Board Interviews Candidates:
February 16-29, 2025

New Superintendent Appointed:
March 18, 2025

New Superintendent Begins:
July 1, 2025

Applicants will be required to provide responses to the following online application statements:

1. Describe your experience in curriculum development and instructional implementation.
2. Describe your experience in school finance and budgeting.
3. Describe your experience in developing and monitoring goals for school improvement.
4. Describe your experience in building and sustaining productive relationships with stakeholders (board, staff, students, parents and community members).
5. Describe your experiences in working with a diverse population (socio-economic, cultural, ethnic, etc.).
6. Having read the ideal candidate section of the announcement of vacancy, why do you feel you are a match for this district?

This Professional Superintendent Search is being conducted by the Illinois Association of School Boards, Vic Zimmerman, Ed.D., Consultant Executive Searches, (217) 528-9688, ext. 1135



Prairie Central CUSD 8 is an equal opportunity employer and the Illinois Association of School Boards is an equal opportunity employment search agency.