Letcher County Public Schools Common Instructional Vision

Our vision is one in which the students of Letcher County Public Schools will become proficient communicators, collaborators, and creative, critical thinkers. We are also committed to our students being involved in Deeper Learning opportunities, focusing on higher-order thinking and real-world problems, which require students to become active meaning-makers. We believe these skills are crucial in student learning, as well as vital in succeeding in today's ever-changing world.

Instructional Priority	Key Actions
Engagement The goal of every lesson is enthusiastic, active engagement of both teacher and students. We believe high student engagement to be crucial to academic growth, strong connection to school, and social-emotional well-being.	**Students:** • Collaborate effectively with their peers by discussing problem-solving strategies, justifying answers, explaining content, and exploring new concepts together. • Participate in discussions, pose questions, reflect on learning, and self-assessing. **Teachers:** • Create a safe and motivating environment. • Provide materials and resources that support the learning goals and require intellectual engagement. • Provide real-world tasks with purpose and differentiation **Leaders:** • Maintain a positive work environment. • Support teachers by providing them with engagement strategies to use in their classrooms. • Provide feedback to teachers after walk-throughs on ways to improve student engagement
High-Quality Instructional Resources (HQIRs) High expectations for **all** students are established by utilizing research-based/externally validated high-quality instructional resources that are both challenging and aligned with the grade-level Kentucky academic standards.	**Students:** • Interact with standards-aligned resources, along with various forms of media (print, multimedia, software, etc.), to reach their intended learning outcomes. **Teachers:** • Utilize the high-quality instructional resources provided by the district consistently. • Differentiate lessons to meet the diverse needs of their students. **Leaders:** • Ensure that district-purchased high-quality instructional resources are available for all subjects and are being used consistently. • Obtain resources that are research-based and/or externally validated. • Ensure professional learning is provided for school/district-purchased HQIRs.
Instructional Practices A variety of research-proven instructional strategies and techniques are used to support all students in learning the content of the lesson.	**Students:** • Contribute to the whole class by actively listening and teaching each other. • Engage in critical thinking and expect productive struggle and perseverance in solving problems in the face of difficulty.

	Teachers:
	• Employ explicit instruction strategies (gradual release of instruction, modeling, think-alouds).
	• Provide opportunities for student choice.
	• Provide scaffolding and interventions to students as needed.
	Leaders:
	• Provide professional learning opportunities and modeling for teachers to develop common instructional goals and consistency in schools.
	• Provide ongoing coaching and support to teachers.
	• Provide and protect PLC time for educators to meet and plan, and align lessons to grade-level standards.
	• Actively involved in PLC's with teachers
Deeper Learning Deep and lasting learning opportunities are provided to our students that enhance the retention of information, lead to conceptual understanding, and equip students with the skills to transfer their learning to new situations.	**Students:** • Gain understanding through being active meaning makers • Apply and transfer knowledge and skills across content/subjects and to real-world problems. **Teachers:** • Create vibrant learning experiences for all students. • Encourage innovation in our schools-especially when it comes to assessment. **Leaders:** • Lead/seek out professional learning experiences around Deeper Learning for their schools. • Provide resources for all teachers that help support Deeper Learning ("Teaching for Deeper Learning", "Tools for Thoughtful Assessment", "Tools for a Successful School Year"). • Ensure teachers provide Deeper Learning opportunities for their students.
Assessments Ongoing assessments are a staple in all of our classrooms, and the data gained from these assessments are used to make instructional decisions that facilitate learning for all students.	**Students:** • Give best effort on all of their assessments. • Use teacher or peer feedback to improve their answers on assessments when applicable. **Teachers:** • Deliberately check for student understanding throughout class/unit. • Provide immediate, actionable feedback to students in order to improve work. • Use assessment data to make instructional decisions for both whole class as well as for individual students. **Leaders:** • Examine interim assessment data to make instructional decisions for their school. • Create a school culture in which doing your best on assessments is the expectation.
Growth Mindset Students, teachers, and leaders have developed a growth mindset and	**Students:** • Self-reflect on their progress toward content mastery with goal setting. **Teachers:**

continually reflect on their work and focus on improvement.	• Reflect consistently on the effectiveness of their work. • Seek professional learning opportunities to improve their educational practices. **Leaders:** • Provide targeted feedback to teachers to identify strengths and areas of growth. • Seek and attend professional learning opportunities to enhance their role as their school's/district's primary instructional leader. • Build teacher leaders in their school.
Partnering with Stakeholders Faculty, families, and community stakeholders work together to ensure that learning extends beyond the classroom.	**Students:** • Share what they are learning with their families regularly. • Participate in extracurricular activities including public service work that encourage academic growth and augment the school curriculum. **Teachers:** • Work with parents to help instill in students the importance of perseverance and its correlation to academic success. • Give parents timely information regarding their children's academic data, including potential ways to help address their children's academic deficits. **Leaders:** • Provide all stakeholders with supports (videos, handouts, family nights, etc.) to familiarize them with the academic information they need to help students succeed. • Work to create a bold new future for Letcher County Schools through collaboration with the community. **Parents:** • Reinforce what is learned in school at home. • Encourage a positive outlook on academics at home and school. • Contact school personnel when questions or concerns come up.