



St. Joseph School District

Superintendent's Report to the Board of Education

December 14, 2009

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Superintendent of Schools

Vision and Mission

VISION

The St. Joseph School District:

A great place to learn.

MISSION

Educating each child for success...



Core Values

Commitment to Excellence

A commitment to excellence is evident in the belief that each student is valued and can learn. Excellence is embodied in the perseverance of faculty, staff, and administration to assure success for each student. We believe that children and youth flourish when teachers set high expectations and deliver rigorous curriculum. We embrace continuous learning through professional development of faculty and staff. Teaching and learning are the cornerstones of our commitment to excellence.



Core Values

Integrity of Actions

Integrity is evident in our commitment to the children of the St. Joseph community. Our district – administration, faculty, and staff – must lead by example. We must act ethically and treat students, parents, employees, and patrons fairly. We are committed to making decisions based on doing what is right and what is best for students. We accept the responsibility of educating children and youth in St. Joseph.



Core Values

Culture of Collaboration

Collaboration is evident through numerous partnerships throughout the community. Engaging the community is essential as we move forward. We believe that parents are critically important partners. We demonstrate that all faculty and staff members contribute to the education of our students. We know it takes a team-approach to provide our students with a strong foundation for educational success today and in the future.



SJSD: Comprehensive School Improvement Plan

Goals

- Goal 1: Develop and enhance quality educational and instructional programs to improve performance and enable students to meet their personal, academic, and career goals by addressing needs of the whole child.
- Goal 2: Recruit, develop, and retain a quality staff to carry out the SJSD mission and goals.
- Goal 3: Provide a safe, secure learning environment.
- Goal 4: Practice fiscal stewardship of resources.



Challenges and Opportunities for Public Education in St. Joseph

Social Issues

- Poverty
- Kindergarten Readiness

Regulations

- NCLB
- IDEA
- RT₃

Funding Challenges

- Decrease in State revenue
- Federal sanctions
- Aging Facilities
- Sustaining and growing technological tools
- Recruiting, developing, and retaining quality staff



Challenges and Opportunities for Public Education

Preparation for 21st Century Jobs

- College Readiness
- Career Readiness
- Workforce Development

Academic Programming and Learning Resources

- Content of Learning – What students learn
- Context of Learning – How students learn
- Articulation of curriculum, instruction, assessment, resources, menu of courses, and opportunities to provide access to future goals for each student.



Immediate Opportunity

Long-range Planning

~14 month process

Community engagement

Visioning for the SJSD

Roadmap for the Future



Long-Range Planning

- Purpose:
 - To proactively shape the future rather than allow the future to simply happen.
 - To focus district efforts on improvement related to student performance, long-range facility and financial needs, and complex educational program adjustments.
 - To break complex improvements into manageable steps.
 - To analyze a complex goal and identify the essential, related components which are necessary to achieve the goal.

Long-Range Planning

- Purpose continued:
 - To focus the efforts of the people involved (administrators, teachers, students, parents, and community) on a vision of the future, thereby encouraging a team effort to reach the goal.
 - To schedule ancillary support and resources necessary to implement long-range organizational or system change.

Long-Range Planning

- The plan is the written document that describes the district's improvement efforts.
 - The Journey to Excellence--CSIP--Long-Range Plan
- The process is the sequential activities which one goes through to create an effective, coherent written plan.
 - Community engagement--Community Advisory Committees--Staff, parent, student advisory committees
 - Organized, systematic dialogue about key issues impacting the SJSU.
 - From Comprehensive School Improvement Plan Handbook—DESE

Your SJSD

- 5th Largest Urban School District in Missouri (17/523 overall)
- 3rd Largest Employer in St. Joseph
- ~1000 professional staff – ~600 support staff
- 52% of staff have advanced degrees Master's and above
- 26 National Board Certified Teachers
- Commissioner's Award of Excellence for Professional Development
- Accredited with Distinction in Performance
- Blue Ribbon Schools (national)-Gold Star Schools (state)
- Standard and Poor's A+ Rating for Financial Management
- Student and staff awards at local, regional, and state levels



Q and A

*Coming together is a beginning.
Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success.*

John Maxwell

