

FAIRFIELD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW

Our strategic plan is a working document that proposes a long-term direction. It starts from the accomplishments of the previous plan and recognizes today's realities. The plan is realistic and measurable, and will serve as a constant compass for the activities of the school district.

INSTRUCTION ACTION TEAM

The Instruction Action Team defined its overall compelling needs as:

- Meet the instructional needs of every child to reach and exceed all state indicators.
- Provide effective professional development as a means of achieving excellence.

Results of fulfilling this compelling need are:

- Provide excellent instruction.
- Ensure that all students make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

In order to provide excellent instruction, it is necessary to analyze student data and design research-based in-service programs that will give teachers, administrators and support personnel the skills and knowledge to provide appropriate and engaging instruction. There are many steps which must be taken to make this happen. The action team is proposing a new structure to plan professional development, which would be the creation of a district Professional Development Committee. The plans developed by the committee will then be monitored and aligned to standards and Best Practices.

The second goal of the Instruction Action Team is for all students to make Adequate Yearly Progress. This would involve early identification for students at risk, both academically and behaviorally. This plan would involve collaboration among parents, teachers, administrators, specialists, and community resources. Evaluation instruments currently in place in the district, such as D.I.B.E.L.S., and new programs, i.e. OTELA, will be analyzed to identify students at risk and programs in which each student is successful. In order for the district to make Adequate Yearly Progress by the Ohio Department of Education, each of the student subgroups must show progress toward passing the indicators on the Ohio Achievement Tests.

FACILITIES ACTION TEAM OVERVIEW

The Facilities Action Team defined its overall compelling need as:

- Create a vision and plan for the future of the 10 school buildings, which average more than 30 years old. The oldest building in the district, Central Elementary, was opened in 1929 and our two newest buildings, East Elementary and the Senior High, opened in 1998.

The result of creating and working toward this longer-term vision is:

- Ensure building structural integrity to facilitate student/staff safety as well as fire/life safety.

In 2003, the FCSD participated in a no-cost facility assessment completed by the Ohio Schools Facilities Commission. This assessment was used as a blueprint for the district's five-year facilities plan, which was implemented as part of the permanent improvement levy passed by the voters in May 2003. Over the past four years repairs, renovations and upgrades have been completed in all of the district's buildings. As this five-year/short-range facilities plan begins to move toward completion, our focus must turn to a long-range facilities plan. We recently applied for the Ohio School Facilities Commission's assessment of our current facilities, and we expect results of this assessment in Fall 2006. The plan the district develops from that point must ensure that our students are educated in buildings that provide an optimal learning environment in a safe and secure setting.

Based on the initial reviews, the development of the long-range facilities plan must be inclusive of all other Action Teams that exist within the Strategic Plan. Each Action Plan and the vision contained within must be integrated into the Facilities Action Plan as this will be the backbone of the learning and instruction that will exist inside of the bricks and mortar.

FAMILY OWNERSHIP ACTION TEAM OVERVIEW

The Family Ownership Team defined its overall compelling need as:

- Empower families to take intrinsic ownership in the education of their children.

The result of fulfilling this compelling need is:

- Families will feel that the Fairfield City Schools are a cooperative partner in their children's education, resulting in increased student success as measured by increased student achievement, increased family participation and improved family satisfaction.

With the goal of increased student success, three areas of focus were identified:

- Communication that is both cohesive and consistent among the district, the schools and the families, providing consistency throughout the child's tenure in the district. It is essential that problem-solving strategies are clearly communicated and consistent from kindergarten through high school. Families and staff must have a clear understanding on how to address and handle concerns when they arise.
- Family education to assure families are fully informed on all aspects of their child's education and district initiatives. Families must be informed of and encouraged to assist with new initiatives. Educate families and staff on available community services and how to access them.
- School culture which values an environment that respects cultural diversity, fosters family ownership and, therefore, increases student success. Create professional development opportunities that direct staff at all levels toward common areas of concern.

COMMUNITY CONNECTEDNESS ACTION TEAM OVERVIEW

The Community Connectedness Action Team defined its overall compelling needs as:

- All students will have the opportunities to excel in their areas of strength with the support of resources in the communities of the City of Fairfield and Fairfield Township.
- The communities of the City of Fairfield and Fairfield Township need to gain access to resources through partnerships with and involvement in the schools.

Results of fulfilling these compelling needs are:

- All students will be able to develop their strengths to excel in academics, career skills and character in order to be successful, contributing members of society.
- The community will tap into and benefit from the school district and have ownership in its schools.

The Community Connectedness Action Team defined “Community Connectedness” as: *A community that promotes total inclusiveness where schools and community work together to benefit all and enhance the quality of life.*

The Community Connectedness Action Team identified three areas of focus:

- Establish an alumni association to help foster a spirit of support and commitment among the alumni, schools and community.
- Increase senior citizen involvement with the schools to tap into seniors’ experience, expertise and mentoring and to make Fairfield schools a culturally, socially and intellectually welcoming environment for Fairfield area seniors.
- Strengthen and expand relationships with the business community and establishing a “lightning rod” team for quick, accurate dissemination of district news. Activities include forming a work ethic program with area businesses, developing a mentoring program, establishing a student job bank, formalizing a recognition program to recognize businesses that partner with the district, and establishing an e-communicator network.

Other activities identified for future consideration include:

- Establish a formal welcome process for new families.
- Conduct curriculum information meetings with families and having more family nights.
- Issue personal invitations to individuals to attend Board of Education meetings.
- Formalize a way to publicize board actions and pending considerations.
- Increase the numbers of parent helpers in the schools at all grade levels.
- Identify and develop activities that bridge the “city/township divide.”
- Develop diversity and inclusiveness activities and partner with other organizations for those activities.
- Connect with college-age students.
- Connect with young professionals.
- Publish an annual report to the community that includes financial snapshots, achievement information, curriculum updates, and so on.

INNOVATION ACTION TEAM OVERVIEW

The Innovation Action Team defined its overall compelling need as:

- To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the current structures within our educational system.

The results of fulfilling this compelling need are:

- Increased community connectedness to raise the awareness in the community of how well Fairfield Schools prepare graduates for the future.
- Technology that improves student achievement, staff and administration efficiency and communication effectiveness.
- Facilities providing an optimum learning environment.

Recommended areas of focus could include:

- Collect data on FHS graduates to determine how well Fairfield City Schools prepared them for the next step in life including college, a specific job or the military.
- Create a method to capture and publish information on FHS graduates success in a “Where are they now” type of monthly update.
- Develop and implement a districtwide media strategy and identify volunteer community liaisons.
- Pilot Active Boards for impact on instruction and student engagement (Smart Boards and Promethean Boards).
- Pilot Tablet PCs with projectors to determine the impact on instruction and student engagement.
- Research the use of hand-held PDAs and student response systems for more ongoing assessment and data management for instructional gains.
- Research altering start time so that High School starts later to match teens natural sleep patterns and capture younger children’s natural ability to learn during early morning.
- Research feasibility of providing an optional “extra” period at the High School to allow children to have a separate start time and/or extra period to enable them to take extra courses, make up deficient credits and/or receive additional help in targeted areas (such as standardized test prep).
- Research assessing grade configuration within the buildings to best meet the educational needs of the students and reduce the stress that occurs when children transition from one building to another.