Longfellow High School
State of the School

October 13, 2025

Agenda

Warm Welcome

State of the Schools Presentation

Who We Are

- Mission/Vision
- Strengths
- Areas for growth

Our School Improvement Plan

- Goals and strategies
- Sharing student progress

Title I

- Overview of Title I
- How we use our Title I funding
- Title I and Caregiver Engagement

World Cafe - Community feedback

Mission and Vision

Mission

We strive to provide the best instruction for all students to graduate, be confident, and to be active participants in their community.

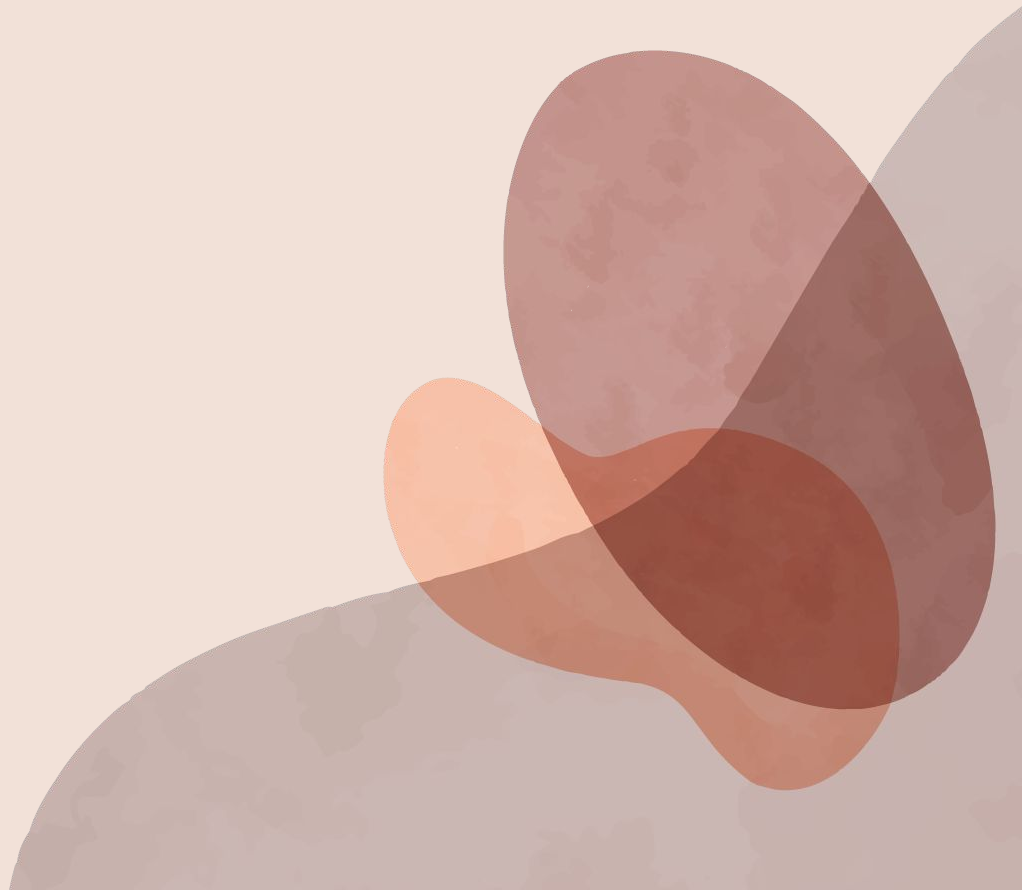
Vision

Every student parent will be prepared for post-secondary education and employment.

Every child will be kindergarten ready.

Our Statistics

- 100% Free/Reduced Lunch
- 42% English language learners
- 11% Special Education Services
- 10% American Indian
- 46% Latine
- 40% African American
- 4% Caucasian



Longfellow and ESSER

Longfellow is no longer identified as a “in needs of improvement” by the federal government.

That means, we are no longer on the list of failing schools in the eyes of the federal, state and local governments.

We are off the list because our students receiving ELL services made measured growth in their WIDA scores (the test that assesses students reading, writing, speaking and listening in English)

And, because the state started giving school’s credit for those students who graduate from HS in not just the 4 year rate, but also averaging in the 5th, 6th and 7th year rate.

In other words, we are finally getting credit for our amazing students graduating, even if it’s not in their “GSY” (Graduation School Year)

Our Current Reality

Strengths

- Blended learning model to increase credit toward graduation (while still learning)
- Strong Collaboration between teachers to earn dual credit
- Strong student leadership
- Advisory - personalized learning
- Real-world learning opportunities
- D3 program and post-secondary planning
- High Quality Childcare on site
- Curb to curb transportation
- Collaborative learning with ELL and Special Education

Challenges

- Attendance
- Missing credits
- Students have a lot of responsibilities outside school - students miss several days
- Our students need additional language support
- Over 69% of our students are 18+ (which affects our school graduation rate)
- Students come to us with interrupted education
- Students have Adverse Childhood Experiences that have caused forms of Trauma

Our School Improvement Plan - Goals

We've identified four goals:

1. Academic Achievement
    a. Improving English language skills
    b. Increase in credit earning toward graduation
2. Student Well-Being
    a. Increase in student voice and decisions around community events
3. Effective Staff
    a. All students can identify their KEY staff person
    b. All students can state where they are with credit earning toward graduation
4. School Climate
    a. Increasing the number of students who state they feel seen and heard at Longfellow

Our School Improvement Plan - Strategies

1. Academic Achievement
    a. Teachers create language goals and track student progress. Specific growth goals for reading, writing, speaking and listening.
2. Student Well-Being
    a. Shared decision-making through Advisory, Town Halls, Dare 2B Real and Student Council.
    b. Students will plan events and award ceremonies
3. Effective Staff
    a. Advisors and support staff use advisory to provide targeted help for students (goal setting, etc)
4. School Climate
    a. Equity and climate team will monitor student outcomes through advisory and surveys

How we share our progress with you?

