

# Danville Community Consolidated School District 2011-16 Strategic Plan

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## Goals/Accomplishments

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\*This Strategic Plan update lists goals for 2014-2015

This report includes accomplishments of the 2014-2015 school year

### Academic Achievement & Curriculum

**Goal:**

Rewrite the core curriculum to align with Common Core and define/implement an exit mastery list for grades 6-8 (2014-2015)

- Reading and mathematics curriculum (K-12) has been aligned with Common Core State Standards - Completed
- Exit Mastery Criteria for grades 6-8 - Board completed and approved April 29, 2015

**Goal:**

Research and develop recommendation regarding competency tests/exit exams and differentiated diplomas for DHS

- Competency Tests/Exit Exams
  - Algebra 1 and Geometry mastery criteria were instituted during the 2014-2015 school year. This practice has been met with positive results and will be expanded into other courses in future years.
  - Competency tests and exit exams will be studied for consideration for the 2015-2016 school year
  - For 2015-16, mastery criteria will be developed for Algebra 2, Trigonometry, and Transitional Algebra
- Differentiated Diplomas
  - The differentiated diploma committee recommended to the Board on April 29, 2015, that DHS not pursue any type of differentiated diploma. The recommendation was based on the following:
    - Seven institutions of higher learning were contacted. All seven indicated that a differentiated diploma was something that was inconsequential to them and their criteria for acceptance.
    - Multiple local businesses were contacted and they also indicated that they were not aware of any type of differing diplomas and it would not necessarily play any role in the hiring of an employee. They would only want to review a potential hire's transcript and or record.

- The special education staff were reluctant to support any type of diploma that would lessen their students' accomplishments. They felt that IEP students in many cases had to work just as hard as their peers to be successful.
- When discussed at Viking Roundtable, all parents recommended that the school keep its current system of diplomas as is. They felt that any further discussion was unwarranted.

**Goal:**

Develop after-school programs for academic subjects

- In collaboration with Project Success that was awarded the 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant for 2014-2019, after-school programming was offered this year for students at Cannon, East Park, Garfield, Meade Park, and South View

**Goal:**

Implement elementary (grade 5) AVID district-wide

- Elementary teachers and administrators have expressed strong interest in piloting an elementary AVID program. The following schools have agreed to pilot AVID Elementary in 2016-2017: Liberty, Northeast, Garfield, and Southwest. These schools and the curriculum coordinator will develop a plan for implementation during the 2015-16 school year for implementation in the fall, 2016.

**Goal:**

Expand the Pre-Kindergarten program

- No increase in state funding developed for the pre-school grant this year. Program enrollment remained steady for 2014-2015 due to funding restrictions.

**Goal:**

Investigate a balanced calendar for all schools and include intersession and summer remediation for all students failing any part of the exit mastery list for the grade level

- A committee of 44 members is currently investigating a balanced calendar for all schools, including intersession and summer remediation, for all students failing any part of the exit mastery list for the grade level
- Since the balanced calendar reduces the traditional summer vacation of approximately 12 weeks to 8 weeks or less, committee members are conducting site visits to various districts to learn more about the impact. The committee will present a recommendation to the board during the 2015-2016 school year.

## Communications and Marketing

**Goal:**

Utilize social networks to engage alumni and community supporters and continue to update and enhance the District's website

- District launched SchoolWay, a push notification which has been available to all parents (973 signed up)
- District No. 118 Facebook launched on May 11, 2015; over 809 Friends signed up as of June 1, 2015
- Collaboration with the Danville Public School Foundation's *Maroon & White Extra* alumni newsletter continued for its 12<sup>th</sup> year

**Goal:**

Revamp summative grade report cards and pilot a Standards-Based Report Card for grades 6-8 in 2014-2015

- Standards-Based Report Card pilot for grades 6-8 completed during the 2014-15 school year
- Standards-Based Report Card for grades 6-8, presented to the Board and approved on April 29, 2015

## Facilities-Infrastructure and Technology

**Goal:**

Provide air conditioning in remaining buildings

- All schools have been surveyed to ascertain where air conditioning is needed. We are in the process of developing a cost to provide air conditioning in these schools.

