Strategic Plan and 2018-19 Annual Goal and Priority Update: Future Ready Global Citizens/Focus Programs/Alternative Instruction
Goals

• Board of Education and Superintendent’s Goal: Evaluate the effectiveness of existing focus programs and explore options for alternative instructional delivery methods.

• Strategic Plan Future Ready Global Citizens Goal: Investigate the feasibility of developing additional K-12 focus programs, strengthening existing focus programs, and other programming options.
High School Option Task Force
High School Option Task Force Members:

Dr. Steve Joel  
Cindy Baum (CTE)  
Dr. James Blake (Science)  
Dr. Leslie Eastman (Assessment and Evaluation)  
Kurt Glathar (Focus Program Principal)  
Dr. Dan Hohensee (TCA)  
Dr. Pat Hunter-Pirtle (Director Secondary Education)  

Dr. Matt Larson (Instruction)  
John Neal (Assistant to Superintendent)  
Takako Olson (Director of Curriculum)  
Walter Powell (Equity, Diversity & Multicultural Education)  
Jessilyn Vraspir (Instruction)  
Dr. Liz Standish (Business Affairs)  
Scott Wieskamp (Director or Operations)
Option Task Force Charge:

“Evaluate the effectiveness of existing focus programs and explore options for alternative instructional delivery methods.”

Objective 1
Determine what, if any, new curricular themes should be implemented in existing and new high schools in LPS. This will involve thorough research of national trends and tendencies.

Objective 2
Evaluate the enrollment trends and effectiveness of current LPS focus programs: Arts and Humanities, The Career Academy, International Baccalaureate, ROTC, and Science Focus.

Objective 3
Engage secondary principals, CTE teachers, parents, and students in discussions centered on Objectives 1 and 2.
Data Gathering Process

- Thirty-six schools in 15 states were identified as being nationally recognized for innovation in delivering special and alternative curricular focus programs.

- School District Visits

- Community Presentations

- Stakeholder Surveys: students, parents, and counselors.

- Focus groups: secondary principals, CTE teachers, students, parents, and counselors.
Initial Data Gathering Process

Thirty-six schools in 15 states were identified as being nationally recognized for innovation in delivering special and alternative curricular focus programs.

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Data Gathering Process: School Visits

- Ten schools in four states were identified for visits by members of the Task Force:
  - Academies of Grand Island Senior High, Grand Island, NE
  - New Tech High School, Sioux Falls, SD
  - Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences, Chicago, IL
  - William Jennings Bryan High School, Omaha, NE
  - Dallas Independent School District, Dallas, TX:
    Science and Engineering Magnet High School
    The Magnet School for the Talented & Gifted
    City Lab High School
    The Innovation, Design, Entrepreneurship Academy
    W. H. Adamson High School
    Garza Early College High School
Data Gathering Process: Surveys and Focus Group Themes

- Favorable perception of current option/focus programs.
- Perceived need for additional focus program options.
- Expressed desire for alternative instructional delivery methods.
- Expressed desire for problem-based learning, community partnerships, and personalized learning options.

(Surveys: students n = 10 + 522 evaluation surveys, parents n = 41 + 196 evaluation surveys, counselors n = 22; focus groups conducted at NE, E, and NS)
Data Gathering Process: Community Presentations

- Nebraska Department of Labor – information related to labor market forecasts and trends in Nebraska.

- G. W. Carver Global Impact Leadership Institute – the study of global issues surrounding innovative research, conservation, and geopolitical implications of global food production systems.

- Duncan Aviation – program would introduce students to the aviation industry and potential careers.
Future Considerations from the Task Force

• Any future comprehensive high school(s) should have an embedded curricular area of focus [this does not preclude potential stand-alone programs].

• Existing high schools should consider the addition of an embedded curricular area of focus to provide additional choice and personalization for students.
Future Considerations from the Task Force

• Curricular areas of focus should emphasize problem- and community-based learning in an environment that would provide both academic content in the focus area as well as personalized learning experiences.
Non-Exhaustive List

Potential Options for LPS

- STEM: Information & Technology Systems
- STEM: Natural Resources and Agriculture
- STEM: Health Sciences
- Global Business
- Construction & Manufacturing
- STEM: Aeronautics
- Human Sciences
Future Directions/Considerations

Once the decision is made concerning future high school facility plans, then appropriate curriculum task forces can be formed to begin the process of designing specific programs.