

Earlham Community School Board

Goal Statements

March 2015

School Board Goal Statements for Academic Programs

College and Career Readiness

College readiness is the level of achievement a student needs to be ready to enroll and succeed, without remediation, in credit bearing postsecondary courses. The Earlham Community School wants every student to be academically successful by providing a world-class educational experience. The district curriculum is designed to improve achievement of all students, preparing them for the world of work and lifelong learning. Student learning will reveal the building blocks for success in the 21st century: critical thinking, complex communication, creativity, collaboration, flexibility and adaptability, and productivity and accountability.

The Board's goal is for all students' educational experiences to prepare them upon graduation to be successful at a post-secondary institution or a career.

Standards Based Grading

The district curriculum provides academic expectations for all K-12 students. Earlham CSD students deserve an education that helps them succeed in today's technology rich, global economy. It does so by helping teachers take learning to a deeper level by focusing on a well-researched set of standards in literacy and mathematics and essential concepts and skills in science, social studies, and 21st century learning.

Standards Based Grading is a system of reporting student proficiency in a number of specific learning goals (or standards). Rather than give students one grade on a test that assessed multiple skills, this system gives students a number of scores that represent their proficiency in each of the skills assessed. This is a learning-based approach that supports high expectations and engagement for all students.

The Board's goal is for all teachers to have a full understanding, engagement and implementation of Standards Based Grading at all grade levels by the 2016-17 school year.

Curriculum and Technology

The Earlham School District is committed to providing students and staff with technology teaching and learning tools. Student mastery of the Essential Concepts and Skills requires that teachers use technology to create student centered classrooms, where students are invested in the discovery of their own knowledge. Students must use technology to collaborate, cooperate and share their new learning with their peers. Students can use technology to create their own learning through problem solving of real life issues. Teachers can use technology to make certain that each student is being challenged with rigorous and relevant content and implement instructional practices that are differentiated based upon each learner's needs.

The Board's goal is for all students and staff to have access to high quality technology teaching and learning tools that engage students in student centered classrooms, where the Essential Concepts and Skills of the Iowa Core are taught/learned.

Iowa Core Process

The Iowa Core is not course-based, but rather is a student-based approach that supports high expectations for all students. The Iowa Core is designed to improve achievement of all students, preparing them for the world of work and lifelong learning. It identifies the essential content and instruction of critical content areas that all students must experience.

Characteristics of effective instruction and professional development initiatives help educators create student-centered classrooms focused on students and learning. Earlham teachers are expanding their knowledge of learning and pedagogy as they develop the content of the Iowa Core into rigorous and relevant lessons that help them teach for understanding and learner differences. The District will continue to investigate more informative, effective, and authentic assessment for learning to guide instruction.

The Board's goal is for all staff to engage students in student centered classrooms, where the Essential Concepts and Skills of the Iowa Core are taught/learned using the Characteristics of Effective Instruction.

School Board Goal Statements for Student Development

Time Management and Organizational Skills

The Board believes that in order for students to be successful academically and for their success to continue beyond school, they need to learn how to be organized and manage their time effectively. Students need to learn how to prioritize required tasks, allocate time to complete those tasks and do so within the timeframe that the task is due. These skills can be learned through project based learning where students would be instructed on how to break a project into manageable pieces and given timelines for the completion of each part of the overall project.

The Board's goal is to ensure all students develop strong organizational and time management skills beginning in the upper elementary grades.

Job Shadowing Opportunities

Earlham School will work with the students to create a plan to assist students in learning about career opportunities and postsecondary options. Assessments and surveys, career research, course plan building, education linkages, and financial aid and career development activities that assist them in their future will be included in the student plan.

Students can work with the guidance counselor and the building principal to arrange opportunities to job shadow with a willing employer where the job matches the student's interests and abilities as shown through the assessments, surveys and career research.

The Board's goal is to ensure that each student grade 7-12 is provided with the opportunity to explore careers through job shadowing.

Student mentors and tutors

Earlham Community Schools is fortunate to have Preschool through 12th grade students all in the same building. This configuration allows for older students to share their talents with younger students. The older students also can serve as role models for younger students. The School Board what to encourage tutoring and mentoring partnerships to help students achieve social and academic success.

The Board's goal is to encourage students to serve as mentors/role models for younger students and assist with tutoring of students where possible.

School Board Goal Statements for Community and Board Development

Increase online tools and usage

School boards attempt to build and keep positive and trusting relationships with parents and the members of the community. A key to building and keeping these relationships positive is through a constant flow of information. In the world of technology that we currently live in, the Board is attempting to use a variety of different tools to keep the public informed.

The Board's goal is to investigate and implement ways to increase the use of online tools to communicate with parents and community members.

More educational/learning sessions for Board

The Earlham School Board is committed to providing an educational experience for every student that will prepare them for success in the 21st Century. In order to provide those educational experiences for students, the School Board needs to continue to be a learning body as well.

The Board's goal is to use available resources to better educate themselves about the changes and innovations in education in order to ensure a learning environment that prepares students for success beyond high school.

Community awareness through communication

Not all members of the Earlham School District have a child enrolled in school at this time. Many have grandchildren, nieces and nephews, but some community members have no direct connection to the school. The School Board realizes that information about the district needs to be communicated to this segment of the community.

The Board's goal is to reach out to all members of the district community in a manner that best communicates information about the district and its educational programs.

School Board Goal Statements for Facilities and Finance

Control of Traffic Flow

Student safety is a priority for the Earlham Community Schools. An area where the School Board has identified as a possible area where safety can be improved is the processes used to drop off and pick-up students before and after school. Currently, all of the school buses and parents use the lane on the west side of the building.

The Board will work with local and state governmental agencies as well as the Facilities Committee to devise a plan for improved traffic flow during peak traffic periods.

The Board's goal is to use available resources to provide a safer environment for students and parents during the daily drop-off and pick-up times before and after school.

Continue looking ahead to facility options for our future

The school building of the future needs to be designed as a learning center for the entire community and involve many more members of the community in the school's design and planning. The Earlham Community School is dedicated to improving the school buildings and grounds to best serve our students. The School Board will focus on what is the best for our students, their education and their best interest.

The Board's goal is to continuously improve the District Facilities by working with the Facilities Committee and allocating the resources available to complete needed improvements.

Energy Efficiency

The Earlham School District strives to be good stewards of the taxpayer dollars. In doing so, the District attempts to make the building as energy efficient as possible. With an energy audit performed by Mid-American in the fall of 2014, the district has been given suggestions on potential projects to lower energy costs in the future.

The Board's goal is to continuously implement the energy saving recommendations from the Mid-American energy audit.