

## Vision

Inspire all students to discover their strengths, embrace learning, achieve personal excellence, and demonstrate care. Students thrive in a rich, rigorous, and innovative curriculum delivered by highly qualified teachers. Each student learns and grows in a safe, nurturing environment. In collaboration with students, parents, teachers and the community, District 64 provides opportunities for each learner to investigate, be successful, be resilient, and become inspired and empowered as they contribute to our global society.

## Focused on Continuous Improvement

District 64's new 2020 Vision Strategic Plan identifies the most important challenges we will need to address in the next five years.

The six Strategic Objectives define how we will achieve our mission to assure every student the best possible education that prepares them to be successful in high school and beyond.

We invite you to learn more and view video podcasts by visiting the Strategic Plan 2020 page on our website: [www.d64.org](http://www.d64.org)



Dr. Laurie Heinz, Superintendent  
164 S. Prospect Ave.  
Park Ridge, Illinois 60068  
(847) 318-4300 [lhein@d64.org](mailto:lhein@d64.org)  
[@DrLaurieHeinz](https://www.facebook.com/DrLaurieHeinz)

# Park Ridge-Niles District 64: Our Mission

## Inspire every child to



#### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE ONE:

##### **Develop Students Who Master the 4 C's: Communication, Collaboration, Creativity, and Critical Thinking**

District 64 students face a world in which access to knowledge and integration of technology will continue to grow, evolve, and change at a rapid pace. To be ready for these unknown challenges, students must be creative, innovative, agile, and resourceful problemsolvers. To meet this challenge, District 64 will need to provide students with complex, real-world inquiry-based learning opportunities. They collaborate with students in their classroom, from across the District, and across the world to focus on solving community, state, national, or world issues/problems of interest. They think critically and demonstrate artistic expression. Technology supports their approach to inquiry-based learning. Students will become adept at the 4 C's (communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking).

#### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE TWO:

##### **Provide a Rigorous Education for All Students**

Appropriately rigorous learning experiences motivate students to learn more and learn it more deeply, while also giving them a sense of personal accomplishment when they overcome a learning challenge. A rigorous education is grounded in the concept of educational equity, the belief that all students—regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, English proficiency, or disability—should pursue a challenging course of study that will prepare them for success in high school. In a rigorous educational system, instruction and assessment are driven by formally adopted standards and measurable outcomes. In a rigorous educational system, teachers employ high-impact instructional strategies to support students with mastery. Practices that have a significant impact on student learning are: standards-based planning, formative assessment (including feedback and individual student goal-setting), creating a classroom culture for learning, and differentiation. Rigorous educational systems recognize that the social-emotional health of students contributes not only to students' academic success, but also to their overall well-being.

#### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE THREE:

##### **Differentiate to Meet the Academic and Social/Emotional Health Needs of All Students**

Differentiated educational experiences enable students to become engaged, self-directed learners who are socially competent, emotionally self-aware and demonstrate resilience. The notion of a public education available to all students "on equal terms" has broadened to include considerations for an increasingly diverse population of school children. This increased diversity among students in District 64 includes languages, families, cultural backgrounds, economic levels, and life experiences. Instructional accommodations, modifications, and differentiation all center on addressing the individual learning needs of students, supporting their mastery of content standards and related indicators. District 64 applies appropriate methods to identify the extent to which each need impacts a student's education. Customizing academic, creative, behavioral, physical, social, and emotional learning opportunities maximizes student growth. Customization requires articulating clear learning targets, coaching students to set rigorous personal goals, and partnering with students to monitor and reflect at timely intervals.

#### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE FOUR:

##### **Foster Effective Communities of Practice through Professional Development and Staff Support**

Achieving a rigorous education based on high academic and behavioral expectations for all students can only be achieved by actively supporting educators in their continual development of professional skills and knowledge. Educators need to continue to build a shared knowledge and a solid foundation to support students in fulfilling their academic, social, physical, creative, behavioral, and emotional potential. New discoveries in instructional practice and applications of technology to the learning environment require staff members to stay current in their chosen profession, which requires face-to-face and virtual opportunities for development and training. These interactions occur in an environment of collaboration and shared decision-making with staff and administrators to assure that the best opportunities for development experiences are available to all staff.

#### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE FIVE:

##### **Provide Safe and Secure Learning Spaces to Support 21st Century Learners**

Student learning is enhanced by the school environment in which they learn. The capacity and flexibility of facilities to support learning creates opportunities for teachers to deliver differentiated, innovative curriculum for students. As the Master Facilities Plan outlines, the most important actions of District 64 to create optimal learning environments are to manage resources efficiently and effectively to enhance teaching and learning; provide attractive, safe, secure, and healthy spaces in which students can engage in active and meaningful ways; create flexible spaces that foster the 4 C's among students and staff; and create engaging, technology-rich learning environments, among other actions. This will require being creative about the way space is used, and rethinking how to make space more functional, more collaborative and flexible.

#### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE SIX:

##### **Maintain Fiscal Responsibility that Reflects a Commitment to Student Learning and a Rich Variety of Programs and Services**

The Board has created a goal to extend the original, 10-year referendum commitment made in 2007 by four years to 2020-21. The District must be cognizant of the factors that affect the financial health of District 64, while continuing to provide a variety of programs and services for all students.