



LANCASTER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
**Comprehensive District
Education Plan
(CDEP)**



About the District

Lancaster at a Glance

- Lancaster educates nearly 5,400 students
- Seven buildings
- About 920 professional and support staff
- Consistently ranked among the most cost-effective and administratively efficient school districts
- LCSD expanded Pre-Kindergarten from half day to full day and increased the number of students served

Excellence in Education

- 99.6% graduation rate
- 73% of students graduated with Regents Diplomas with Advanced Designation
- 20 Advanced Placement Regents Exams
- 36 dual enrollment courses
- LHS was once again named a Best High School by US News & World Report
- Como Park Elementary is designated as NYS School of Character and National School of Character
- Since 2017, 104 students have received NYS Seal of Biliteracy designation
- Lancaster Alternative Academic Program provides opportunities for at-risk students from an academic and social-emotional standpoint to ensure preparedness for life after LHS.
- Multiple educators selected to participate in the New York State Master Teacher Program
- On average, Lancaster Middle School has approximately 40% of the student population participate in Regents Algebra I and over 60% in Living Environment, which allows them to attain high school credit prior to entering LHS.
- Over 40% of our students at WSS take an accelerated math class in 6th grade to prepare for Algebra I in 8th grade.
- Lancaster High School's graduating class of 2022 earned over \$10 million of scholarship monies - Highest in District History



Student Leadership and Opportunities

- Seven career-themed academies to provide our students with real-life experiences prior to graduation
- All students in 6th grade take Foundations for Leadership & Success
- Foundations for Success Class for all Freshmen
- The LHS Student Union has once again received the Gold Council of Excellence Award from the National Association of Student Councils, one of only 9 in the nation who has won the award since its inception and the 18th consecutive year.
- The Academy of Finance has once again been named a National Distinguished Academy, for the 12th straight year.
- Students at WSS, LMS, and LHS have nearly 100 clubs to join
- LHS has 8 honor societies
- As one of the largest elementary schools in NYS, students at WSS have a wide array of opportunities that include Health, Foundations for Leadership and Success, Argumentative Writing and Debate, Creative Writing, Project Lead the Way: Launch, swimming instruction, and an Art Academy.

Community and Culture

- All teachers and administrators trained in Kagan Cooperative Learning Days 1 & 2
- Data coaches working in each department and with each grade level to facilitate discussions to best support our students' needs from both academic and social emotional perspectives.
- Legendary Day of Learning (LDOL) is a staff development day that is in a conference format in which all K-12 teachers and administrators have an opportunity to learn from colleagues and share expertise. The 500 participants (including administrators, teachers, staff, and students) have the ability to choose from nearly 200 sessions with over 100 presenters and 90 different offerings.
- Culture, Climate, and Inclusivity Committees at district, building, and student levels
- Culture, Climate, and Inclusivity Coordinator position added in 2022
- Our youngest student can participate in a variety of service projects, fundraisers, and other culture-building opportunities such as Character Crew and Good Citizens Club
- District-wide "Day of Kindness" has grown into a week-long event focused on kindness
- "Legends of the Round Table" at WSS, a student forum allowing students to have conversations on matters affecting the culture and climate of the school



Athletics

Lancaster Central School District Athletics brings excellence to the fields/courts of play and championships at the divisional, sectional, regional, and state levels. The District is a member of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, Section VI, and the Erie County Interscholastic Conference.

