



SUNNYSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

# STRATEGIC PLAN

## 2023 - 2028



# OUR VISION

All Students Will Be Successful  
and Career, College + Life Ready

## OUR STAKEHOLDERS: TOGETHER WE WILL

### OUR SCHOOL BOARD

Our board builds relationships across our community and with other agencies to advocate for district needs and for student achievement.

Our board establishes policies that will positively impact our students and enhance our ability to provide a high quality education to all.

### OUR LEADERSHIP

Our leaders are responsible for providing accessible, equitable and fiscally responsible systems of support.

Our leaders have accountability and expertise in a variety of areas, partnering with schools to create the conditions within which students can grow and flourish.

### OUR FAMILIES

Our families want the best education and opportunities for their children. Our families are advocates and role models, providing support and assistance in a safe and caring home.



### OUR STUDENTS

Our students can learn and are capable of achieving success. Our students are valued for their unique strengths, are resilient, and can advocate for their own learning and growth.

### OUR SUPPORT STAFF

Our support staff, from safety to nutrition, para educators, grounds, maintenance, technology, and transportation, create the conditions that allow our students to thrive in and outside of the classroom.

### OUR TEACHERS

Our teachers love teaching, building strong relationships with students, and exposing students to possibilities beyond their imagination.

Our teachers provide a safe and engaging learning environment by clearly establishing high expectations and recognizing students for progress, growth and achievement.

### OUR COMMUNITY

Our community is proud of our district and excited for the future when our students are meaningfully contributing to Sunnyside. Our community provides essential resources for students, families and our staff to open opportunities and eliminate barriers.

# OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

## THE WHY

Our new Strategic Plan is an overarching, guiding document that provides clear direction to Sunnyside School District staff, families, and community about where we intend to lead our schools and scholars in the near future.

## THE PROCESS

The Strategic Planning Process started in February 2023, with stakeholder engagement activities and the creation of the Strategic Planning Team. The team worked together over four months to identify priorities and initiatives that outlined our beliefs in educating scholars and supporting staff and families. The plan was finalized and presented to the Sunnyside School District Board of Directors in July and unveiled to SSD staff in August.

## THE FUTURE

Designed to cover a five-year time span, our District will use the Strategic Plan to design and implement projects and activities to ensure they are aligned to goals within each Priority.

Expect to see messages shared across our District's communication channels that highlight the work being done by staff and scholars, and opportunities for our schools and leaders to gather feedback from stakeholders.

## THANK YOU

The process could not have taken place without the willingness of staff, scholars, families, and community members to share feedback, our Strategic Planning Team coming together month after month to collaboratively create the plan, and now that it is here, everyone who is rowing together in the same direction to achieve our goals.





## INSIGHTS AND EVIDENCE

The SSD Strategic Planning Team looked at more than 25 unique pieces of data when considering our current reality and priorities. Some highlights stood out to us:

### What we learned:

- Successes and challenges can be found in all areas of our school district.
- When students feel respected and cared for, they invest in themselves.
- Giving students systems of support at all levels will lead to success.
- Our community supports our schools and wants to be included.



**86%**

of Sunnyside High School students graduated in 2022.



**24%**

of graduates between 2016 and 2022 completed a college degree within six years.



**74%**

of students believe there is at least one adult who knows and cares about them.



**90%**

of parents who responded to the 2022 CEE Survey say when they voice a concern to their student's teacher, they feel heard.



## STRONG START

Together we will prepare each Sunnyside Scholar with the foundational skills, habits, and behaviors to actively learn every day.

Key Initiatives:

1. Prepared for Kindergarten
2. Early Literacy and Language Development
3. Road Trip to Algebra
4. Targeted Skills and Experiences at Every Grade



## STRONG CLASSROOMS

Together we will collaboratively design inclusive learning environments to foster high levels of growth and achievement for all Sunnyside Scholars.

Key Initiatives:

1. Engaging Learning Experiences
2. Strong Professional Learning Communities to Implement Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Framework
3. Tiered Systems of Support: Academics
4. Emerging Practices and Technologies



## STRONG CULTURE OF BELONGING

Together we will include, accept, support and protect each member of the Sunnyside School District family

Key Initiatives:

1. Tiered Systems of Support: Wellness
2. Connect, Build, and Envision Programming and Messaging
3. Community-Wide Awareness Campaign
4. Deeper Integration of Social Emotional Learning and Cultural Competencies



## STRONG FUTURE

Together we will nurture and inspire each Sunnyside Scholar to activate their highest potential and achieve their dreams.

