



Minnetonka School District, ISD #276
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WINTER 2025

AROUND MINNETONKA

NEWS FROM MINNETONKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SCHOOL BOARD DRAFTS 2025-26 GOALS

The Minnetonka School Board held a planning meeting to discuss preliminary goals for the 2025-26 school year. The Board develops its annual goals through an iterative process that includes reviewing the District's progress in achieving current goals; considering input and feedback received throughout the year from staff, students, families and the broader community; and monitoring student outcomes measured through assessments, activities and survey data.

The proposed goals are framed within the context of the mission of Minnetonka Public Schools. Below is a summary of each goal. To read the full text of the preliminary goals and associated action items, visit minnetonkaschools.org/Board-Goals-2025-26

GOAL: Strive for Excellence in Well-being, Connection and Belonging

The District will continue to prioritize student mental health and to create a welcoming, inclusive and safe environment for all students and employees through various initiatives. Schools will also increase awareness of bullying prevention efforts.

GOAL: Ensure Excellence in Student Learning and Support

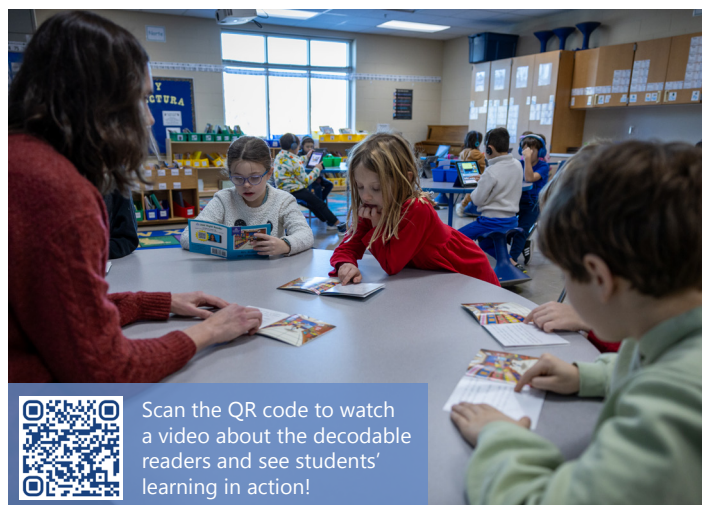
The District will ensure all students receive outstanding instruction. The District will prioritize student literacy improvement efforts, and it will innovate and improve middle school programming.

GOAL: Improve Leadership and Organizational Support

The District will ensure long-term financial stability and sustainability for the District. It will recruit and retain the highest quality staff. It will ensure facilities meet the current and future needs of students, and it will provide the highest quality meals possible.

Stay Up-to-Date on Goal Progress

Community input on these goals is welcome. To share your input regarding the proposed goals, email communications@minnetonkaschools.org. If you'd like to sign up to receive monthly School Board News emails, which summarize the content of the School Board's regular meetings, scan the QR code to the right and fill out the contact form.



Scan the QR code to watch a video about the decodable readers and see students' learning in action!

MINNETONKA FOUNDATION GIVES \$100,000 FOR DISTRICT LITERACY EFFORTS

Earlier this school year, the Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation gave a \$100,000 grant to the District to purchase decodable readers, a resource to support literacy instruction for young learners. Used in Kindergarten through second grade English and Spanish Immersion classrooms, decodable readers are books designed for students to apply their phonics learning to real reading. The 35,292 books received through this grant will impact countless students across all elementary schools for years to come.

"As a District, we are so appreciative of the Foundation's partnership and support of our efforts," said Associate Superintendent Dr. Amy LaDue. "From annual teacher grants that bring innovations to life in the classroom to large endowment gifts, the Foundation uplifts our work to provide outstanding and unparalleled learning experiences for students."

