



ASCENSION PUBLIC SCHOOLS STRATEGIC PLAN

2018-2019



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DIVE DEEPER INTO ASCENSION PUBLIC SCHOOLS

We want to share more information with you! Download the **HP Link Reader** app on your smart phone or tablet to access videos, graphic displays and web pages with additional information about many of the newsworthy items included in this document.

Once you've downloaded the app, deploy the camera on your mobile device to recognize images that are marked by the media overlay symbol identified above, and the additional information will immediately appear.

ABOUT THE DISTRICT

The Ascension Public School System is comprised of 22,500 students in 27 schools. It is the largest employer in the parish with more than 2,800 employees, including teachers, administrators and support personnel. Our schools are ranked in the top tier in state academic performance.

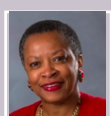
ASCENSION PARISH SCHOOL BOARD



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District 6, Seat B



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District 7, Seat A



A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT DAVID ALEXANDER

Dear Ascension Public School Family,

It is with great excitement that we share this Strategic Plan Report with you. This report outlines our district's mission, vision and purpose and shares the overall vision of each of our departments, along with many of the achievements and accolades we have enjoyed over the past year.

We know that for families who want proven excellence when it comes to educating their child, Ascension Public Schools offers comprehensive, innovative PreK-12 education. We also know that it's not just about the letter grade for a child, school or district. It's about excellence at every interaction. That's why our district has developed a collaborative plan to improve every aspect of learning, growth and achievement throughout our parish-wide system. We have embraced the concept of "Excellence. Ascending Together." to express our commitment to raise up every department, every employee, and every student as we move forward.

Your Ascension Public Schools is a strong, united community with caring professionals who are committed to the overall well-being of our students, our parish and the quality of life in our communities. It is an honor to serve as superintendent and to be a part of this exciting time in the life and history of our school system.

Sincerely,

David Alexander, Superintendent



OUR MISSION

Focusing on Each and Every Student

To provide every child the high-quality education necessary to succeed in an ever-changing world.

OUR VISION

Creating Opportunities

A world in which every child is prepared to successfully pursue postsecondary opportunities of their choice.

DID YOU KNOW:

- Ascension Public Schools consistently earns top-tier academic state rankings.
- The District has won numerous national awards for teaching and financial management.
- International accrediting agency AdvancED scored the District with an exceptional ranking.
- Last year, our students earned a combined 6,414 college credit hours, which equates to over 200 years of college!
- Student Work Ready credentials increased by 239% from 831 to 2,932 in 2 years.
- The District is recognized at regional and national levels for effective communications.
- Ascension students have won state and national awards for academic, athletic and philanthropic excellence.

OUR PURPOSE

Providing Quality Experiences Every Day

Ascension Public Schools will work in unison to provide daily quality experiences for students so they have every opportunity to attain high levels of academic development, discover their talents and interests for skill development, and grow in emotional maturity. This will enable students a successful pursuit of a quality life and an opportunity to contribute to the quality of the lives of others in their community.



OUR CORE VALUES

Uniting Our Team through Shared Values

Our Core Values are found at the heart of Ascension Public Schools. They are the guiding principles that unite us as one team, with one unified mission to provide every child the high-quality education to succeed in an ever-changing world. Our Core Values represent how we interact with each other, with our students and parents, and with our local community.



TEAMWORK

Believing in Each Other



LEADERSHIP

Positively Influencing Each Other



SERVICE

Relentless Commitment to Each Other



LEARNING

Embracing New Opportunities for Each Other





DID YOU KNOW:

- 50% of Ascension's 3rd through 8th graders scored Advanced and Mastery on state assessments.
- Ascension starts student career planning in middle school with dedicated career coaches and robust elective and extracurricular offerings.
- High school students can pursue job-training skills in 39 credentialing programs and numerous internships.
- Our high schools offer more than 2,000 college credit courses.
- 60% of Ascension graduates enrolled in a college or university last Fall.
- Ascension is ranked #1 in the state in supporting students with disabilities to achieve Mastery and Above on state assessments.

