



Foundation for Excellence

2016-2019

Mission: Our students will be contributing members of society and lifelong learners, pursuing their passions and interests in an ever-changing world.

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Mission Statement: Our students will be contributing members of society and lifelong learners, pursuing their passions and interests in an ever-changing world.

Vision Statement: To inspire a community-wide culture of excellence, growth and achievement, where individuals are supported and challenged, engaged and empowered, and recognized for their unique contributions.

District Goals

1. *Excellence in Teaching & Learning*

All students and staff are engaged and accountable learners, meeting high expectations through demonstrated growth, in an educational structure that is differentiated, challenging and focused. We provide quality instruction and leadership through consistent, proactive support of our students and staff.

2. *Technology Empowered*

Our use of technology will be bold, intentional and accessible. Innovative approaches will be encouraged and embraced and our technology will be intuitive, collaborative and an empowering tool for students, staff and parents. Technology will transform our data systems to be unified, accessible, timely, informative and adaptable, and capable of being tailored to each school, program, class, staff member and student.

3. *Thoughtful Transitions*

Transitions in our district are planned, focused, collaborative and intentional. Whether transitioning from preschool to kindergarten, into the next grade, building, curriculum or to post-graduation endeavors, we will actively facilitate a path to success for students and staff.

4. *Engaged Community*

We consistently engage with our diverse communities of students, families, staff and the public. We create inclusive partnerships to share our sense of purpose and district goals, invite continuous input and act on the feedback we receive.

5. *Facilities Improvement*

Facilities in our district are consistently reviewed for safety, capacity, condition and functional adequacy. Recommendations are made for improvements, expansions or additions to accommodate our growing population and changing needs of our students, families, staff, community and programs.

Foundational Principles

1. ***A School Climate*** that is safe, welcoming, inviting, culturally-aware and emphasizes mutual respect of people and property.

2. ***District Communication*** that is open, transparent, timely and interactive.

3. ***Financial Stewardship*** that promotes trust by ensuring the responsive and optimal use of district resources in a manner that is understandable and transparent to all stakeholders, and supports the goals of the district.



Goal #1: Excellence in Teaching & Learning

All students and staff are engaged and accountable learners, meeting high expectations through demonstrated growth, in an educational structure that is differentiated, challenging and focused. We provide quality instruction and leadership through consistent, proactive support of our students and staff.

STRATEGIES	ACTION STEPS
<p>Professional Learning: Implement a comprehensive professional learning plan, delivering embedded, ongoing, collaborative professional learning that is responsive and flexible to meet the needs of all staff.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Focus on identified best classroom practices and instructional strategies, including ways to enhance and redefine instruction through technology</i> • <i>Provide opportunities for staff collaboration around data & instructional responses to data</i>
<p>Technology is used to identify and respond to staff learning needs, providing responsive learning opportunities.</p>	
<p>Student Achievement: Close opportunity gaps through the alignment of curriculum and the implementation of teaching and learning practices that support standards and district instructional initiatives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Align curriculum and instructional practices to standards and district initiatives (Danielson Framework, 1:1 technology)</i> • <i>Create a comprehensive Continuum of Services model of academic and behavioral supports for students at all levels</i> • <i>Design instructional strategies specifically to close opportunity gaps</i>
<p>Technology is used to transform student learning through innovation, by modifying and ultimately redefining both instructional tasks and student learning practices.</p>	



<p>Assessment and Data: Support the intentional use of student learning data to shape our teaching and learning practices in order to increase learning for each student.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Expand the use of Homeroom Premium and other digital resources to readily access data to help guide student learning, as well as evaluate program effectiveness</i> • <i>Use student data to inform instructional strategies, determine student interventions, and monitor progress while expanding access to students and families</i> • <i>Increase the frequency of growth monitoring for students receiving targeted interventions; continue to support collaborative exploration and collaborative response to this data</i> • <i>Expand our teachers' understanding of how to interpret student achievement data and how to use it to change instruction</i> • <i>Continually reflect upon and adjust our use of assessments to ensure the best possible use of data without over testing students</i>
<p>Technology is used to support the collection and analysis of student data, as well as support the development and implementation of targeted instruction tied to the data. Technology is also used to monitor and celebrate student growth, as well as identifying when growth is insufficient.</p>	
<p>Continuum of Services: Implement an effective, comprehensive continuum of services for students which includes a flexible multi-tiered system of supports to meet the needs of each student.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provide targeted professional learning for administrators and staff to increase the understanding of an effective continuum of services for students which includes a multi-tiered system of supports</i> • <i>Provide targeted professional learning for teachers and paraeducators on effective intensive interventions for students struggling in academics and behavior</i> • <i>Provide enhanced and effective interventions and services that support identified students, including:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Special Needs</i> • <i>Learning Assistance (LAP and Title I)</i> • <i>Highly Capable</i> • <i>English Language Learners</i> • <i>Alternative Learning Experiences</i> • <i>Enable a flexible approach to meet student needs within a multi-tiered system of supports that also supports students' social and emotional learning needs</i>