To learn more about the Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation's ongoing support of innovation for education, visit: minnetonkafoundation.org

DISTRICT CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2025

- 6.....School Board Regular Meeting, 7 p.m., DSC
- 7.....Dream Makers Event, 5:30-11 p.m. at Equestria West - Bavaria Downs. *Find details and purchase tickets: minnetonkafoundation.org*
- 17.....No School K-12+, District Offices Closed, Presidents Day
- 20.....School Board Study Session, 6 p.m., DSC

MARCH 2025

- 6.....Parent/Teacher Conferences, 4-8 p.m.
- 7.....No School K-12+, Parent/Teacher Conferences, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 13.....School Board Regular Meeting, 7 p.m., DSC
- 27.....School Board Study Session, 6 p.m., DSC
- 28.....End of 3rd Quarter
- 31.....No School K-12+, Spring Break

APRIL 2025

- 1-4.....No School K-12+, Spring Break
- 7.....No School K-12+, Planning and Grading/PLC
- 8.....Classes Resume, 4th Quarter
- 10.....School Board Regular Meeting, 7 p.m., DSC
- 18.....No School K-12+, District Offices Closed
- 24.....School Board Study Session, 6 p.m., DSC

Find upcoming calendar events, District updates and feature stories online at minnetonkaschools.org





NOMINATE SOMEONE TODAY FOR A CHILD-CENTERED AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

When you think of excellence in the Minnetonka Public School District, is there a person who comes to mind who helps to make the District exceptional? A teacher or para? A staff member? A volunteer in the schools? Whether you are a parent, student, staff member or community member, you have the opportunity to nominate someone for a Minnetonka Schools Child-Centered Award of Excellence.

Award recipients are selected from the pool of nominations by a committee of past award honorees. Award winners will be recognized at the District's annual Celebration of Excellence awards ceremony on May 15, 2025. Additional details about the Celebration will be provided as the event approaches.

Please take a few moments to learn more about the award categories and to acknowledge a school employee or school volunteer for their dedication and impact by nominating them for a Child-Centered Award of Excellence at minnetonkaschools.org/celebrate

Nominations are open through February 28, 2025.

AWARD CATEGORIES INCLUDE:

- Minnetonka Award for Child-Centered Excellence in Teaching
- Minnetonka Award for Child-Centered Excellence in Teaching E-learners
- Bradley G. Board Award for Excellence in Elementary Education
- Judy Erdahl Memorial Award
- Joyce Gustafson Memorial Award
- Minnetonka Employee Award for Child-Centered Excellence
- Team Award for Child-Centered Collaboration
- Spinnaker Award (for community members' volunteerism and efforts in support of our schools)

MESSAGE from the Superintendent

Minnetonka Community,

Happy New Year from Minnetonka Public Schools! January is a transition month for our school district. Shortly after winter break, we hit the mid-year point, and our high school students begin second semester courses. For these students the new year is truly a fresh start.



Very soon, students heading or returning to middle school and high school will start the registration process. Our goal is to inform students about the wide variety of options and pathways available so they can register with excitement and confidence. Our schools provide information in a wide variety of ways, including on our website, through informational meetings, videos, newsletters, feature stories and through conversations with staff. I encourage families to take advantage of these opportunities to ensure the best experience next fall!

In Minnetonka, we strive to provide an environment where students feel a sense of belonging and connection to school. Every school in the District prioritizes this work, and as you see in the draft of the 2025-26 School Board goals, we intend for this to remain a focus. To create this experience, schools train staff, offer programs and coordinate activities that are likely to help students connect with each other and with staff. Additionally, we survey students to determine if the efforts are effective. We know that students who feel connected are much more likely to be academically and socially successful.

Academic excellence is also a top priority for our District. Academic excellence means much more than exemplary performance on academic assessments. We strive to provide academic support for students to ensure they are successful in their coursework, as well as enrichment opportunities for all students who need additional challenges so they can achieve their personal best. We also want to provide the most relevant coursework for students to explore their strengths and interests and to launch students on their way to post-secondary success, whatever their dream may be.

District leadership, both the School Board and District Administration, are committed to excellence in operation. This year, we have worked through the challenges of balancing a budget—as revenue streams have not met the demands of ensuring top quality education. We are also reviewing community recommendations for facility improvements. Please watch for updates on this topic in the coming months.

Now well into my third year in Minnetonka, I continue to be thankful for the supportive community that stands behind our students and our staff.

Go Skippers!

David Law, JD · Superintendent of Schools



FACEBOOK
[/minnetonkaschools](https://minnetonkaschools.org)

INSTAGRAM
[@mntkaschools](https://www.instagram.com/mntkaschools) and [@tonkasup](https://www.instagram.com/tonkasup)