



# A Long-Range Plan for the 21st century

"It's Our Future—OWN IT!" Our Long-Range Plan logo and motto were designed to emphasize that we all play a role in the plan's success. On this page is an overview of the plan; on the reverse are the essential pieces needed for the plan's success: our Learner Characteristics; Our Vision, Mission and Values and our Positive Core.

## Goal 1: Student learning and achievement in the 21st century

The district will prepare students to succeed in the 21st century. In the early grades, the focus will be on providing a strong foundation in reading and math; as students progress through the grades there will be more emphasis on higher order and innovative thinking skills. Students will be able to demonstrate the knowledge, expertise and learner characteristics necessary for 21st century learners which include critical thinking, problem-solving, communication and collaboration skills. We will strive to foster learners who are self-directed and able to thrive in today's global society.

## Goal 2: Development of human capital

Employees are the district's most valuable asset. To build capacity to succeed in the information age, the district will focus on providing opportunities to develop skills necessary for the 21st century educational environment such as critical thinking, problem-solving, technology, communication, collaboration and the attributes of those who are able to thrive in a professional learning community. We are aiming to recruit a workforce that better aligns with student demographics.

## Goal 3: 21st century learning through technology

We will use technology to propel student learning by building the capacity to link students with learning opportunities around the world, and to provide the potential for one-to-one access to technology for every student. District technology will stay current with industry standards that support 21st century learning.

## Goal 4: Ambassadorship: strengthening relationships

We will create a culture of ambassadorship in which all employees can represent the district with pride. Ambassadorship is based on professionalism, responsibility, responsiveness and respect. It strengthens internal and external relationships. Employees will have a sound grasp of district goals and initiatives and understand what everyday ambassadorship looks like in their roles.

## Goal 5: Communications: acquiring and sharing information

Our communication plan for the 21st century recognizes that effective ambassadors for the school district will help us to reach our communication potential. The district will maintain and continuously improve a strong, two-way communication infrastructure; define its communication goals, roles and responsibilities; use appropriate and effective vehicles to solicit input and deliver clear strategic messages; and provide guidance and support to building-based communications.

## Goal 6: 21st century finance and facilities

The district will strive for a sustainable financial plan that reflects educational priorities, utilizes its resources responsibly and provides facilities that align with a 21st century organization. The Long-Range Plan provides a financial framework based on educational priorities and a cost-benefit model suitable for an educational setting. We will strive to make our finances accessible and easy for the public to understand.

The themes below are embedded in and connect our six goals

### Our Learner Characteristics

Fundamental to the overall Long-Range Plan, essential to creating a dynamic learning community for adults and children, crucial to success in the 21st century.

### A sustainable organization

We must manage scarce resources wisely so that we are able to meet our commitment to the community's children.

### 21st century learning

Our students will live in a world that we cannot now imagine. They will become confident and self-directed learners and problem solvers.

### A strong positive core

Our positive core describes us when we are at our best and clarifies the conditions of success. We will use it to build on what we do well and help us be ambassadors for the district.

# How the pieces fit together

Our Vision, Mission and Values provide the big-picture. Our Learner Characteristics depict what we want for all learners—child and adult. Our Long-Range Plan (on the reverse side) tells us how we'll get there. Our Positive Core clarifies the conditions of success.

## Our Vision

Ignite passion. Inspire excellence. Imagine possibilities.

## Our Mission

We embrace the future with optimism, working in partnership with our community on behalf of our children. We develop intellect, engage creativity, foster responsibility, and build positive and collaborative relationships to enable all children to thrive in a changing and increasingly global society.

## Our Values

Our values are the cornerstones of our learning community and direct the actions we take; we must model, teach and live them throughout the district.

- We expect honesty, integrity and ethical behavior of all members of our learning community.
- We empower every child to become a self-directed lifelong learner capable of creative and critical thinking.
- We emphasize written and oral skills which are essential to success, timeless in their importance and are the basis of future learning.
- We encourage flexibility and adaptability knowing they are necessary to succeed in a global and diverse society.
- We leverage our resources and technology to create powerful and equitable educational environments and experiences for all learners.

## Our Positive Core | *When we are at our best*

In 2011-2012, Glen Ellyn School District 41 conducted a series of focus groups to find out what employees valued about their work and their organization. The unmistakable themes that emerged depict our positive core.

- We build compassionate, committed connections to our students.
- We advocate for their wellbeing.
- We challenge them to unleash their potential and dare them to dream.
- *We make a difference.*
- We build collaborative, committed connections with our colleagues.
- We're resilient when faced with challenges.
- We trust each other to do whatever it takes with energy, ethics and optimism.
- *We embrace change together.*
- We build cooperative, committed connections across our district.
- We cultivate high expectations.
- We celebrate diversity and support each other's work.
- *We are a true team of professionals.*
- We embrace our own learning and envision possibilities.
- We willingly raise the bar.
- We aspire to be leaders: of our students, in our community and within our profession.
- *We build the future.*



## The D41 Learner Characteristics

The Learner Characteristics below are essential to creating a dynamic learning community for adults and children and for academic and lifelong success in the 21st century.

### Habits and Attitudes:

a person with these habits and attitudes is someone who is...

- Curious
- Creative
- Resilient in the face of challenges
- Able to embrace change
- Adaptable
- Collaborative
- Open to diverse viewpoints and experiences
- Respectful of others
- Respectful of the

environment

- Compassionate
- Optimistic
- Nurturing
- Challenge seeking
- Engaged and enthusiastic
- Future oriented with a global perspective
- Intrinsically motivated

### Skills and Applications:

a person with these skills and applications is someone who can...

- Solve complex problems to enhance learning
- Make connections between present and future opportunities
- Think critically, reflectively
- Communicate effectively using a variety of media and technology
- Communicate effectively to a variety of audiences
- Utilize multiple literacy skills in learning
- Utilize organizational skills
- Mediate conflict peacefully
- Pursue a healthy lifestyle
- Appreciate beauty and the arts
- Advocate for oneself and others
- Apply current learning to new situations
- Synthesize multiple pieces of information to create new information
- Assume responsibility for learning