



Lynden School District - Strategic Priorities – 2021-2024

Mission: All students graduate college, career, and citizenship ready

Vision: High quality instruction and learning for **Every Child, Every Day**, in every classroom

4 Areas of Focus

- 1. Safe and Supportive Learning Environment** - Caring environment where every child is known by name and need.
 - a. Cultivate district and school culture that is characterized by the belief that all students can learn, and it is our moral imperative to ensure learning for all.
 - b. Utilize effective classroom and school strategies that build a safe learning environment for all students.
 - c. Utilize a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) to implement strategies that support both behavioral and academic interventions to ensure student success.
 - d. Update and revise safe school plans and district emergency response systems.
 - e. Evaluate school facilities to incorporate best practices in security and emergency planning.

- 2. College and Career Ready Graduates** - All students prepared for life after high school.
 - a. Focus on effective core instruction – 5 Dimensions of Teaching and Learning Framework (5D+), Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum, high leverage strategies in content areas, EL strategies, student engagement and tier 2 and 3 targeted supports.
 - b. Collaboration – Collaborative teaming with an underlying growth mindset to continually seek out and apply best instructional practice: Professional Learning Communities, grade level and subject level alignment.
 - c. Expand early Learning opportunities to ensure school readiness and a strong foundation for all students.
 - d. Multi-year plans focused on improving the academic core (instruction, curriculum, assessment)
 - e. Technology literate students - Create a vision and plan to leverage technology to improve learning.
 - f. 21st Century Skills - Explore 21st Century Skills and methods to assess student progress.

- 3. Family and Community Partnerships** – Nurture and build relationships with families and stakeholders to fully participate as partners in every child’s education.
 - a. Cultivate partnerships with business and community stakeholders to engage students in real world learning environments.
 - b. Create and foster partnerships with families to improve learning and prepare students for life beyond high school.

- 4. Culturally Responsive and Inclusive Learning Environment** – Every student is included, feels welcome, and is treated with dignity: Shape an inclusive environment in our schools, intentionally designed to foster a sense of belonging by honoring the dignity of each and every student. It is our goal that each student is honored and feels welcome, and experiences access and unconditional belonging in each of our schools.
 - a. Resource distribution based on student need which address barriers to success.
 - b. Access to education programs and high-quality instruction
 - c. School culture and climate that values and celebrates diversity as a collective strength.
 - d. Identify and address practices and policies that perpetuate gaps in discipline and achievement.



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Foundational Beliefs

1. **Good Teaching Matters** - Instruction is the single most important factor under a school's control that influences student achievement. Teacher knowledge and skills is our most important resource.
2. **Core Plus** – All students need access to core curriculum and instruction while some need additional time and support to accomplish grade level standards and expectations.
3. **Time** – If we are going to make substantive improvement it will be because we are able to provide time for teachers to meet and do the important work to align curriculum, explore best practices in instruction, develop lessons and units of study, create assessments to monitor progress, and plan for targeted support.
4. **Systems Thinking** – In order to provide a guaranteed and viable curriculum and time and support for students to achieve the expected learning targets we need to create and ensure an aligned system of learning. A system provides and ensures that all students receive access to the same curriculum and opportunities within the school day to receive additional time and support and extend their learning when they have mastered the content and skills more quickly.
5. **Initiative Fatigue** – We cannot do it all. We need to prioritize and say no to some things, or at least put those items on hold for work at a later date. It is crucial, due to our human capacity and limited resources, that we plan for and communicate what we are doing and what will need to wait.
6. **Professional Learning Community** – A PLC refers to an organization that values and adheres to continuous improvement as an ongoing process. A PLC includes the commitment to a collaborative culture and implements collaborative teams as the engine that keeps the focus on student learning and provides for the ongoing monitoring and adjustments necessary to ensure all students achieve at high levels.
7. **Leadership Matters** – Principals, teachers, and support staff are the key to school success and student learning. While individual teachers can impact their students and ensure learning in their classroom, sustained school excellence and school wide student achievement does not happen and is not sustained without exemplary leadership.
8. **Inclusion and Belonging** – The inherent dignity of each person is honored and is affirmed for their unique talents, beliefs, backgrounds, and way of living. Each child will feel appreciated, validated, accepted, and treated fairly in school.
9. **Diversity** – Acknowledge and embrace the richness of human differences while accepting and respecting each individual as being unique. Personal, cultural, and institutional discrimination creates and sustains advantages for some and disadvantages for others. Diversity includes knowing how to relate to those qualities and conditions that are different from our own and outside the groups to which we belong.



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Core Commitments

To ensure every student's right to learn what they need to reach their goals, every student . . .

1. Will have access to grade appropriate assignments, high quality instruction, deep engagement, and teachers with high expectations.
2. Will be treated with respect, care, and dignity with diversity valued as a strength.
3. Is honored and feels welcome, and experiences access and unconditional belonging in our schools.

As a Learning Organization we will . . .

1. Work to build and maintain trust and transparency across the system.
2. Engage with staff, community, and stakeholders as critical voices in the work of the district.
3. Utilize tools and structures to support the work of collaborative teams.
4. Empower schools as the drivers of improvement and change, engaging in cycles of inquiry in a continuous improvement process.
5. Use data as information to inform improvement, providing transparent and non-punitive accountability.
6. Invest in skills and knowledge of staff to build capacity across the system – leadership, professional learning, instruction.
7. Families will be an authentic partner with real opportunities to shape student experience, receive accurate and accessible information about progress.