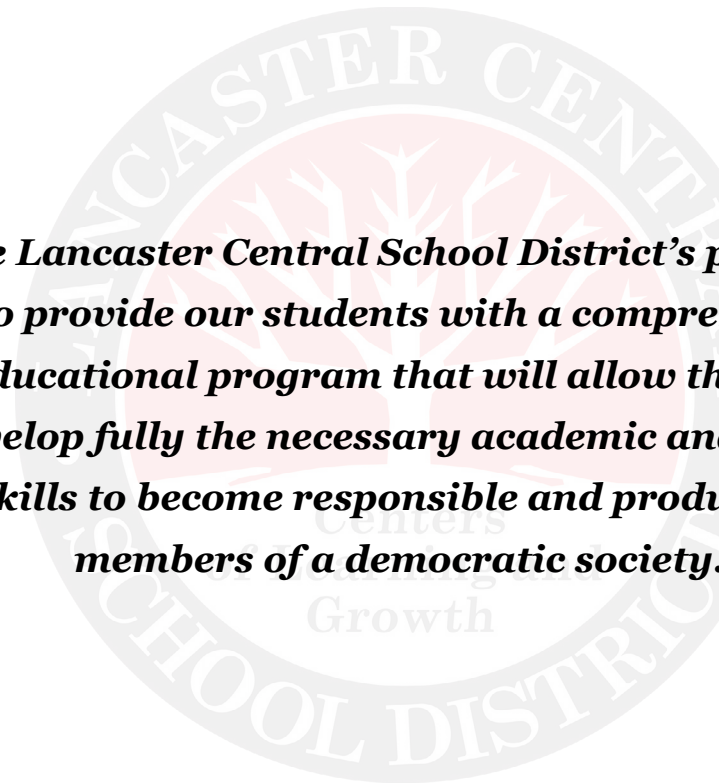
- LCSD Athletic Program has been rated #1 in WNY and consistently one of the best all around programs.
- LCSD has 30+ student athletes each year who continue to play and compete at the collegiate level
- All 14 Fall 2022 Varsity Teams have been designated as a NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Teams (meaning the cumulative average over the entire team is over a 90%)
- Three consecutive years as a NYSPHSAA School of Distinction
- 223 student athletes qualified out of 270 student athletes (83%)
- 29 different sports are offered
- 75 total teams
- 120 paid coaches
- Since 2015
 - 222 Team Scholar Athletes
 - 71 ECIC Championships
 - 35 Team Sectional Championships
 - 5 Far West Regional Championships
 - 1 Team State Championship
 - 2 Individual State Championships
- College Signings since 2021: 50
- Lancaster High School participates in the Unified Basketball program which creates opportunities and builds relationships between students of various needs



Music & Arts

- Faculty members in Lancaster's Music Department have been recognized at state and national levels as exemplary musicians and educators.
- Lancaster has been named a Best Communities for Music Education District for 6 consecutive years
- Choral programs as early as third grade
- Band and orchestra programs starting in fourth grade
- Award winning marching band selected to represent NYS at Pearl Harbor in a commemorative concert on December 7th.
- Carnival Kids Orchestra (CKSO) - 3rd oldest Steel Drum Orchestra in the country which travels and performs throughout WNY.
- Students have performed with the BPO and guest artists at LMS and LHS
- A wide array of extracurricular groups 4-12: jazz ensemble, jazz combo, ukulele club, chamber ensembles, show choir, swing choir, a capella choir, drama club, marching band, winter guard, men's choir, musicals and dinner theatre ensemble
- Grammy nominations for music educator of the year in 2020 and 2021
- WSS has the largest, most comprehensive 4-6 music program in WNY with 8 bands, 5 choirs, and 3 orchestras.
- NYSSMA Presidential Citation Award Winner
- Lancaster High School was named a GRAMMY Foundation Signature School
- Two time Kenny-Award winning Lancaster High School Performing Arts Society - 1999 & 2022
- Academy of Visual and Performing Arts is one of the first in the country
- Annual Festival of Arts including dinner theater & art show
- Art Honor Society: a nationally accredited Honor Society with graduates receiving special recognition upon programming completion
- New York State Summer School for the Arts (NYSSSA) programming, students invited & awarded scholarships yearly
- Scholastic Arts Magazine National Award-winning school
- Introductory Visual Art Academy for gifted students in the visual arts as early as fourth grade
- Faculty members in Lancaster's Art Department have been recognized with published artwork, articles, interviews and research in a variety of local, national & internationally recognized media outlets

Mission

The seal of the Lancaster Central School District is a circular emblem. It features a central sunburst or starburst design. The words "LANCASTER CENTRAL" are arched across the top, and "SCHOOL DISTRICT" is arched across the bottom. In the center, below the sunburst, the words "Centers for Learning and Growth" are written in a smaller font.

