

**Greenwood School District**  
**Strategic Plan**  
**2007-2013**

## Overview

The Greenwood School District is located in the Perry County borough of Millerstown, located 26 miles northwest of Harrisburg and 50 miles southeast of State College. The district primarily serves the socio-economically diverse communities of Millerstown and Liverpool, which are located 10 miles apart. The district covers 99 square miles and approximately 95% of our students are bussed to school daily. The district serves a student population of 850 students in grades K-12. District facilities are comprised of two buildings located on one educational campus. The elementary school has a population of approximately 450 students in grades K-6. The middle school/high school has a population of approximately 400 students.

The size of the district is a great advantage to the students in both the elementary school and the middle school buildings. The average graduating class is sixty-five students. Students and teachers are able to build and foster relationships that have an extremely positive effect on the learning environment. The partnerships that develop are important as the district prepares students for both higher education and placement in the workforce.

**Greenwood Elementary School** has an extremely child centered philosophy with reading instruction and basic skill development as focal points. The building was erected in 1980 and is in very good physical condition. The school is currently going through a 5 million dollar renovation and addition project that will increase the building size to 100,000 square feet. Classrooms are being added to accommodate full day kindergarten and additional special education classes in the future. The entire HVAC system is being replaced and the current building is undergoing a comprehensive face-lift including an enhanced security system.

**Greenwood Middle School/High School** are contained in one building and offer the students an opportunity to participate in a wide range of academic and extra curricular activities. The middle school includes grades 7 & 8 and operates under a “school within a school” concept. The staff embraces the middle level philosophy. The high school contains grades 9-12. The high school operates on a traditional 8 period schedule. A challenging academic schedule is available for all students to pursue. An extremely strong science program is at the forefront of the curriculum. The option of attending Cumberland Perry Vocational Technical School or the Capital Area School for the Arts is also available to all students. The MS/HS building was originally constructed in 1952 with additions and renovations taking place in 1978 and 1988. The building is currently in the middle of a 7 million dollar addition/renovation project. Eight classrooms are being added to the building including three new science labs, special education facilities, a computer lab and additional classrooms. The guidance area and health suite will also be remodeled and enlarged.

Approximately 73% of graduating seniors pursue higher education or advanced training. There are numerous post secondary institutions within an hour of the district borders that are available for Greenwood students. These institutions include Harrisburg Area

Community College, Central Pennsylvania College, Penn State Harrisburg, Penn State Main Campus, Shippensburg University, Bloomsburg University, Susquehanna University, Bucknell University, Messiah College, etc.

The district technology continues to meet the needs of the students and staff. A wide area network (WAN) supported by the Capital Area Intermediate Unit operates our on campus LAN. Each building is connected by underground fiber and wireless routers are available in all district buildings. All district libraries are computerized. The elementary school has one dedicated computer lab, 12 workstations in the library and a 30 computer wireless cart. All classrooms have 3 computers. An additional computer lab will be added with the project. The middle school/high school has 3 dedicated computer labs, 1 mini lab, and 15 computers in the library. An additional lab will be added in the building project.

The Greenwood School District is a "bedroom community" with a large portion of the population commuting to work in Harrisburg. The school district is the largest employer in the area and industry is severely limited. H.F Campbell & Sons trucking company and IER Rubber Products are the main business operations in the area.

This student population has remained steady since 1960. The potential for population growth exists due the large tracts of farmland that could be sold off and sub-divided for private housing. The district is anticipating this growth potential with the current building project.

### **School/Community Values**

- All students should have the opportunity to succeed
- All students should be encouraged to be life-long learners
- All students should experience a sense of community responsibility
- The curriculum of the school district should focus on basic skills in math, literacy, science, and American and world history
- The responsibility to ensure a positive learning environment that is drug free and security minded is the responsibility of family, school, and community
- All students should be exposed to a functioning school to career program that will prepare them for the transition of graduation
- Promote the use of technology in all curricular areas, providing all students with exposure to computer utilization in their education.
- Provide students with a means of remediation and preparation for standardized tests to ensure that students meet PA Academic and national standards in all subjects.
- Provide parents with a secure web site to monitor their child's progress and attendance at school.

## **District Vision**

The vision of the Greenwood School District is to prepare students to be successful life long learners who have the ability to apply, evaluate, synthesize and analyze a solid knowledge base in an effort to make the best decisions possible for each to be a productive, responsible, active and healthy individual.

## **Mission Statement**

The Strategic Plan is a cooperative effort of professional staff, parents, citizens, board members and students.

The plan is designed to meet the needs of all Greenwood students in grades kindergarten through twelve. It is to meet the needs of those enrolled in both academic and vocational programs. The selected goals reflect the philosophy of the district.

The community believes that students should be encouraged to be lifelong learners and that educators should demonstrate the ability to serve as facilitators of this learning.

- **The mission of the Greenwood School District is to provide enriching, educational experiences for each individual student. We believe the foundation of these experiences is a partnership among the family, school and community. The learning environment will develop the skills necessary to produce responsible citizens in a rapidly changing, diverse world.**

The Strategic Plan committee has tried to develop a comprehensive plan that provides a quality for our students while keeping in mind the resources of our community.

## **Educational Goals**

The Greenwood School District is committed to providing each student the opportunity attain high academic performance on the Pennsylvania State Assessment.

Communications - Each student shall become proficient in reading, writing, listening, speaking, understanding, interpreting, analyzing and synthesizing information.

Mathematics - Each student shall become proficient in the use of varied mathematical processes and applications to solve challenging problems and to create new ways of understanding information.

Science and Technology - Each student shall become proficient in applying the processes of analysis, synthesis and evaluation to the solution of the challenging scientific problems in the application and understanding of technology in society.

