Alexandria Public Schools 2010-11
Annual Report on Curriculum, Instruction, & Student Achievement

About this report...

The 2010-11 Annual Report on Curriculum, Instruction and Student Achievement is prepared by the District 206 teaching and learning, and communications departments to inform residents about developments in curriculum, instructional practices and student learning throughout the district.

The report is reviewed by the district’s Curriculum Advisory Council (CAC) and is presented to the Board of Education for approval. A copy of this state-required report is submitted to the Minnesota Department of Education and is available on the district website at www.alexandria.k12.mn.us.

This report contains the following information and more from the 2010-11 school year:

• Annual school district goals and improvement plan progress;
• Responsibilities, activities and membership of the CAC;
• Progress in updating and revising district curriculum;
• Results on state and nationally norm-referenced tests;
• An update on progress toward meeting academic standards, and
• A sampling of accomplishments made by our students and staff over the last school year.

Information about adequate yearly progress for our school district as a whole and our individual school sites will be posted to the Teaching & Learning section of the district website, www.alexandria.k12.mn.us, later this fall.

Mission Statement:
“Our mission is to achieve educational excellence and to inspire a life-long passion for learning.”
"Education is not filling a bucket, but lighting a fire."
- William Yeats

2010-11 Strategic Initiatives
- Increase Student Literacy (Multi-year goal)
- Rethinking and Retooling for the 21st Century
- Improve Communications and Access (Multi-year goal)

Improvements Snapshot for 2011-12 School Year

Increase Student Literacy
- Supporting Student Learning Initiative
  - Developing Deeper Goals
  - Student Support Teams
  - Enhancing Lighthouse Plan
- Literacy Initiative
  - Math Initiative
  - Reading and Writing Initiative
  - Science Initiative
- Teacher Leadership Initiative
  - Professional Learning Communities Plan

Improve Communications and Access
- Social Networking Initiative
- Community Education Initiative
- District 206 Way Initiative
- Respect Initiative

Rethinking and Retooling for the 21st Century
- Enhanced Technology Audit and Planning
  - Classrooms of the Future Plan
  - Online Learning Plan
  - Video Conferencing Plan
- Future High School Initiative
  - Pass a September referendum
  - Design, bid, and begin construction of New High School
- Community Based Strategic Planning Initiative—includes:
  - Mission, Vision & Core Values
  - Setting Programming Direction
  - Balanced Scorecard
- Partnerships Initiative
  - Generating Revenue Initiative
  - Regional Schools
  - Alexandria Community

Board of Education
District residents elect School District 206 Board Members at-large. The School Board is a policy-making body responsible for the district’s educational direction, curriculum, facilities, financial planning and employee relations. District administrators under the Superintendent’s direction implement policies.
Strategic Initiative #1: Increase Student Literacy by designing and implementing research-based initiatives across Academic (Reading and Writing), Digital and Global Areas.

I. Supporting Student Learning Initiative.
• Reviewed and Revised Lighthouse Initiative.
• Explored Student Personalized Learning Plans.
• Extend Problem Solving through Progress Monitoring and Intervention Teams.

II. Literacy Initiative.
• K-12 Reading and Writing
  ◦ Completed curriculum units for K-2 in balanced literacy format.
  ◦ Expanded Leveled Literacy Intervention training and implementation.
  ◦ Initiated curriculum review process for English Language Arts.
  ◦ Completed Understanding by Design (UbD) unit writing for new 7-12 English Language Arts curriculum.
• Math
  ◦ Implemented a full time elementary math coach.
  ◦ Hosted Middle School department meetings to work on standards alignment and curriculum revisions.
  ◦ Conducted numerous training programs for regular and special education staff using highly-effective math programs and resources to support student success and achievement.
• Science
  ◦ Completed standards alignment and curriculum alignment process.
  ◦ Incorporated Understanding by Design (UbD) process into all science units.
  ◦ Selected new materials and technology tools to support new standards.

III. Teacher Leadership Initiative.
• Provided training and implemented planning tools and strategies with Instructional Coaches, Building Leadership Teams, and Curriculum Leaders to ensure all students learn at high academic levels.

Strategic Initiative #2: Rethinking and Retooling for the 21st Century.

I. Technology Initiative.
• Expanded Classroom of the Future to elementary buildings.
• Completed a technology audit.

II. Go Green Initiative.
• Board approved energy improvement projects at Lincoln Elementary and Discovery Middle School.
• Created bid packages and approved bids for work to be completed over the summer.

