

VALLEY STREAM DISTRICT #30
STRATEGIC PLANNING GOALS, 2010-2015

Dear Members of the Valley Stream 30 Community,

As you know, these are economically-challenging times for our community and its schools. On the other hand, this is the best time to re-think our priorities and bring focus and efficiency to our work and use of available resources. With this in mind, the Board of Education convened a Strategic Planning Committee this year to survey parents, the community at large, and our staff about areas of school programs which merit a closer examination and a priority for our energies.

Attached is the Strategic Plan for Valley Stream 30 School District for the Years 2011-16. You will see ten major goals that have been identified as areas for growth for the next five years. Though these ten areas have been specifically identified by the Board of Education based on the community and staff input, Valley Stream 30 will continue to address and grow in those curricular areas where significant effort and planning have already started taking place, as in our ELA and Math curriculums.

The Board is grateful to the following persons who gave so generously of their time to guide this strategic planning effort as members of the Committee:

Parents: Dr. Jamilah Grant-Guimaraes, Sherri Holmes Knight, Kim Lapera, Caroline Nonan; Community Members At Large: Steve Epstein, Kymberley C. Jones, Jeffrey Olson, Marc Tenzer; Staff: Jackie Capewell, Ed Cullen, Ellen Fitzgerald, Maureen Hotzak, Angela Hudson, Helene Levine, Erin Malone, Ryan Meloni, Jessica Mitchell, Sue Perrone, Gerard Poole, Caroline Reser

We also want to thank the members of the community and staff who took their time to respond to the written and online surveys, and/or to participate in one of the several focus groups which took place.

A strategic plan is an excellent tool to help identify school district priorities and to serve as a guide when decisions are being made in terms of resource allocation and program priorities. It forms a framework that can be helpful in such decision-making. A strategic plan is, however, a plan...it is not a document that is written in stone. To be truly useful, such a plan needs to remain flexible and responsive to changing times and needs, particularly in this uncertain budget era. Thus, each year, the Board of Education will review the goals, priorities and timetable of the Strategic Plan to measure and report to you on our progress. In this way, we will be able to evaluate any changes in priorities or action steps that may be appropriate.

This is an exciting time for Valley Stream 30 school district as the Board partners with the community and staff on our journey into the future. We value and appreciate your continued collaboration.

Kenneth Cummings, President
Elise Antonelli, Vice President
Maria A. Fletcher, Ph.D., Trustee
Carolyn Pean, Trustee
Cristobal Stewart, Trustee

Dr. Elaine Kanas, Superintendent of Schools

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Goal Area: 21st Century Learning

Goal Statement: Students in Valley Stream District #30 will develop the skills which are needed for their learning, social and economic success in the 21st century

Process Objectives	Estimated Date Of Completion	Fiscal Impact Beyond Current Budget
Staff working on curriculum development projects will incorporate reference to 21 st century skills (e.g. critical thinking, creativity, innovation, problem solving, collaboration, flexibility, adaptability, global awareness, environmentally literate) in each of the curriculum development projects underway	Ongoing	None
Staff participating in curriculum development projects will familiarize themselves with the self-assessment instrument from the Partnership for 21 st Century Skills so as to be able to identify areas of VS30 program which already incorporate approaches to 21 st century skill development	Ongoing	None
In reviewing the results of curriculum development projects with staff and parents, references to 21 st century skill development will be highlighted through School Improvement Plans and by Building Level teams	Ongoing	None

Accountability Measure: By 2015, through a locally-developed survey, VS30 staff and parents will demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the type of skills which have been identified as important for students living and working in the 21st century.

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Goal Area: Hands-On Science Learning

Goal Statement: Students in Valley Stream District #30 will acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for success in hands-on science learning

Process Objectives	Estimated Date Of Completion	Fiscal Impact Beyond Current Budget
The staff will develop a framework for K-6 science with numerous, hands-on experiences that meet and exceed NYS standards (e.g. expand science exploration activities to the primary grades, invite real-world role model scientist(s) from within and outside the Valley Stream community to work with students, establish learning relationships with universities and museums)	<p>By June 2010, the District will have adopted a K-6 Science framework and will have identified the resources required to support it</p> <p>By the end of 2013, new inquiry units will have been established and implemented in all grades, K-6</p> <p>By the end of 2011-2012, each school will have utilized community members and/or other regional resources as partners in expanding hands-on science learning</p>	Net estimated cost of \$30,000 following BOCES reimbursement
The District will provide information to the community as to the activities taking place to expand hands-on science learning	By June of each year, information will have been shared with the community related to that year's science learning activities	None

Accountability Measure: By the end of the 2011-2012 school year, student problem-solving skills in science, in targeted grades, will have shown to have increased as a result of pre and post tests, developed and administered locally, designed to measure these skills; by the end of the 2012-2013 school year, this will be true in all grades, K-6.

