



MEETING OUR MISSION

OF INSPIRING EACH

A Note From Superintendent Dr. Josh Swanson

As we look to the future of education in our district, we want to ensure we meet the needs and expectations of our students, staff, and families. That's why we've been engaging with the community extensively since November to assess and set our strategic plan for the next five years.

Thousands of people both inside and outside of the district have gotten involved and provided feedback through surveys, focus groups, and discussion forums. With this input, we have developed a draft of our strategic plan and would like to share it with you.

This mailer includes an overview of our new plan, and we are eager to hear your thoughts and feedback before the plan is finalized in late May. We believe an effective strategic plan must reflect the needs and aspirations of our entire community, and we encourage you to take time to read through the plan and provide your input.

Our plan maintains the same mission and mission outcomes, but focuses on three new key strategies: "Personalized & Authentic Learning," "Wellbeing," and "Inclusion & Belonging." Through these strategies, we hope to empower our students to engage and achieve at high levels by providing authentic and personalized learning experiences, nurturing physical and emotional wellbeing among all students and staff, and cultivating an inclusive learning environment that fosters a sense of belonging for each student within our diverse community.

We will continue to make Eden Prairie Schools a place where we inspire each student every day, and we know we cannot do this without your support and collaboration. Thank you for your partnership in creating a brighter future for our students.

Dr. Josh Swanson, Superintendent



EPHS 12th grader wins EP Optimist Club essay contest

Harini Senthilkumar's essay was the overall first-place winner in the annual essay contest and will be forwarded to the district level for judging alongside other winners in the Dakotas, Minnesota, Manitoba District. Here's an excerpt of her award-winning essay:

"Growing up, I spent summers with my paternal grandmother who visited us in America from the state of Tamil Nadu, India.

She once asked me about my aspirations in life and the legacy I wanted to leave behind. Working with my parents to translate more complex phrases into Tamil, I described how I aspire to use my power as a human being to contribute to taking care of our planet and preventing further human-caused damage, through either sustainable policymaking or environmental science. To my surprise, she was able to connect with what I was saying, describing the severe destruction of our planet she has witnessed over her lifetime and encouraging my dreams of helping save it.

My Paatti inspires me to be optimistic by her faith in my generation's ability to prioritize sustainability and reverse the deep-rooted damage of human action on the planet."

Read Harini's full essay:



INSPIRED EAGLE

Name: Jasmine Garry **Grade:** 11
School: Eden Prairie High School

Jasmine's recycling app, RexCycle, won U.S. Rep. Dean Phillips' 2022 Congressional App Challenge in Minnesota's Third District. She also leads weekly coding and app development classes for elementary school girls who are interested in building apps.

"I teach groups of girls to use their creativity and new ideas to learn how to code and develop apps that can help solve social problems or environmental concerns. I enjoy building apps because I am able to see the direct impact they have on the world."



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

May 4-18 Kindergarten Welcome Events at elementary schools
May 29 No School - Memorial Day
June 8 Last day of school

Graduation Ceremony, Class of 2023
7:00-8:00 p.m.

Aug. 14-17 KinderCamp at elementary schools

EXCERPT Ep EXPRESS

EDEN PRAIRIE NEWS IN 30 SECONDS



01 | Three students win "My District, My Minnesota" art program

Congratulations to Habiba Nur (Prairie View), Allison Aanderud (Oak Point) and Brennan Masters (Oak Point), whose award-winning artwork will be on display in the Capitol building for the rest of the year!



02 | Heidi Nistler earns MASE Special Education Leader Award

Congratulations to Director of Special Education Heidi Nistler, who has been awarded the Minnesota Administrators for Special Education (MASE) New Special Education Leader Award! Since joining the district in July, Heidi has developed additional programming to expand the continuum of services for students with disabilities, met with local legislators to advocate for the needs of families, students and staff, and dedicated herself to our mission of inspiring each student every day.

03 | We're hiring!

Looking for a change of pace next school year? Many roles in Eden Prairie Schools offer flexible schedules, competitive pay, great benefits and the chance to inspire our students. Call 952-975-2811 to learn more about becoming a bus driver, paraprofessional or nutrition services professional!



Your input matters!
Share feedback on our
2023-28 Strategic Plan.



