

Goals Focus on Change

The 2007-2008 year marked the beginning of the District's long-range planning. Guided by a powerful new mission, vision and goals, the long-range plan is designed to reshape the future in order to prepare all of our students for a changing world. Recognizing that change will be constant and to ensure that all of our students are well-prepared, we are committed to excellence ensuring high achievement where learning is our most important task.

The long-range plan was developed by a team of 40 individuals representing school personnel, board members, students, parents, and members of the community. Through their discussions and an exchange of information, the group incorporated the District's objectives and resources into being responsive to students and the community. They developed a desired future and a blueprint for implementing change in order to increase student success.

The long-range plan is designed to guide decisions and investments. The plan is meant to provide a structured approach for anticipating the future and will provide guidance for the school district. The District can, and must, prepare students for the future by acting now on what is known. The District is now beginning its third year of the five-year plan.

The long-range plan is not the school district's process—it is the community's process. The future of the school district is placed in the hands of the community that entrusts its children to school educators each day—to community members who support this school district with their time, their energy, and their tax dollars. The Board of Education invites the community to be active stakeholders in charting the future of our schools.

Vision Statement

In the year 2012-13, we will see a school district that continues to be committed to excellence by:

- Graduating students with the ability to compete in a diverse, technological, and global society;
- Observing students that are achieving at the highest levels possible in an environment that is conducive to learning;
- Maintaining highly skilled and highly qualified and innovative staff in all positions through appropriate training and staff development;
- Observing technology as an integrated component in every classroom to support instruction;
- Observing a K-12 assessment system for all students that provides immediate feedback to drive instruction;
- Communicating regularly with a meaningful flow of information between the home, school, and community;
- Observing fiscal responsibility that is maintained through awareness, evaluation, education and collaboration; and,
- Maintaining the excellent conditions of the equipment, buildings and grounds in the Allen Park School District.



District Goal

To graduate students with the ability to compete in a diverse, technological and global society

District Accomplishments

- Completed the final step in the reorganization of the curriculum review process through the creation of content committees that are representative of grade levels within the District. The following K-12 committees were established: Career Technology, English Language Arts, Fine and Visual Arts, Math, Physical Education and Health, Science, Social Studies, and World Languages. The committees evaluate the effectiveness of the curriculum for each content area based on the level of each student.
- Implemented a staff development program that includes activities for staff, individual schools, grade levels, and departments. The activities include student assessment, best teaching practices, and discussing strategies for remediation.
- Increased common assessments within grade levels to measure student achievement and the effectiveness of the curriculum in preparing students for the future.
- Established a partnership with State Farm Insurance and Baker College which resulted in a project to provide life transition skills for students to guide them toward the appropriate degree program and higher education institutions based on their needs and abilities.
- Increased student online courses for the use of credit recovery, summer school program, and math for students eligible for special education services.

District Goal

To have students achieve at the highest level possible in an environment conducive to learning

District Accomplishments

- Implemented the Collins Writing program for students which included staff training and classroom demonstrations. Student writing samples are used to evaluate student progress.
- Established a committee to explore alternative scheduling at the high school to determine optimum daily scheduling options for high school students.
- Purchased licensing for the *Measurement of Academic Progress* program through the Northwest Evaluation Association for all students in grades two through ten. Students will be tested during the year in the areas of reading, math, and English language arts. The program will provide teaching staff with in-depth feedback on student testing within a 24-hour period. The data enables the teaching staff to measure student learning immediately.
- Purchased new textbooks with online resources that included third grade social studies, fifth through eighth grade science, and world languages.
- Expanded literacy assessment training at the first and third grade levels. Teaching staff is now trained in the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) and will measure student literacy skills as a result.
- All schools were accepted as a candidate for AdvancED District Accreditation which provides nationally recognized accreditation for the District and all of its schools.

District Goal

To recruit and maintain highly skilled, highly qualified, and innovative staff in all positions through appropriate training and staff development

District Accomplishments

- Teaching staff and maintenance personnel participated in online safety courses.
- Maintenance staff participated in an all-day Expo to gain additional understanding on various topics that include safety, cleaning, and repair.
- Food service staff participated in a county-wide Expo that focused on marketing and commodity products.
- Ongoing training of personnel continues in effective use of computers and software.
- Teaching staff fulfilled thirty-hours of staff development as structured by the District's Instructional Curriculum Council and administration. In-service sessions were held throughout the year to address writing across the curriculum and MEAP.