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ILLUSTRATIVE 21st CENTURY SKILLS IN SCIENCE*

- Outcome: Students prepare and interpret a variety of methods for demonstrating understanding and explaining the results of investigations including charts and graphs, diagrams and illustrations, photographic images, and informational and procedural text
- Example: A class envisions their school as a science museum and creates exhibit signage including text, images, and/or graphs to explain the science around them, within the school and on the grounds (e.g. how the water fountain works, information about school energy usage, or natural history information for identifying tree species around the school)
- Outcome: Students understand that models are simplified representations of real objects and processes, and that models serve as a means to communicate ideas and knowledge about how things work
- Example: Students seek out a variety of two- and three-dimensional models in their school and home (e.g. a globe, a diagram of the human body, a toy car) and create a table to record each model's type, purpose, and how it varies from a real object or process (e.g. changes in scale, spatial relationships, composition, shape, color, complexity). Student groups discuss why different models are useful for different purposes.

* Source: Partnership for 21st Century Skills

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Goal Area: Social Studies

Goal Statement: Students in Valley Stream District #30 will acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for success in the social sciences

Process Objectives	Estimated Date Of Completion	Fiscal Impact Beyond Current Budget
The staff will develop a K-6 Social Studies Framework of process skills, major understandings, and key ideas that meet the requirements of the New York State Learning Standards and of the 21 st Century Skills Framework	Summer 2011	None (use of summer curriculum work hours)
The staff will investigate and select a variety of social studies resources to support the new Framework	Spring 2012	None (committee work, pilots)
The staff will implement the enhanced K-6 Social Studies Framework, utilizing benchmark assessments to judge student success in learning	Spring 2015 (begin in 2014, implementing over two years)	TBD (program materials and staff training)
The staff will create an updated Social Studies Curriculum Guide for parents	Spring 2014	TBD (printing costs; alternatively it could be made available online)

Accountability Measure: Student performance on the 5th Grade State Assessment beginning in 2015 will show 90% or more of the students performing at level 3 or above; student performance on benchmarked assessments available in 2015 will show more than 75% of the students scoring at or above the benchmarks in their first administration

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ILLUSTRATIVE 21st CENTURY SKILLS IN SOCIAL STUDIES*

Information Literacy:

- Outcome: Accesses information efficiently and effectively, evaluates information critically and competently.
- Example: Using a variety of sources (such as www.worldmapper.org and www.nationmaster.com), and working in small teams, students access information about places around the world and create a poster display, slideshow, or other multimedia presentation of 3 selected variables (such as high tech exports, birth rate, percentage of youth in school) and how those 3 selected variables compare between countries, and why.
- Example: Students provide accurate citations and references to the information they use from electronic and print sources to judge authenticity. They reflect how errors and gaps can exist in the information that is gathered by the UN, national statistics agencies, and by other sources, and how those errors can be recognized and managed.

Flexibility and Adaptability

- Example: While preparing a group presentation about what makes the geography of their local community unique, students decide what data needs to be collected, discussing the roles needed to carry out their assignments, identifying the skills needed, and discussing among themselves how to best match their talents and learning styles to the needed skill sets.

* Source: Partnership for 21st Century Skills

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Goal Area: Physical Education and Nutrition

Goal Statement: Students in Valley Stream District #30 will meet or exceed the New York State and local standards in Physical Education, Fitness, and Nutrition

Process Objectives	Estimated Date Of Completion	Fiscal Impact Beyond Current Budget
The staff will develop a K-6 Physical Education & Fitness Framework that meets New York State standards as well as the State current instructional mandates for instructional time (including surveying other area districts as to how they meet such mandates)	June 2011	TBD
Working jointly with the PTAs, programs/workshops/assemblies will be offered to students/parents on the issue of childhood obesity and the importance of good nutrition	June 2011	TBD based on program sponsors
The staff will create enrichment opportunities for students in the area of Physical Education and Nutrition at times beyond the regular academic day	September 2011	TBD (stipends for club staffing)
The staff will research and the district will adopt an assessment process in Physical Education and for Physical Fitness which will be used annually to monitor the growth and development of student skills in this curriculum area	September 2012	None (use of summer curriculum work hours)

Accountability Measure: By June 2014, 90% or more of the Valley Stream District #30 students will meet or exceed the State and Local Standards for Physical Education and Fitness as measured by the locally-developed assessment and any State-developed assessments

