



LAKE BLUFF SCHOOLS
DISTRICT 65



The Road
to
success

Guaranteed Viable Transparent Curriculum
September 2025

Mission:

Ensure academic achievement and personal growth for all students through innovative and engaging educational opportunities.



Motto:

Excellence in Education,
Enthusiasm for Life, Every
Student, Every Day.



Vision:

An inclusive community of motivated learners who are inspired to change the world through exploration and collaboration.

Connection to LB65 Strategic Plan

Goal 1: Implement an innovative educational program that provides every child with what they need to progress academically, achieve their goals, and develop their interests while supporting their health and well-being.

Strategy 1: Develop and implement with fidelity a guaranteed, viable, transparent curriculum.



What is GVTC?

Guaranteed

- Essential content identified for every grade level and course
- Equitable access and opportunity for all students

Viable

- Designed to be taught meaningfully within available instructional time

Transparent

- Internal: ensures equal access to curriculum in every classroom
- Public: clear communication with families and community



Why GVTC?

“Guaranteed and viable curriculum is the #1 school-level factor impacting student achievement.”

-Marzano, What Works in Schools

- **Every student deserves access to the same high-quality core learning**
- **Ensures equity across classrooms and schools**
- **Builds clarity for families, students, and educators**
- **Supports long-term readiness and growth**

The Process

- Collaborative, district-wide effort
- Staff dedicated countless hours to thoughtful and sometimes challenging conversations
- Not easy work, but always centered on **what's best for students**
- Result: a strong foundation for student learning and growth



Our Framework: Understanding By Design

- **Transfer Goals:** what students should be able to do with their learning independently, beyond school
- **Understandings:** big ideas students should internalize and carry forward
- **Essential Questions:** thought-provoking questions that guide inquiry and connections
- **Knowledge:** facts, concepts, and vocabulary students should know
- **Skills:** abilities students should be able to demonstrate and apply



What This Looks Like in Classrooms

- Curriculum is **aligned and consistent**, but not scripted
- Teachers bring their own style, creativity, and autonomy to how learning is delivered
- Students may experience learning differently across classrooms, yet with the same core expectations



Important things to note

- We will continue to be guided by the standards
- Curriculum is living/evolving
 - We are responsive to student needs!
- Our staff is constantly reflecting/adjusting based on:
 - Student needs
 - New research
 - Feedback





Excellence in Education, Enthusiasm for Life, Every Student, Every Day

≡ MENU

SCHOOLS ▾

TRANSLATE ▾



GUARANTEED VIABLE TRANSPARENT CURRICULUM

Our Curriculum:

Guaranteed, Viable, and Transparent

In District 65, we are committed to providing every student with access to a **guaranteed, viable, transparent curriculum**- a clear, consistent set of learning goals that ensures all students engage with essential skills and knowledge in every grade and course.

This site provides families and community members with an overview of the core elements students will be learning across our schools. You'll find the key learning outcomes for each subject area, designed to build from year to year and prepare students for success in school and beyond.

At the same time, we recognize that **curriculum is a living, evolving framework**. Our educators regularly reflect on and adjust instruction based on the students in front of them, new research, and community feedback. This process ensures that learning remains responsive, relevant, and rigorous while staying aligned with state standards and our district's Portrait of a Learner.

We invite you to explore our curriculum and see how we are working to ensure Excellence in Education, Enthusiasm for Life, Every Student, Every Day.

You can view our Curriculum Blueprint here.

Curriculum Blueprint

Courses by Subject



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DISTRICT 65

Excellence in Education, Enthusiasm for Life, Every Student, Every Day.

English Language Arts

Math

Science

Social Studies

World Languages

Wellness



For Families and the Community

- This website is a **starting place**- a communication tool to help you understand the core curriculum
- For specific questions about your child's experience, **your teacher is the best resource**
- Together, we are ensuring that every student has access to the learning they need to thrive



Next Steps

- Continuous reflection and improvement based on student needs
- Ongoing collaboration across the district
- Now: focus shifts to aligning **assessments** with curriculum



Thank you!

To our teachers and staff:

- For your dedication, thoughtful dialogue, and commitment to students
- For leaning into hard work and meaningful conversations
- For always keeping student growth at the center

