

# STRATEGIC PLANNING

Sub-committee Report  
Expectations for

Community

# Kalamazoo Public Schools Strategic Planning

## Community Expectations

### COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS

#### PREAMBLE

We are a diverse community with high expectations for each and every one of our children and their families. We want to eliminate all barriers to success so that all of our children will graduate from high school with the educational and life skills necessary for success, whether through post-secondary education, additional training or employment. In preparing our students for the world of work, this community expects that students will dress appropriately in school, communicate respectfully without profanity, and use manners.

We have high expectations for students' physical, behavioral, emotional, educational, and social development. This community expects that all students will succeed, and to succeed they must be challenged with high expectations in school. These core expectations demand universal access to and knowledge of resources, along with high quality instruction, that promote the healthy growth and development of our children.

The community will provide annual tests for vision, hearing and general health and address identified needs each year. To access services, the community supports the idea of single point of entry services in schools that will help families and students access community resources.

We accept our responsibility to surround our children — early, often, and always — with adults who are well-versed in techniques of effective parenting, healthy behaviors, and healthy lifestyles, engaged in a child's development, and actively working to promote sound care and services that lead to children growing into responsible, successful adults. As a community, we will volunteer and support systems that consistently work for all our children and their families. We will actively challenge systems that do not.

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In our community, we expect and support:

### For Preschool Ages 0-4

1. Every child will receive books at birth and each year through age four, and families will be helped to understand the importance of literacy.
2. Every child will have a quality, pre-school experience that provides fundamental skills for success in kindergarten.
3. The community will provide a hearing and vision test early enough and hearing and vision remediation soon enough that a child's hearing and vision will not be a deterrent to his or her success.
4. Families and our community will honor the children of Kalamazoo by teaching and modeling respect.

### For Elementary School

1. To succeed, elementary students will be in school, on time, every day, and the community will support and uphold this expectation.
2. The community will provide tests for vision, hearing and general health and address identified needs before the student enters middle school.
3. In a community where children are honored and expected to succeed:
  - Families will help students with their schoolwork.
  - Families will limit and monitor "screen time" on school nights.
  - Families will read with their students at least 20 minutes every day.
  - Families will assure that their elementary students get 8-10 hours of sleep on school nights.
4. This community expects and supports safe and secure schools where respect is modeled and taught.
5. This community will support and provide after-school activities that are positive and enriching.
6. Every Kalamazoo elementary student will have in their life at least one adult they can count on and who supports their educational development.

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7. This community expects and supports the standard that each student will reach grade-level benchmarks before advancing to the next grade. When this does not occur, we expect that methods of instruction will be employed and other assistance provided as needed.

### **For Middle School**

1. To succeed, middle school students will be in school, on time, every day, and the community will support and uphold this expectation.
2. The community will provide tests for vision, hearing and general health and address identified needs before the student enters high school.
3. This community expects and supports safe and secure schools where respect is modeled and taught.
4. This community will support and provide after-school activities that are positive and enriching.
5. The community will recruit and train persons to serve as in-school mentors and tutors who are focused on student's academic and future success.
6. To succeed, the community believes that middle school students must not only understand their post-high school options, but be able to link academics and advanced training to future success in life.

### **For High School**

1. To succeed, high school students will be in school, on time, every day, and the community will support and uphold this expectation.
2. This community expects and supports safe and secure schools where respect is modeled and taught.
3. This community expects high school students to have homework that helps them succeed and that students will complete their homework.
4. Kalamazoo's students will be prepared for post-high school while in high school by:

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- Having explored career options.
  - Being academically ready for their next step in life.
  - Understanding all aspects of the college or training school application process including being provided with a checklist and a timeline.
5. This committee expects families to assist their students with applications for college and training schools and that the community will provide the support to make the families comfortable with the process.