District Goal

To use current technology as an integrated component in every classroom to support instruction

District Accomplishments

- Continued execution of the long-range technology plan endorsed by the Allen Park Board of Education and the Michigan Department of Education to address the ever-changing technological tools available to improve the instructional process.
- In-service training continued in the use of technology tools, such as software and hardware, to integrate into the curriculum throughout the school district.

- Added a Web-based geometry course to the high school's curriculum for students eligible for special education services. A Web-based pre-algebra course has been added to the middle school's curriculum.

- Increased the number of students and teachers at the secondary level using Blackboard, a Web-based program that improves student engagement and achievement by increasing interaction among students and the classroom teacher.

- Reallocated computers to create a drop-in lab and mini-lab for middle school students.

- The use of document cameras in classrooms have added a new dimension to instruction.

- Additional funds have been allocated for technology equipment repair and replacement.

- Increased online resources are available to students and staff as new textbooks are approved for purchase by the Board of Education.

- Through technology, student publications are fully produced by students including layout and design, photography and typesetting which gives students an opportunity to experience publishing a newspaper and yearbook from "beginning to end."

- High school students gained a real-life experience working as production assistants with Detroit Public Television when DPTV used the Allen Park Center for the Arts as its venue for a national program production.

District Goal

To implement a K-12 assessment system for students to provide immediate feedback to drive instruction

District Accomplishments

- Added the *Measurement of Academic Progress* for students in grades two through ten to the assessment program which currently includes the DRA, BEAR spelling, San Diego Quick, and Star Assessment at the elementary level; the MEAP for grades three through nine; the Hannah-Orleans for incoming eighth graders; the ACT Plan for tenth graders; and the Michigan Merit Curriculum for eleventh graders.
- Increased the use of common assessments administered to students in the secondary schools.
- The Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) and Michigan Merit Exam (MME) were analyzed to assist classroom instruction.

District Goal

To communicate regularly between the home, school, and community

District Accomplishments

- Participation in the Wayne County K-12 Parent Alerting System allows parents, who register, to receive a message regarding school closings or emergencies.
- ParentConnection, the Web-based program for parents to access student information, was widely used by parents throughout the District.
- District publications are available on the District's Web site and include Board of Education meeting agendas and minutes; the school district newsletter, *Connection Online*; and financial registers, budgets, and statements.
- Relations with school-affiliated groups such as PTAS/PTSA, Boosters, and others are continually improving to benefit the District and its students.

- The Board fine-tuned and approved the District's "AP" logo as the official symbol (or brand image) for the Allen Park Public Schools and is redesigning the District's Web site to make it more dynamic and user friendly.

District Goal

To maintain fiscal responsibility through awareness, evaluation, education, and collaboration

District Accomplishments

- Developed and continued to improve upon a successful budgetary process, including full reports and budget amendments to the Board as necessary.
- Successful borrowing process to supplement cash flow.
- With the changes brought about by Proposal A and funding at the state level, the District has been able to function very effectively within its budget.
- Negotiations occurred throughout the school year with employee bargaining groups with the goal of settling agreements in a fair and equitable manner.
- Implemented the Energy Essentials program to realize energy savings and reduce costs.
- Participation in the DROM (Down River Operations Managers) program with 19 other school districts to consolidate services and purchases for equipment and supplies in order to decrease costs.
- Continued efforts put forth by staff and administration to secure funding through grants.
- Financial information such as check registers, wire transfers, budget, audit, and information regarding the upcoming Federal Stimulus Funding is available and posted for public and staff review on the District's Web site.

District Goal

To maintain the excellent conditions of the equipment, buildings, and grounds

District Accomplishments

- A Facilities Advisory Committee, comprised of administration, board members, and custodial staff, continue to meet on a regular basis to identify needs and develop action plans.
- Established student pride groups to create a sense of pride and ownership in their school by completing renovation projects.
- Volunteer and family "clean-up" activities occur throughout the year to beautify the outdoor environment.
- Established summer maintenance schedule to complete projects during the summer months.

