



VOTE ON FACTS

2022 CARMEL CLAY SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION VOTER FACT SHEET

Why We Created a Fact Sheet

Elections at every level have become very intense. Political groups of all kinds, local and national, are now working to influence school board elections to ensure individuals with their political ideology are on the board. Often these groups will make misleading, or outright false, claims intended to create fear and motivate people to vote for their candidates.

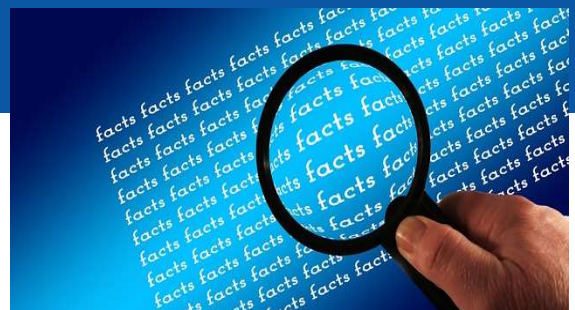
As a local, non-partisan organization created by parents of Carmel students, Support CCS wants to ensure that our community has the facts about the hot topics in this election. Inside you will find answers to some of the most commonly asked questions using the FACTS. Each of these answers will include the source of the information provided so that you can verify every answer.

We believe in our city and our residents. We have no doubt that, if the residents are kept properly informed, we will join together to support our schools and continue to build on their tradition of excellence.



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SupportCCS.org

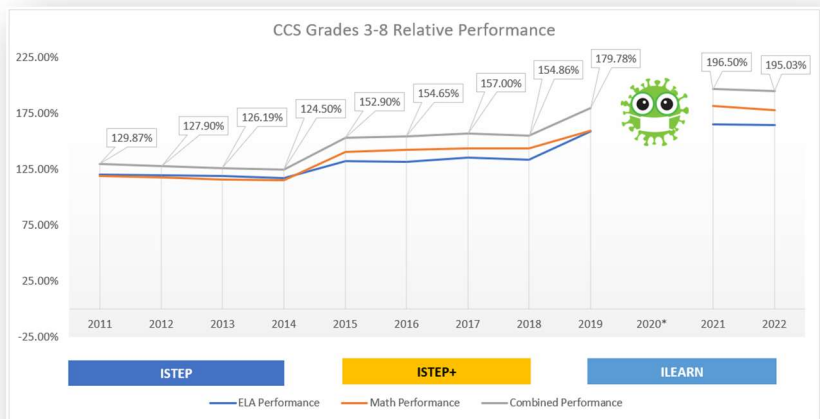
Carmel Clay Schools Academic Record

Question/Claim

Carmel schools have seen a drop in test scores and 41% of our students are not proficient in English and math.

The Facts

- Standardized tests: CCS has been in the top 5 in the state in ELA (English/Language Arts), Math, and Combined scores for over a decade.
- Some candidates and groups claim that scores are down because they falsely compare raw scores of different tests (ISTEP vs ISTEP+ vs. ILEARN). These are different tests with different questions and different methods of analysis.
- ILEARN scores fell a bit from 2019-2021 due to the pandemic, but not nearly as much as the rest of the state, and scores on such exams fell nationally due to the pandemic.
- For ILEARN, CCS scores have been anywhere from 25-95% higher than the state average, and the degree to which CCS outperforms the state as a whole has been increasing for over a decade.
- Performance on the NWEA assessment for k-8th grade: we consistently rank above the 90th percentile nationally for ELA and math.
- IREAD: Our students perform above 90% pass rate.
- SAT scores for the high school are about 100 points higher than the national mean.
- Graduation rates continue to rise, with a 98% graduation rate currently.



[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Year	Statewide ELA & Math Proficiency	Carmel ELA & Math Proficiency	Carmel ranking in state
2011	71.3%	92.6%	#1
2012	72.4%	92.6%	#2
2013	73.7%	93.0%	#1
2014	74.7%	93.0%	#1
2015	53.5%	81.8%	#2
2016	51.6%	79.8%	#2
2017	51.4%	80.7%	#3
2018	50.7%	79.6%	#3
2019	37.1%	66.7%	#4
2021	28.6%	56.2%	#3
2022	30.2%	58.9%	#3

Social Emotional Learning at CCS

Question/Claim:

Social emotional learning (SEL) is taking time away from academics and we need to focus on core academics.