III. Future High School Initiative.
• Selected lead architects and construction managers for the high school project.
• Hosted Informational Forums in October on activities, sustainability, community partnerships, and performance center.
• Hosted a Community Workshop to develop a conceptual 3D model for the new high school in November and March.
• Initiated a capital campaign to raise private contributions for the project. The campaign successfully raised over $4 million dollars.
• Completed a community listening tour with over 60 presentations on the high school project.
• Negotiated a signed purchase agreement on the sale of Jefferson, contingent on a successful referendum.
• Obtained formal approval of Phase II plan from Minnesota Department of Education who stated the plan is “educationally and economically advisable.”

IV. Partnerships Initiative.
• Established a regional consortium of school districts to plan jointly and create efficiencies.
• Received a $330,008 USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS) grant to purchase video conferencing technology that will allow for sharing courses between the Central Minnesota Educational Telecommunications System (CMETS) school districts.

Strategic Initiative #3: Improve Communications and Access.
I. Social Networking Initiative
• Explored social networking policies and procedures relative to other school districts.
• Determined implementation will begin in 2011-2012.

II. Community Education Initiative.
• Developed a community learning center.
• Expanded and developed program offerings for middle level youth.
• Developed summer program for 5th-8th grade students.
• Developed initiatives to engage “non parents” to be involved in school and community.
• Partnered with existing agencies that support the socialization, learning and interests of adults ages 65+ to offer new learning opportunities.
• Obtained Supplemental Educational Services Certification.

III. District 206 Way Initiative.
• Introduced the Balanced Scorecard model to the Board of Education and district administrators.
• Initiated a staff recognition program by honoring years of service (10, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years).

*represents partial list
### Curriculun

The Curriculum Advisory Council (CAC) is the formal advisory group for District 206 whose purpose is to advise, direct, and support the district in designing, implementing, and evaluating curricula to meet Minnesota assessment requirements. The CAC membership includes parents, students, community members, business representatives, teachers, administrators, and a school board member to ensure that a wide range of perspectives is represented.

CAC volunteers serve three-year terms. Members are solicited through school district publications and recommendations. New members are selected between May and August.

#### Areas reviewed by the Curriculum Advisory Council

The Curriculum Advisory Council reviewed the following activities and programs*:

- District goals for the 2010-11 school year.
- District 206 2010-11 Annual Report on Curriculum, Instruction and Student Achievement.
- Minnesota State Science Standards and District 206 Science Curriculum.
- Programming changes at DMS.
- Academic progress (MCA, AYP, etc).
- Technology update (Classroom of the Future).
- Programming: Title I, Summer School.

Updates were provided on:
- Math Interventions
- Classroom of the Future
- English Language Arts

*represents partial list

### 2010-11 Curriculum Advisory Council Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Term Expires</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parents</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Dee</td>
<td>September, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Hegland</td>
<td>September, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greg Klepetka</td>
<td>September, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linda Herzog</td>
<td>September, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denise Norheim</td>
<td>September, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie Hegstad</td>
<td>September, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community Members</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Carns</td>
<td>September, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pauline Stonehouse</td>
<td>September, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Business Representatives</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Lattimer</td>
<td>September, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Del Mari Runck</td>
<td>September, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Boyer</td>
<td>September, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Teachers</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patti Hinrichs</td>
<td>September, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Freborg</td>
<td>September, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie Groetsch</td>
<td>September, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benita Ottemann</td>
<td>September, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Administrators</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt Aker</td>
<td>September, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dana Christenson</td>
<td>September, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie Critz</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terry Quist</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>School Board</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jean Robley</td>
<td>December, 2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Measuring Student Achievement

District 206 uses a variety of assessment tools. Some assessments are required by the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001, while other assessment tools are initiated by the District for use in designing and delivering quality instruction and public accountability. District student results for three of these tools are shared in this publication.

Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) / District Achievement Level Tests (DALT)

The Northwest Evaluation Association’s (NWEA) Measures of Academic Progress tests (also known as District Achievement Level Tests-DALT) in reading and math were given to students in grades 2 through 6 in the fall and spring, and grades 7 through 9 in the spring of the 2010-11 school year. These computer-based tests are aligned to state standards and show growth over the course of the school year.

