

School City of Hobart's District Strategic Plan for Continuous School Improvement



Building College and Career Ready Brickies!

**AdvancED External Peer Review
2012-2013**



School City of Hobart’s District Strategic Plan

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School City of Hobart's District Strategic Plan For Continuous School Improvement

Introduction

This section provides a narrative overview of the Vision and Profile steps of the School Improvement Process completed by the School City of Hobart's District Continuous School Improvement Team and Stakeholders. The key actions in the vision stage of the school improvement process requested stakeholders to participate in examining research-based factors related to student performance, determine beliefs, examine the expectations that stakeholders have for student learning, develop a shared vision to focus school improvement, and fulfill the mission of the Board of School Trustees and the School City of Hobart. The key actions in the profile stage of the school improvement process led stakeholders to describe students and their performance, school effectiveness, the school and community contexts, and to determine the target areas for improvement.

Research-Based Practices and Organizational Conditions of Improving Schools

Ensure desired results

- Our district has high expectations for student achievement that are communicated with students and parents.
- Our district implements a vision for student learning through goals and strategies.

Improve teaching and learning

- Our district uses multiple assessments to provide feedback for improvement in instructional practices and student performance.
- Our district uses data to inform decision-making about teaching and learning.
- Our district delivers on these expectations for student learning through a curriculum that is coherent and rigorous.
- Our district uses instructional strategies that provide students with focus, feedback, and sufficient opportunities to master skills.
- Our district creates classroom environments that are conducive to learning.
- Our district optimizes technology and multimedia as learning tools.

Foster a culture for improvement

- Our district uses technology to assist families with student learning.
- Our district improves performance by coming together regularly for learning, decision-making, problem-solving, and celebration as a professional learning community.
- Our district engages in research and best practices that support the ongoing improvement of teaching and learning.

Quality teachers

- All teachers are certified and trained in their teaching areas.
- Our district designs and delivers quality staff development to address the individual needs of teachers with skills that can be directly applied to the classroom.

Effective leadership

- The sharing of leadership for the improvement of teaching and learning occurs throughout the district.
- The leadership articulates a compelling need for improvement and provides meaningful ways for the professional learning community to focus on its performance.

Quality information

- Our district collects data from state and local assessments and other vital areas that contribute to the quality of excellent schools. Our district strives for data that is free from errors.
- Our district warehouses data that delivers student data to target strengths and weaknesses.

Policies and procedures

- Our Board of School Trustees regularly meets to create and update bylaws and policies.
- Our Superintendent develops administrative guidelines to implement Board policy.
- Our district communicates policy in annual notices and student handbooks.
- Our district has emergency response and crisis teams for school safety.
- The district maintains and practices continuous school improvement planning with a relentless focus on student learning.

Resources and support systems

- Our district ensures that leadership supports the vision for student learning.
- Our district allocates technological resources to target areas for improvement.
- Our district allocates time for improvement efforts.

Our School District's Beliefs

- Learning is the shared responsibility of the school, student, parent and community.
- Learning occurs best in a safe, secure environment.
- Our schools value and respect diversity, creating an equal opportunity for all children to learn.
- Successful learners, whether students or adults, set goals and monitor progress in achieving them.
- Motivation to learn is influenced by a student's emotional state, beliefs, interests, and goals.
- Students learn best when they are actively engaged in meaningful, challenging work.
- Students learn best when the staff maintains high expectations for learning.
- Successful students create and use a variety of thinking and reasoning strategies and can communicate ideas.
- Interactions with adults, who serve as role models and mentors, contribute to student learning and achievement.
- Effective educators engage in learning communities that use research and best practices that support the ongoing improvement of teaching and student performance.

Vision for Student Learning:

The School City of Hobart Community will foster intellectual curiosity, natural abilities, critical thinking, and literacy in students while developing respectful and responsible citizens who are excited about the challenges of tomorrow, confident in their ability to chart the future, and dedicated to the pursuit of lifelong learning.

Mission:

The primary mission of the School City of Hobart and the Board of School Trustees is to continually provide effective community schools.

A. Our Schools Equip Children for Adulthood

Effective Community Schools adequately equip young people for adulthood in the 21st century. Our students must be prepared both for employment and for day-to-day living in a complicated and rapidly changing world. This necessitates that our schools provide students with the intellectual tools necessary for life-long learning. Among these tools must be: skills to facilitate participation in a democracy, communication skills, critical thinking, and other flexible learning skills as well as the ability to work both individually and in a team situation. It is expected that these skills be developed through all curricular areas.

B. Our Schools Address the Needs of Individual Students

Effective Community Schools address the needs of individual students and focus on individual development. Students bring to the schools a great diversity of interest, aptitudes, motivations and learning styles. Our schools must be able to address this diversity by identifying individual needs, responding with appropriate teaching strategies, flexibly meeting these needs and recognizing each individual student's ability to contribute to the school community.

C. Our Schools Are Community Schools

Effective Community Schools are necessary to a healthy community. Our schools must always recognize their affirmative duty to the entire community, including families, government, business and industry, other institutions, civic groups and individual citizens. Our schools must draw from the strengths of this community to identify and accomplish their goals.

D. Our Schools Are Committed to Success

Effective Community Schools fully utilize the resources of the entire school community (administration, teachers, support personnel, families and students) in all aspects of school life. Our schools cannot succeed without the committed involvement of all.

Learning Areas and High-Priority Expectations for Student Learning

Learning Area - Language Arts

Expectations for Student Learning

All students will read and comprehend a variety of genres and informational text, as well as communicate ideas through writing.

Learning Area – Problem Solving

Expectations for Student Learning

All students will use problem solving skills to think critically and apply knowledge and reason to solve problems.

Learning Area - Careers

Expectations for Student Learning

All students will demonstrate the skills and knowledge necessary for managing the dual role of productive and successful community member and wage earner by gaining employment in a career or by continuing education at the post-secondary level.

Learning Area - Citizenship

Expectations for Student Learning

All students will develop an understanding and commitment to the democratic ideals of human dignity, justice and equality by focusing on productive citizenship in a democratic society.

Rationale for Learning Areas

Our district's vision for student learning envisions our students as respectful and responsible citizens who are excited about the challenges of tomorrow, confident in their ability to chart the future, and dedicated to the pursuit of lifelong learning.

Language Arts, Problem Solving, Careers, and Citizenship are the focus of accountability requirements for our district.

Our mission:

- Our Schools Equip Children for Adulthood
- Our Schools Address the Needs of Individual Students
- Our Schools Are Community Schools
- Our Schools Are Committed to Success