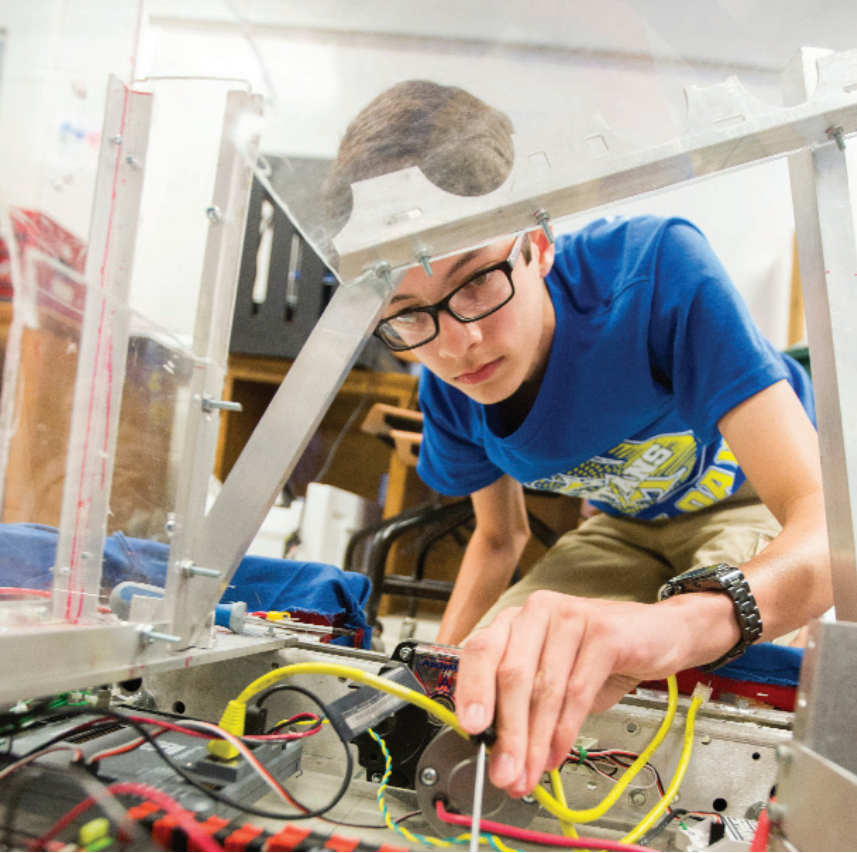
INSTRUCTIONAL PRIORITIES

Raising the Bar for Each and Every Child



VISION

Ascension Public Schools greatly values achievement and promotes dignity in ourselves and pride in our schools and our community. In partnership with our community stakeholders, we are focused on preparing students for their postsecondary experiences, whether they enter an educational institution or the workforce. Our academic programs are poised to develop strong connections with our students so they can achieve independence, confidence and academic competence. We aim to inspire and empower students to excel academically, to develop skills in areas that align with their interests, and to excel socially while preparing them to be productive citizens and future leaders.



TECHNOLOGY

Providing Cutting Edge Technologies for Instruction and Management

VISION

To support the instructional and administrative goals of all Ascension Public Schools' employees with appropriate technology resources and training needed to help them effectively and efficiently complete the tasks needed for successful teaching to fulfill our shared mission of high student achievement and success.



Ascension Public Schools has a one-to-one student to computer ratio, featuring more than 20,000 devices in the hands of students in grades 1-12.



- Brittany Collins, a recent graduate of Donaldsonville High School, was named a Gates Foundation Scholar, received \$518,576 in scholarship offers and earned more than 68 college credits while in high school.



- Ascension Instructional Supervisor Melissa Langlois was named National Illuminator of the Year.



- Dutchtown High School teacher Tabitha Vu was honored with both state and national outstanding math/science teaching awards.



- Gonzales Middle Principal Lori Charlet was named semifinalist for 2019 Louisiana Principal of the Year.



- Master Teacher Shaneka Burnett was named Fellow by the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching for her leadership skills.



DID YOU KNOW:

- 17 schools offer free breakfast and lunch to all students based on federal guidelines.
- Data on student meal participation and menu selections is analyzed daily by grade, school and the district for continuous improvement.
- More than 3.3 million meals were served last school year.
- 4,000 parents and teachers participated in the optional school Thanksgiving dinner service.
- Last year, USDA provided the Child Nutrition Program with 535,156 pounds of commodity goods.
- Fresh salads are offered in Ascension's middle and high schools.
- Students in after-school tutoring programs are provided healthy snacks.
- The District employs more than 200 child nutrition workers in the schools.

CHILD NUTRITION

Nourishing Our Children for Optimal Learning



VISION

To provide nutritious, high-quality, low-cost meals to all students with the highest levels of food preparation and customer service so learning is maximized

“Healthy kids have higher attendance rates, higher test scores and behave better in class.”