Technology is used to identify students for continuum of services programs as well as monitoring student growth and evaluating the effectiveness of the programs. Flexible digital programs are used in conjunction with instructional best practice to meet the needs of these learners.

Future-Ready Libraries:

Develop and implement a vision of libraries used as flexible learning spaces to meet the needs of learners engaged in research and inquiry, under the collaborative facilitation by teachers and teacher librarians.

- *Librarians will work to connect their practices, programs and spaces to foster educational innovation*
- *Increase opportunities for collaboration between teacher librarians and classroom teachers to meet the needs of students as they research, use digital tools ethically and create products as part of the inquiry process*

Technology is used innovatively to meet the needs of all learners.

Career and Technical

Education: Create a vision for the CTE program that provides high quality opportunities for students.

- *Determine what program offerings and courses will be provided to meet a wide range of learner needs*
- *Ensure staff is appropriately certified and trained to teach all offerings*
- *Increase opportunities for dual credits, equivalency credits and cross crediting*
- *Create a document for students and families that clearly shows pathways in each CTE area*

Technology will continue to be a strong component of the CTE program, educating students on various technologies used in STEM careers.



Early Learning: Design and implement programs and activities that enable our new Early Learning Center to become the focal point of early childhood growth and development opportunities in the Lake Stevens community.

- *Increase early learning parent education and support structures*
- *Expand Pre-K options that align with community programs*
- *Expand interventions supporting kindergarten readiness*

Technology is used to enhance developmentally appropriate activities that support each child's unique growth and learning.



Goal #2: Technology Empowered

Our use of technology will be bold, intentional and accessible. Innovative approaches will be encouraged and embraced and our technology will be intuitive, collaborative and an empowering tool for students, staff and parents. Technology will transform our data systems to be unified, accessible, timely, informative, and adaptable, and capable of being tailored to each school, program, class, staff member and student.

STRATEGIES	ACTION STEPS
<p>Infrastructure: Provide all students and staff with access to information, tools, resources and collaborative opportunities when and where they need them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Maintain and upgrade ample network bandwidth to seamlessly support the business and learning needs of the district</i> • <i>Maintain and upgrade phone systems to provide reliable communication</i> • <i>Continue to provide wireless networking to provide reliable and ubiquitous access to network resources for students and staff</i> • <i>Leverage E-rate funds to reduce the cost of updated networking hardware</i> • <i>Move to a replacement cycle to allow the district to provide 1:1 technology in grades 2 -12</i> • <i>Provide technology grants for innovative projects</i>
<p>Technology Vision: Work with students, staff and community to ensure that technology is used responsibly to enhance and transform teaching and learning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Develop a philosophy statement around the use of technology in our schools</i> • <i>Educate students, staff and the community about our philosophy and practices around the use of technology</i> • <i>Teach a digital citizenship curriculum</i>

Specific technology strategies are embedded in the strategies in each of the other goal areas.



Goal #3: Thoughtful Transitions

Transitions in our district are planned, focused, collaborative and intentional. Whether transitioning from preschool to kindergarten, into the next grade, building, curriculum or to post-graduation endeavors, we will actively facilitate a path to success for students and staff.

STRATEGIES	ACTION STEPS
<p>Communication: Continue to use a consistent mode of communication to support parent and student transitions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Expand and refine use of three digital communication and learning tools; Moodle, Hapara Workspace or Google Classroom, which can be accessed via one district portal</i>
<p>Social: Continue to expand opportunities for intentional social connections for all students.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Each building will plan a program that intentionally connects students to the building, to the staff, and to each other, thereby creating a supportive community of learners</i>
<p>Academic: Continue and expand the use of data systems to support students as they transition from grade-level to grade-level, as well as during the school year to monitor student growth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Continue to refine curriculum and technology alignment to support students P-12</i> • <i>Increase alignment regarding procedural practices, such as discipline, attendance and homework expectations</i> • <i>Explore the feeder patterns for special programs and the number of transitions at the secondary level</i> • <i>Focus on programmatic alignment in regard to intervention strategies for students along the continuum of services to ensure a smooth and flexible transition for students</i>



Post-Secondary: Increase awareness and planning for post-secondary endeavors starting in elementary school.