Environment and Ecology - Each student shall understand the environment and the student's ecological relationship with it in order to recognize the importance of the quality of life in a healthy and balanced environment.

Social Studies - Each student shall understand local, state and national history, geography and systems of government. The students shall understand the relationship to this history to other countries. Students should have the opportunity to practice, in the school community, the skills necessary for active participation in civic life.

Arts and Humanities - Each student shall understand and appreciate the human accomplishments in the arts and humanities. Students should have the opportunities to practice creativity of thought and action and to demonstrate talent in the arts.

Career Education - Each student shall explore varied career options while developing skills and work habits necessary to be a productive, contributing member of society.

Health, Safety and Physical Education - Each student shall acquire and use the knowledge and skills necessary to promote individual and family health and wellness.

Family and Consumer Science - Each student shall understand and apply principals of money management, consumer behavior and child health to provide for personal and family needs.

World Languages - Each student shall be given the opportunity to communicate in a language other than English, including the ability to understand and interpret written and spoken world languages.

## **Student Achievement Action Plans**

**Goal: To improve student skills in mathematics as measured by the PSSA and/or Benchmark Assessments to enable 75% of the students to score proficient or higher by 2010.**

Strategy: Align the Curriculum

- Utilize state standards and anchors to prioritize curriculum
- Utilize CAIU regionally developed curriculum as a guideline
- Develop schedule for math department to monitor curriculum development on a regular basis

Strategy: Provide Learning Focused Schools Instructional Strategies Training

- All administrators will be certified in train the trainer model
- Staff members will be trained by department in LFS strategies
- Staff members will be trained in differentiated instruction strategies
- Special Education and Regular Education Teachers will be trained in co-teaching strategies
- Teachers will be trained by department in the accelerated lab teaching model

Strategy: Utilize 4sight Benchmark Testing Model in middle School/high School

- Purchase benchmark assessments
- Utilize data collection software

- Provide opportunity for staff to analyze collected data and monitor progress

Strategy: Restructure Mathematics Course Sequence at the MS/HS

- Eliminate basic and applied math courses
- Provide math instruction for all students attending CPAVTS in 2008
- Approve course sequence to align with PSSA requirements

**Goal: To improve student skills in Reading as measured by the PSSA and/or Benchmark Assessments to enable 80% of the students to score proficient or higher by 2010.**

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**Goal: To increase the opportunity for all students to experience quality music education program in elementary, middle school, and high school.**

Strategy: Provide opportunities in music education at the elementary school

- Purchase the necessary equipment and supplies to provide introductory level instruction at the primary grades
- Provide time for students to have an introductory experience in band at the 4<sup>th</sup> grade level
- Provide time in the schedule for elementary band to practice individual lessons and as a group

Strategy: Provide opportunities in music education at the middle school

- Increase the size of the middle school stage band by allowing 6<sup>th</sup> grade students to participate
- Schedule independent performance opportunities for middle school band
- Introduce an academic schedule that allows the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students to participate in the MS band

Strategy: Provide opportunities in music education at the high school

- Allow students the opportunity to schedule stage band without scheduling marching band
- Allow students to participate in the field show band at Newport High School
- Introduce on-line course opportunities in the areas of music appreciation and advanced music theory

**Goal: To introduce full day kindergarten to the district**

Strategy: Develop a long -range plan for implementation of full day kindergarten

- Pilot full day K to a selected population in September 2008
- Provide an opportunity for voluntary full day K for all students in 2009
- Implement district wide full day K in 2010

**Goal: To maintain a physical facility and educational environment that prioritizes the safety needs of the students and staff**

Strategy: Prioritize Safety and Security Considerations

- Provide training to all administration and staff regarding emergency procedures
- Upgrade existing and add security cameras in the elementary and secondary schools
- Install a parent notification system by 2008
- Secure all main entrances and vestibule with security approved automated magnetic locks
- Approve single point of entry for each school
- Approve a semi-annual review of the district wide emergency plan
- Annual participation in the Pennsylvania State Police Safety Audit Program

**Goal: To continue to provide a school to career program that addresses the needs of Greenwood graduates regarding a successful transition from high school to higher education and the work force.**

Strategy: Provide a K-12 school to career program

- Review current school to career programming in grades K-6
- Align current school to career program to state standards
- Provide career exploration opportunities for students beginning at the middle school level
- Integrate Keys to Work software package into the middle school computer education/career education course of study
- Align a curriculum that involves school to career activities at every grade level

**Goal: Maintain four year graduation rate of 80%**

Strategy: Provide school to career incentives that provide each student with an opportunity to evaluate the value of a certified high school diploma and higher education training

- Provide career pathway curriculum options that allow the students to meet PSSA requirements and pursue a course of study that reflects their interest

- Monitor individual progress toward graduation through PSSA and course work completion
- Provide educational assistance through additional periods for students in danger of not meeting the standards and being successful
- Provide self motivating school to career software program that will allow the students to evaluate and analyze their skills toward realistic expectations

**Goal: To maintain an attendance rate of 95% for all students throughout the district**

Strategy: The district will continue to monitor individual attendance records on a regular basis

- Attendance officers will inform building principals of excessive absences
- Parents will be notified of excessive attendance problems
- Conferences will be held with students and parents to develop attendance plan
- District magistrate will be notified as a matter of last resort regarding student attendance

**Goal: To maintain PSSA participation at the 95% Level in all grade levels and sub groups**

Strategy: The district will schedule the test days and make up days early on the calendar

- Parents will be informed and public notice will be provided regarding upcoming test dates
- Attendance officers will immediately inform building principals of absences
- Administration/Guidance/ and classroom teachers will make every effort to reschedule the student test during the test window