

Ellsworth Community School

School Improvement Plan



2005-2009

Ellsworth Community School

“Preparing today’s youth for tomorrow’s opportunities,” is the mission statement of Ellsworth Community School and is the premise from which all our goals emanate. Ellsworth Community School has an excellent reputation in educational circles. Small class sizes facilitated by extremely knowledgeable and caring staff members help make the school a positive experience for all. Ellsworth Community School uses its size to its advantage, offering quality educational experiences for everyone. Students have opportunities in the core subject areas of math, language arts, science, and social studies, as well as foreign language, art, music, and computer technology. Career/Technical education is offered through the Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District where students can choose from over 35 different vocational programs provided by the individual school districts. Ellsworth Community School is home to an outstanding vocational program in the Visual Arts. Students who qualify can take dual-enrollment classes at a local community college, and numerous virtual classes can be taken on-line via the internet.

In order to “prepare today’s youth for tomorrow’s opportunities” we, at Ellsworth Community School, believe in...

- ...providing all students with a relevant and meaningful curriculum.
- ...using emerging technology to transform the educational process.
- ...offering students the means to choose their future.
- ...providing staff and faculty with professional development opportunities that will improve learning opportunities for all.
- ...providing a safe and effective learning environment.
- ...the importance of communicating effectively in a variety of ways.
- ...being competent and productive participants in our diverse, multicultural society.
- ...being independent, lifelong learners.

School Improvement

School improvement is a never-ending process. Because it is predicated upon high expectations for both students and staff, School Improvement goals are made at the school building level-- always with student outcomes in mind. Using input from members of the board of education, the teaching and support staff, administrators, students, parents, and participants in a variety of committees, these goals help to determine the direction of Ellsworth Community School.

School Improvement Goals for 2005-2009

1. Goal: *Student achievement in reading, writing, math, science and social studies will improve annually, as evidenced by state and local assessments.*

Strategies include:

- Professional development in content areas for all staff.

- Emphasize cross-curricular connections in all grades.
- Adjusting Title One programming for struggling students.
- Increase opportunities for families to be aware of curriculum and requirements.
- Monitoring Michigan’s Grade Level Content Expectations with staff to ensure compliance.

Status: Progress to be measured annually

2. Goal: *All graduates will be able to identify a primary career path to pursue after high school.*

Strategies:

- Employ a career coordinator to promote career awareness and career options for all students.
- Expand vocational education, job shadowing experiences, and school-to-work opportunities for all students.
- Implement development of educational development plans (EDP) for all students in grades 8-12.
- Offer students a variety of career interest surveys and use technologies to explore possible career choices.
- Expand guidance services to all students.
- Survey students upon graduation to identify their chosen career pathway and evaluate the effectiveness of the educational development plans.
- Continue to provide on-the-job learning opportunities through work-study, apprenticeships, internships, and job shadowing.
- Continue to connect careers to classroom instruction by inviting professionals to visit classrooms as appropriate to discuss their work and how it connects to student learning.

Status: Ongoing

3. Goal: *Students’ attitudes toward school will become more positive by the end of the 2006-2007 school year.*

Strategies:

- Student representation in decisions affecting the school, when appropriate and possible.
- Create a “welcoming” school appearance.
- Promotion of positive student recognition.
- Continue providing opportunities for elementary students to mentor younger students.

Status: Goal Achievement to be measured during the course of the 2006-2007 school year

4. Goal: *The school will make resources and technology available to students, families, and community members both during and outside of the typical “school day” to improve and foster the relationship between school and community.*

Strategies:

- Establish a school/community library.
- Provide-through various resources-enrichment opportunities for students, families, and community members.
- Development and continuation of events and activities that bring the community into the school (i.e., senior citizen luncheons, volunteer recognition assembly, play group, family fun nights, back to school picnic, etc.).

- Promote the philosophy that all facets of the community are vital and important to our school.
- Continue community volunteer program, community guest speakers, field trips to community resources
- Continue dual enrollment program with local community colleges.
- Develop family activities to promote adult learning and community education.
- Provide a volunteer orientation; visit various service organizations to describe the role of and need for volunteers.

