

The following outlines the strategic advantages and strategic challenges for the Arcola School District. The strategic advantages are those items considered to be internal strengths or external opportunities. The district should build upon these while planning. Strategic challenges are those items that are considered internal weaknesses or external threats. These should be directly addressed in planning.

#### Strategic Advantages

1. High attendance rate for students at all levels
2. High graduation rates for students from all ethnic backgrounds
3. Small school environment allows for more individual student attention through small class size, supports, etc.
4. Financial stability
5. Overall, very positive student behavior
6. The ability to be versatile and make changes quickly because few level of bureaucracy
7. Incredible community support in terms of financial support and respect for the school tradition
8. The amount of instructional resources, including technology, available to the students and staff.

#### Strategic Challenges

1. The impact that English Second Language has on overall academic achievement
2. The impact that poverty has on overall academic and social emotional achievement
3. The challenge posed with creating a totally student-centered schedule due to shared staff, shared facilities, etc.
4. The challenge to provide consistent programming and instruction due to the high rate of turnover in professional staff
5. Development and consistent implementation of curriculum
6. Staff alignment on issues related to high expectations, grading, rigor, instruction, etc.
7. Inconsistent staff culture that impacts the ability for shared responsibility for continuous improvement.
8. Consistent approach to vocabulary development.
9. Gradual decline in district enrollment
10. The struggle that many of our students have with having the ability to provide for post high school education and our ability to support all student in college and career readiness.

