

Ewen-Trout Creek Consolidated School District

Vision 2022

Strategic Plan



Adopted: October 25, 2017

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|------|
| Introduction..... | 3 |
| Vision..... | 4 |
| Mission..... | 4 |
| Core Values..... | 4-6 |
| Vision of an E-TC Graduate..... | 6-7 |
| Strategic Goals..... | 7-8 |
| Action Level Plans..... | 9-10 |
| Monitoring Progress and Measures of Success..... | 10 |
| Board of Education..... | 11 |

Introduction

The Ewen-Trout Creek Consolidated School District (E-TC) was organized on July 1, 1967 as the result of a consolidation between the Ewen Public Schools and the Trout Creek School District. The Bergland Community School District was annexed by E-TC in 1985. The current K-12 school building was opened in 1998. As a public school serving the southern and western portions of Ontonagon County and the southeastern part of Houghton County, E-TC is one of the largest geographic districts in the State of Michigan, encompassing approximately 690 square miles.

After emerging from a crippling \$1.5 million deficit, E-TC has become a choice district, attracting students from surrounding schools. The Ewen-Trout Creek Consolidated School District developed our long-term Vision 2022 Strategic Plan during the winter and spring of 2017. The goal was to provide direction for the decisions we make as we look to the year 2022 and what we want our high school graduates to know and be able to do, as well as to ensure the future sustainability of the school district.

Members of the community, parents and staff formed the committee that assisted in this process. The committee assessed the needs of the district through surveys, community input sessions and academic data and developed a strategic plan that was recommended to the Ewen-Trout Creek Board of Education and approved during the summer of 2017.

Vision 2022 Task Force Members

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| Shannon Eckley, Parent | John Pinkerton, Board of Education |
| Barb VanAlstine, Parent | Kirk Schott, Board of Education |
| Lisa Lindberg, Parent / Community | Fred Sliger, Board of Education |
| Jaclyn Besonen, Staff | Pam Besonen, Administration |
| Sandra Maki, Staff | Tammy Gibson, Administration |
| Brenda Metas, Staff | Alan Tulppo, Administration (ex officio) |
| Brandon Ward, Staff | |

Our Vision

The Ewen-Trout Creek School District is a student-centered community that fosters academic and social development for all students. We set high standards and expectations and provide the necessary means for students to achieve success. Our students are responsible decision makers who are ready to be productive, life-long learners in a global society.

Our Belief

The Ewen-Trout Creek School District believes in and is dedicated to high levels of student learning and achievement.

Our Mission

The Ewen-Trout Creek School District, in conjunction with families and community members, will provide our students with the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary to be successful and productive members of a diverse society.

Our Core Values

A core value is a central belief clearly understood and shared by every member of the Ewen-Trout Creek K-12 School community.

CORE VALUE #1: Students are the Top Priority

We value high expectations for all students as they grow socially, emotionally and academically to become productive, responsible members of society.

Action Steps:

- Provide a comprehensive education for all students
- Utilize research-based, rigorous curriculum and authentic applications and assessment
- Create engaging opportunities before, during and after school
- Expect respect, compassion, integrity, tolerance, and commitment to self and others
- Foster students' successes while valuing student individuality and diversity
- Develop a love of learning and promote life-long learning skills
- Expand opportunities for career and college readiness
- Set high standards for quality work and personal goals for improvement

CORE VALUE #2: High Quality Staff and a Commitment to Excellence

We value a strong commitment to provide passionate, knowledgeable, collaborative and skillful educators.

Action Steps:

- Strive for improvement through collaboration and professional development
- Display a passion for children and the learning process
- Cultivate an environment of integrity and respect while always focusing on students
- Create opportunities for relevant, engaging, real-life learning experiences
- Attract, retain and support effective educators
- Foster positive and effective communication between staff, administration and the school board
- Provide high quality, diverse, creative, personalized, and innovative learning opportunities
- Recognize excellence in staff
- Staff involvement in school activities.

CORE VALUE #3: Community/School Relationships

We value strong community/school partnerships.

Action Steps:

- Expand collaborative partnerships between school, parents and community
- Inform and engage the community to promote continual district growth
- Increase opportunities for community and family involvement
- Develop school to work opportunities
- Create economic partnerships that increase learning opportunities and resources
- Offer highly effective communication methods that reach all school stakeholders
- Provide meaningful opportunities for community and parents to learn and develop

CORE VALUE #4: Next Generation Skills

We value skills in communication, critical thinking, collaboration, and creativity.

Action Steps:

- Identify and expand technology to maximize learning for all
- Provide relevant and authentic experiences
- Utilize technology to create effective collaboration and communication for staff and students

- Foster creativity while developing critical thinking and problem solving skills
- Extend learning opportunities beyond the district's walls
- Develop leadership opportunities
- Support and expect high levels of ethical and responsible use of technology
- Create academic risk-takers and innovators

CORE VALUE #5: Quality Facilities and Equipment

We value purposeful, effective, well-maintained, and safe facilities and equipment and up-to-date technology.

Action Steps:

- Provide a safe, secure, inviting, and well-maintained environment that enhances teaching and learning
- Create a sustainable plan to maintain quality facilities and equipment
- Instill a respect for school and equipment
- Encourage community use of district facilities

Our Vision of an E-TC Graduate

Ewen-Trout Creek High School graduates will be self-aware, adaptive, and socially competent community members who are able to apply 21st Century literacy skills to life, college and career.