**Goal:**

Improve the curb appeal of every school building

- The District continues to improve curb appeal at all schools. District No. 118 purchased the Risser property (619 N. Jackson Street) south of DHS as well as a number of other vacant properties. The existing structures have been demolished and the area of land has been cleared. District No. 118 continues to purchase property in and around Danville High School and the Wayland-Young Athletic Complex to improve curb appeal; structures have been razed, ground tilled, grass sown, and trees planted.

## Finances – Funding and Cost Containment

**Goal:**

Align resources with the goals and strategies adopted in the Strategic Plan

- Instructional Support – Additional stipends have been spent for the additional staff time spent on the development of instructional programming, standards-based report card creation, technology, and learning materials. This has been taken from District operational funds.
- There have been many projects within the strategic plan that required additional training, time, and money to complete
- Junior ROTC - Two years ago, two officers were hired to run the Junior ROTC program at Danville High School. This program is being partially funded by the United States Army with the other part funded with District operational dollars.

- Curb Appeal – We have continued to support additional landscaping and landmarks around the schools to increase the curb appeal, which has been done with District operational dollars
- Building Projects – There was approximately \$12 million dollars spent from District operational funds, in addition to the funds provided by bonds, for South View, North Ridge, and East Park between 2012-2014. The District has also been able to update other Health Life Safety projects needed throughout the District with operational funds.
- In order to complete all of these activities within the budget, the District had to save money in other areas by watching every cent spent. All of these expenses were considered and budgeted for in advance, allowing us to match revenues to proposed expenses.

#### Reductions made:

- Every year before the deadline for Reduction in Force, the Superintendent, Human Resources Director, and the principals get together and see what the expected staffing needs are for each school for the next year. Cuts are made as appropriate, always abiding by the current contract language and maintaining programming, if possible.
- The school district continues to bid out all of its services and major purchases in order to get the lowest price available
- There have been some purchases delayed, such as technology refresh, in order to keep the budget in line without sacrificing student opportunities. The District is on a five year rotation for machines; we just simply skipped a year in 2013-2014 to maintain and minimize any reduction of programming.
- The District came to an agreement with the DEA to extend the Agreement one year (2015-2016) with an average increase of 3%, the capping of insurance costs, and the ending of the retirement incentive, effective June 30, 2015

The District has been able to maintain approximately a \$20 million reserve to enable to meet its obligations throughout the year. It is important to keep this type of reserve in a District this size due to unexpected expenses and cash flow purposes at the beginning of the year.

## Human Resources – Staffing

#### Goal:

Provide additional faculty and staff training on new technology, diversity, and multi-cultural teaching

- Interactive white boards installation will be completed in the summer of 2015
- Computer Resource Persons (CRPs) continue with building-based training
- IPADs piloted in four elementary buildings for PLTW implementation; training provided to staff.
- Technology audit to be completed in the fall of 2015 to help plan future technology implementation in the District
- Danville District No. 118 continues to focus on strategies for educating culturally diverse students to impact student learning and achievement. Dr. Whitaker and *From the Heart, Inc.* provided a total of three professional development opportunities focused on diversity, holistic self-awareness, and cultural responsiveness to close the gaps in academic achievement.

**Goal:**

Incorporate student growth data into teacher evaluation instruments

- Student growth data will be included in teacher evaluations beginning with the 2015-16 school year. Student growth ratings have been combined with the professional practice ratings to arrive at a summative performance starting 2015-16. The other portion of the evaluation will come from the professional practice piece. At the end of the evaluation cycle, teachers will receive a summative performance evaluation rating of the following ratings: Excellent, Proficient, Needs Improvement, or Unsatisfactory.

## Parental and Community Involvement

**Goal:**

Design a pilot program to include instructions for parents, i.e., teaching them how to assist their children with basic skills

- Parent University was introduced in the district during the 2014-15 school year. A kickoff was held in August with continuing education classes happening each month thereafter. The four focus areas of the Parent University program were:
  - Parenting Awareness
  - Helping Your Child Learn in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
  - Health and Wellness
  - Personal Growth and Development

For the 2014-2015 school year, approximately 150 parents engaged in Parent University. Plans are currently underway for the 2015-16 school year program.

## Safety and Discipline

**Goal:**

Provide Refocus Rooms at the elementary buildings

- To be considered for the 2015-16 school year, if funding is available