



Revised Strategic Plan and Mid-Year Goal Update

TO: School Board

FROM: Trisha Kocanda, *Superintendent*

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Background

In December 2012, the School Board adopted a five-year Strategic Plan for The Winnetka Public Schools. This Plan incorporated a brief history of the District, its commitment to progressive education, and the creation of a community of learners. It also included a reaffirmation of the core values, educational philosophy, classroom practices, and commitment to the neighborhood school concept that would ultimately guide the planning process and goal development.

During the 2014-2015 school year, as the new Superintendent, I prioritized the need to re-engage and work collaboratively with all stakeholders to gather feedback to inform future goal setting and action.

In January 2015, a mid-year report was presented focusing on the themes that emerged from the over 65 meetings and 200+ hours spent with students, parents, staff, administration, community members, and School Board members. The results were segregated into three categories: Cross-Constituent Views, Ambitious Opportunities, and Developing a Shared Vision. [Click here](#) to view the Mid-Year Entry Plan Report presented at the January 2015 School Board Meeting.

Refined Strategic Plan

The refined Strategic Plan was presented to the School Board in June 2015. The Board supported a leaner plan that focused the energy into six ambitious opportunities (drivers). Modifications suggested by the Board included:

- Collapsing Student - Growth Model and Program – Special Education

into one category and relabeling it Differentiation, and expanding the outcomes.

- Establishing a communication and long-term financial planning base for the six ambitious ideas (drivers) to accompany implementation of new initiatives.
- Enhancing professional learning systems to include implementation of methods designed to recruit, hire, develop and retain personnel.

Mid Year Update to Strategic Plan

Areas of specific focus for the 2015-2016 school year (The Big “5”) evolved from the Superintendent's Entry Plan Findings and include:

- Math
 - development of clear goals, measures, and targets for student growth and achievement (content, practices and disposition)
 - increasing parent education efforts (website, WPI)
 - embedding technology based resources to support differentiation
- Reading
 - Finalize Curriculum (KUDs) and Develop clear goals, measures, and targets for student growth and achievement (content & disposition)
- STEAM
 - Piloting prototype environments at three schools and gathering feedback on student engagement, design thinking, and logistics including recommendation of options on program expansion.
- Kindergarten
 - Conduct feasibility study to determine if lengthening the kindergarten day is viable
- Winnetka University
 - Implement phase 1 of Winnetka University by offering courses beginning in winter and developing robust courses for 2016-2017 school year.

These “Big 5” represent the focus for the strategic work of the District for the 2015-2016 school year. [Click here](#) to view the mid-year update for these outcomes.