The Lancaster Central School District's purpose is to provide our students with a comprehensive educational program that will allow them to develop fully the necessary academic and social skills to become responsible and productive members of a democratic society.

We believe...

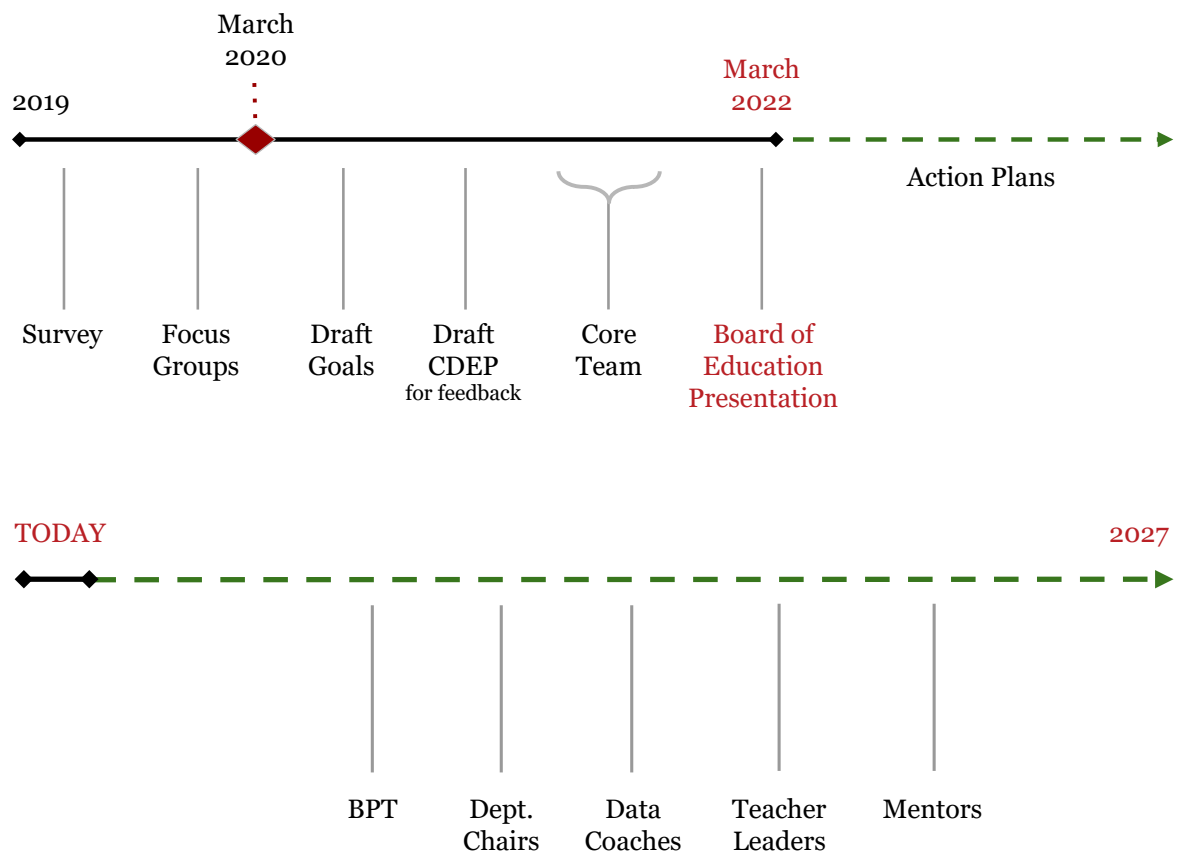
- all children can learn.
- students learn best when they are engaged with the content, skills, and their peers.
- in creating a culture, climate, and community in which all students feel welcome, supported, and valued.
- teaching and learning should be meaningful, engaging, and rigorous.
- how to learn is as important as what is learned.

We will...

- never give up on students.
- help all students find their pathway whether it be college or career focused.
- foster meaningful collaboration between all members of the school community.
- challenge our students, teachers, administration, and staff to reach their full potential with the necessary support to be successful.
- foster an environment where students are self aware and able to manage their emotional and behaviors.