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ILLUSTRATIVE 21st CENTURY SKILLS IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION & NUTRITION*

- OUTCOMES: (progress in the following 12th grade outcomes will be noted)
 1. Exhibit a healthy, active and well-balanced lifestyle
 2. Display an understanding and respect for differences among people
 3. Demonstrate responsible decision-making skills in personal and social settings
 4. Demonstrate knowledge of an improvement in a variety of movement forms
 5. Define skill and health-related fitness concepts
 6. Establish and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical fitness
 7. Apply wellness concepts to a variety of activities in everyday life
 8. Understand and value physical activity and good nutrition as an opportunity of health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and social interaction

*from the Newton (MA) Public Schools

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Goal Area: Technology and Computer Skills

Goal Statement: Students in Valley Stream District #30 will acquire the knowledge and skills needed for the successful use of computers and other electronic technology

Process Objectives	Estimated Date Of Completion	Fiscal Impact Beyond Current Budget
The staff will refine the current K-6 Technology Framework	Summer 2010	None (use of summer curriculum work hours)
Integrate an articulated scope and sequence of technology skills into the basic curriculum frameworks	Science, Summer 2013 Social Studies, Summer 2014 ELA, Summer 2015	None (use of curriculum leadership stipends and summer curriculum work hours)
The staff will align the components for the new math curriculum with the K-6 Technology Scope and Sequence	Winter 2011	None
The staff will develop the means to provide students with access to computers (e.g. clubs, workshops, partnership with public library)	Fall 2012	Computer Club stipend, possible laptop costs if no other funding source is developed
An enrichment/support, home-based technology component will be developed at each grade level, accessible by teachers and students at home	Fall 2015	None (use of summer curriculum work hours, committee work)

Accountability Measure: Each Valley Stream District #30 student will, by the end of the 2012-2013 school year, demonstrate accomplishment of a prescribed technology learning objective through development of a product or through assessed performance in the use of technology.

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ILLUSTRATIVE 21st CENTURY SKILLS IN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY LITERACY*

- Outcome: Students can give examples that demonstrate how technology extends the ability of people to observe and interact with the world including how people communicate, gain knowledge, and express ideas

- Example: Students exchange “biome boxes” with students from various parts of the country. These boxes that contain actual or virtual examples and/or artifacts of living things from their own community are sent to various other schools. They then telecommunicate with students in the school with whom they exchanged boxes, learning more about those parts of the country and the life in them.

* Source: Partnership for 21st Century Skills

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Goal Area: Parent Communications

Goal Statement: The students' families and staff in Valley Stream District #30 will communicate effectively together

Process Objectives	Estimated Date Of Completion	Fiscal Impact Beyond Current Budget
Each school will insure that parents are notified in writing and electronically of the ways available to them to communicate directly with their children's teachers.	Sept 2010	
Business office staff will work with staff in each school to help maximize their use of the existing voice and data communication systems, including an exploration of the use of cell phones to permit staff to hold confidential telephonic conversations with parents from areas of the building which do not have telephone service	June 2012	TBD
The district will provide teachers with opportunities to utilize classroom website tools, including professional development support in this area.	Ongoing	Tech Budget PD Budget
The district will enhance its website to maximize its communication potential (e.g. include multi-media/video on website to expand the range of tools available for communicating with families, such as "video newsletters")	September 2012	\$10,000

Accountability Measure: In responding to a climate assessment in 2015 regarding the capacity and effectiveness of school and family communications, more than 75% of parents and of staff will rate those communications as effective or highly effective.

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Goal Area: Student Behavior

Goal Statement: Students in Valley Stream District #30 will display socially-appropriate behavior in interacting with other students and staff in school

Process Objectives	Estimated Date Of Completion	Fiscal Impact Beyond Current Budget
Parents will be informed of the school's expectations for student behavior (Code of Student Conduct) through a variety of means (e.g. mailings, parent-teacher conferences, district website, parent meetings). Presentations will include information regarding the required confidentiality of actions taken under the Code of Student Conduct.	Annually by the time of the first report card's distribution	None
Working jointly with the PTAs, programs/workshops/assemblies will be offered to students/parents on topics such as Positive Behavior In Students, confronting bullying, Second Step, and peer mediation	Annually and as-needed	TBD based on any use of outside speakers or programs
Each school will evaluate current student:adult ratios as these may impact upon issues of student behavior and make recommendations regarding adjustments in class size, the use of teacher aides, etc.	June 2012	TBD
The district will review and revise the Code of Student Conduct, as needed, in order to emphasize positive reinforcement while defining consequences for disruptive behavior. Draft revisions will be shared with the District and Building Level Teams for input.	September 2011	None
The district will support the implementation of PBIS to insure accurate data gathering, including staff development programs for non-teaching staff who have reporting responsibilities under PBIS.	September 2011	None
The district will expand knowledge of available student social and emotional programs through participation in the SEL (Social Emotional Learning Network)	June 2013	Minimal

