

The Mission Statement of Scottsbluff Public Schools

Revised and Adopted: 7/25/05

Scottsbluff Public Schools, in partnership with family and community, will provide equal opportunities through standards-based and individualized curriculum where all students become productive citizens and life-long learners in a globally diverse society.

Rationale for Mission Statement:

1. Scottsbluff Public Schools focuses on standards-based and individualized instruction and curriculum.
2. Life-long learners need basic skills to adapt for different life choices.
3. Important to have a partnership understanding with families and community.
4. Recognize diversity in our community and global society.

LITERACY

GOAL: Scottsbluff Public Schools will provide effective literacy programs to ensure all students develop the essential skills needed to be literate adults.

OBJECTIVE #1: The District will implement a comprehensive and consistent reading/language arts program PreK-12 as soon as possible.

Strategy #1: All K – 8 students receive reading/language arts instruction.

- Programs, initiatives, and intervention which include, but are not limited to, Guided Reading, Balanced Reading, and Phonics will be part of the instructional model.

Strategy #2: All 9 – 12 students take a minimum of four years of language arts.

- Curriculum Mapping
- Scope and Sequence

Strategy #3: Reading and writing is integrated in all K – 12 language arts/curricular areas.

- Curriculum Mapping
- Scope and Sequence

Strategy #4: Six Trait Writing and The Big Six Research Model are integrated throughout all curricular areas.

- Programs, initiatives, and interventions which include, but are not limited to, Curriculum Mapping and Scope and Sequence will facilitate a comprehensive or consistent Reading/Language Arts program.

Strategy #5: Speaking and listening skills are practiced in a variety of contexts.

- Scope and Sequence of Presentation Types

Strategy #6: Early intervention is provided for all students.

- Preschool
- Diagnostic tools

Strategy #7: Research-based data drives the selection of instructional strategies and provides increased accountability.

OBJECTIVE # 2: The District develops comprehensive and consistent programs that incorporate mathematical literacy.

Strategy #1: A comprehensive Pre-K –12 math literacy curriculum is in place.

- scope and sequence
- curriculum mapping
- promote consistent mathematical terminology

Strategy #2: Early intervention will be provided for all students.

Strategy #3: Research-based data drives the selection of instructional strategies and provides increased accountability.

COMMUNICATION

GOAL: To institute effective communications among all elements of the community regarding our children and their education.

OBJECTIVE 1: Public is made aware of major issues the Scottsbluff School Boards is considering and provide an opportunity for input into the discussion surrounding those issues.

Strategy #1: Establish a communication network that reaches target audiences and serves as a channel for those audiences to provide input to the board.

- A network, made of representatives of demographic groups, reaches into those demographic groups and carries input back to the Board through the School Site Council President and Building Principal.
- Network is facilitated by School Site Council President and Building Principal.
- When network is utilized, use an accountability flowchart to ensure information reaches all targeted audiences.

Strategy #2: Effectively communicate Board agendas, minutes, and discussion to the public.

- Agendas available on the website by Friday prior to meeting.
- Minutes posted within two working days of the Board approval of the minutes.
- Elicit general population response through the use of the district web-site, surveys and questionnaires when appropriate, open comment time at board of education meeting, BOE President District e-mail, etc.
- Add Communication Specialist report to regular board agenda.
- Consider some type of open forum, away from the restrictions of getting onto the board agenda, in which people could speak to a board representative(s) quarterly? twice yearly?

OBJECTIVE 2: Communicate the desirable qualities of Scottsbluff Public Schools in order to recruit students into the system.

Strategy #1: Commit to excellence in every area to make Scottsbluff schools the desired location.

Strategy #2: Communicate areas of excellence

- Publish, on a regular basis, student and staff achievements or recognitions.
- Publish and promote the variety of opportunities available in the Scottsbluff Public Schools utilizing alumni where possible.
- Visit each K-8 feeder school or invite 6-7-8 grade students from feeder schools to visit Scottsbluff Middle School and High School – recruitment teams (administrators, students, teachers, etc.).
- Address the public perception of Scottsbluff Public Schools – focus on the positive examples.
- Provide personal introduction of Scottsbluff Public Schools for new families to the area.
- Relevant course offerings for all students.

OBJECTIVE 3: Communicate the desirable qualities of Scottsbluff Public Schools in order to recruit quality teachers, administrators and staff into the system.

- Culture of respect within the buildings and district
- Responsive administration
- Opportunity to challenge yourself and grow

Strategy #1: Professional growth component.

Strategy #2: Broaden the posting base for new openings.

FACILITIES

GOAL: Provide safe, state of the art facilities, which promote the optimal environment for academic, social, and family growth for all students.

