

Parent Communiqué

Lowell Joint School District

Board of Trustees: Jan Averill, Darin Barber, Eugene Dunford, Gayle Rogers, Fred Schambeck
Superintendent: Patricia Howell, Ed.D.

Board Adopts 2008/09 Priorities June 3, 2008

At the Board meeting on Monday, June 2, 2008, the Board of Trustees formally adopted the 2008/09 Priorities based on the established Board goals. The priorities were drafted by the Principals and the Superintendent, and provide a focus for the investment of time, energy, and resources to guide the continued improvement of the instructional programs. The Board of Trustees has established the following priorities, each of which focus on meeting the needs of students and enhancing student performance.

Goal 1: Provide a well-rounded basic educational program with an emphasis on the skills of reading, writing, language arts, and mathematics, designed to meet individual needs.

Priorities for 2008/09:

1. Achieve a District goal of 75 percent of students scoring at or above the proficient level on the California Standards Tests.
2. Use District quarterly benchmark tests and the District mid-year test to assess standards and focus learning on meeting or exceeding standards.
3. Revise the pacing guides in mathematics (K-6), science (K-8), and social science (K-8) to align with new textbooks to ensure essential standards are covered.
4. Create new District benchmark and mid-year tests for grades 1 through 8 in mathematics and add a writing component to the existing English/language arts benchmark tests in grades K-8.
5. Revise the District Kindergarten assessment.
6. Implement a minimum of one hands-on lab in science each quarter at each grade level (K-6).
7. Examine and select new English/language arts textbooks and supplemental reading materials.
8. Continue to improve reading achievement in all grades by focusing on vocabulary development and reading comprehension strategies to enable students to better understand, conceptualize, analyze, and infer meaning from written text.
9. Continue to implement *Step Up To Writing* instructional strategies.
10. Continue to implement the Local Education Agency Plan and the Single School Plans for Student Achievement goals per individual site plan.
11. Provide ongoing professional development for staff members.

Goal 2: Set and maintain high standards of discipline and social responsibility.

Priorities for 2008/09:

1. Review safety plans for the District and each school.
2. Continue to utilize positive reinforcement for good student behavior and citizenship.
3. Continue to recognize students each month for citizenship and patriotism.

Goal 3: Assist students in developing habits and attitudes that will ensure respect for authority and the rights, opinions, and property of others.

Priorities for 2008/09:

1. Ensure that classrooms and school sites are clean and well kept in order to contribute to and enhance learning.
2. Maintain a safe and drug-free environment conducive to learning.
3. Continue to use the District Character Education Program and the Patriotic Guide as the foundation for building character, enhancing student academic achievement, and guiding discipline. Maintain monthly character education and patriotic bulletin boards in all classrooms.

Goal 4: Assist students in developing self-esteem; a positive attitude toward education self-direction, good work, and study habits; and an acceptance of responsibility.

Priorities for 2008/09:

1. Enhance programs to support students with special needs (i.e., GATE, English learners, and Special Education).
2. Continue to focus on the particular areas of bullying, teasing, harassment, and gossip to improve student behavior.
3. Continue to support the position of counselor for grades seven and eight.
4. Continue to recognize students each month for citizenship and educational progress.

Goal 5: Continue to improve communications among home, school, and community.

Priorities for 2008/09:

1. Continue to utilize Connect Ed and monthly parent communications concerning core subjects and school activities.
2. Implement EdLine at Rancho-Starbuck Junior High School to enhance parent communication.
3. Continue to stress character education and patriotic activities.
4. Continue to sponsor District and site parent educational outreach activities.

Goal 6: Maintain fiscal integrity for the District.

Priorities for 2008/09:

1. Pursue innovative funding alternatives to support educational programs.
2. Continue to work with the Health Benefits Committee to explore options for providing quality health benefits at more affordable rates.
3. Maintain fiscal integrity while at the same time continuing to provide a strong academic program, and competitive salaries and benefits for staff members.
4. Investigate and actively pursue the establishment of a Joint Powers Authority for Food Services.