- Fall and Winter conferences
  - Next conferences are February 13, 2026 when we do our “Super Conferences” (with our students also conferencing with their children’s teachers in TPS)
- Weekly and quarterly advisor/counselor meetings
- Quarterly evaluations
- Phone calls home with caregivers
- Individual support updates

What does it mean to be a Title I School?

(and why should I care?)

Title I - Overview

Title I is a federal program that provides **money** to schools (and districts) to help them ensure **all children have an equal opportunity to get a high-quality education** and achieve proficiency on our state's academic standards and assessments.

Title I - Funding

Longfellow Alternative High School is a SCHOOLWIDE Title I program. That means ALL our students benefit from the services we provide with our Title I funding.

For the 2025-26 school year, we received **$29,992** in Title I funding, which makes up about **2%** of our school budget. We also received **$736** for family involvement activities.

We are required to use Title I funding to improve the academic achievement of all students and engage you in that process.

How we spend Title I Funding

Curriculum and Instructional Support
- Supplements staff salaries

Cultural celebrations
- Hispanic Heritage Family Involvement
- Native American Family Involvement
- African American Family Involvement

As a Family member in a Title I school, you have the right to...

- Request information from the district about whether your student's teacher meets the state licensing approval requirements
- Request information about the qualifications of any staff providing instruction
- Know how your school is rated on state test scores
- Expect regular communication with your school in a language you can understand
- Work with other families and staff to develop a compact between our school and you
- Help plan how money for family involvement should be spent
- Work with school staff, other families, and school principal to develop a family involvement plan
- Ask for a meeting with your school principal or your child's teacher

How to be involved!

- Participate in Site Council
  - We meet quarterly on the first Wednesday of the month (2:15 to 3:10) to discuss student and school goals, family (caregiver) involvement, celebrations and events.
  - Give input on school budget and school improvement planning
  - Develop our school and caregiver compact (community agreements)
- Talk to your teacher or school staff about events and issue that may impact/affect your work or behavior
- Give input and participate in our community celebrations
- Attend conferences

World Cafe

Count off by fours

Move to a table

Answer the question; host takes notes, but you can also write on the paper

Move to the next table when prompted; you will go to all four tables

World Cafe Questions

What **specific skills or topics** do you feel you need to learn more about to be successful after graduation (e.g., financial literacy, parenting skills, job interviewing)?

Qué **habilidades o temas específicos**¿Sientes que necesitas aprender más para tener éxito después de graduarte (por ejemplo, conocimientos financieros, habilidades para padres, entrevistas de trabajo)?

What is the **most challenging time** of day or week to manage your schoolwork and parenting duties, and how could the school schedule better accommodate this?

¿Qué es el?**el momento más difícil**¿Qué horario del día o de la semana se necesita para administrar las tareas escolares y las obligaciones parentales, y cómo podría el horario escolar adaptarse mejor a esto?

What kind of **emotional support or mental health services** do you wish were more available, and how would you prefer to access them (e.g., individual counseling, group meetings, specific workshops)?

¿Qué tipo de?**servicios de apoyo emocional o de salud mental**¿Le gustaría que hubiera más recursos disponibles y cómo preferiría acceder a ellos (por ejemplo, asesoramiento individual, reuniones grupales, talleres específicos)?

If you were telling a new student about this school, what is the **best thing** you would tell them, and what is the one thing you would warn them about?

Si le estuvieras contando a un nuevo estudiante sobre esta escuela, ¿cuál es la**Lo mejor**¿Qué les dirías y qué es lo único que les advertirías?

Proud

We are so proud of you. We're proud that you keep showing up, every. single. day. We're proud of all the tough decisions you had to make and that even though it was hard, you stood your ground. We're proud that you never gave up on yourself and kept fighting for everything you love. We're proud that despite everything you've been through, you still wake up and find ways to smile every day. We're proud that even though you've seen so much darkness, you always continue to search for the light. We're proud of you and how far you've come, and we're even more excited for everything that's still to come!

~ Nikki Banas

Orgulloso

Estamos muy orgullosos de ti. Estamos orgullosos de que sigas apareciendo cada vez. soltero. día. Estamos orgullosos de todas las decisiones difíciles que tuvo que tomar y de que, aunque fue difícil, se mantuvo firme. Estamos orgullosos de que nunca te hayas rendido y hayas seguido luchando por todo lo que amas. Estamos orgullosos de que, a pesar de todo lo que has pasado, todavía te despiertas y encuentras maneras de sonreír todos los días. Estamos orgullosos de que a pesar de que has visto tanta oscuridad, siempre continúas buscando la luz. Estamos orgullosos de ti y de lo lejos que has llegado, ¡y estamos aún más emocionados por todo lo que está por venir!

~ Nikki Banas