

Teaching for 2020



*The 2017-2020
Strategic Plan for
Peru Elementary
School District 124*

Our Mission

Preparing our students to learn, grow and reach their greatest potential.

Our Beliefs and Values

Children are why we are here, and their education, safety and well-being must always come first.

There is no replacement for high expectations, and we must expect our students to achieve to the best of their individual ability.

All children can learn – even if not at the same pace or in the same way – and show constant growth.

Reading, literacy and mathematics are the foundations of learning, academic excellence and are the keys to maximizing future success.

Effective education is a partnership among schools, parents, families and our local community.

Fiscal responsibility is critical to ensuring that we continue to provide our students with the highest quality educational programs and instruction.

About Teaching for 2020

Every highly effective organization has a plan for continuous growth and success, and schools should be no different. Our latest in a series of three-year strategic plans was developed with clear, focused goals and strategies that can be easily reviewed and measured. Progress will be reviewed semi-annually.

Teaching for 2020 was developed with the input of faculty and staff, and survey results from parents and graduates. At any time, we welcome and encourage the input and involvement of our parents, businesses, taxpayers and community members.

This plan was adopted by the Peru Elementary School District 124 Board of Education on May 2, 2017.

Teaching for 2020 Goals

During the development of Teaching for 2020, four critical areas emerged. These four areas are communication and engagement with our parents and community, academic preparation of our students, providing safe and effective learning environments and managing our financial resources.

Arising from these critical areas are four main goals, with six implementation strategies under each of the goals. As Teaching for 2020 is implemented, more specific timelines will be developed. Progress will be reviewed at least semi-annually to determine the level of success in achieving these goals and moving the District forward.

Goal 1

Communicate effectively with our parents, and successfully engage our families and local community in our schools.

Goal 2

Provide our students with the academic preparation, skills foundation and practical knowledge to achieve success in high school and beyond.

Goal 3

Provide our students and staff with safe, secure and effective teaching and learning environments.

Goal 4

Manage our financial resources, maintain fiscal integrity and transparency and plan and provide for long-term budgetary needs.

Goal 1

Communicate effectively with our parents, and successfully engage our families and local community in our schools.

Strategy 1.1

The leadership team and staff will review student reporting methods and procedures to determine if there are better or more effective methods for reporting and communicating academic and behavioral progress to parents.

Strategy 1.2

The leadership team will research and seek opportunities to form meaningful business and community partnerships that provide additional learning and growth opportunities for students.

Strategy 1.3

The leadership team will investigate and report on the possibility of providing adults and senior citizens with educational opportunities in our schools.

Strategy 1.4

The leadership team and staff will review the consistency and frequency of communication between the school and parents at the classroom level, and determine if changes are required to help support and improve communication with parents regarding their child's progress at school.

Strategy 1.5

The leadership team and staff will review and report on all current communication methods used within the district, and will research opportunities to improve traditional and electronic communication methods both within the district and in the greater school community.

Strategy 1.6

The superintendent will provide an annual State of the District report on student achievement, school improvement efforts, demographics, enrollment, programs, facilities, finances and other information that may be relevant to the Board, staff and school community.

Goal 2

Provide our students with the academic preparation, skills foundation and practical knowledge to achieve success in high school and beyond.

Strategy 2.1

The leadership team and staff will develop and recommend a consistent, grade-level appropriate homework philosophy.

Strategy 2.2

The leadership team and staff will research the development of a simple curriculum and academic standards summary for each grade level and provide this information to parents.

Strategy 2.3

The leadership team and staff will study and report on the Accelerated Reader Program to determine the best course of action for its continuation or replacement.

Strategy 2.4

The leadership team will review current assessments, time spent on various assessments and how best to streamline and balance assessment with classroom instruction.

Strategy 2.5

The leadership team and staff will research and develop a more integrated approach across grade levels in the areas of social and emotional needs, financial literacy, STEM education and career and college readiness.

Strategy 2.6

The leadership team will research the feasibility of providing students with access to one or more foreign languages.

Goal 3

Provide our students and staff with safe, secure and effective teaching and learning environments.

Strategy 3.1

The leadership team and staff will research outdoor educational facilities and potential recommendations for developing lifelong fitness and outdoor education areas – including but not limited to park areas, fitness facilities and a walking trail – through partnerships with the City of Peru, the Peru Education Foundation and/or businesses that would benefit both our students and the neighborhood.

Strategy 3.2

The superintendent and technology staff will research and make recommendations for upgrading and integrating the current video surveillance systems.

Strategy 3.3

The superintendent will execute the completion of door and window security and safety measures.

Strategy 3.4

The superintendent will work with the district architect and contractors to develop a long-term solution for the ongoing moisture issue in the Northview storm water detention area, as well as provide running water and ventilation in the Parkside concession area.

Strategy 3.5

The superintendent will research potential energy saving options for district facilities, including the possibility of joining an energy consortium.

Strategy 3.6

The superintendent and maintenance staff will develop recommendations for maintenance plans and agreements for district HVAC systems, bleachers and fixed indoor athletic and physical education equipment.

Goal 4

Manage our financial resources, maintain fiscal integrity and transparency and plan and provide for long-term budgetary needs.

Strategy 4.1

The superintendent will develop a detailed ten-year history and three-year projection for the district's revenues and expenditures in all funds.

Strategy 4.2

The superintendent will research and make recommendations to provide the technology and infrastructure necessary to improve efficiencies and effectiveness in the areas of classroom instruction, facility management and personnel administration.

Strategy 4.3

The superintendent and Finance Committee will determine and make recommendations for the best and most efficient utilization of local tax revenues, and the superintendent will provide a report and detailed history regarding the local tax levy and extension.

Strategy 4.4

The superintendent will monitor and periodically report on district programs and personnel needs so that staff is being utilized in the most efficient and feasible manner.

Strategy 4.5

The superintendent will communicate with legislators and advocate for school funding reform measures that are beneficial to the district and public schools in general.

Strategy 4.6

The superintendent and Board will work with city officials and other local taxing bodies to help ensure that any future tax-increment financing districts are developed and utilized in a manner that is beneficial to both the community as well as the district's long-term financial health.