

La Center School District

Annual Report to the Community

2009-2010 School Year

Unless otherwise noted, the data contained in this report is from the 2009-2010 school year. The complete ***DISTRICT PERFORMANCE REPORT*** may be accessed from the La Center School District website (www.lacenterschools.org) or on the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) website at <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us>. The report card includes detailed information and statistics about education in La Center.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the La Center School District is to create a supportive environment that empowers students to reach their fullest potential. We will do this in partnership with families, the community, and employees to create life-long learners who can adapt to a changing, more technologically advanced and diverse society.

Believe It!

2009-2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Criseda Yaw	District #1
Melissa Miller	District #2
Robert Taylor	District #3
Wendy Chord	District #4
John Parsons	District #5

SCHOOL POPULATION

The 2009-2010 school year began with relatively flat enrollment which allowed us to maintain close to the “status quo”, although we did hold an elementary music class in a hallway. Economic conditions and budget constraints continue to challenge staff to think differently about how to create the best possible learning environment for our students with the resources at hand. Conservative budgeting and careful consideration of how to assure the most “bang for our buck” has allowed the district to maintain and, (in some instances) expand programs and services to students.

WHO WE ARE BY THE NUMBERS

One of the hallmarks of the La Center School District is INVOLVEMENT. Whether it is by students, staff, parents or community members participation is phenomenal...and key to our success.

ENROLLMENT

2009-2010 enrollment as of 10/01/09 was 1,563

2010-2011 enrollment as of 10/01/10 is 1,560

DEMOGRAPHICS

American Indian or Alaskan Native 1.5%

Asian or Pacific Islander 1%

Black or African American 1%

Hispanic 3%

Caucasian 91%

Other/Non-Specified 2.5%

STUDENT PROFILE – CLASS OF 2010

Total Graduates – 98

Of those graduating:

College Bound (4 yr) 42%

College Bound (2 yr) 34%

Vocational School 9%

Military 5%

Work 4%

Undecided 6%

Average GPA 2.72

Percent on Honor Roll 27%

High School Activity Participation

Average Percent of Students:

Sports Participation 26+%

All Other Activities 40+%

Each year high school students “give back” in various ways. One of the most popular is the GIVING TREE that goes up before Thanksgiving in the Commons. Gender and ages of children in need are hung on the tree and include a list of “would likes”. Students pick a child (or sometimes several) for whom to shop.

Middle School Activity Participation

While statistics on participation are not kept at this level, record number of students continue to turn out for everything from sports to BBQs. Staff works to encourage students to think about their civic responsibilities as well as activities for personal growth and enjoyment.

This year’s continued focus on the learning environment in the middle school is showing huge dividends. Scores on standardized testing are up and discipline issues are down.

Elementary School Activity Participation

Children are the highest priority of all staff members. All work is directed towards meeting the individual needs of our students. We recognize that no two individuals are the same; therefore, every effort to accommodate the unique talents of each student are made.

Our PTO is very active and responsible for many extra events for the students of La Center Elementary. This group of parents and teachers spend countless hours to bring exciting opportunities and programs to our school and community such as Fall Carnival, Holiday Workshop, Scholastic Book Fair, Movie Night, Bingo & Pizza Night and Field Day. Proceeds from events are given back to the schools in the form of purchases that directly benefit our students.

STAFF PROFILE

Teaching Staff

Classroom Teachers	82
Average Years of Experience	16
Teachers with at least a Master's Degree	80%
Percent of Teachers who meet Highly Qualified standards	100%

Student-to-Teacher Ratio

K-3 Grade	20
4-5 Grade	27
6-8 Grade	25
9-12 Grade	21

Administrators

2009-2010 saw many changes for our leadership. Most significant was the restructuring of responsibilities to allow one administrator to teach part-time and the others to pick up some of her duties. This change provided a unique opportunity for a fresh look at many of our programs and practices and resulted in some very positive changes.

Support Staff

In addition to our teaching staff and our administrators are those people who work hard to meet the day to day needs of the district and students. Custodians, kitchen help, playground monitors, secretaries, para-educators, coaches and bus drivers all take pride in providing a safe, clean and friendly atmosphere for our children to learn and grow in.