--Alliance for Healthier Generation



DID YOU KNOW:

- Ascension Public Schools' bus fleet is comprised of 280 buses, including 26 for students with special needs.
- 246 full-time bus drivers and 20 substitute drivers receive safety training twice a year.
- The District employs more than 218 maintenance workers and custodians.
- The Maintenance Department completed more than 7,000 work orders during the last school year--that averages to one work order every 18 minutes.

TRANSPORTATION

Enhancing Safety at Every Turn



VISION

To provide safe and timely transportation for students that minimizes or eliminates instructional obstacles

MAINTENANCE

Reassuring Our Community of Pride of Ownership



VISION

To ensure that facilities, buses and grounds are properly maintained to maximize safe and productive learning environments





PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION

Designing, Planning and Building Efficiently for Today and Tomorrow

New Construction and Renovations

-  New Bullion Primary School (Fall 2019)
-  New Bluff Middle School (Fall 2020)
-  New Primary School on Highway 73 (2020)
-  New Primary School on Germany Road (2020)
-  Future High School Site on Parker Road
-  Existing Campuses Receiving Expansions or Renovations, including Play Pavilions



VISION

To provide an adequate quantity of effective school buildings and instructional spaces

To meet the challenges of a growing parish, the district is investing \$120 million in improvements and new construction. These improvements come at no increased annual cost to taxpayers. Some of the notable projects include:

Exterior covered play pavilions are being constructed at primary school campuses, giving students a safe, clean play area.

New facilities completed in 2017 include Donaldsonville High's library, East Ascension High's Freshman Academy, Dutchtown High's Freshman Academy and St. Amant High's Freshman Academy.

Three new primary schools and one new middle school are under construction or in the design/development phase. Site planning is also underway for a future high school.



Donaldsonville High Library Opening



Architectural Rendering of Bluff Middle School

HOW TO BUILD A SCHOOL

The average time to design, permit and construct a school after funding is secured ranges from 2 to 3 years, depending on the size of the school and number of campus facilities. Below is the breakdown of the process and typical timelines:

- 1) Secure Funding:** Typically, new schools are funded by construction millages authorized by taxpayers in a bond election.
- 2) Pre-Design:** Staff secures documents and surveys such as population, environmental, drainage, wetlands and traffic studies needed for the architect to begin design of the school. (4-6 months)
- 3) Design:** An architectural firm is selected to design the school. (8-12 months, depending on size of school)
- 4) Permitting & Bidding:** Staff secures construction permitting while a construction firm is selected through a public bidding process. (30-45 days)
- 5) Construction:** Site preparation and construction of the school commences. (12-22 months)
- 6) Warranty:** All new work is under warranty after the end of the construction phase in case additional work is needed. (1 year)

DID YOU KNOW:

In order to accommodate growth and improve transition to high school, all four high schools have freshman academies. Dutchtown High, East Ascension High and St. Amant High also have new classroom additions that increased student capacity by an additional 600 students, which combined (1,800) is equivalent to the capacity of a new high school campus.

Freshman Academies are proven to:

- Enhance student academic performance
- Improve classroom behavior
- Increase graduation rates

FLOOD RESTORATION



Ascension Public Schools has spent \$63 million of the total estimated \$80 million cost for flood restoration projects at six schools and three district properties. To date, the district has been reimbursed for \$22 million and is awaiting an additional \$49 million approved by FEMA.

All flooded schools will be back in their restored buildings this school year.

This is a tremendous accomplishment, as the scope of work is equivalent to building five new schools in two years.



GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Presented to

Ascension Parish School Board
Louisiana

Jeffrey A. Chan
Executive Director / CEO

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

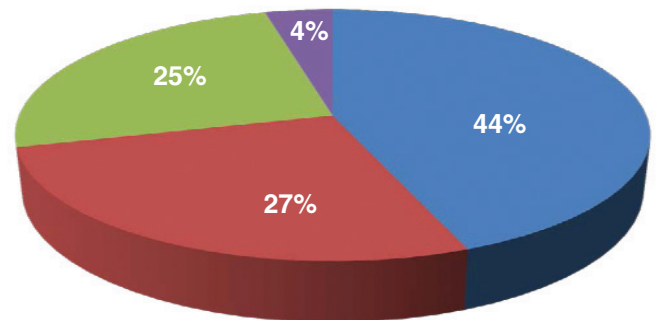
*Ensuring Resources, Accountability,
and Transparency*