OBJECTIVE #1: By the fall of 2008 provide state of the art facilities for grades K-8.

Strategy #1: Provide (new construction or remodel) two new state of the art K-8 buildings.

- Board commission a committee to study the K-8 concept to determine feasibility.
- Bond Referendum consideration.

Strategy #2: Provide two state of the art K-5 elementary buildings, the configuration of which will be determined by recommendations from the School Structure sub-committee, along with a new state of the art middle school, on its current site.

- Bond Referendum consideration.

OBJECTIVE #2: Include comprehensive state of the art indoor sports facilities with any district remodeling or new construction to accommodate school district needs.

Strategy #1: Build a district sport complex.

- Board commission a feasibility study and possible site locations.
- Feasibility of joint ventures with other local governmental agencies.
- Bond Referendum consideration.

OBJECTIVE #3: Include state of the art vocational programs/building on the main high school campus.

- Feasibility study.
- Bond Referendum consideration.

OBJECTIVE #4: Develop annual facilities review process.

- Prior to February 1 of each school year, the facilities review process should be completed.

SCHOOL STRUCTURE

GOAL: Develop the optimum framework for the delivery of instruction within Scottsbluff Public School System to achieve maximum performance and provide equitable learning opportunities for all children.

OBJECTIVE #1: By August 2005, facilitate a forum to have the Scottsbluff and Gering School Boards meet to discuss consolidation of educational services.

Strategy #1: Identify possible areas of collaborative efforts between districts.

- Scottsbluff Public School board president contact Gering school board members, by July 1, 2005, with the intent of having an open meeting with all members present.

OBJECTIVE #2: Equalize learning opportunities available to students in each grade level within the district.

Strategy #1: Deliver consistent standardized academic content and skills for each grade level through curriculum mapping.

- By October 2005, all subject areas and courses will be on a mapping schedule.
- By January 2006, all teachers will have been provided the necessary training to complete the mapping process.

Strategy #2: Provide an early intervention program in cooperation with community resources, so that ALL children have access to preschool.

- Form a committee to develop the district plan for this preschool program by September 30, 2005.
 1. Select a means to identify the children.
 2. Identify the # of children who qualify for the program.
 3. Identify a place/places to house the preschool program.
 4. Hire highly qualified teachers.
 5. Plan the appropriate curriculum.
 6. Secure the necessary resources.
 7. Develop a strong parental component.
 8. Work with and develop a positive relationship with private providers and Head Start.

- Have the program ready to implement by August 2006.

Strategy #3: Organize elementary schools to facilitate integration of students and more equal learning opportunities.

- Close Longfellow, Lincoln Heights, and Roosevelt.
- Expand Westmoor to be a grade-level based attendance center and build a new grade-level based attendance center. One center to be designated a primary site (K-2) and the other center to be designated an intermediate site (3-5).
- Establish disposition of retired buildings so that they don't sit empty.
- If we have to maintain 3 or more schools, stay K-5 at each school.

OBJECTIVE #3: Provide a quality education for all students at the high school level.

Strategy #1: Teach most core classes in a 5-day-a-week setting and through creative scheduling accommodate any classes that may be determined by teachers and backup research to be better taught in a longer class period that meets less frequently.

- Form a committee to meet with teachers to receive their input on how their subject matter would best be taught.
- Form an objective task force to examine relevant data (consider both pros and cons).

Strategy #2: Increase number of college courses available to students either as concurrent enrollment or distance learning classes.

Strategy #3: Increase availability of remedial classes in core subject areas.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

GOAL: The Scottsbluff Schools shall foster diverse instructional programs that meet individual needs and enable students to attain their greatest potential.

OBJECTIVE #1: To better prepare students to be ready to learn on entering the K-12 programs of Scottsbluff Public Schools.

Strategy #1: By 2006-2007, Scottsbluff Public Schools will implement a pre-kindergarten.

- Establish location(s) for pre-kindergarten programs in Scottsbluff Public Schools attendance areas
- Identify funding sources to implement and support a pre-kindergarten program

OBJECTIVE #2: To provide diverse instructional programs which meet the individual needs of the students enrolled in the Scottsbluff Public Schools.

Strategy #1: Establish programs at each level which effectively prepares students to move to the next level of their education or to enter the work force.

- Establish math and reading programs at the elementary level which prepare all students for the challenges of middle school
- Emphasis core areas: math, reading, language arts, social studies, science, and technology at all levels in the middle school in addition to providing opportunities in selected exploratory classes.
- Establish classes at the secondary level which will enable students to prepare for the world of work, vocational programs or post-secondary academic pursuits.

OBJECTIVE #3: To ensure school initiatives are supported and implemented by all staff.