

MILFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT



Local Education Improvement Plan

November 2010

Our Mission

To provide a quality education that challenges all students to succeed

Our Vision

Our Ideal for the Future

Schools, community, families and students are engaged in a dynamic educational system that produces successful students.

Our Beliefs

What We Believe Is True

- **Education is a shared responsibility of the individual, family, school and community.**
- **High expectations challenge people to higher levels of performance.**
- **All people are expected to act with reason, respect and responsibility.**
- **It is essential to appreciate diversity and value the contributions of others.**
- **Education should be appropriate to the cognitive, social and emotional needs of students.**
- **Teachers and others who support a child's education are valuable assets.**
- **District resources must be used as efficiently and effectively as possible.**



Improvement Goals and Strategies

Curriculum and Instruction

The Milford School District provides opportunities for each student to develop his or her full potential for 21st century challenges. This can be accomplished by achieving the following goals:

Providing each student with the knowledge, skills, and tools needed to succeed in a rapidly changing global environment. Strategies for achieving this goal may include the following:

- ◆ Cyclical and structured review of current practices and curricula to keep pace with changing trends.
- ◆ Extended learning opportunities and virtual learning environments.
- ◆ Integration of core skills and knowledge through collaboration, problem-solving, and critical thinking.
- ◆ Opportunities that build self-confidence, motivation, and initiative through independent as well as group work.
- ◆ Application of relevant and current technologies in all content areas.
- ◆ Opportunities to develop understanding and appreciation of the world's diverse cultures.
- ◆ Learning strategies and curricula that are rigorous and relevant.

Personalizing each student's education through appropriate and engaging instruction and co-curricular opportunities, guided by meaningful feedback and assessment. Strategies for achieving this goal may include the following:

- ◆ Opportunities for each student to be challenged in areas of strength and interest.
- ◆ Support for students who are struggling academically, socially and/or emotionally.
- ◆ Opportunities for students to develop self-knowledge, self-advocacy, and ownership/engagement in learning.
- ◆ Co-curricular activities that complement student strengths, interests, and learning.
- ◆ Involvement of parents, students and teachers in the personalization of the learning process.
- ◆ Student-to-student mentoring and support.
- ◆ Use of data, assessment information and student feedback to plan curriculum and instruction based on student strengths and needs.

Civic and Community Engagement

The Milford School District builds a sense of community among all stakeholders so that students develop academically and socially and become responsible citizens. This can be accomplished by achieving the following goals:

Building a safe and inclusive school culture. Strategies for achieving this goal may include the following:

- ◆ Cultivating an inclusive school environment that is respectful of each and every member.
- ◆ Fostering relationships so that each student is socially connected in school.
- ◆ Increasing the range of opportunities for parent and family involvement.
- ◆ Providing time and training for educators to conduct meaningful collaboration in support of students.
- ◆ Teaching and reinforcing the interpersonal skills students need to be positive and productive members of the school community.

Engaging in meaningful two-way communication. Strategies for achieving this goal may include the following:

- ◆ Cultivation of school, parent, and student partnerships throughout the school year.
- ◆ Review of communication practices and development of strategies for successful interactions with different stakeholders.
- ◆ Effective use of e-communication.
- ◆ Regular, timely and consistent school communication with students, families and staff.

Encouraging meaningful connections and interactions between the schools and the greater community. Strategies for achieving this goal may include the following:

- ◆ Civic participation.
- ◆ Community service opportunities.
- ◆ Partnerships with businesses.
- ◆ Connections with various constituencies in the community.
- ◆ Purposeful community outreach, including solicitation of ideas, opinions and perspectives.
- ◆ Facilitation of partnerships with community service providers and families to support students' health, wellness and readiness for school.
- ◆ Showcasing of student work in media outlets.

Use of Resources

The Milford School District utilizes its financial, technological, human and capital resources efficiently and effectively. This can be accomplished by achieving the following goals:

Cultivating the optimal use of human resources. Strategies for achieving this goal may include the following:

- ◆ Providing professional development to maximize the effective use of curriculum, equipment, and technology.
- ◆ Providing multiple avenues for community involvement in schools.
- ◆ Creating a culture of collaboration and camaraderie among staff.

Maintaining and modernizing technology. Strategies for achieving this goal may include the following:

- ◆ Updating software, infrastructure and equipment on a regular and scheduled basis.
- ◆ Providing adequate space, materials, equipment and supplies for classrooms and work needs.

Using fiscal diligence and balance in decision making. Strategies for achieving this goal may include the following:

- ◆ Making information about District resources clear and accessible.
- ◆ Seeking alternative funding sources.
- ◆ Maintaining appropriate class sizes and staffing levels necessary to provide a quality education.

Maintaining and utilizing the physical plant of the District efficiently. Strategies for achieving this goal may include the following:

- ◆ Operating a safe and appropriate school environment.
- ◆ Making school facilities available to the community.

Studying the allocation of time for in-school student learning. Strategies for achieving this goal may include:

- ◆ Examining student learning time, such as class scheduling, length of school day, length of school year and/or other structured learning time such as summer school.



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