The Ewen-Trout Creek School District is committed to preparing students to successfully function as productive and responsible citizens. All students will develop their capacity to:

- Manage their time and resources wisely
- Take risks and go beyond conventional parameters
- Take a position on an issue and communicate their point of view effectively through a variety of mediums.
- Be of service to their communities and others through active citizenship.
- Understand how their unique strengths and interests align to a wide variety of future opportunities.
- Solve problems and make decisions effectively by working cooperatively and independently.
- Read, write and speak concisely, clearly and persuasively.

The Ewen-Trout Creek School District believes that there are skills essential for career and college readiness. Successful students:

- Access, interpret, analyze and evaluate ideas and information, draw evidence-based conclusions, synthesize new learning with prior knowledge and reflect critically on learning.
- Apply knowledge to real-life situations and make connections between new information and prior knowledge.
- Locate useful information and use it effectively, notice patterns, and analyze cause and effect.
- Are able to explore interests, take initiative, demonstrate persistent effort, and adapt to change with resiliency.
- Demonstrate strong inter and intra-personal skills.
- Are committed to their future and take responsibility for their actions.
- Develop a general understanding of how the problem-solving process has been applied to innovate, invent, design, and build products and systems in a variety of environments/industries.
- Apply technology as a learning tool across all disciplines.

To achieve our goals of developing students prepared for high school and post-secondary success, Ewen-Trout Creek Elementary and Junior High School expects students to:

- Set realistic and achievable goals.
- Understand and take personal responsibility.
- Develop a sense of social awareness, tolerance, acceptance and empathy.

Strategic Goals

The Ewen-Trout Creek Consolidated School District has established Strategic Goals to support our mission, core values and the vision of an E-TC graduate. These are used, along with our core values to put our strategic plan into action. These goals are organized into the following categories:

- Academic
- Fiscal
- Family and Community
- Facilities

Academic:

- Goal #1: The Ewen-Trout Creek School District will develop curricular and instructional programming to help all students achieve mastery of reading, math, science, and social studies at their appropriate developmental level.
- Goal #2 The Ewen-Trout Creek School District will educate students to use technology effectively to locate credible information and use it appropriately.
- Goal #3: The Ewen-Trout Creek School District will prepare students to be college and career ready by instilling in them effective critical thinking, problem solving and communication skills.
- Goal #4: The Ewen-Trout Creek School District will recruit, hire and retain high quality, effective educators and support staff.

Fiscal:

- Goal #1: The Ewen-Trout Creek School District Board of Education will be responsible stewards of the resources entrusted to them and will take steps to maintain at least a 15% general fund balance.
- Goal #2: The Ewen-Trout Creek School District will use financial resources wisely to maintain and enhance current educational programming.

Family and Community:

- Goal #1: The staff and Board of Education of the Ewen-Trout Creek School District will foster positive relationships with students and their families through positive and direct contact from school.
- Goal #2: The Ewen-Trout Creek School District will cultivate and maintain a welcoming and inclusive climate that based on a culture of mutual respect.
- Goal #3: The Ewen-Trout Creek School District will develop partnerships with businesses and community organizations through which students can learn employment skills and become effective citizens.

Facilities:

- Goal #1: The Ewen-Trout Creek School District will provide students with up-to-date technology as a tool to enhance their learning.
- Goal #2: The Ewen-Trout Creek School District will operate a safe, clean, and well-maintained school building.

Action Level Plans

Academic:

- Instructional staff will develop curricula to help all students achieve mastery of reading, math, science, and social studies at their appropriate developmental level. Curriculum documents will be developed for each grade level at the elementary level and for each course taught at the Jr. High and High School level.
- Instructional and paraprofessional staff will receive professional development in the effective use of instructional technology.
- Instructional staff will receive professional development in Understanding by Design planning and teaching.
- Instructional staff will use interdisciplinary teaching to develop critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills.
- The Ewen-Trout Creek School District will work to provide meaningful incentives to attract and retain quality staff members.
- All professional and support staff will be encouraged to engage in professional development.

Fiscal:

- The Finance Committee will meet with the administration on a regular basis to review and track revenues and expenditures.
- The Business Manager and Superintendent will be provided with appropriate professional development to enable her / him to remain current new and emerging financial policies, regulations and legislation so they can be effective managers of the district's financial resources.
- The Board of Education will take all necessary steps to ensure that the district operates within acceptable financial policies and maintains a fund balance that protects the district from the unpredictability of state and federal revenue streams.

Family & Community:

- The district will work with organizations such as C-YET, the E-TC Booster Club, Communities that Care and the Ontonagon County 4-H to provide meaningful opportunities for students and their families.
- School staff will communicate on a regular basis with families in person and through different modes communication including social media in order to promote positive relationships.

- A positive, caring and trusting school community will be maintained and enhanced through the use of character education and Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports.

Facilities:

- A Building Maintenance Plan will be developed and implemented.
- One capital building and grounds project per year will be completed in order to keep the school campus safe and inviting.
- The district will invest in assistive educational technology (i.e. laptops, tablets, Chromebooks, desktop PC computers) each fiscal year.

Monitoring Progress and Measures of Success

The Ewen-Trout Creek Consolidated School District will monitor progress and measure success using the following markers:

- 100% graduation rates during the next five years
- Increased attendance at Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Participation by instructional staff in professional development related to school improvement and strategic plan goals
- Continued reduction of habitual student absences
- Reduction of the number of students needing to complete credit recovery courses
- Demonstrated student growth through the use of Student Learning Objectives
- Follow-up surveys / interviews with recent graduates
- Development and use of the Building Maintenance Plan
- Creation and use of a Technology Inventory Plan
- Annual financial audit and audit report
- Participation by administration in fiscal professional development
- Avoidance of short-term borrowing for cash flow purposes

Board of Education

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