

MISSION

The Fox Chapel Area School District exists to maximize student learning, achievement, and development.

VISION

The Fox Chapel Area School District will be recognized as one of the top-performing public school districts in the nation. Toward that end we will:

- Challenge each student to reach his/her maximum potential level of achievement.
- Provide scholarly experiences that deepen understanding, creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, innovation, and collaboration.
- Provide an environment that promotes inclusiveness and embraces diversity.
- Foster a culture that encourages student involvement in the community and raises awareness of civic responsibilities.
- Build relationships with postsecondary institutions, businesses, and industry to create and sustain programs that prepare students to excel beyond high school.

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



School Board Approves Comprehensive Plan for the Future

Just like the rudder in a ship, the newly-approved comprehensive plan will steer the direction of the Fox Chapel Area School District for the next six years. Fox Chapel Area's Comprehensive (strategic) Plan includes the mission statement and vision, which define the district's purpose. The plan further provides belief statements and core values and defines goal areas and action plans.

The Board of School Directors had a key role in the process, establishing and shaping the mission statement and the goal areas. The Board, along with the administrative team, also wrote the new vision statement. A planning committee, made up of district-level administrators, principals representing each of the six schools, and teacher association representatives, addressed all the steps necessary to complete the comprehensive plan, including examining goal priorities and developing the action plans. A professional education committee that included classroom and educational support teachers, parents, community members, and business leaders, plus district-level and building administrators, reviewed the action plans for professional development opportunities and reviewed the overall plan. The site-based teams from each building also reviewed and made comments on the plan.

The goal areas addressed in the Fox Chapel Area School District Comprehensive Plan are:

- **Learning** – The Fox Chapel Area School District will provide a curriculum and extracurricular opportunities that foster academic growth and personal development.
- **Achievement** – More than 90 percent of the students enrolled in the Fox Chapel Area School District will reach the proficient or advanced level in reading, math, science, and writing.

- **Safety Nets** – The Fox Chapel Area School District will ensure each student’s needs are identified early and supported by a process that provides the necessary interventions.
- **Communications** – Celebrate the school district, students, teachers, and activities and provide opportunities for the public to share in learning.
- **Resource Management** – The district will take the lead in creative resource management to address the financial crisis facing public schools across the commonwealth.

Action plans that were developed for each of the goal areas include indicators of implementation and effectiveness. Some highlights of the action plans include:

- The STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine) curriculum will be expanded and emphasizes preparing students to be globally competitive in a future where science, technology, engineering, math, and medicine skills will be in demand.
- Virtual experiences and cyber programs that provide flexible learning options will be embedded into the kindergarten-12th grade teaching and learning environment.
- Common Core Standards will be used to provide clear goals for learning so that students will have the skills and knowledge they need to be successful.
- Differentiated Instruction (DI) will continue to be a key component of learning and teaching. Differentiated Instruction places students at the center of teaching and learning to allow all students to maximize academic success as instruction is tailored to individual student needs.
- Data analysis will continue to be used to identify a range of interventions to meet the needs of all students. A system will be established that fully ensures barriers to student learning are addressed in order to increase student achievement. Student achievement will be monitored and instructional practices adjusted as needed.
- Professional development will address STEMM integration, virtual experiences, curriculum review and revision, the expanded use of Differentiated Instruction in all classrooms, curriculum revision based upon Common Core Standards, and the continued refinement of the use of safety nets for students at risk.
- The district will provide timely, respectful, and effective communication between all stakeholders and the use of social media will be promoted. The district also plans to showcase best practices through various outlets and to share academic opportunities beyond the school walls.
- The district will seek and develop innovative strategies to reduce the cost of operations and improve efficiency. Additionally, community and business partnerships will be enhanced and alternative funding sources will be identified.

The Fox Chapel Area Board of School Directors approved this new comprehensive plan in November 2012. This plan, that will guide the district from 2012-2018, has also been submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.



BELIEFS

We believe that:

- All students want to learn, are capable of learning, and share in the responsibility for their education.
- Contributing partners in the educational process include all district staff, students, families, and the community.
- Schools of excellence have effective educational leaders.
- Educators must be knowledgeable and current in their profession, discipline, and pedagogy.
- It is important for each member of the educational community to recognize and respect all forms of diversity.
- Effective schools are built upon integrity and foster respectful, inclusive, and dynamic environments.
- Responsive schools take a leading role in promoting safety and wellness.
- Fiscal decisions must effectively balance the educational needs of the students and resources of the community.

CORE VALUES

Respect
Responsibility
Integrity