- *Make adjustments to allow more opportunities for students to meet the 24 credit requirement*
- *Provide opportunities and guidance for post-secondary career and college opportunities*

Technology is used to identify and support student needs and monitor student learning as children move through our district. Technology is also used to support staff in transitioning to new grade levels, positions, and buildings by providing easily-accessible resources regarding curriculum, assessments, and instructional strategies all in one place. Lastly, technology is used to streamline and enhance communication with students and families.



Goal #4: Engaged Community

We consistently engage with our diverse communities of students, families, staff and the public. We create inclusive partnerships to share our sense of purpose and district goals, invite continuous input and act on the feedback we receive.

STRATEGIES	ACTION STEPS
Partnerships: Cultivate and foster relationships between schools and the community to strengthen engagement and student achievement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Continue and expand the Partners in Education program to pair local businesses and organizations with our schools</i>• <i>Publicly recognize and highlight partnerships</i>
Volunteers: Expand volunteer opportunities to include non-traditional groups to engage students at every level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Continue work with building-level volunteer coordinators to streamline communication, electronically track service hours and welcome new volunteers</i>• <i>Publicize volunteer opportunities in our schools</i>• <i>Seek new ways to honor our volunteers</i>
Internal Communications: Use a variety of communication tools to transparently and consistently communicate in a timely manner with all members of the Lake Stevens School District team.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Seek feedback from staff members to better understand how they want to receive communication and what is meaningful to their work</i>• <i>Continue using electronic communication resources to measure readership</i>



<p>External Communications: Continue to seek new and innovative ways and tools to enhance external communications and strengthen engagement in our schools.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Continue to engage staff, families, students and community members using social media and the district mobile app</i> • <i>Enhance frequency and types of electronic communication to inform and engage families and the community</i>
<p>Multilingual Engagement: Identify building advocates to create a clear, two-way channel between the multilingual families in our schools and the support and resources we provide as a district to ensure a supportive learning environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Determine which languages are spoken in our district and identify areas of communication that can be better supported</i> • <i>Host family engagement events around the district that focus on supporting the needs of our multilingual families</i>
<p>Senior Citizens: Continue to foster relationships with the senior citizens of Lake Stevens and provide opportunities to become involved in our schools, events and activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Continue the Golden Viking program and highlight supportive Lake Stevens fans</i> • <i>Enhance engagement opportunities by personally inviting senior citizens to school and district events</i>
<p>Technology is used to enhance and create better accessibility in all facets of community engagement—messaging to staff, students and families; school and district websites; the district’s mobile app; internal and external newsletters; social media; surveying tools; e-flyers and registration for community education.</p>	



Goal #5: Facilities Improvement

Facilities in our district are consistently reviewed for safety, capacity, condition and functional adequacy. Recommendations are made for improvements, expansions or additions to accommodate our growing population and changing needs of our students, families, staff, community and programs.

STRATEGIES	ACTION STEPS
<p>Facilities Master Planning: Work to fulfill the recommendations of the Facilities Master Planning Committee.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Build a new elementary school to alleviate elementary overcrowding</i> • <i>Build a new Early Learning Center to support continued early learning</i> • <i>Add additional kindergarten classrooms to all existing elementary buildings to provide programmatically-appropriate spaces for full-day kindergarten</i> • <i>Replace and expand selected buildings at Lake Stevens High School to create a modernized campus to enhance learning opportunities</i> • <i>Survey existing facilities and make district-wide safety and security improvements</i>
<p>Building Conditions: Perform annual Building Condition Assessments, making improvements as necessary.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Make district-wide health, educational and infrastructure improvements based on Building Condition Assessments</i> • <i>Develop additional parking and student drop-off areas to meet the changing demographics of student transportation</i>
<p>Safety and Security: Improve safety and security of students.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Survey existing facilities and make district-wide safety and security improvements</i>
<p>Consider current and future technologies in all new and modernized buildings.</p>	

