

Somonauk Community Unit School District #432

**PLAN FOR TEACHING &
LEARNING**

Mission Statement: A Community That Works Together to Help Each Child Reach His/Her Potential.



The Somonauk Learning Community.....

As we strive for excellence in Somonauk Community Unit School District #432, a collaborative process will guide planning and decision-making. The cornerstone of this process engages students, parents, school and the community in shared responsibility for the well being of the Somonauk Learning Community in creating, communicating and implementing the PLAN.

The Somonauk Learning Community values:

- implementing the vision of the school community as Life Long Learners,
- making decisions based on analysis and evaluation of data,
- focusing on the future and committing to an ongoing improvement process,
- anticipating and addressing the needs of the Somonauk Learning Community
- challenging students to achieve at his/her highest potential, and
- continuing implementation of Professional Learning Communities

The Somonauk Learning Community will be:

Self-directed learners who

- Accept and seek new challenges in learning.
- Identify purpose, define courses of action and follow through with a plan.
- Apply prior knowledge and processes to construct new knowledge.
- Access and utilize information for a variety of sources.

Effective communicators who

- Express themselves clearly and concisely.
- Listen attentively, receive, interpret and respond to communication.

Complex thinkers who

- Demonstrate creative thought.
- Construct meaning, solve problems, make and evaluate decisions using a variety of thinking strategies.

Quality Producers

- Evaluate and adjust work to reflect their best efforts.
- Persevere to create products which achieve intended purposes.

Responsible Citizens

- Demonstrate respect and concern for self and others.
- Assume responsibility for own actions.
- Understand and participate in the democratic process
- Demonstrate sensitivity to cultural and individual differences.
- Cooperate with others.

Collaborative contributors who

- Work with others, acknowledge and contribute ideas, suggestions and effort.
- Demonstrate the qualities of positive leadership.

Healthy Individuals

- Create and adapt to diverse situation and individual differences.
- Exhibit self-discipline, a strong work ethic, and accept individual and group responsibility.
- Display self-worth through positive choices.
- Establish and practice appropriate physical and mental health.

1. STRATEGY FOR IMPROVEMENT: To increase the wellbeing of the Somonauk Learning Community

1. Reconvene Wellness Committee for 2008-2009.
2. Update health and wellness scope & sequence for K-12.
3. Based on survey results, committee will provide recommendations to LLT on curricular issues: outline course proposal, needs at various grade levels, etc. i.e. Health at Middle School.
4. Conduct a teacher/staff survey on fitness/wellness needs and wants.

2. STRATEGY FOR IMPROVEMENT: To develop Partnerships with the Somonauk Learning Community

1. Explore options for community resource liaison to obtain volunteers.
2. Develop a district marketing plan.
3. Explore opportunities for students for work study, work release and internships.

3. STRATEGY FOR IMPROVEMENT: Teaching and Learning— Technology

1. Developing a district Technology Committee to review Technology survey 2007 and make recommendations for:
 - A. Best practices
 - B. Access
 - C. Hardware & Software
 - D. Professional Development
 - E. How to use technology to promote engaged learning

4. STRATEGY FOR IMPROVEMENT: Teaching & Learning: Curriculum, Assessment & Instruction

1. Alignment and Enrichment of K-12 Curriculum Areas.
2. Develop a District Response To Intervention Plan with Tier II and Tier III interventions in place.
3. Focus on Best Practices of Assessment of students for the 2008-2009 school year.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN FOR TEACHING & LEARNING

The PLAN FOR TEACHING & LEARNING was revised and presented to the Board for approval at the February Board of Education meeting. The revisions were a result of various focus groups of parents/community, students, teachers, support staff, administration and Board members identifying the strengths and needs of the district.

The PLAN for TEACHING & LEARNING outlines the goals of the district and provides a roadmap to follow in implementing improvements in the district. The Board, administration and teacher have been excited to begin the implementation of the PLAN.

The PLAN is comprised of a vision/mission statement, which was developed by the Board four year ago. The PLAN outlines the Somonauk Learning Community values and the collaborative process that involves students, parents, school and the community in learning.

The Somonauk Learning Community will focus on the development of Life-Long Learner Traits for students, teachers, parents and community. These traits will be addressed per grade level throughout the curriculum, in teacher instruction and in student assessment.

Four Strategies for Improvement are outlined for the PLAN. These include Wellness, the development of Partnerships with the community, businesses and higher education and training institutions and the Improvement of Teaching and Learning in the areas of curriculum alignment and enrichment, technology, Response to Intervention and improvement of assessments for students. Technology will be an area of increased focus for the 2008-2009 school year.

Throughout the year, feedback will be requested from parents, the community and students on components of the PLAN and the implementation.