INSPIRING NEWS

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Non-Profit
US Postage
PAID
Permit #253
Hopkins, MN
55343

8100 School Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55344
www.edenpr.org
952-975-7150



2023-28 DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN



Starting last fall, Eden Prairie Schools extensively engaged the community to hear ideas and priorities to include in a new strategic plan for the next five years. Students, families, staff and community members have provided feedback through surveys, focus groups and discussion forums. After reviewing all of the data collected, a representative Core Planning team and district leaders drafted an updated 2023-28 Strategic Plan. Read more below and **share your thoughts!**

Scan the QR code to
provide feedback!

STRATEGY
2

WELLBEING

By 2028, we will nurture wellbeing among all students & staff.

STRATEGIC RESULTS:

- Each student and staff will experience instruction and learning environments that foster belonging, ensure physical and emotional health, and promote safety, kindness and personal responsibility.
- Each student will discover, explore and pursue opportunities that deepen personal understanding and promote individual and community growth as part of their Inspired Journey.
- Targeted mental health resources will be provided to students and staff based on identified needs.
- Ongoing professional development will support all staff in providing positive experiences for students, families and one another that increase a collective sense of belonging.
- Each student and staff will receive training to improve and strengthen school safety and emergency response.

STRATEGY
3

INCLUSION & BELONGING

By 2028, we will cultivate an inclusive learning environment that fosters a sense of belonging for each student within our diverse community.

STRATEGIC RESULTS:

- Each student will be highly engaged in their learning and receive equitable access to all programming.
- Predictable achievement disparities will be eliminated.
- Each staff member will engage in continual cultural awareness development.
- The racial demographics of staff will closely reflect those of the student population.
- Each student and family will experience authentic relationships with school staff to enhance learning.
- Curriculum and instructional resources will reflect the students we serve while promoting understanding and developing each student's unique strengths.

Keeping a strong foundation:

Our mission, core values, and mission outcomes have served us well for the last five years and provide a strong foundation for the next five.

Our Mission

Inspire each student to learn continuously so they are empowered to reach personal fulfillment and contribute purposefully to our ever-changing world.

Core Values

We believe that:

- Each person has intrinsic value.
- Each person has individual gifts, interests and talents.
- Community benefits when each person contributes.
- Relationships flourish on a foundation of mutual trust and respect.
- Continuous learning is essential for personal fulfillment, opportunity and success.

Mission Outcomes

- Each student will achieve personal and district expectations and be inspired to learn continuously.
- Each student will enthusiastically and confidently engage in the continual pursuit of personal goals and aspirations.
- Each student will proactively engage in actions that contribute to community.

Evolving to meet future needs:

The strategies we use to achieve our mission outcomes must evolve to meet current and future needs. Below are the draft 2023-28 strategies (ways we will work to achieve our mission) and strategic results (what we hope to accomplish in each strategy).

STRATEGY
1

PERSONALIZED & AUTHENTIC LEARNING

By 2028, we will inspire students to engage and achieve at high levels through authentic & personalized learning experiences.

STRATEGIC RESULTS:

- Eden Prairie Schools' "Inspired Journey" of discovery, exploration and pursuit will be fully implemented. It will include:
 - Opportunities for critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creative problem solving.
 - A variety of course options and learning experiences, providing choice for students.
 - Learning environments that promote collaboration, choice, and rigor.
 - A personalized learning journey with access to Pathways and Capstones.
 - Community partnerships that support real-world, hands-on, applicable and relevant experiences.
- Each student will demonstrate their learning through a variety of performance tasks and assessments that measure growth and mastery of content, including 21st-century skills.
- Each educator will consistently use and disaggregate data to design and adjust instruction in response to each student's learning and provide meaningful feedback for goal setting and progress monitoring.
- Each student's experiences, backgrounds and cultural identities will be reflected in learning.
- Each staff member will be supported in personalized and authentic professional learning experiences designed to meet the needs of students.

A MESSAGE from the Eden Prairie School Board



The Eden Prairie School Board: (starting left)
Dr. Josh Swanson – Superintendent of Eden Prairie Schools, Abby Libsack - clerk,
Charles Strehl – treasurer, Aaron Casper – chair, Dennis Stubbs - director,
Kim Ross – director, Debijoti Dwivedy – director, Steve Bartz – vice chair.

Over the past several months, Eden Prairie residents and school families had the chance to share their values, ideas, and expectations on important district matters in a variety of formats. A few examples worth highlighting are the recent elections, a vote on referendums, community surveys, and a Thought Exchange. The board appreciates our community's continued involvement in sharing perspectives, which will help shape and guide the district now, and in the years ahead.

