

LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mission Statement **Educational Success for ALL Students**

Lincoln County School District has two high schools, two middle schools (one middle school has been temporarily closed for economic reasons and the need for remodeling), and four elementary schools in four separate communities which are as far apart as 90 miles with some students being bused as many as 120 miles per day to school. School populations range from 65 students to 225 students. We are plagued by many common rural (frontier) county problems. Because of an overall low socioeconomic status, high unemployment rates, and high transiency rates, many of our students experience less than satisfying lives. Community populations range from affluent business people to welfare recipients with nothing. The educational base, although increasing, is low. We also face many situations imposed by our remoteness. We have ancient buildings/facilities, low funding, limited supplies, and few resources. Our diversity of size, school structure, and community make-up produces a wide variety of needs.

We have been able to unify our schools through our Lincoln County School District Strategic Plan. Our plan is revisited and updated annually. It is approved and adopted by our Broad-Based Panel and the Lincoln County Board of School Trustees. Our eight schools have all completed their local plans. All schools are in various stages of development. All sites revisit their plans to establish up to date goals in correlation with district and state mandates. We have now established a district wide 4-day school week system throughout the Lincoln County School District.

The Lincoln County School Board and administrative staff have revisited their long-range goals in correlation with the adopted district and local strategic plans. Retreats are being utilized to ascertain how we can all work together toward implementing these goals. Representatives from all concerned areas attend. (ie: administrators, teachers, associations, school board, broad-based panels, etc...) The District has also established a set of progressive guiding principles to aid in furthering student learning. These have been approved and added to the District Strategic Plan.

Our broad-based panel has been maintained as outlined in previous grants. They have met several times to gather and provide input on the district and local plans. They have provided a strong community voice in the development of these plans. Members have traveled many miles and met many hours to make this process meaningful. Most of the schools in Lincoln County School District have followed suit and established local advisory panels to address the needs of their unique community of learners.

Our small size does provide us with one advantage over larger school districts. All of our site administrators meet together on a regular basis. In those meetings, goals and ideas are freely shared and discussed. This opportunity allows us to align our goals and develop quality programs that encourage student learning. Successful ideas and programs are often integrated into other schools. This provides the opportunity for local improvements to quickly become district-wide improvements. This practice has been enhanced by the ongoing Professional Learning Communities process for our teachers.