

La Center School District

Annual Report to the Community

2008-2009 School Year

Unless otherwise noted, the data contained in this report is from the 2008-2009 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.

DISTRICT MISSION

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

Policy E-1

2008-2009 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 2008-2009 school year began with an enrollment increase of just over 1%. While transferring two portable buildings from the high school campus to the K-8 campus over the summer provided an additional four classrooms such efforts obviously did not address the over-burdened “core” area concerns. As ever-worsening economic conditions and much less favorable bond rates abounded, the Board of Directors took a hard look at the possibilities of alternative housing strategies (such as year-round education) as a means of alleviating over-crowding on the K-8 campus. Such strategies, while possibly serving in lieu of building another facility, have inherent costs and repercussions that must be weighed carefully. Relatively flat enrollment at the start of the 2009-2010 school year have allowed us to maintain close to the “status quo”, although we are holding an elementary music class in a hallway. We encourage all interested citizens to join this discussion process over the next few months. For more information please call the district office at 263-2131.

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

2008-2009 enrollment as of 06/01/09 was 1,501

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

DEMOGRAPHICS

American Indian or Alaskan Native 1%

Asian or Pacific Islander 1%

Black or African American Less than ½ of 1%

Hispanic 3%

Caucasian 91%

Other/Non-Specified 3+%

STUDENT PROFILE – CLASS OF 2009

Total Graduates – 106

Of those graduating:

College Bound (4 yr)	32%
College Bound (2 yr)	46%
Vocational School	1%
Military	1%
Work	10%
Undecided	10%

Average GPA 2.57

Percent on Honor Roll 35%

High School Activity Participation

Average Percent of Students:

Sports Participation	30+%
All Other Activities	58%

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 numbers of students turned out for sports during the 2008-2009 school year. In addition, well over 60% of students attended school activities such as dances, BBQ’s, etc.

This year has seen a real focus on learning in the middle school. So much so that in March students who showed significant improvement in their GPA (at least .75 improvement) were recognized with an Improvement Award Breakfast. Thirty students in the 7th and 8th grade accomplished this difficult feat.

Elementary School Activity Participation

In the elementary school FITNESS is a focus. Thanks to a very active PTO, our students have a climbing wall AND a new outdoor 1/8 mile track (named the SPEED ZONE) to help them be active. Large numbers of our students are involved in Community Ed sports programs as well as Little League, Hot Shots, CCYF, AYSO, Boy & Girl Sports, Church activities, etc.

Even young students enjoy giving back to our community and this is very evident each year during the holiday food drives. 2008-2009 saw the elementary school again bring in significant amounts of food items. This year the food was packed into boxes with three boxes feeding one family. Students in K-5 helped feed 65 families!

STAFF PROFILE

Teaching Staff

Classroom Teachers	82
Average Years of Experience	15
Teachers with at least a Master's Degree	76.8%
Percent of Teachers who meet Highly Qualified standards	100%

Student-to-Teacher Ratio

K-3 Grade	22
4-5 Grade	23
6-8 Grade	30
9-12 Grade	21

Administrators

2008-2009 has been a year of learning about learning for our Leadership Team. Administrators spent the year visiting classrooms all across the district on "Learning Walks". Dr. Mark Mansell (our superintendent) visited classrooms an amazing 230 times! That is more than a class everyday of the school year. There is no doubt that administrators in the La Center School District know what is happening in classrooms! You may be wondering about the purpose of all those visits.....well, first and foremost was the opportunity for administrators to learn how they can change their own practices to best facilitate learning for our students. One of the outcomes of this effort has been the development of a project that will allow the collaboration of groups of teachers around improving their own practice with the view of increasing student learning. Exciting stuff!

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	\$8,831.52	100%
State	\$6,234.49	71%
Federal	\$ 891.81	10%
Local Tax	\$1,345.75	15%
Other	\$ 359.47	4%
Total Expenditures	\$8,719.18	100%
Teaching	\$5,663.44	64.95%
School Level Admin	\$ 734.53	8.42%
Maint/Util/Insurance	\$ 821.76	9.42%
Food Ser/Pupil Trans.	\$ 500.03	5.73%
District Level Admin	\$ 419.37	4.81%
Libraries & Technology	\$ 310.12	3.56%
Extra-Curricular	\$ 269.94	3.10%

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 members 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:

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

2008-2009 School Year Revenue Analysis: www.lacenterschools.org

2008-2009 School Year Expenditure Analysis: www.lacenterschools.org

2008-2009 Annual Reports by School: www.lacenterschools.org and click on the specific school of your choice (i.e. High School, Middle School, Elementary School)

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.