

Downers Grove Grade School District 58

# Strategic Plan



**Downers Grove Grade School District 58**

We Envision. We Seek. We Believe.



# Our Mission

The mission of District 58, in partnership with parents and community, is to challenge and engage each child by providing quality educational programs and support services in a safe, nurturing and child-centered environment in order to prepare all students to be lifelong learners and contributing members of a global society.



## Community comes together to develop roadmap for future

The District 58 Strategic Plan was developed in partnership with the community during the 2010–11 school year, and approved by the Board of Education in July 2011. The level of stakeholder involvement in the process, led by a steering committee of administrators, board members, staff and parents, was gratifying. More than 1,400 community members responded to our survey in fall 2010, and nearly 100 stakeholders participated in our community engagement workshop in March 2011. The feedback offered via the survey and the workshop reflected a high level of support for District 58's current programs and services.

The Strategic Plan was created as a touchstone, reflecting the priorities of our community and providing a set of guidelines and parameters to guide future

decision-making within District 58. It is expected that District 58, including administration, staff, board members, and the community we serve, will refer to this Strategic Plan when setting goals, creating plans for school improvement, developing programming for students, and allocating funding. Links to our annual Strategic Goals Action Plan, as well as our Annual Report on our accomplishment of the prior year's goals, are posted at [www.dg58.org](http://www.dg58.org).

With our stakeholder-driven Strategic Plan as our roadmap, we will continue to celebrate and build on our many successes, seek creative solutions to the challenges we face, and partner with the community in the fulfillment of our mission.

# Our Core Beliefs

- Each student is capable of learning and deserves to be educated and challenged to reach his/her highest potential.
- Education is the foundation for success, both in academic achievement and social emotional development.
- Within each child, we will cultivate the social awareness, self-management, and responsible decision-making skills necessary to be a contributing member of society.
- Educators, students, families, and community members should work together to support the healthy development of all students.
- The school environment should be stimulating and engaging, with opportunities for creative, collaborative, and meaningful learning experiences.
- The school environment should be safe, friendly, and nurturing, where everyone comes to learn, grow, and develop.



**We Envision** a school district that inspires children, sparks creative and innovative thinking, celebrates diversity, and builds visionaries.

**We Seek** an education that excites minds, touches spirits, challenges abilities, and prepares our children for life.

**We Believe** every child should be expected to grow, stretch, evolve and embrace the challenges of the future in a global environment.

# Focus areas for future planning

Each day, District 58 strives to provide the best possible educational experience for each child and provide all students with opportunities to be successful. The Strategic Plan, adopted by the Board of Education in July 2011, includes four priority areas that will guide the District's decision-making and goal-setting:

**1) STUDENT LEARNING (CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND PROGRAMMING)**  
An inquiry-based approach will actively involve District 58 students in their learning. Critical thinking skills vital to success in today's global society — including how to access, interpret, apply and analyze information — will be a key part of the District 58 instructional program. District 58 will educate, challenge and inspire each student to reach his/her highest potential, and lay the foundation for a lifetime of learning.

**2) STUDENT WELL-BEING/ SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING**  
District 58 will teach Social-Emotional Learning skills in a safe, comfortable, child-focused environment. The ultimate goal is to develop self-disciplined, self-knowing, empathetic students who have the strong interpersonal and communication skills needed to be contributing members of a global society.

**3) TECHNOLOGY FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING**  
Technology in District 58 will enhance and transform learning and instruction by providing students with creative, collaborative, and meaningful learning experiences; guiding students in making powerful connections; providing students with opportunities to develop collaborative skills; and serving as a springboard for lifelong learning and connectedness.

**4) FACILITIES, FINANCE, OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE**  
District 58 will ensure that its schools and other facilities are safe, welcoming, positive environments that support and enhance student learning. The District will pursue energy efficiency, and develop a plan to address long-term facilities needs. The District will sustain its fiscal integrity via a balanced budget and healthy fund balances.



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For more on the District 58 Strategic Plan, visit [www.dg58.org](http://www.dg58.org).