Key Initiatives:

1. Aligned High School and Beyond Planning
2. Rigorous and Advanced Pathways
3. Expanded Career Exploration
4. Post-Secondary Student Support



## STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

Together we will engage and empower our Sunnyside Family and Community to shape the direction of our district with us.

Key Initiatives:

1. Families as Partners
2. Open Doors to the Community
3. Consistent Two-Way Communication
4. Newcomer Supports



# 1 STRONG START

Together we will prepare each Sunnyside Scholar with the foundational skills, habits, and behaviors to actively learn every day.

KEY INITIATIVE	WHY THIS IS CRITICAL
<b>Prepared for Kindergarten</b>	Research shows that students who enter kindergarten ready for learning are more likely to experience long-term academic success and personal well-being. Together we will provide families with clarity of kinder readiness goals, and support them with organized resources through community outreach.
<b>Early Literacy and Language Development</b>	Early literacy and language development skills provide students with a strong foundation for academic success. Together we will provide aligned rigorous curriculum and instruction in grades TK-3rd grade that focuses on the science of reading.
<b>Road Trip to Algebra</b>	Proficiency in algebraic thinking by 10th grade is crucial for college and career readiness. Together we will emphasize the algebraic standards, foster problem-solving skills, and develop analytical thinking TK-10th grade.
<b>Targeted Skills and Experiences at Every Grade</b>	When standards are aligned across grade levels it creates a seamless progression of skills and knowledge. Together we will identify essential academic skills and SEL competencies by grade level to develop pacing guides to ensure consistency and clarity of what students are expected to learn.

## 2

# STRONG CLASSROOMS

Together we will collaboratively design inclusive learning environments to foster high levels of growth and achievement for all Sunnyside Scholars.

KEY INDICATOR	WHY THIS IS CRITICAL
<p><b>Engaging Learning Experiences</b></p>	<p>Engaging learning experiences ignite students' motivation and love for learning. Together we will provide a rigorous academic program that will develop solid writing skills, inquiry based thinking, collaboration, organizational skills, and proficient reading strategies across all grades and content through AVID.</p>
<p><b>Strong PLCs to Implement CIA Framework</b></p>	<p>Strong Professional Learning Communities foster collaboration, continuous professional growth, and data-informed decision-making, and are student-centered. Together we will identify essential standards at all grades and contents, implement common assessments, and analyze data to provide timely tiered systems of support interventions and enrichments for students.</p>
<p><b>Tiered Systems of Support: Academics</b></p>	<p>Tiered systems provide personalized instruction, early intervention, and prevention, while adopting a data-driven, collaborative culture. Together we will clearly identify and provide Tier I instruction with an emphasis on inclusionary practices for special populations to provide an equitable education for all.</p>
<p><b>Emerging Practices and Technologies</b></p>	<p>Students develop digital citizenship and sound technological skills which foster learning and innovation, and prepare them to adapt to an ever-evolving society.</p> <p>Together we will provide professional development for staff and lessons for students on emerging practices to develop digital literacy to equip students with essential competencies for success in the modern world.</p>





# 3 STRONG CULTURE OF BELONGING

Together we will include, accept, support and protect each member of the Sunnyside School District family.

KEY INITIATIVE	WHY THIS IS CRITICAL
<p><b>Tiered Systems of Support: Wellness</b></p>	<p>By implementing tiered systems of support for wellness, students will have the necessary resources, interventions, and strategies to thrive emotionally, socially, and mentally. Together we will support all students through Tier I wellness instruction, and prevention protocols, and will identify response systems for our most vulnerable students.</p>
<p><b>Connect, Build, and Envision Programming</b></p>	<p>Creating strong connections among students, staff, and the school community fosters positive relationships, a sense of belonging and supports students to reach their full potential. Together we will intentionally align and monitor our practices to ensure all students have an adult they trust, are connected to healthy activities, and have opportunities to envision their future.</p>
<p><b>Community-Wide Awareness Campaign</b></p>	<p>Supporting the diverse needs and identities of all students will create an inclusive environment where every individual feels valued, respected, and empowered. Together we will provide ongoing awareness and professional development on equitable and inclusive practices that emphasize the destigmatization of mental health and the removal of barriers to promote inclusivity.</p>
<p><b>Deeper Integration of SEL and Cultural Competency</b></p>	<p>Academic success alone is not enough for our students to thrive; by supporting the education of administrators and teachers to integrate Tier 1 Social Emotional Instruction and develop cultural competency, we are ensuring our students will become career, college, and life ready.</p>

# 4 STRONG FUTURE

Together we will nurture and inspire each Sunnyside Scholar to activate their highest potential and achieve their dreams.

