

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE: QUINCY SCHOOL DISTRICT CHARTS ITS COURSE ON BEHALF OF STUDENTS AND FAMILIES April 6, 2015

Background

Where are we and where do we need to go in creating a school system that prepares students for success beyond high school? What will students and families have, that they don't already have, as a result of our work? How will we create a clear vision and road map to success in reaching our educational vision on behalf of students and families? How will we know we are achieving success? These are some of the questions that the Quincy School District is asking and answering in developing a Strategic Road Map which will provide direction for its educational improvements over the next three to five years. The project includes a deep and deliberate review of the school system to determine priorities, set a course of action, and establish performance targets to ensure that all students achieve their potential and are ready for life, college, and careers after high school.

Leadership

The District has contracted an established Washington State educational leader, Dr. Monte Bridges, with proven success in helping school communities plan for their futures, to facilitate the process. An energetic, qualified, and representative steering committee has been assembled to guide the work. Members of the steering committee include:

[Link](#) to Strategic Planning committee members and their emails.

Plans are in place to ensure that all stakeholders within the community have opportunities for input and review of the plan as it develops. We are excited to engage in focused planning to develop a comprehensive plan that is responsive to the needs of students and families in the Quincy School District and demonstrates our renewed commitment to be inclusive. We recognize that high performing school systems truly value community, our unique diversity, parents, students, and staff as essential partners in helping all students succeed. Success results from a blend of attention to tasks and relationships. In this Strategic Road Map process, we strive for both.

Process and Timeline

The **Values and Beliefs** of the school district community are the **starting point** of the journey. The District **Vision and Mission**, focused on student success, are the final **destination**.

To get from the starting point to the final destination, a Road Map articulates long-term foundational strategies, as well as short-term high-impact strategies for a district. Foundational strategies are enduring, rooted in community values, and core to the district's success over time. High-impact strategies are fluid, usually 18-months in duration, and take advantage of unique opportunities or momentum in the district or community, addressing high-need issues. Specific action plans, with progress measures, are developed to support both foundational and high-impact strategies. Upfront identification of Progress Measures, which set targets for growth and improvement, is critical in the road-mapping process. Frequent progress checking allows for mid-course corrections along the way and assists in goal-attainment.

A general timeline for the project follows:

January:	Organize for the project
February:	Develop draft Values, Vision, and Mission
March:	Develop draft Foundational Strategies
April:	Develop draft Targeted Strategies and Measurements
May:	Draft and Revise full plan
June:	Seek additional input, revise, and validate the plan
July:	School Board request for plan approval
August:	Begin implementation

Input

Look forward to opportunities in the upcoming months to provide feedback on the draft Strategic Road Map. Talk to a committee member. Share your ideas. Check for updates on the Quincy School District website. Stay connected. We want your input along the way and our request starts here. How would you answer the questions we posed at the beginning of this article? What do you see, hear, think, and feel? What do you recommend?

Take some time to respond below and share your thoughts with us!

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What will students and families have, that they don't already have, as a result of our work?

How will we create a clear vision and road map to success in reaching our educational vision on behalf of students and families?

How will we know we are achieving success?

[Link to actual survey...](#)

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"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."
—John Quincy Adams