

May 13, 2021

Dr. Erin Murphy
Superintendent
West Northfield SD 31
3131 Techny Road
Northbrook, IL 60062

Dear Dr. Murphy,

The North Cook ISC/ROE5 is authorized by the Illinois State Board of Education to conduct Compliance Visits of the school districts located within its boundaries every four years. During March 16-18, 2021, the NCISC/ROE5 Compliance Team consisting of Richard Duran, Shirley Bloom, April Jordan, and Tom Bookler inspected records, policies, programs, credentials, and curriculum to determine the West Northfield SD 31 Recognition Status as outlined in the online IARSS/ISBE 2020-21 School and District Evaluation Form. Prior to our visit, members our Health Life/Safety Team performed their annual inspection. This is a summary of the findings of those visits.

COVID-19 Impact on the usual Compliance Visit:

Due to changing COVID-19 restrictions, we were unable to conduct the usual 2-3-day onsite visit including touring the schools and talking to teachers, students, and staff about the schools and the programs or changes since our last visit four years ago. We relied upon email exchanges of documents and photographs; phone/zoom interviews; reviewing items on the district website; and notes from past visits to complete our review. A New Online School Evaluation Format (Standardized across Illinois) enabled district personnel to attach required supporting documents directly to the online evaluation. Conveniently, those documents will remain in place subject to updating as necessary when we return for our next evaluation in four years, thus saving district personnel precious time in the future. We were able to complete an onsite visit on April 27, 2021 to verify personnel files and briefly tour the district. As a result of all these activities, we are pleased to report that your Final Total Score is 100%.

The NCISC/ROE5 Visiting team would like to thank the West Northfield SD 31 host team consisting of Dr. Erin Murphy, Superintendent; Tina Nielsen, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent; Becky Mathison, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; Dr. Janine Gruhn, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; Catherine Lauria, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations; and Ed Blankenheim, Director of Building and Grounds for their courtesy, cooperation, and candor. The preparation for our visit was very complete. Thanks to all who assisted in this effort.

Commendations:

The Compliance Team wishes to commend the School District on the following:

1. We begin with a recognition of the Teachers and Aides, the Frontline of American Education, for their Determination and Adaptability to provide meaningful educational experiences during these constantly changing times.

Because the members of our team view many different school districts as part of this process, they believe they can provide some insight into areas that each district might consider in their planning for the future. With that in mind, we offer the following observations.

West Northfield SD 31 has laid the groundwork for establishing a New Strategic Plan that will be based upon the data gathered from these studies. We commend you on your diligence and believe that you are on the way to developing a solid Strategic Plan that will provide the appropriate compass to guide your future planning.

Final District Recognition Status:

Attached you will find a copy of the “Compliance Evaluation Summary, 2020-21 School and District Evaluation Instrument” which is the online official report of the visit. All items evaluated by the Compliance Team follow state rules and statutes. West Northfield SD 31 is determined to be in “FULL COMPLIANCE” and this recommendation will be forwarded on to the ISBE.

Once again, the NCISC/ROE5 Compliance Team would like to thank everyone at West Northfield SD 31 for your thoughtfulness and assistance in completing this process. Congratulations, you are doing an exemplary job.

Respectfully,

Dr. Kevin Jauch
Executive Director/Regional Superintendent



School and District Evaluation Instrument

North Cook ISC, 2020-2021

District	West Northfield SD #31		
Superintendent	Erin Murphy		
Superintendent License	196719		
Address	3131 Techny, Northbrook IL		
Attendance centers	2	Pupils 900	Licensed staff 95

Mandate waivers

NONE

District financial number and status

05-016-0310-02 Recognition

Recommended recognition status Fully recognized