VISION

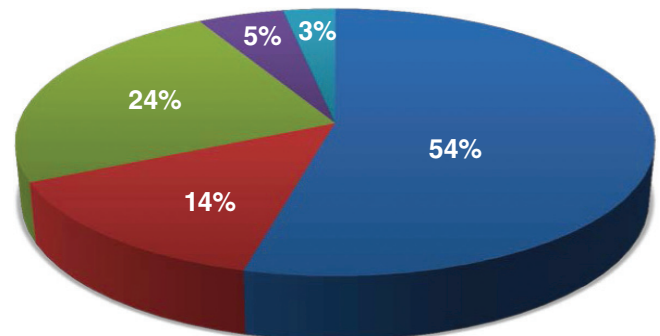
To ensure financial resources are annually allocated to support priorities designed to increase student achievement as well as priorities for organizational effectiveness

2018-2019 PROJECTED REVENUES



■ State funding through MFP ■ Ad valorem (property) tax revenues
■ Sales and use tax revenues ■ Other

2018-2019 BUDGETED EXPENDITURES



■ Personalized Learning and Response ■ Investment in People
■ Support Struggling Students and Schools ■ Governance and Stewardship
■ Safe and Progressive Learning and Work Environment

The 2018-2019 General Fund Budget is \$238 million.

*The general fund budget does not include flood recovery or construction costs.



DID YOU KNOW:

- Ascension Public Schools is the largest employer in the parish, with 78% of its annual budget dedicated to employee salaries and benefits.
- Ascension Public Schools has been nationally and internationally recognized for fiscal excellence for multiple years.
- The District's AA Credit Rating reflects conservative management by setting aside significant funds to address capital needs related to growing enrollment. This high credit rating allows the District to save tens of thousands of dollars over the life of the bonds.
- Ascension Public Schools has been recognized with the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for four consecutive years and with the Excellence in Financial Reporting Award for the last three years.

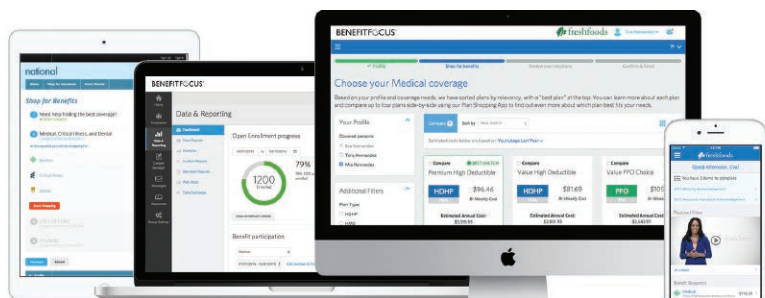


HUMAN RESOURCES

Creating Opportunities for Employees through Quality Management

VISION

To move our Human Resources services in a direction that embraces technology to provide our employees the best possible service and ensure employee services do not create obstacles to the student-learning experience



New this year, employees can manage their benefits online using BenefitFocus.

DID YOU KNOW:

- Ascension Public Schools has a comprehensive employee benefits program, including dental and vision coverage in its comprehensive medical plan.

- Ascension Public Schools has implemented an award-winning Teach Ascension Academy to train professionals for teaching careers.



- Professional development through extension courses, university-based workshops and conferences and other credential-building opportunities are readily available to our instructional teachers and leaders.
- Twelve supervisors, principals and teachers earned doctoral degrees from state universities over the past two years.



DID YOU KNOW:

- Ascension Public Schools won the coveted National School Public Relations Association Gold Medallion Award for excellence in a school information campaign.
- Internal and external stakeholders receive weekly and monthly electronic messages from the District.
- Quarterly webinars are conducted by the Superintendent for parents and community.
- A new volunteer Parent Advisory Committee, with representatives from each school, meets twice a year.
- An ACCESS Committee (Ascension Community Coalition for Excellent Strong Schools) meets semi-annually to gather community input on key school issues. These members are from government, business and industry, and non-profit organizations.
- A new digital flier system for parents was used to communicate school and community events, saving more than one million sheets of paper this year.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Communicating and Advancing the District's Goals, Accomplishments and Achievements



VISION

To improve internal and external communication for the school district in order to strengthen partnerships that ultimately contribute to student success.

"Our Public Information Department is committed to transparency, quick response and multiple communication tools that allow two-way communication with the District."

