

Paramount Unified School District

Mission Statement

The mission of the Paramount Unified School District is to ensure learning and success for each student by providing a quality education.

Vision Statement

Paramount Unified School District strives to be an exemplary district. In order to achieve this, all stakeholders of the District must have a clear sense of its goals. They must seek out, understand, and emulate the characteristics of exemplary schools and be ready to contribute their knowledge and talents to transform this vision into a reality. The following vision statement provides the exemplary standards that Paramount Unified School District will strive to achieve and maintain.

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

In an exemplary district, curriculum, instruction and assessment are integral components to student success. The State standards and research-based curriculum meet the needs and interests of all students. These are taught through high-quality instruction which reflects best practices, continually addresses individual needs and engages all students. Common assessments are frequent, ongoing and analyzed to inform instruction. There is consistent implementation of these areas across all levels in the District.

In such an exemplary district, curriculum, instruction and assessment encompass the following:

- an emphasis on high quality, engaging instruction which incorporates instructional strategies that reflect best practices and stimulate student interest.
- varied and multiple opportunities for students to improve and to demonstrate proficiency.
- essential standards which are identified and addressed in the curriculum.
- common formative and summative assessments that are ongoing practices used to adjust instruction.

- assessment results which are received in a timely manner to be used to ensure quality learning and to inform teachers and teams regarding instructional decisions.
- curriculum, instructional practices and assessments that take into consideration individual differences, interests and abilities.
- ongoing student/teacher communication on assessment results.
- specific, frequent, meaningful and timely feedback which is provided to each student.
- a system of interventions based on students' needs.
- celebrations of student improvement and achievement.

Focus on Students and Access for All

In an exemplary district, every student has access to a rigorous curriculum so that they have the skills and knowledge needed to make choices for the future. The importance of every student is recognized and valued. There is a focus on students which includes high academic expectations, collective responsibility for student success, professional collaboration and the consistent monitoring of student learning by all.

In such an exemplary district:

- the needs of students are prioritized over the needs of the system.
- all stakeholders work together to take collective responsibility for all students.
- all students, parents and staff have equal access to information about the educational opportunities that are available.
- each student is provided the information, assistance and support to develop educational and career goals.
- all students have access to academic, career planning, behavioral and emotional support services.
- all students are provided with proactive and systematic prevention strategies and interventions instead of waiting for failure.

- interventions are sequenced from least to most intensive.
- each student is encouraged to participate in a variety of curricular and co-curricular programs.
- professional development is provided to staff on how to differentiate instruction for students with diverse needs.
- each student is provided high-quality instruction and interventions that meet that student's needs.
- each student is taught by a highly qualified professional teacher who respects the rights of each student within a diverse community.

Working as a Professional Learning Community

In an exemplary district, Professional Learning Communities are in place to ensure student achievement. The primary focus is on student learning. The staff works collaboratively to determine the curriculum, how to assess learning, how to provide intervention and enhancement based on assessment results. The District operates on the premise that its personnel are an important resource and component for student success to be realized. The District is committed to the recruitment, retention and development of high quality educators and staff. There is a collective responsibility to ensure that the mission and vision are implemented daily.

In such an exemplary district, the Board, administration and staff:

- have high standards and expectations for student success.
- focus on developing high-performing collaborative teams.
- are dedicated to actively improving their practices.
- are committed to research-based professional development for all staff.
- are focused on providing early intervention to students to avoid failure.
- are committed to a high level of trust and open communication.
- are supportive of collaborative problem-solving.
- focus on intervention rather than remediation.

- are focused on a continuous cycle of inquiry and reflection for all staff.
- promote distributed leadership.

A Culture for Learning

In an exemplary District, a culture for learning is established by providing a safe and nurturing environment for students and staff. High expectations are established and maintained through collaboration by all stakeholders. There is a culture of pride in the District.

In such an exemplary District:

- all staff conduct themselves in a professional manner.
- students and staff treat each other with mutual respect and consideration.
- schools are safe, and free of violence, alcohol and other drugs.
- facilities are well maintained and reflect the pride of the stakeholders.
- there is an open and ongoing communication between all members of the District.
- individual and collective effort and achievement are recognized and celebrated.
- there is a collective responsibility to ensure student learning and success.

Continuous Cycle of Improvement

In an exemplary district, a culture is created that promotes a continuous cycle of improvement which is followed by all stakeholders including students, staff and parents throughout the year in monitoring the instructional program and other aspects of District services. Quantitative and qualitative data is collected, analyzed and reflected upon by all stakeholders. A plan of action focusing on student learning is created and reviewed as part of the cycle of improvement, and is revised and refined as needed.

In such an exemplary district:

- all stakeholders take responsibility for learning and success for all students.
- ongoing professional development and job-embedded training is provided on an ongoing, consistent basis.
- structured collaborative meetings are held regularly at all levels including administration, teachers and parents.
- teachers and administrators regularly engage in observing each other to refine best practices.
- all stakeholders celebrate success.
- student achievement data are accessible and openly shared among teachers who work collaboratively to improve student learning.
- a cycle of inquiry and reflection is implemented focusing on student learning as documented with achievement data, and appropriate services are then provided to students by all stakeholders.
- students are provided with on-going specific feedback and are involved in assessing their own learning.
- student learning is the primary focus, rather than teaching.

Community Engagement

In an exemplary District, community engagement is collaboration among all students, families, residents, businesses, schools, government agencies and other educational institutions in a committed effort to ensure success for all students and to provide a bridge from school to work experiences. The community works with the District to enhance learning and broaden students' educational experiences. Partnerships are formed to provide additional artistic, professional and financial opportunities.

In such an exemplary district:

- the stakeholders value and share a common vision of high expectations for all students.
- open and frequent communication exists between all stakeholders.

- parents plan an active role in the education of their children, monitor their academic performance and work collaboratively in the district.
- stakeholders work collaboratively to provide a safe environment for learning.
- all community resources are utilized to provide authentic learning experiences for students and staff.
- there are frequent opportunities for the community to provide feedback to teachers, schools and the District.
- the District provides opportunities for students to serve and participate within the extended community.