Timeline

The formal process of creating the CDEP began prior to the pandemic in fall of 2019. Multiple data collection tools were utilized to conduct a formal needs assessment to determine the goals and underlying themes. The formal tools included a survey of all faculty members, focus groups at each school, and a CDEP core team that met multiple times throughout the process to craft the CDEP. Due to the pandemic, the finalization of CDEP was delayed until the spring of 2022; however, as a result of the delay, more feedback and input was gathered. Therefore, the CDEP is more robust and comprehensive than it would have otherwise been, allowing us to focus on not only the next five years, but also supporting our students as we address the effects of the pandemic from both the academic and social-emotional perspectives. This is best highlighted with the additions of the social-emotional learning and culture, climate, and inclusivity underlying themes.



Underlying Themes

The *Underlying Themes* form the foundation of the LCSD CDEP. These themes were identified through the focus group process and refined by the CDEP core team as five most critical aspects that underpin our CDEP goals while serving as a basis for expectations and support to help our students attain the achievement goals. The themes will not only serve as guiding principles for goal attainment through the development of action plans, but the themes will provide direction for additional professional learning opportunities.



College, Career, & Civic Readiness

All students, PK-12, have access to curriculum, instruction, programming, and real-world experiences, at their developmental level that works to prepare them for the skills necessary to succeed in life after Lancaster in college and/or the workforce.



Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment

Teachers at the same grade level/content area will collaborate to write curriculum maps and pacing guides to keep classrooms working on the same instructional standards simultaneously.



Professional Learning Communities

An ongoing process in which educators work collaboratively in recurring cycles of collective inquiry and action research to achieve better results for the students they serve. This is the way we will do business.



Social & Emotional Learning

Students will be educated in an environment where both academic and social-emotional needs are understood, valued, and met. Students will be able to understand and develop the skills needed to advocate for themselves and others and express their feelings in a productive manner.



Culture, Climate, & Inclusivity

Students of different backgrounds have access to an education that supports their ability to succeed at high levels. All students feel comfortable expressing themselves and feel a valued part of the school community.

Goals

As an educational organization, whether a classroom or school district, the development, articulation, and measurement of goals, along with a strong commitment to the attainment of goals, are significant influencers on the success of the organization in meeting the goals.

The various stakeholders involved in the CDEP development process provided feedback with regard to the goals as well as the connectivity of the goals to each other. For example, literacy is at the center of all student learning and, therefore, is a component of each of the subsequent goals. Each goal from there supports higher levels of success to form a continuum from literacy through our college credit goal that also reflects our underlying theme of college, career and civic readiness.

As plans of actions are developed and revised, a major component in helping our students achieve the CDEP goals will be the support provided to our faculty, staff, and administration through the identified professional learning opportunities.



Literacy

Increase the percentage of students who are reading within the appropriate grade level band to 100% by 2027.



Multi-Tiered Systems of Support

Update and improve our district wide Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) procedures.



Writing

Students in grades K-12 will maintain a writing portfolio to illustrate the attainment of grade-level writing benchmarks.



Grade 3 ELA

100% of all eligible students in a given cohort will take and earn a score of Level 3 on the NYS Tests in ELA by 2027.



Algebra I

Increase the number of students of a given cohort earning proficiency in Algebra I in 8th grade to 85% by 2027.



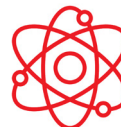
College Credit Math

Increase the number of students of a given cohort earning college credit in mathematics through a dual enrollment or AP course to 80% by 2027.



College Credit

Increase the number of students of a given cohort to 85% who successfully completed at least three dual enrollment college courses and two AP courses during their four years at LHS by 2027.



Science

Increase the number of students of a given cohort earning proficiency in Living Environment in 8th grade to 100% by 2027. Increase the number of students of a given cohort earning proficiency in at least one physical science Regents course to 100% by 2027.

