

Lakota's New Quality Profile Shares Performance, Outlines Priorities

October 29, 2017

This week, Lakota Local Schools published its first annual Quality Profile. Residents and local businesses throughout the Liberty Township and West Chester communities received this mailing highlighting areas not assessed by the State of Ohio's annual report card. This report is meant to showcase our performance in six areas we believe to be high priorities for our district. It is also an opportunity to share the correlating goals with the community.

Academics should be the center of a school district, and that is certainly true at Lakota. In addition to the improvement shown in our state report card, Lakota is focused on ensuring that our kids are ready for life after graduation, whether they choose to be enrolled in higher education, are employed or choose to enlist in the armed forces. This includes providing options in classes, access to technology and support from teachers to explore areas of interest.

An important component in education is learning spaces. The education experience begins the moment a student walks through the building's doors. At Lakota, the safety of our students is our number one priority and we have made great strides to enhance security to ensure a safe learning environment. We have also invested in upgrading technology throughout the district and are creating inviting spaces in which our students can learn. This may include flexible seating for students to easily break into groups for project based learning or desks with built-in dry erase boards for students to use as a tool in math class.

Technology is no longer an option, but a necessity in today's world. Our students need to be prepared for the jobs that don't exist today, but will exist tomorrow. Lakota Local Schools has made it a priority to expand the learning opportunities of our students by providing instructional technology and devices in a fiscally responsible manner. Technology complements, but does not replace, the excellent educators in our schools.

Being fiscally responsible and transparent with our finances is a priority at Lakota Local Schools. We focus on staying within budget and being a good steward of taxpayer dollars while, ensuring that our students have the tools and resources necessary to succeed. I encourage you to read our financial prospectus and comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR), which can be found on our website, www.lakotaonline.com.

Partnerships with businesses in our community are a key component to the success of Lakota Local Schools. Our kids have opportunities to engage in real-world experiences

as a result of these collaborations. We will continue to build these relationships and encourage our students to take advantage of these cooperative learning experiences.

The final priority highlighted in our Quality Profile is communications. It is our goal at Lakota to continue to expand the opportunities for our community members to learn about their schools. Increased use of social media, regular mailings to homes, the district website, monthly coffee chats and video updates, along with the new Quality Profile are just a few of the ways we are reaching out to you, our community members. If you would like to receive our biweekly e-news communications, sign up on our website.

The state report card is just one tool for measuring our progress toward meeting state-directed benchmarks. At Lakota Local Schools, we go beyond the state minimums in many areas that are not captured and shared in the report card. The Quality Profile is designed to fill that gap by showcasing our performance in areas we value most, as well as sharing our goals for future growth.

Matthew Miller is the superintendent of Lakota Local Schools. Follow him on Twitter (@LakotaSuper) and Facebook (Matt Miller – Lakota Local Schools Superintendent).