Like our teaching staff, all of our support staff are finger-printed and their backgrounds screened as part of our efforts to assure the best care possible for our students.

La Center is fortunate to have many dedicated parents and community members who give of their time and resources for the benefit of our students. Volunteers undergo a background screening by the Washington State Patrol as well as training sessions to help them best meet the needs of staff and students.

FINANCIAL DATA

	Per Student Amounts	Percent
Total Revenues	\$8,515.54	100%
State	\$6,134.60	72%
Federal	\$ 512.80	6%
Local Tax	\$1,435.72	17%
Other	\$ 432.42	5%
Total Expenditures	\$8,336.11	100%
Teaching	\$5,452.55	65%
School Level Admin	\$ 730.32	9%
Maint/Util/Insurance	\$ 741.39	9%
Food Ser/Pupil Trans.	\$ 494.47	6%
District Level Admin	\$ 343.05	4%
Libraries & Technology	\$ 337.04	4%
Extra-Curricular	\$ 237.29	3%

ACCOUNTABILITY

In 2006 the La Center School Board chose to make a change in the way they governed the district. The goal of the Board was a higher degree of accountability in their service to the stakeholders of the district. With that in mind, the Board went to a system of Policy Governance, using the Carver Model as a guideline. Under Policy Governance the Board has created and published an Annual Agenda which includes meetings with stakeholders. Each fall the Board holds a Community Town Hall to provide an open forum for discussion of topics ranging from over-crowding solutions to graduation requirements. Each spring the Board meets separately with both staff and students to gather their input on needs of the district. These meetings have proved to be very beneficial and have led the district in academic directions that are a direct result of student input.

In addition, Policy Governance requires a high degree of accountability from the superintendent via monitoring reports about specific compliance with Board expectations district wide. All of this requires the explicit expression of Board expectations *in writing* allowing for a higher degree of continuity of purpose in the event of changes in board personnel or the superintendent. This process has helped staff determine areas of both strengths and weaknesses resulting in improved performances across the board. In addition, the ability to be proactive vs. reactive has created strong bonds of trust between all stakeholders. That trust, exhibited by the creation of “maneuver boxes” for staff & students is spawning creative ideas for dealing with old problems. People feel “free” to take responsibility for making suggestions, sharing ideas and working collaboratively rather than just looking to non-specific remedies such as needing more “time or money”. The La Center School District is moving toward the accomplishment of our Mission with “revolutionary” speed. For more information on what is happening with learning in La Center, please contact any building administrator or the district office.

MORE DETAILS

More detailed information is available by following the links listed below:

State Test Scores & District Report Card: <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/>

2009-2010 School Year Revenue Analysis: www.lacenterschools.org

2009-2010 School Year Expenditure Analysis: www.lacenterschools.org

2009-2010 Annual Reports by School: www.lacenterschools.org and click on the specific school of your choice (i.e. High School, Middle School, Elementary School)

STRATEGIES FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

We have done considerable analysis of our MSP testing data to determine what we believe to be the major obstacles that are keeping us from meeting our annual yearly progress (AYP) goals.

From the data above (State Test Report Card) you can see that we failed AYP at the elementary in math for our low income and special needs population and we failed at the middle school in reading and math for our special needs population. We believe that the issues around higher achievement for those groups in upcoming years are not unique to those groups but are impacting all of our sub-groups and our entire population in the same manner.

First, we believe that our new math curriculum was not lined up perfectly with the state learning or testing objectives in 3rd and 5th grade last year. We are making adjustments to both the scope and sequence of our curriculum in those two grades. In addition we are weaving in individual and group learning opportunities on an on-going basis that address specific deficiencies that were uncovered by the testing.

Second, we have found that students that were using the SuccessMaker math program as a supplement to our standard curriculum showed improvements almost across the board. As a result we are currently installing a server that will allow both individual and groups or classes of students to access this program and extra help from home via the internet. This will allow students to take advantage of this support without missing valuable class time for pull-out sessions. For those students who do not have access from home we will be making available our computer labs after school for them to take advantage of this opportunity.

As always, to request a paper copy of any of the above listed information, please contact the district office at 263-2131 or PO Box 1840, La Center, WA 98629.