Stakeholders Cast Their Ballots

Community involvement at the polls in November solidified the composition of the school board for the next two years. Additionally, support and passage of two referendums set the district on solid footing, which will provide stability of district finances for the next five years. So, while we anticipate action from the Minnesota legislature which could impact school funding, the board is encouraged to hear from our administration that the state of Eden Prairie Schools is strong.

"Survey Says!"

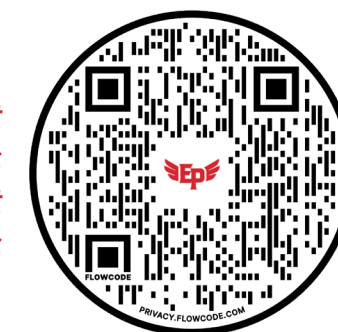
Recently, Eden Prairie residents participated in a scientific random sample community and parent survey, while 2,700 parents, staff, and students took part in a Thought Exchange sharing over 2,000 ideas offering over 40,000 interactions. Major themes derived from the Thought Exchange were shared with community participants during World Cafe events, offering further opportunities for discussion in a round-table format. The community's input from these platforms will be considered as the district moves into its Strategic Planning phase starting in March and April, setting the course for Eden Prairie Schools over the next 5 years.

Stable Finances, Reduced Class Sizes, & Increasing Enrollment

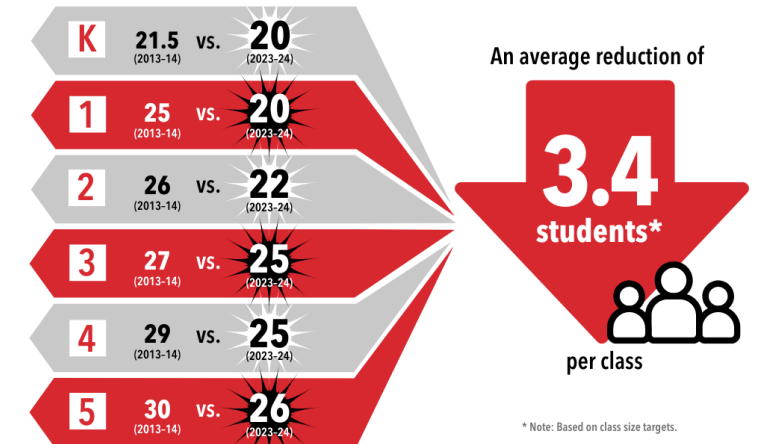
The board would like to extend its gratitude to our community—for your engagement and ongoing commitment to Eden Prairie Public Schools. Together, with your support and the strategic work of the administrative team, the district has been able to maintain financial stability, invest in programs and services, and avoid unplanned reductions for an eighth consecutive year. The board is also excited to hear the Superintendent's recommendations to lower class size targets in grades 2, 5, and 6. Lastly, we are experiencing very stable enrollment numbers—in fact, 2022-2023 enrollment is higher than we have seen since 2014! This is inspiring news indeed, as enrollment is both a key driver for school funding and a positive indicator that families continue to choose Eden Prairie Public Schools.

Thank you for your involvement and sharing what matters most when it comes to our schools—we value your time and investment. Soar Eagles!

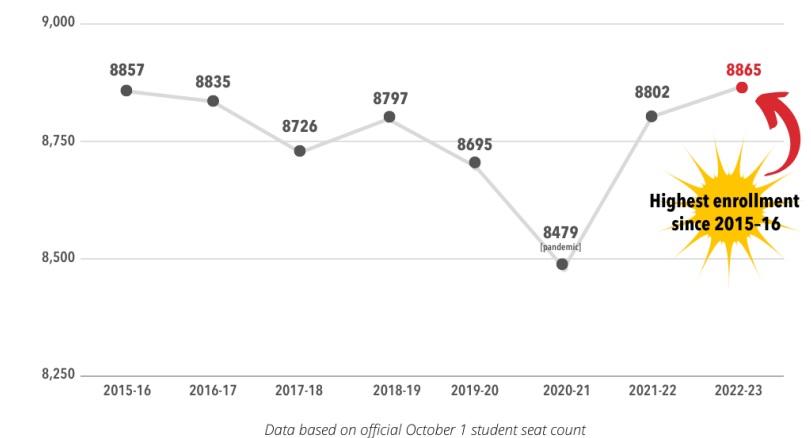
Find out more about
the School Board's
Measuring What
Matters publications



REDUCED CLASS SIZES



INCREASING ENROLLMENT



STABLE FINANCES

Since the 2015-16 school year, the district has been able to maintain financial stability, invest into programs and services, find efficiencies, and avoid unplanned reductions.

