

Olympia School District 2008-2012 Strategic Plan

The Olympia School District has a proud tradition of success, thanks to supportive parents and community, and knowledgeable, committed and dedicated staff. Our intention is to build on that success.

Our Vision: What Every OSD Graduate Should Know

Olympia School District graduates will be contributing citizens of a world society. They will be critical thinkers with a capacity for lifelong learning and with the ability to collaborate across a diverse community. They will have critical skills and knowledge in these subject areas:

- Reading and writing
- Mathematics
- Science
- Career and technical education
- Civics, economics and history
- Health, nutrition and fitness
- Visual and performing arts
- World languages

In addition, graduates will have specific skills and attitudes that cross these subject areas, including:

- Collaboration skills
- Communication skills
- Computer and technology skills
- Environmental stewardship
- Healthy social and emotional development
- Information/media literacy
- Leadership skills
- Numerical competency
- Skills for appreciating and working in diverse communities (multi-cultural or cross-cultural literacy)

Our Strategic Goals

To achieve our vision, the Olympia School District focuses and aligns its resources to achieve six key goals in these three areas: Effective Classrooms, Effective Schools and Engagement with the Community.

Effective Classrooms

1. High Academic Standards, Expectations and Performance

We set the bar high, expecting all students to reach their full academic potential in order to succeed in further education, in work and in the world.

- We believe all students can learn and meet high standards. Recognizing that some students must overcome significant barriers, we commit to helping each student reach their full potential.
- We expect all students to take ambitious courses of study, including academic and career-focused classes. We ensure that career-focused classes are aligned to industry standards.
- We provide all students with a variety of educational opportunities that are equitable and address diverse learning styles, developmental levels and interests.

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2. Individualized Learning

We increase student engagement and success by meaningfully addressing different learning styles, needs and abilities.

- We provide individualized attention to students through lower student-teacher ratios, supporting services and appropriate technology.
- We use teaching methods that are culturally relevant and competency-based, with different students moving at different paces as they learn.
- We identify and employ strategies to close achievement gaps among students.

3. Integrated Learning

We develop students' critical thinking, analysis and communication skills by appropriately integrating math, reading and writing into all classes.

Effective Schools

4. Best Practices

We use research-based "best practices" across the district so students receive a consistent, high-quality education as they move from grade to grade and from school to school.

- We align all our schools in using curricula that flow logically and naturally from pre-school through the 12th grade.
- We communicate effectively within the school system, both to learn from each other's successes and to improve the transitions between grades and schools.
- We replicate new practices when they work, and we learn and adapt when they don't.
- We offer a wide variety of extra-curricular activities to enhance students' learning and to support their social and emotional development.

5. A Supportive Working Environment

We create a great place to work for all District employees (certificated and classified) based on relationships of trust and respect.

- Our School Board leads the way in creating an atmosphere of mutual respect, trust and collaborative professionalism.
- We all work together to create an environment that promotes learning, open and honest communication, creativity and innovation.
- We provide collaboration time to help staff work together and meet the demands of a changing educational system.

Engagement with the Community

6. Increased Family and Community Involvement

We actively build a collaborative partnership with all parents and all parts of the community to carry out our shared responsibility for our children's education.

- We increase parental involvement in their children's education through better communication and greater parent/teacher collaboration.
- We increase community involvement in our schools, from the individual level (such as through mentoring programs) to the institutional level (such as through creative partnerships with businesses, community groups and other organizations).