



Detroit Lakes Public Schools

Strategic Planning

VISION — Detroit Lakes Public Schools envisions a future where students are prepared to thrive beyond graduation.

MISSION — Detroit Lakes Public Schools ensures consistent expectations, opportunities, meaningful support, and strong relationships so that every student develops the skills, confidence, and connections needed to thrive beyond graduation.

Goal 1: Consistent, High-Quality Learning

Goal Statement

Each year, Detroit Lakes Public Schools will increase the percentage of students meeting grade-level benchmarks by strengthening instructional practices and academic growth, resulting in consistently high-quality learning and student excellence.

Annual Measures

- **The percentage of students in E-12 meeting grade-level benchmarks in reading, math, and science will increase annually, progressing toward an 8% overall increase by 2031.**
- **100% of all content areas will submit updated pacing guides annually to district and building curriculum leaders for review and alignment.**

Shared Responsibility

Teachers, Building Principals, Early Childhood Coordinator, Community Ed Director, Instructional Coaches, District Curriculum Leaders, MTSS Teams



Goal 2: Life-Ready Graduates

Goal Statement

Each year, Detroit Lakes Public Schools will increase the number of students graduating with meaningful postsecondary readiness experiences by fostering student excellence, confidence, and connections, resulting in student readiness for life beyond graduation.

Annual Measures

- **The percentage of graduates completing at least one readiness experience (college credit, industry credential, internship, pathway completion, military commitment, or comparable experience) will increase annually, progressing toward 95+% by 2031.**
- **The percentage of seniors reporting they feel prepared for life after graduation will increase annually, progressing toward a 15% increase by 2031.**

Shared Responsibility

Administration, Teachers, School Counselors, Community Ed Director, Community and Business Partners, Students



Goal 3: Belonging, Wellness, and Healthy Habits

Goal Statement

Each year, Detroit Lakes Public Schools will strengthen student belonging, engagement, and relationships by promoting wellness and reducing obstacles to participation, resulting in strong student connection and active participation.

Annual Measures

- **Chronic absenteeism will decrease annually, progressing toward a 5% reduction by 2031.**
- **Behavior office referrals will decrease annually and be monitored through MTSS reporting, including demographic data.**
- **Participation in school activities (clubs, athletics, and events) will increase annually, with growth demonstrated across all demographic groups.**
- **Students will demonstrate increased engagement in healthy habits (e.g., physical activity, attendance in meals programs, reduced screen time in school) —measured through local data or program participation.**

Shared Responsibility

Building Principals, Teachers, Student Services Staff, Activities Directors, Food Services, Community Ed Director, and Families



Goal 4: Access and Aligned Systems

Goal Statement

Each year, Detroit Lakes Public Schools will improve access to rigorous coursework and opportunities by promoting student excellence and providing support based on individual student need, resulting in consistent access and success for all students.

Annual Measures

- **E–12 grading and reporting practices will be reviewed every other year, beginning in summer 2027, by principals and a representative committee to ensure alignment, best practices, and consistency across the district.**
- **All school levels (elementary, middle, and high school) will align instruction to updated pacing guides and instructional expectations, verified through annual principal walkthroughs and documentation, with a continued focus on consistent implementation across both elementary schools.**
- **Student enrollment in advanced coursework, programs, and extended learning opportunities will be monitored annually, with adjustments made to increase access based on student need.**
- **Families will receive clear and consistent communication about student progress, school activities, and available supports to help students access programs and opportunities and build strong relationships with stakeholders.**

Shared Responsibility

Building Principals, Counselors, Director of Teaching and Learning, Activities Directors, Superintendent, Community Ed Director, School Board



Goal 5: Fiscal Responsibility and Operational Sustainability

Goal Statement

Each year, Detroit Lakes Public Schools will maintain financial stability and operational excellence by aligning resources to student learning and sustaining efficient, high-quality systems, resulting in long-term sustainability and effective operations.

Annual Measures

- **The district will maintain fund balance within the School Board policy range annually.**
- **The district will maintain high-quality buildings and operations that support safe, efficient, and effective learning environments.**

Shared Responsibility

Superintendent, Business and Operations Office, School Board, Building Leaders, Facilities & Maintenance Team, Food Service

