

Engage. Prepare. Inspire.

2010-15 Goals

With the active engagement of parents and the community, we will:

Student Performance

- Improve student performance in all core curricular areas, while closing existing achievement gaps
- Improve student attendance and graduation rates, while closing existing achievement gaps
- Improve the readiness of all students for postsecondary education and future careers
- Improve student wellness, including their physical and social-emotional well-being

Teaching & Learning

- Implement rigorous, aligned, culturally inclusive P-12 curriculum for all curricular areas
- Implement formative and summative assessment systems that improve teaching and learning
- Provide students and staff with 21st century technology that improves learning opportunities
- Restructure the P-12 ELL Program instructional delivery services, including manageable teaching ratios
- Implement a continuum of instructional delivery services for K-12 gifted education
- Restructure the P-12 special education instructional delivery services
- Implement an intervention support system (e.g., MTSS) for regular education students needing intense remediation
- Expand and integrate a full continuum of early childhood education services

Human Resources

- Improve staff instructional capacity and quality of teaching through a strategic, results-based professional development program
- Expand the role of principals (and teacher leaders) as instructional leaders and then evaluate them based on these expectations
- Recruit, continually develop, supervise, retain, and competitively compensate all staff

Efficiency & Infrastructure

- Implement a computer system and software to support business operations, human relations operations, and student data needs
- Assess conditions and usage of school facilities and then close and/or repurpose schools to reflect declining enrollment and budget, with possible changes in grade level configurations
- Improve the safety and security for students and staff

Note: Rather than establish a separate goal for improving parent and community engagement, this goal will be embedded in the strategies of all other goals when appropriate.

"Engage, Prepare, Inspire... We realized that for a student's dream to become reality we needed to have a strategic plan that strongly



supported the mission statement. We came together as a group and worked diligently to achieve that goal. It was not a job, nor a task, but a pleasure to work with such visionary minds on this committee." – Leona Lyman, Strategic Planning Committee Member

Our Mission

Engage students in the highest quality learning.
Prepare students for responsible, productive citizenship.
Inspire excellence for a lifetime.

Implementing the Plan

During the 2009-2010 school year, 40 citizens and staff met to write the Strategic Plan for Topeka Public Schools. They based their work on an extensive needs assessment of the district which included input from focus groups in all of our geographic regions. Following the presentation of their recommendations, the Board of Education reviewed and modified the plan. On April 1, 2010, they adopted the plan on a 7-0 vote.

Over the next five years, each of our administrators will be assigned specific goals to implement. The original team will be reassembled to review progress and will make an annual report to the Board.



Dr. Julie Ford
Interim Superintendent
Topeka Public Schools

Strategic Parameters

- We will make decisions based on the best interests of children.
- We will model and expect high standards of behavior consistent with the district's mission and vision.
- We will recruit, continually develop, supervise, and retain effective staff members committed to achieving the district's mission.
- We will provide a safe and positive environment conducive to learning.
- We will design, teach, and assess a coordinated P-12 curriculum focused on essential learning standards.
- We will design all curricular and cocurricular learning experiences to improve students' learning and performance.
- We will successfully implement and sustain the best possible educational practices supported by research.
- We will evaluate and fund all programs, services, and practices based on their impact on student learning and performance.
- We will use the strategic plan to guide the budget process and help structure our professional development program.

A photograph of two young children, a boy and a girl, smiling and looking towards the camera. They are in a classroom setting with other students and educational materials visible in the background.

2010-15 Topeka Public Schools Strategic Plan

Our Vision

Topeka Public Schools will be recognized nationally for its rigorous curriculum, academic excellence, and extracurricular achievement. Strengthened by diversity, our district will foster partnerships of staff, families, and the community to develop students' educational, physical, and social-emotional well-being.