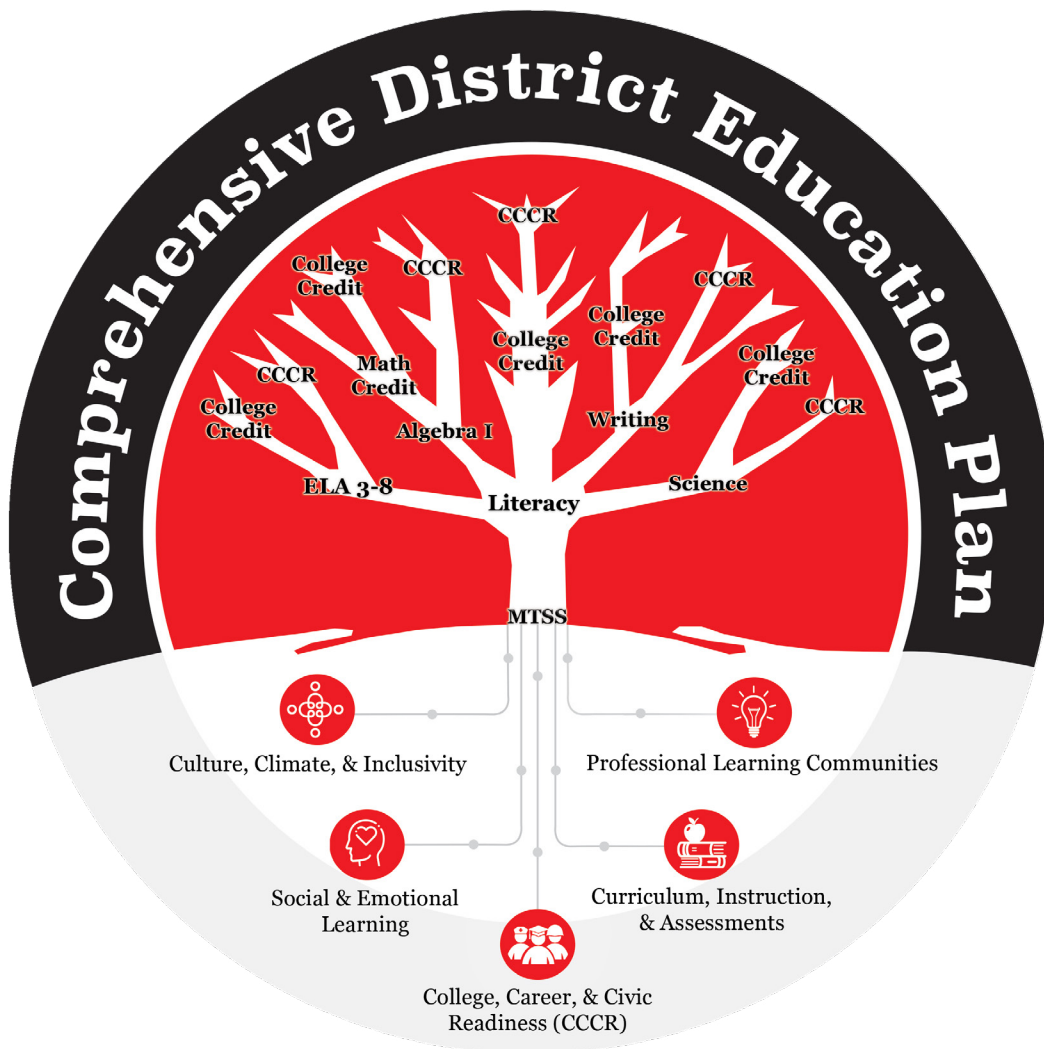
Infographic

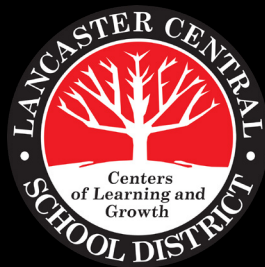
With the input received from our core team meetings, we had several drafts of an infographic to show the connections between the goals and the relationship to the themes.

In looking at the final graphic you will notice that everything is interconnected by the tree and its “roots.” Nothing in this plan is done in isolation, everything is connected.

Our underlying themes are the supports to our tree - these are the tools and mindsets that we will utilize to make our goals a reality.

The branches are the goals we wish to accomplish with our students but are supported by our underlying themes (the roots of the tree).





LCSD Comprehensive District Education Plan