KEY INITIATIVE	WHY THIS IS CRITICAL
<b>Aligned High School and Beyond Planning</b>	Centering post-secondary planning on a student's interest, goals and strengths is essential to increasing their chances of a successful transition into post-secondary adulthood. Together we will align programs that connect students' elementary, middle and high school experiences with their post-secondary plans and aspirations.
<b>Rigorous and Advanced Pathways</b>	Challenging coursework allows students to expand their knowledge, deepen their understanding, and develop critical thinking skills. Together we will challenge our students to solve complex problems and explore new ideas, fostering intellectual growth and preparing them for higher education and the workforce.
<b>Expanded Career Exploration</b>	By connecting current coursework, activities, and skill building with their future, students are able to make informed decisions about their future paths and pursue meaningful careers. Together we will increase our partnerships with local businesses and post-secondary institutions to expand opportunities to learn first hand about different careers and industries.
<b>Post-Secondary Student Support</b>	Navigating the transition out of high school and into higher education, advanced technical training, or directly into the workforce is challenging and complex. Together we will provide support and resources for all Sunnyside graduates to enroll in college, search for career opportunities, and apply for roles.





# 5 STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

Together we will engage and empower our Sunnyside Family and Community to shape the direction of our district with us.

KEY INITIATIVE	WHY THIS IS CRITICAL
<p><b>Families as Partners</b></p>	<p>Fostering strong partnerships between families and educators encourages collaboration on strategies that promote a student's academic success and well-being. We recognize the value of hearing from families as partners, and together we will provide transparency on student progress and supports, and develop resources and events that increase family engagement and contribution to student growth and achievement.</p>
<p><b>Open Doors to the Community</b></p>	<p>We invite our community and families to come into our schools to experience our vibrant learning environments first hand. Together we will increase opportunities to engage with our school district as a volunteer, visit buildings to explore learning at different levels, and provide information about our safety protocols.</p>
<p><b>Two-Way Communications</b></p>	<p>Hearing directly from our community is valuable, and we recognize how much we can learn and grow from listening to new voices. Together we will create common expectations and guidelines for how we communicate, along with explanations of each tool used to both share and receive messages efficiently and effectively.</p>
<p><b>New to Sunnyside</b></p>	<p>As Sunnyside continues to grow, we play a big role in creating welcoming and inclusive environments that empower new students, families, and staff to feel supported in their transition to our schools. Together we will welcome them to the district and community through specific programming, mentorship, and learning opportunities.</p>

## GET INVOLVED IN SUNNYSIDE SCHOOLS

Are you ready to make a meaningful difference in the lives of young learners? The Sunnyside School District is on the lookout for dedicated individuals to join our volunteer family and help create a brighter future for our students. Your time, enthusiasm, and positive energy can truly shape the educational journey of our budding scholars.

By offering your support in classrooms, you'll have the chance to inspire young minds and be a guiding light on their educational path.

Connect with teachers, staff, and other volunteers who share your commitment to fostering a nurturing and empowering environment for our students.

The first step on this rewarding journey is to complete our volunteer application form. You can find it at [www.sunnysideschools.org/families](http://www.sunnysideschools.org/families).

Once you've filled out the application form, return it to our district office.

As part of our commitment to ensuring a safe environment for our students, we ask our volunteers to complete a fingerprinting process. This step ensures the security and well-being of all members of our school community.

## WHO TO CONTACT

If you have questions about anything you've read in the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan, please feel free to reach out to Superintendent Ryan Maxwell at 509-836-8700. You can also direct questions to your student's principal.

If you have ideas or thoughts to share, you can contact the Communications Department at 509-836-8703 or by email at [info@sunnysideschools.org](mailto:info@sunnysideschools.org).





**Sunnyside School District**

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[@sunnysideschools](https://www.facebook.com/sunnysideschools) 

**Each Sunnyside scholar has unique backgrounds, skills, talents, and challenges. Our school and district staff strive to meet each scholar where they are, with the resources to support their success. It is only through the combined efforts of scholars, families, staff, and our community, that our scholars build strong futures.**

We thank each and every person who engages with our scholars. Building strong partnerships our community will help us achieve the goals of this strategic plan.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Superintendent Ryan Maxwell.

We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to contribute to the Strategic Planning Team.