



THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE AT ELMIRA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Designing transitions that enable our students to succeed in
a seamless experience across school buildings



WELCOME

Dear Friends,

It is a great privilege to share the work of the many dedicated constituents who spent time together developing a plan to improve the experiences of students and families in Elmira. Today, we are proud to share this important plan centered around Improving the Student Experience at Elmira City School District, and specifically improving the transitions our students experience throughout their years in the District.

As we sought to align our work as a district, we knew that it was essential to engage directly with a variety of constituents. To this end, we formed a Steering Team that included teachers, parents, administrators, community members, as well as district leaders who represented a wide range of experiences.

We began this work in February 2022. Constituents from across the community contributed through focus groups and provided input on how to improve the experiences of students and families as they transition throughout our schools. Our Steering Team also engaged in multiple virtual and in-person planning and design sessions. The resulting plan is a reflection of this work and dedication. The goals and objectives are written in concert with the many successful strategies and programs already in place for our students in Elmira.

This plan is designed to ensure that Elmira City School District continues to prepare all Elmira students for a life of opportunity throughout their time in Elmira and beyond. We are confident that the components of this action plan will support our shared mission to ensure the success of our students.

Sincerely,

Hillary Austin
Superintendent
Elmira City School District



SUPPORTING STUDENTS AS THEY TRANSITION FROM ONE BUILDING TO ANOTHER



PROCESS OVERVIEW

Over the course of **10 months** listening to our community and discussing the hopes, needs, and future direction for Elmira City School District. The process was led by our Steering Team which represented Staff, Parents/Guardians, Community Members, Board Members, and Administrators.

We took all of the input from our community to develop focus areas related to building transitions and the student experience. The initiatives that were developed under each focus area are in response to what our community shared.



FOCUS AREAS

Focus Area	Feedback and Input	Goals and Objectives	Action Steps
Collaboration and Communication	Communication and collaboration are priorities for students and families.	We will streamline collaboration and communication expectations across the district in order to improve our student and family understanding of building transition processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand opportunities for our students and families to collaborate. Develop a consistent celebration plan to encompass all areas and all buildings.
Community Engagement	Schools involve families and community members in unique ways resulting in individualized school expectations for students.	We will create opportunities for students and families to provide feedback after they transition from one building to the next to ensure consistent processes across school buildings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create transition teams at the district and buildings level. Gain a better understanding of what our students/families are experiencing via surveys and focus groups. Share a transition calendar that includes all building transition activities and events.
Relationships	Schools have multiple approaches to building relationships, connecting with, and caring for the whole child, across common grade level structures and throughout the district.	We will continue to build relationships and a greater sense of belonging and connection with our students and families by fostering opportunities for smooth transitions between school buildings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build relationships through consistent positive communication. Create a culture outside of the classroom by acknowledging students in a positive manner daily. Establish a student advisory council at every level.
Management Structures Across Schools	School buildings operate and manage differently. Routines and structures look different from building to building.	We will support our students and families by giving schools the opportunity to balance autonomy with consistency across buildings and levels with different needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create adult-led cohorts for secondary students (grades 2-6 and 7-12). Identify and implement consistent management structures across schools. Establish a peer mentoring/buddy program for our students.

MISSION

The Elmira City School District is a dynamic and innovative learning organization dedicated to developing learners of character who value their educational experience and can compete globally and contribute locally by collaborating with students, families, and community partners to provide meaningful opportunities in a safe and engaging environment for all.



CORE BELIEFS



We believe that...

- All decisions should be based on what is best for students.
- Community support and collaboration is fundamental for student learning.
- Family engagement and support is critical to student success.
- Everyone deserves a safe and accepting learning environment.
- Developing a sense of pride in our school community is essential.
- High expectations require high levels of commitment and support for all.
- All individuals will be accepted, respected, and valued for who they are.
- Effective communication is vital. The educational experience must prepare students with the skills to be career and college ready.
- All students need various opportunities to be involved, actively engaged, and connected.
- We must embrace change as an opportunity for growth.

We thank you again for being a part of the Elmira community! If you have any questions or would like to support any of the focus areas, please contact your child's principal. We will also post opportunities to become involved on the district website and social media, so please remain active in checking these platforms. We look forward to continuing our work ahead to improve the student experience across the district and ensure students stay on track!

Family, School, Community: Together We Succeed

Please connect with us on social media.
Use **#GoExpress** when posting!

 @ECSD_Schools
 Elmira City School District
www.elmiracityschoos.com

