

ECS Strategic Plan

Updates and Strategies
January 8, 2015

Strategic Plan Goals

- As a result of the strategic planning process in the 2012-13 school year, the Board of Education adopted 4 goals for the district
- This presentation will review our progress in achieving these goals, and discuss the strategies we will use going forward to achieve the 4 district goals

District Goal #1: Implement the Common Core

- The District is committed to full implementation of the Common Core curriculum in ELA and Math in grades K-12
- ECS has purchased and implemented these Common Core curriculum materials:
 - Reading Street ELA series in grades K-6
 - Envision Math series in Grades K-6
 - Digits Math in grades 7-8
 - Engage NY Modules in grades 7-12 for ELA and Math

Additional Curriculum Strategies

- Teachers have the discretion to use elements of the Engage NY modules (not required to implement all modules in every grade)
- For Math K-6, a collective decision was made to fully implement the Envision math series and use module elements only as supplements
- For ELA 7-12 and Math 9-12, teachers are reviewing textbooks to determine if purchases are required

District Goal #2: Improve Student Performance in ELA and Math

- The District has an RTI plan approved by the Board that is being implemented this year
- Students who are struggling academically are being monitored and their instructional programs are being adjusted to better meet their needs
- We have added an AIS math position at the elementary level to support students who are struggling in math
- We are having monthly instructional meetings for each group of grade levels to review student progress and to discuss issues impacting individual students

Indicators of Student Performance

- Our 4 year graduation rate was 84% in 2014 (81% in 2013)
- Our 3-8 NYS ELA Tests level of proficiency was 29% in 2014 (26% in 2013)
- Our 3-8 NYS Math Tests level of proficiency was 31% in 2014 (22% in 2013)
- Our aspirational performance measure for high school students (at least 75 on the ELA Regents and an 80 on a math Regents) was 39% in 2014 (14% in 2013)

District Goal #3: Maintain Financial Stability

- The District has been significantly impacted by the Gap Elimination Adjustment, losing \$2 million in state aid over the past 4 years
- ECS has reduced positions and shared staff with other districts to control costs
- Our reserves are fully funded
- ECS has \$1 million in dedicated reserves and \$400,000 in fund balance

Challenges to Financial Stability

- ECS is highly dependant on state aid – 71% of revenue comes from NYS aid – the highest in our BOCES
- Our tax levy is very small (\$2.5 million), so a 2% increase in levy yields only \$50,000
- Our levy is the smallest of all of the 19 districts in our BOCES
- ECS, like almost all districts in the area, is experiencing declining enrollment

District Goal #4: Increase Stakeholder Engagement

- ◉ Committees representing stakeholders have been used for these initiatives:
- ◉ RTI Plan
- ◉ Professional Development Plan
- ◉ APPR Plan
- ◉ Project Lead the Way
- ◉ Community Forums were used to formulate the Strategic Plan
- ◉ Newsletter articles highlight important initiatives such as STEM

Strategies for the Future

- Implementation of the Common Core must be monitored and refined – new texts and materials, regular meetings, and professional development
- The momentum of academic improvement must be maintained – regular progress monitoring of students, additional supports and opportunities provided (e.g. a second Distance Learning Room for college/AP courses)
- Financial stability must be constantly monitored, with regular reports made to the board
- Engaging parents in the academic process has to be a priority – letters, articles, presentations at Open Houses