

Rationale

To be certain our students are prepared now and in the future for an increasingly dynamic global world, MSAD #3 has endeavored to solicit input from stakeholders that can provide a framework for developing a vision for the district. To achieve this vision, the district has developed a five-year plan and a commitment to continued long-term planning. Towards these ends, we recognize that such a plan must be specific enough to hold everyone accountable, yet flexible enough to allow for the dynamics of the world in which we live.

All curriculum and instruction that MSAD #3 undertakes in its programming should lead to “results that matter.” Education is a systemic process that begins in the home and continues throughout one’s life. The rigor implied in such a program, 21st century skills integrated with core academic content, must be meticulously designed, developed, and implemented. Formal public education begins with PreKindergarten or Kindergarten and continues through to the completion of a high school diploma, though even this process is changing to meet the demands of the global 21st Century society.

The Partnership for 21st Century Skills (<http://www.21stcenturyskills.org>) has identified six key elements of a 21st Century high school education:

- ❖ Core Subjects: as identified by the federal law No Child Left Behind (NCLB), these include English Language Arts (ELA), Math, Science, Foreign Language, Fine Arts, and Social Studies (civics, geography, history, and economics).
- ❖ 21st Century Content: global awareness; financial, economic, business, and entrepreneurial literacy; civic literacy; health, and wellness awareness.
- ❖ Learning and Thinking Skills: life-long learning, critical thinking, problem-solving, metacognitive (thinking about how we think), creativity, innovation, collaboration, contextual-learning, informational- and media-literacy skills.
- ❖ Information- and Communication-Technology literacy (ITC): ability to use technology to develop 21st Century content knowledge and skills.
- ❖ Life Skills: leadership, ethics, accountability, and adaptability. Personal productivity, personal responsibility, people skills, self-direction, and social responsibility.
- ❖ 21st Century Assessments: assessments must measure all of the other five, not just content knowledge and skills. Standardized tests and paper/pencil tests alone cannot do this. There must be a balance of assessments types.

(Kay,K. and Houlihan, G.Thomas. *Redefining ‘rigor’ for a new century: Results that matter for today’s high school go beyond core subjects.* Education Week: 25:37, pp 31,33.

To incorporate these elements at the high school level will take a concerted effort of all PK-12 teachers since these skills come through the building of knowledge and skills at each level. Thus, a redesign of what, how, why, and where we teach as well as who teaches and the outcomes we anticipate and demand is essential to ensuring the success of our students.

It is with all of this and the continuous improvement of student achievement in mind that we put forth the following MSAD #3 Five-Year Strategic Plan.

MSAD #3 Strategic Plan SY2006-SY2011

GOAL #1:

High levels of student engagement will be evident through instructional programming and methodology that is student-centered, *individualized*¹, and research-based and highlights *authentic learning opportunities* throughout their educational experiences in MSAD #3.

Objective 1:

To design and implement a PK-High School (PK-HS) *professional development* plan that creates a community of professional learners and emphasizes ways to increase student engagement, extend *interdisciplinary learning opportunities*, and develop/implement authentic learning experiences.

Objective 2:

To ensure that each content area and course has a common *curriculum* that is in a *standard district-wide format*, aligned to Maine's *Learning Results* (MLR), measured by a *curriculum-embedded assessment system*, and incorporates essential knowledge and life-long learning skills necessary for successful participation in our global, 21st Century society.

Objective 3:

To develop for each student a Personalized Learning Plan (PLP) developed cooperatively with student, student's teachers, student's advisor, and student's parents.

Objective 4:

To organize and schedule our schools in ways that promote optimum student learning, affording ample time for cooperative teacher-to-teacher planning and teacher-student advisory.

Objective 5:

To incorporate a *project-based learning* component into content-area instruction at all grade levels.

Objective 6:

To collect, maintain, and regularly review and analyze *data* to inform instruction, guide planning, and make decisions.

¹ Italicized words are being defined and will soon appear in a developing glossary for quick reference.

MSAD #3 Strategic Plan SY2006-SY2011

GOAL #2:

MSAD #3 will work to ensure the safety, well-being, support, and productivity of all students and staff in its schools.

Objective 1:

To research and put in place such programs as will effectively facilitate a *safe school environment* for all students.

Objective 2:

To develop a sense of citizenship and civic participation by all students in our schools.

Objective 3:

To increase school community (staff and students) awareness of and sensitivity to the environment.

Objective 4:

To improve the healthy quality of Food Services.

MSAD #3 Strategic Plan SY2006-SY2011

GOAL #3:

MSAD #3 will develop a district-wide community spirit reflective of the caring, “family” spirit that currently exists within its individual schools.

Objective 1:

To establish regular functions that include all-staff get-togethers, student activity exchanges, district-wide parent activities, and district-wide community activities.

Objective 2:

To increase the opportunities available to our community members through adult education and other school-specific opportunities.

Objective 3:

To establish a district-wide team of stakeholders to meet biannually to review progress and explore ideas for continually improving and expanding community involvement.

MSAD #3 Strategic Plan SY2006-SY2011

GOAL #4:

MSAD #3 will continually and proactively plan for the long-term.

Objective 1:

To regularly review and update the Five Year Strategic Plan.

Objective 2:

To inform and seek feedback from *stakeholders* regarding the Five-Year Strategic Plan.

Objective 3:

To actively research and review *future trends* and progress in the global society in order to better plan for the future of our students.