

# **Albany Area Schools**

## **Strategic Plan 2017-2020**



### **Mission Statement**

*Albany Area Schools cultivates and nurtures engaged critical thinkers who are lifelong learners.*

### **BELIEFS**

1. A collaboration of students, staff, families, and community partners is essential to accomplish our mission.
2. Each person has the opportunity and responsibility to learn.
3. An encouraging environment of trust, respect, and security promotes learning.
4. Clear and high expectations promote success.
5. Creativity, collaboration, communication, and critical thinking are vital for success.
6. Innovation and adaptation are integral to education.
7. Local and global citizenship are essential for thriving in an interconnected world.
8. Diverse perspectives are essential for growth.
9. Every student is ready for life beyond school.
10. Continuous learning is essential for personal fulfillment, opportunity, and success.

## **GOALS, OUTCOMES, & ACTION ITEMS**

- **Albany Area Schools will focus on communication at all levels to inform and to engage students, parents, and the community.**

### Outcomes

- Establish and teach clear, predictable communication pathways
- Develop a video tutorial library for parents, students, and teachers
- Communicate to parents the basic information they need regarding technology tools being used in our schools

### Action Items

- Conduct annual summer surveys to discover parent and community needs and to solicit important feedback
- Communicate event reminders in a variety of ways
- Promote the new website and teach users how to navigate it through the use of a video tutorial library and other means

- **Albany Area Schools will promote and increase the use of school facilities by students and community members of all ages through new and enhanced programming and activities.**

### Outcomes

- Provide expanded use of facilities for students
- Provide expanded use of facilities for community members
- Continually maintain and improve facilities

### Action Items

- Examine facility use and implement changes when needed
- Research student activity interest and initiate new programs
- Promote physical fitness
- Research other successful district facility use models
- Solicit ideas from community members
- Promote use of facilities
- Plan a grand opening
- Collaborate with area businesses and organizations
- Update equipment

- **Albany Area Schools will expand innovative teaching and learning practices that focus on creativity, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration.**

#### Outcomes

- Explore schedule flexibility
- Implement technology integration in real time
- Promote multi-generational expert/experiences
- Support cross-curricular course offerings/STEM/Project Lead The Way/Problem Based Learning model
- Expand world language instruction

#### Action Items

- Identify ways to find more collaboration time for students
- Evaluate middle school programming after first year
- Provide continued technology integration support
- Establish a student technology support team
- Encourage staff to develop real-world lessons involving community members of all ages and experience
- Have teachers design and showcase project-based units

- **Albany Area Schools will create and sustain a professional development model that is both individualized and flexible.**

#### Outcomes

- Create an instructional coaching model in our buildings to help support teachers in their use of instructional best practices
- Research calendar and contractual options to increase the flexibility of professional development time for teachers and paraprofessionals.
- Establish a system of self-directed professional development for teachers and paraprofessionals
- Develop a mentorship program for teachers and paraprofessionals

#### Action Items

- Research, design, and fund instructional coaching models
- Increase professional development time
- Research, design, and fund self-directed professional development models
- Research, design, and fund a mentoring program

## EVALUATION & ANNUAL UPDATES

Evaluation of the strategic plan is essential to ensuring successful implementation. Measures of student achievement and satisfaction of stakeholders will be used to gauge progress towards meeting goals. Student achievement measures include state, local, and other approved assessments. Focus group evaluation will be conducted by building leadership teams and the strategic planning team. A district wide survey will be conducted near the completion of this strategic plan cycle.

<b>Summer 2017</b>	Priorities established by school board, administration, and building leadership teams
<b>Summer/Fall 2017</b>	District and building goals established using strategic plan goals and priorities
<b>Spring 2018</b>	Review Year 1 progress (see above) and set priorities for 2018-19
<b>Summer/Fall 2018</b>	District and building goals established using strategic plan goals and priorities
<b>Spring 2019</b>	Review Year 2 progress (see above) and set priorities for 2019-20
<b>Summer/Fall 2019</b>	District and building goals established using strategic plan goals and priorities
<b>Winter 2020</b>	Conduct district resident survey
<b>Spring 2020</b>	Review Year 3 progress (see above) and begin the planning phase for a new strategic plan

**The superintendent will be responsible for evaluation of the strategic plan.**