2010-11 DALT Reading Average Scores
Growth from Fall to Spring; Fall to Spring Natl. Norms

2010-11 Historical DALT Reading Average Scores
Growth from Spring to Spring; Spring National Norms

2010-11 DALT Math Average Scores
Growth from Fall to Spring; Fall to Spring Natl. Norms

2010-11 Historical DALT Math Average Scores
Growth from Spring to Spring; Spring National Norms
Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments

The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA-II) tests are used to measure students’ progress toward achieving state academic standards in reading, math and science. The data from the reading and math MCA-II tests is used to determine whether schools are making “adequate yearly progress” under requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

**2011 MCA-II Reading**

(Percentage of Students Proficient or Better)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>District 206</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>86.7%</td>
<td>78.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>77.7%</td>
<td>75.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 5</td>
<td>89.6%</td>
<td>80.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 6</td>
<td>89.6%</td>
<td>75.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 7</td>
<td>74.2%</td>
<td>69.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 8</td>
<td>72.5%</td>
<td>68.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 10</td>
<td>85.9%</td>
<td>75.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2011 MCA-III Math**

(Percentage of Students Proficient or Better)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>District 206</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>81.8%</td>
<td>70.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>73.8%</td>
<td>67.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 5</td>
<td>65.9%</td>
<td>53.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 6</td>
<td>71.1%</td>
<td>50.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 7</td>
<td>57.3%</td>
<td>51.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 8</td>
<td>66.9%</td>
<td>53.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 11 (MCA-III)</td>
<td>62.8%</td>
<td>48.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2011 MCA-II Science**

(Percentage of Students Proficient or Better)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>District 206</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade 5</td>
<td>51.2%</td>
<td>46.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 8</td>
<td>49.1%</td>
<td>44.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School</td>
<td>61.7%</td>
<td>53.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2011 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Results**

The District and each individual school met all No Child Left Behind (NCLB) AYP targets for all demographic groups in:

- Participation – District Math – 99.5;
  District Reading – 99.75 (Target is 95%)
- Attendance – District – 95.28 (Target is 90%)
- Graduation – District – 98.92 (Target is 85%)

AYP standards require school districts to progressively work toward a goal of 100 percent of students passing state tests by 2014. In measuring progress toward proficiency targets:

- Across all school sites, District 206 students met AYP proficiency targets in 35 of 35 areas of reading; and 34 of 35 areas of math.
- One school fell short of making AYP due to a challenge area in one student subgroup.

**ACT Tests**

Last year, 220 students took ACT tests. District 206 posted a ACT composite score of 23.1, which exceeds the state average of 22.9 and the national average of 21.1. Approximately 75 percent of Alexandria high school students take the college-entrance exam.

**2010-11 ACT Results**
Many people and programs in School District 206 distinguished themselves in the 2010-11 school year. The following is just a snapshot of the reasons you can be proud of your schools!

★ 30% of our seniors graduated with honors. To graduate with honors a student must maintain a cumulative GPA average of 3.33 or higher from grades 9-12.

★ Eight students recognized for their performance on Advanced Placement (AP) course exams.

★ Over 80% of the Class of 2011 graduates plan to pursue post-secondary education.

★ The Alexandria Public Schools Education Foundation awarded $23,328 in teacher innovation grants to fund student-engaged projects planned for the 2011-2012 school year that will enrich learning and encourage classroom innovation.

★ Over $500,000 in student scholarships were awarded to members of the Class of 2011, including 148 Dollars for Scholars/Cardinal Club Awards totaling over $101,000 – a record year.

★ 9 Seniors recognized at Honors Night as Tri-Sport Athletes.

★ Alexandria students in grades 5, 8 and 10 scored higher than their peers statewide in science proficiency. (2010 Science Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment-Series II data)

★ District employees’ staff participation in support of the United Way of Douglas & Pope Counties Campaign increased by 8% over last year.

★ District 206 staff and students were supported by 999 volunteers that contributed 13,238 hours of time in support of young people.

★ District 206 students excelled in activities and athletics as they earned 4 Central Lakes Conference (CLC) Titles; 5 Section Championship Titles; 5 CLC Sportsmanship Team Awards; claimed a state championship in Adaptive Bowling and runner-up honors in Girls’ Track & Field; and earned 12 State Academic Titles.

★ 5 teams and several individuals from 14 different teams qualified for state competition.

★ 7 Coaches earned Coach of the Year Awards.

★ 4 State Individual Champions crowned.

★ The District 206 Early Education Center provided preschool programming for 176 students.

★ Early Childhood Family Education (parent and child together) had 736 participants.

★ 51 high school students at Jefferson logged 1,144 hours volunteering as Cross-Age Tutors this year providing academic support to 60 students in grades 1-12. Additionally, 1 middle school classroom received weekly assistance/tutoring from a high school senior.

★ 41 high school students at Jefferson logged 1,103 hours volunteering as Student Match mentors to 41 elementary students.

★ 2,700 youth took part in Community Education youth enrichment programming.

★ 3,047 participants took part in 333 Community Education Adult Enrichment classes.
Independent School District 206
PO Box 308
Alexandria, MN 56308

Superintendent of Schools
Terry Quist, Ph.D.

Additional copies of this report are available on our website, www.alexandria.k12.mn.us, or at the District Welcome Center & Administration Office, 1410 South McKay Ave., Suite 201.