The Facts

- Elements of SEL education are required under Indiana state law.
- Exposure to SEL does not take away classroom time for core subjects.
- SEL teaches students healthy ways to deal with their emotions and to work cooperatively and constructively with others, which is why SEL is mandated under the Indiana Employability Skills Standard.
- A multitude of studies have shown that the adoption of SEL increases student academic performance.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at CCS

Question/Claim

Similar to SEL, diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs are detracting from academics.

The Facts

- DEI is increasingly being embraced by global and regional companies and universities as part of their culture. Examples include:
 - Global: Amazon, Verizon, Microsoft, Citigroup, Intel, Allstate, Nike, Wells Fargo, Walmart, etc.
 - Regional/local: Lilly, Roche, Cummins, Anthem, IU, Purdue, Ball State, Marian U, IU Health, Community Health, etc.
- Students will be entering a global workforce after graduation where DEI principles are embraced. They need to have exposure to these concepts to succeed in an interconnected world.
- Examination of individual and district school plans indicate that DEI specific projects do not exceed those targeted for specific academic objectives.
- DEI training is for teachers and staff primarily, and does not take away classroom time for core subjects.
- The main DEI objective is for all students to see themselves as worthy and to foster increased understanding between students from different backgrounds.
- DEI is never targeted at making certain student populations resentful of others.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Sex Education & Other Related Topics

Question/Claim

Carmel Clay Schools are indoctrinating students about topics like sexual orientation and gender identity and not involving parents in sex education.

The Facts

- Sex ed classes at CCS follow Indiana state law.
 - Parents are informed before anything is taught about sex.
 - Parents are able to review the curriculum that will be used.
 - Parents can opt their children out of receiving sex ed.
 - Teachers must teach abstinence from sexual activity outside of marriage as the expected standard for all school age children.
 - Teachers must teach that abstinence from sexual activity is the only certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and other associated health problems.
 - Teachers must teach that the best way to avoid sexually transmitted diseases and other associated health problems is to establish a mutually faithful monogamous relationship in the context of marriage.
- Claims that parents are not involved in sex ed are false.
- There is no evidence that teachers are trying to indoctrinate students about topics such as sexual orientation or gender identity.
- Under Federal Law (Title IX), CCS is responsible for ensuring that gay and transgender students are not discriminated against.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Carmel School Enrollment

Question/Claim

Carmel Clay Schools are experiencing a mass exodus of students because parents are so unhappy with the schools.

The Facts

- Carmel schools have seen a decline in the number of students enrolled.
 - This decline is primarily due to the fact that the number of children enrolling in kindergarten has declined due to the larger number of “empty nest” households.
- The populations of children under 5 as well as those 5-9 have decreased by over 20% in the last few years.
- The school district knew that this decline was coming as they outlined in their Demographic Study Report released in 2018.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



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Candidates We Support

Support CCS is a non-partisan political action committee working to support Carmel Clay Schools. We therefore seek to support the election of school board candidates who will fulfill the mission and guiding principles of Carmel Clay Schools.

The candidates we support were all vetted based on the guiding principles of Carmel Clay Schools

- Students are at the center of every decision.
- A safe, non-threatening learning environment is essential.
- Students' academic, social, emotional, and physical needs must be addressed.
- Students and employees excel when held to high personal standards and expectations.
- High-quality employees are vital to the success of our organization.
- Effective teaching and learning requires continuous improvement.
- Diverse opportunities benefit all students.
- Open and transparent communication maintains stakeholder trust.
- Parent and community involvement enhances student learning.
- Fiscal responsibility is fundamental to achieving our vision.

We believe that our endorsed candidates embody these guiding principles. We hope that, armed with these facts, you will join us in supporting Kristin Kouka, Jennifer Nelson-Williams, and Jake Nichols for Carmel Clay School Board.

**VOTE TO SUPPORT
CARMEL CLAY SCHOOLS**

ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOV. 8



**SUPPORT CCS PAC
endorses these
candidates for Carmel
Clay School Board:**

Kristin Kouka



District 1

Jennifer Nelson-Williams



District 2

Jake Nichols



District 3

- Academic Excellence
- School Safety
- Global Preparedness
- Mental Well-Being
- Parent Partnership
- Supporting Teachers

**Find Out More About Support CCS
and the Candidates We Support!**

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