

Frequently Asked Questions: Grand Island CSD Blueprint for Excellence 2024-2025

1. What is the purpose of the "Blueprint for Excellence" Strategic Plan? The "Blueprint for Excellence" is a strategic plan developed through collaborative efforts involving the Board of Education, leadership team, staff, parents, and community members. Its primary purpose is to serve as a roadmap for the Grand Island Central School District to continue growing, improving, and achieving excellence in all its endeavors. It aims to connect with each child and family while strengthening the bonds between the school and the community.

2. What are the core components of the "Blueprint for Excellence" plan? The plan is structured around several key components, including an overview and introduction, clearly defined mission, vision, and core values, identification of four priority areas (Academic Excellence, Operations, Student Well-Being, and Community Connections), detailed action plans for each priority, an accountability and implementation plan, and a list of the Blueprint Committee members.

3. What are the Grand Island CSD's mission, vision, and core values as outlined in the plan? The **mission** is to inspire each student to achieve their highest potential by honoring their unique pathway, fostering academic excellence, supporting personal growth, and promoting social responsibility. The **vision** is to cultivate excellence in education and empower students to harness their talents, understand themselves and the world, appreciate diverse arts, respect cultural differences, pursue fulfilling careers, uphold civic responsibility, and excel academically. The **core values** emphasize being student-focused, flexible and resilient, inclusive and belonging, learning from experiences, developing positive connections, respecting individuality and trust, fostering joy in learning, promoting service and social responsibility, ensuring safety and well-being, and maintaining clear and accessible communication.

4. What are the four key priority areas identified in the "Blueprint for Excellence"? The four key priority areas are:

- **Academic Excellence:** Focusing on expanding authentic learning experiences and developing 21st-century skills.
- **Operations:** Aiming to provide a high-quality physical plant and necessary resources for effective learning, teaching, and job duties.
- **Student Well-Being:** Ensuring that each student's mental, physical, and social needs are supported.
- **Community Connections:** Enhancing engagement by improving communication across all grade levels to connect students, families, and the community.

5. Can you provide examples of action steps planned under the priority of "Academic Excellence"? Action steps under Academic Excellence include developing a focus on vertical and horizontal curriculum alignment, ensuring high-quality differentiated Tier 1 instruction, considering new and relevant course offerings, promoting academic accomplishments, developing student leadership opportunities, creating a culture of continuous professional development, enhancing STEAM at the elementary level, increasing opportunities for student self-assessment, expanding vocational and work-based learning programs, piloting formative assessment programs, using data to drive academic decisions, and developing strategies for using AI as a learning tool.

6. What are some of the operational improvements the district aims to achieve through this plan? Under the "Operations" priority, the district plans to create a continuous feedback loop for food service, monitor free lunch requirements, investigate the "After the Bell" breakfast program, develop strategies for recruiting and training highly qualified staff, create a plan for regularly monitoring facility conditions and exploring potential projects (like solar power and air conditioning), create clear district procedures, implement a comprehensive new employee onboarding process, continue to update learning spaces, investigate additional fundraising opportunities, and review transportation and school start times.

7. How does the "Blueprint for Excellence" address student well-being? To support student well-being, the plan includes continuing to implement and train on programs like WEB and Youth Mental Health First Aid, educating on cyber citizenship, expanding family support services, creating forums for parents and students on relevant topics (bullying, anxiety, etc.), communicating available support groups, seeking mental health funding, increasing the use of restorative practices, reviewing and expanding bullying prevention programs, refining special education programs, reviewing extracurricular eligibility, transitioning to Safety Cares intervention strategies, holding regular Pupil Personnel Staff meetings, researching SEL integration into the curriculum, increasing participation in the Access-VR program, evaluating school start times, investigating outdoor spaces for activities, and forming wellness committees focused on healthy eating.

8. What strategies are outlined to enhance "Community Connections"? To improve community connections, the district plans to reorganize electronic newsletters for better information flow, sustain and expand the "Vikings Care" initiative, ensure consistent communication of information to staff and transportation, develop a QR code system for the school calendar, create a parent portal training video, research and update the school district website for user-friendliness, create a unified district calendar, survey businesses for internship and career opportunities, involve community organizations in school fairs, and expand mentorship programs between different grade levels.