Accountability Measure: By the end of the school year 2012-2013, there will be a 20% decrease (2010-2011 base year) in reports of disruptive student behavior, utilizing the PBIS data gathering system

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Goal Area: Staffing Standards

Goal Statement: The certified and civil service staff of Valley Stream District #30 will reflect the highest standards of qualifications for their positions and the diversity of the student population of the school district

Process Objectives	Estimated Date Of Completion	Fiscal Impact Beyond Current Budget
The district will develop partnerships with local colleges and universities (e.g. CUNY, SUNY) to provide increasing opportunities for qualified and diverse college students in class observation and student teaching	June 2010	None
The district will initiate contacts and establish networks with professional organizations with diverse membership (e.g. LI Black Educators, National Alliance of Black School Educators, National Council of LaRaza, National Association of Latino Administrators and Supervisors, area professional fraternities and sororities)	June 2010	None
The superintendent and building principals will network with leaders in other school districts which have had success in diversifying their pools of highly qualified candidates	June 2010	None
The district will ensure recruitment advertising for staff vacancies is broadly distributed to known sources for highly qualified, diverse applicants, and notes the school district as an Equal Opportunity Employer who encourages applications from minorities	September 2010	None
The district will utilize the capacities of the Online Application System for cross screening of applications	September 2010	None
Specifications utilizing scoring rubrics will be developed for each vacancy and members of screening committees and administrators will be asked to complete paper screening and interviews utilizing those specifications and rubrics to rate the candidates	September 2011	None

Accountability Measure: Beginning in Spring 2010, the District will maintain ethnic data on interviewees for all vacant positions. By July 2011, the diversity of candidates from minority backgrounds interviewed for such positions will be more reflective of the diversity of the student population of the school district, when compared with the same data from Spring 2010.

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Goal Area: Student Enrichment

Goal Statement: All students in Valley Stream District #30 will enjoy a wide range of enrichment opportunities to pursue after school, based upon their talents and interest

Process Objectives	Estimated Date Of Completion	Fiscal Impact Beyond Current Budget
As a part of the teacher recruitment process, the district will include methods to identify additional skills teachers have that may support student enrichment activities.	Spring 2010	TBD
The district will annually review and evaluate current enrichment and after-school activities in an effort to insure a minimum common set of opportunities for students in all schools, as well as to insure the best use of available resources to maximize student opportunities.	August 2010	None
The district will investigate the offering of a global languages program through the student enrichment program, visiting other districts which may have implemented such programs, and devising an implementation plan and schedule	September 2012	None
In exploring extra-curricular activities available for students, the district will seek volunteers from throughout the community to share their talents and interests in assisting school staff in offering these activities. Outside revenue sources will also be sought to minimize the impact on the budget. The business staff will prepare estimates of costs for materials, supplies and equipment	September 2011	TBD
Utilize online and paper information for parents showing course offerings, locations, number of students, days/times, and any rotation among the schools of the district	September 2010	None

Accountability Measure: Utilizing the results of a parent and student survey instrument, 90% or more of the families in Valley Stream District #30 in 2014-2015 will report satisfaction with the availability of student enrichment activities through the District's after-school clubs and extra-curricular activities program

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Goal Area: School Facilities

Goal Statement: In keeping with the district's focus on health and safety, the facilities of Valley Stream District #30 will optimize student learning opportunities.

Process Objectives	Estimated Date Of Completion	Fiscal Impact Beyond Current Budget
Complete the required Buildings Conditions Survey (BCS) for submission to the New York State Education Department.	November 2010	None
Utilize the BCS, as well as the Annual Visual Inspection (AVI), to strategically update the Clear Stream Avenue, Forest Road, Washington Avenue, and Shaw Avenue schools to ensure that adequate teaching space is provided so that everyday school experiences can be successful.	TBD	TBD
Utilize the BCS and AVI to ensure that health and safety concerns are addressed at the Clear Stream Avenue, Forest Road, Washington Avenue, and Shaw Avenue schools, including consultation with appropriate police and code enforcement authorities.	TBD	TBD

Accountability Measure: By September 2015, school buildings in Valley Stream District #30 will meet the district's needs as delineated in the November 2010 BCS (subject to the provision of necessary resources)