

2015-2016 Goals and Priorities

Nine Graduation Competencies and 21st Century Skills

Ballston Spa graduates will demonstrate the following competencies:

1. Effective communicators
2. Academically skilled
3. Productive and versatile thinkers
4. Skilled information managers
5. Productive workers
6. Personally and interpersonally skilled
7. Responsible citizens of their community, nation and world
8. Self-directed learners
9. Physically and mentally healthy

Our Mission:

The Ballston Spa Central School District is committed to providing an excellent education that maximizes the potential of each student. In partnership with the family and community, our students will become responsible and well-rounded adults.

Our Vision:

The Ballston Spa Central School District will be a place where excellent education is provided for all students, supported by a community that is active in the educational process, both at home and in the schools. As a result of high expectations and rigorous programs, students will be challenged to work hard and learn well. We will be known as a district that serves our community well. We will stand out among neighboring schools for our unique ability to meet the diverse educational needs of our students.

“Educating Everyone Takes Everyone” is what the Ballston Spa Central School District stands for. An excellent education driven by high expectations for each and every student is at the heart of the BSCSD mission. We strongly encourage and support a community that is active in the educational process, and we will be known as a district that stands out among its peers and serves its community well – that’s “Educating Everyone Takes Everyone.”

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Nine Graduation Competencies and 21st Century Skills:

Effective Communicators:

- Students will...
- use and respond to a variety of methods and mediums (written, oral, and electronic).
 - express knowledge, thoughts, feelings, and perceptions.
 - recognize and respond appropriately to an array of purposes and audiences.

Academically Skilled:

- Students will...
- interpret learning outcomes.
 - acquire and sustain a general knowledge of and express appreciation for varied disciplines.
 - use a variety of resources to investigate, acquire, and apply information.

Critical Thinkers:

- Students will...
- employ effective decision-making processes to evaluate, interpret, and apply information from multiple perspectives and sources.

Skilled Information Managers:

- Students will...
- identify, extract, manipulate, and evaluate information.
 - use a variety of technological and informational resources.

Productive Workers:

- Students will...
- contribute individually or as a member of a team for a positive outcome.
 - take responsibility for behavior in relation to "workplace" expectations.
 - demonstrate the skills needed to succeed professionally.

Personally and Interpersonally Skilled:

- Students will...
- recognize, value, and appreciate the perspectives and strengths of self and others.
 - work cooperatively, independently, and effectively.

Responsible Citizens:

- Students will...
- demonstrate ongoing civic involvement in global and local communities.
 - understand and respect the worth and dignity of all individuals and cultures.

Self-Directed Learners:

- Students will...
- take responsibility for lifelong learning by pursuing knowledge independently and persistently.

Physically and Mentally Healthy:

- Students will...
- develop an awareness of self and practice habits necessary for a healthy lifestyle.

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Core Value: Academic Achievement

Long Range Goal:

All students will graduate college and career ready, and will demonstrate mastery in the Nine Graduation Competencies.

Priority:

All students will be on track to reach proficiency in ELA and math within three years or by grade 8.

Action Steps: Sustainability and Fidelity from 2014-2015

1. We will track the academic progress of each individual student and support interventions for success.
2. We will continue to develop opportunities for coursework that can occur in a non-traditional setting to create flexible and innovative programming for all students.
3. We will monitor the implementation of Common Core aligned instruction, K-12, providing support and enriching the current foundation of instructional practice.
4. We will build rubrics to assess critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity.
5. We will sustain our development of STEM enrichment and transdisciplinary learning opportunities.
6. We will support the use of data throughout the district to drive academic and professional growth.
7. We will support our school based mental health and behavior support programs.

Action Steps: 2015-2016

1. We will review the scope, sequence and alignment of the secondary Math program.
2. We will review the scope, sequence and alignment of the K-8 Science program
3. We will articulate Pathways to College coursework in Math and English so all students can receive college credit and avoid remediation in post-secondary study.
4. We will implement the Common Core Learning Standards and aligned instruction in ELA 11 and Algebra II.
5. We will articulate the new 4+1 Graduation Pathways and program options for students.
6. We will complete and submit the new technology and APPR plans.

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Core Value: Commitment

Long-Range Goal:

Employees who are committed to the exemplary delivery of instruction and services.

Priority:

We will create and support excellence in all aspects of workforce development.

Action Steps: Sustainability and Fidelity from 2014-2015

1. We will support the implementation of The Framework for Teaching.
2. We will sustain the leadership roles of all related building and District level teams and committees.
3. We will support targeted professional development regarding all aspects of digital conversion, integrating instructional technology and in diverse instructional strategies, supporting exceptional practice throughout the workforce.
4. We will expand our employee recognition program to allow parents and community members easy access to recognize and thank staff members via the District website.
5. We will promote our staff members by highlighting members from all departments in a monthly feature on the District website.

Action Steps: 2015-2016

1. We will further enhance our professional development capacity by developing a library of model lessons, including videos and associated resources.

Core Value: Value

Long-Range Goal:

To provide a prudently funded educational program that recognizes the fiscal constraints of our community.

Priority:

We will ensure that the District's systems and facilities support and enhance student achievement based on 21st Century Skills and learning opportunities.

Action Steps: Sustainability and Fidelity from 2014-2015

1. We will remain committed to creating new partnerships with business, industry, higher education, and non-profit organizations.
2. We will sustain the process for digital conversion, including enterprise, infrastructure, and educational resources.
3. We will support the Bring Your Own Device framework in grades 9-12.

Action Steps: 2015-2016

1. We will support the implementation of all current facilities renovation projects.
2. We will expand the implementation of our employee self-service systems to support administrative efficiencies.
3. We will improve Districtwide emergency communication and incident response capacity.

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Core Value: Involvement

Long Range Goal:

A community actively engaged in the educational process.

Priority:

We will continue to develop and implement strategies for engaging the entire school community in the educational process.

Action Steps: Sustainability and Fidelity from 2014-2015

1. We will expand our social network and social networking presence.

Action Steps: 2015-2016

1. We will sustain our development and access to instructional and academic resources for parents.
2. We will continue to expand learning opportunities out into our community.

We must constantly strive for:

Delivering Superior Performance:

- Defined by results and efficiency in delivering on our mission.

Having a Distinctive Impact on our Students and Community:

- We strive to make a unique contribution to our students, families, and community with unadulterated excellence.

Lasting Endurance:

- We can deliver exceptional results over a long period of time, beyond any person, great idea, funding opportunity... We focus on creating long term success in all aspects of our business.