

The Next Generation of Stonington Public Schools: 2010-2015

Executive Summary

Excellence in education is paramount for Stonington Public Schools. The foundations of excellence for a successful future are rooted in the:

- . traditions of success and achievement of all in the school community
- . demonstration of pride in the schools
- . commitment of families in the educational process
- . skilled and dedicated staff and
- . joyful, healthy learning environments

Discussions with the design team and community revealed cornerstones for a culture of collaboration, personalized learning, progressive, purposeful rigorous instruction and value for the individual. There is a desire to experience meaningful and extensive collaboration throughout the teaching and learning process. Personalizing learning and assuring relevance and rigor will promote multiple paths for the diversity of student and adult learning styles and needs.

Stonington Public Schools will have:

1. Students who are knowledgeable, problem solving, productive citizens.
 - a. Integrate educational tools and technology in instruction
 - b. Continue to develop Centers of Excellence and Innovation
 - c. Continue to have students engaged in creativity, innovation, reasoning, inquiry and organization through the learning process
 - d. Cultivate collaboration among students & adults

2. Educational environments with structures to support collaboration, personalized learning and innovative instruction.
 - a. Examine the structure of the district to better provide for capacity building and collaboration to enhance equity, student opportunities and achievement
 - b. Match professional development with talent to benefit students and the community of learners
 - c. Continue to focus instruction and assessment on “students learn best when”

3. Community integration with the educational environment to support the achievement of each student.
 - a. Create partnerships and consortia and continue partnerships with schools of choice outside SPS (i.e. magnet schools and vocational technical schools)
 - b. Explore and develop mutually beneficial opportunities
 - c. Have seamless connection of schools and community through systemic communications

In 2015, SPS will know that it achieved the goals through continuous reflection at all levels. Yearly reflection will be focused through addressing the questions:

- What lessons have we learned?
- What is our current context? What is different about the district? We know it by...
- What is the data (academic, social, emotional, behavioral, engagement) regarding our students' achievements?
- How are creativity, innovation, inquiry, and collaboration demonstrated? Are these pervasive in the district? We know it by...
- What needs to be accomplished next based on data and research?
- How are we demonstrating community integration and communication?
- What data do we have to reflect upon?