Status: Ongoing

Evaluation

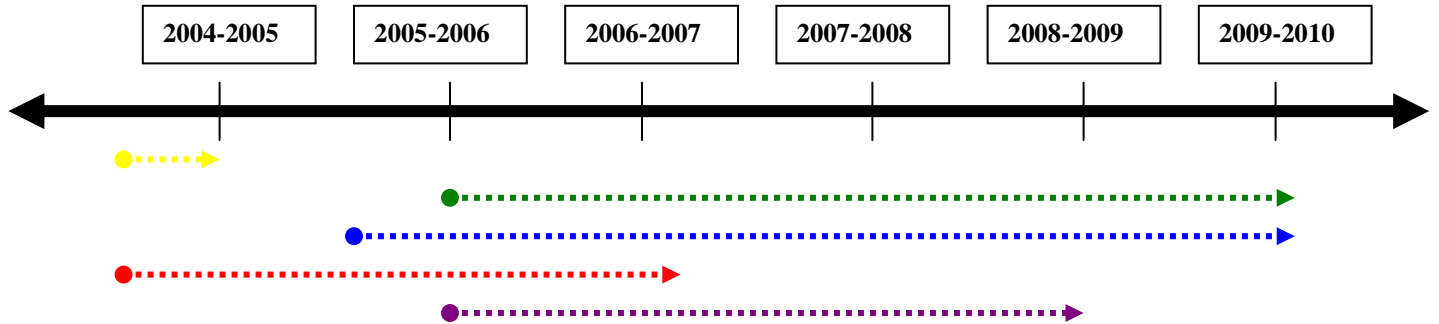
As goals are established and practices implemented to progress toward achievement of these goals, a process of evaluation must be included to measure progress toward these goals. The evaluation process uses a variety of tools to show evidence of student outcomes/achievement.

Tools used to measure program effectiveness and student achievement include, but are not limited to: Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP), Michigan Literacy Progress Profile (MLPP), P.S.A.T, S.A.T., A.C.T., and A.S.V.A.B., student portfolios, staff, student, and community surveys, and actual student work.

Numbers can be deceiving; due to the small number of students in each class at Ellsworth, test results can be change dramatically for a group based on one or two individual scores. Caution must be used when interpreting test scores of any kind. Observers must follow a group of students from one year and grade level to the next, not simply look at scores at the same grade level each year. This is why using multiple tools for evaluation is critical. Ellsworth Community School uses disaggregated data from the MEAP and TerraNova, The Second Edition tests. Actual test results are disaggregated by student gender and whether or not the student is economically disadvantaged to ensure that all students can succeed. No significant discrepancies were found in the latest data. The school will continue to monitor the data and should any significant variances in these areas occur, the school improvement committee would address the issue. A complete set of this data is available in the district office.

School improvement goals are established by committee at Ellsworth Community School and are generally set so that while some goals are being achieved, others are still considered “in process”. Please use the following diagram as an estimated timeline for school improvement goal completion. The “bullet” or solid circle represents when a goal was implemented. The “arrow” indicates a targeted completion date. Goals will often be monitored for several years past the targeted completion date. The status of goal completion is evaluated several times each year. If there is clear evidence emerging that the goal is not bringing about the desired outcome, it will be amended or abandoned. If a goal appears to be successful in bringing about improvement, a careful analysis of the outcome will be made to determine how to continue and maintain the improvement over a longer period of time.

Ellsworth Community School School Improvement Plan for 2005-2009



- Goal -** To improve academic achievement, core subject area curriculum will be aligned by the 2004-2005 school year. (This goal was reviewed during the 2004-2005 school year and evolved into the new Goal 1 during the 2005-2006 school year.)
- Goal 1-** Student achievement in reading, writing, math, science and social studies will improve annually, as evidenced by state and local assessments.
- Goal 2-** All graduates will be able to identify a primary career path to pursue after high school.
- Goal 3-** Students attitudes toward school will become more positive by the end of the 2006-2007 school year.
- Goal 4 –** The school will make resources and technology available to students, families, and community members – both during and outside of the typical “school day” to improve and foster the relationship between school and community.