--Jackie Tisdell, Public Information Officer

Monthly Messages from the Superintendent





ASCENSION PUBLIC SCHOOLS K-12

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Central Middle (6-8) | 14101 Roddy Road Gonzales, LA 70737 | 225-391-6400 225-621-2682-F |
| Central Primary (K-5) | 41469 Hwy 621 Gonzales, LA 70737 | 225-391-7700 225-391-7701-F |
| Donaldsonville High (9-12) | 100 Tiger Drive Donaldsonville, LA 70346 | 225-257-2900 225-473-4496-F |
| Donaldsonville Primary (EC-2) | 38210 Hwy 3089 Donaldsonville, LA 70346 | 225-257-2600 225-473-6920-F |
| Duplessis Primary (K-5) | 38101 Hwy 621 Gonzales, LA 70737 | 225-391-6650 225-677-5984-F |
| Dutchtown High (9-12) | 13165 Hwy 73 Geismar, LA 70734 | 225-391-6200 225-677-8191-F |
| Dutchtown Middle (6-8) | 13078 Hwy 73 Geismar, LA 70734 | 225-391-7800 225-621-2351-F |
| Dutchtown Primary (K-5) | 13046 Hwy 73 Geismar, LA 70734 | 225-391-7850 225-621-2383-F |
| East Ascension High (9-12) | 612 East Worthy Road Gonzales, LA 70737 | 225-391-6100 225-621-2397-F |
| Galvez Middle (6-8) | 42018 Hwy 933 Prairieville, LA 70769 | 225-391-6350 225-621-2434-F |
| Galvez Primary (K-5) | 16093 Henderson Bayou Rd. Prairieville, LA 70769 | 225-391-6600 225-621-2447-F |
| Gonzales Middle (6-8) | 1502 W. Orice Roth St. Gonzales, LA 70737 | 225-391-6450 225-621-2509-F |
| Gonzales Primary (K-5) | 521 N. Burnside Gonzales, LA 70737 | 225-391-6700 225-621-2663-F |
| G.W. Carver Primary (K-5) | 11310 Legacy Oaks Gonzales, LA 70737 | 225-391-6800 225-621-2556-F |
| Lake Elementary (K-8) | 14185 Hwy 431 St. Amant, LA 70774 | 225-391-6550 225-621-2476-F |
| Lakeside Primary (K-5) | 16500 Hwy 431 Prairieville, LA 70769 | 225-391-7750 225-391-7751-F |
| Lowery Elementary (3-5) | 2389 B Hwy 1 S. Donaldsonville, LA 70346 | 225-257-2500 225-473-2539-F |

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Lowery Middle (6-8) | 2389 A Hwy 1 S. Donaldsonville, LA 70346 | 225-257-2550 225-473-2514-F |
| Oak Grove Primary (K-5) | 17550 Old Jefferson Hwy Prairieville, LA 70769 | 225-391-6750 225-621-2370-F |
| Pecan Grove Primary (K-5) | 1712 S. Pecan Grove Ave. Gonzales, LA 70737 | 225-391-7450 225-644-6985-F |
| Prairieville Middle (6-8) | 16200 Hwy 930 Prairieville, LA 70769 | 225-391-6300 225-673-4883-F |
| Prairieville Primary (K-5) | 40228 Parker Road Prairieville, LA 70769 | 225-391-7400 225-391-7401-F |
| St. Amant High (9-12) | 12035 Hwy 431 St. Amant, LA 70774 | 225-391-6000 225-621-2573-F |
| St. Amant Middle (6-8) | 44317 Hwy 429 St. Amant, LA 70774 | 225-391-6500 225-621-2593-F |
| St. Amant Primary (K-5) | 44365 Hwy 429 St. Amant, LA 70774 | 225-391-7950 225-621-2613-F |
| Spanish Lake Primary (K-5) | 13323 Bluff Road Geismar, LA 70734 | 225-391-7650 225-391-7651-F |
| Sorrento Primary (K-5) | 42211 N. City Parc Dr. Sorrento, LA 70778 | 225-391-6900 225-391-6901-F |

OTHER SCHOOLS/FACILITIES

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| LeBlanc Special Services & Federal Programs | 611 North Burnside Gonzales, LA 70737 | 225-391-7211 225-391-7381 225-621-2534-F |
| Ascension Head Start | 603 Lee Avenue Donaldsonville, LA 70346 | 225-391-7351 225-474-2752-F |
| APLe Digital Academy | 38608 Hwy 22 Darrow, LA 70725 | 225-391-6850 225-474-2774-F |
| Early College Option River Parishes Community College | 925 W. Edenborne Pkwy. Gonzales, LA 70737 | 225-743-8747 |



1100 Webster Street
Donaldsonville, LA 70346
225-391-7000
www.apsb.org

 Ascension Parish Schools

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 AscensionSchools

 Ascension Public Schools

An Equal Opportunity Employer