



# PILLAR #1 - ACADEMICS

## Dr. Vilicia Cade, Chief Academic Officer

### Pillar #1 Academics- A is for Academic Achievement and Instructional Improvement

Academic achievement and instructional improvement continue to be the cornerstone of what characterizes Sandusky City Schools (SCS) and why SCS received a commendation for being a “*District of Distinction*” from the nationally recognized District Administration Leadership Institute.

Blue Streak culture is steeped in a legacy of pride and tradition that is rooted in excellence! We have evidence that our Transformation Plan is catapulting us toward — “*Building Better Dreams to Transform Every Child, in Every Classroom, in Every School to Excellence*”. With unrelenting pride, the district is undertaking new aggressive and innovative steps to increase student-learning outcomes that build on the momentum evidenced by our recent “C” in overall achievement on the Ohio Department of Education District Report Card 2017-2018.

Our continuous improvement model — “The Collective Efficacy Project: Academic 5K” provides the foundation for galvanizing all stakeholders to address the holistic needs of our students. The Academic 5K provides insight into how data, increased individualized focus on our students’ goals and a whole-child approach will play a quintessential role in improving learning. The Academic 5K is a byproduct of existing traditions rooted in the pride and excellence that are long-standing cornerstones of Blue Streak culture.

SCS embraces and celebrates its role as serving as the hub of Sandusky City. To this end, community partnerships will continue to play a pivotal role in ushering students to the realization of their dreams and goals. The newly released STEAM Educational Vision (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) provides a context for how advances in science and technology will influence the way students and adults learn in SCS. During the 2019-2020 school year, we embarked on Sandusky’s Academic Transformation Strategies (SATS). Our work with SATS will continue to be pivotal in our efforts to directly address recommendations outlined by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) Crosswalk document that aligns to “Standard 2: Curriculum and Instruction” and “Standard 3: Assessment and the Use of Data”. SATS will serve as a pivotal strategy that integrates the details of the ODE Crosswalk recommendations with the SCS Transformation Plan. The hallmark of SATS is rooted in our Chief Executive Officer and Superintendent’s vision — “*to dramatically redefine the delivery of academics and educational services to position our students to compete on a global level*”. SATS offers operationalized evidence of how Sandusky City Schools will address ODE recommendations and helps measure our performance in making strides to achieve the goals outlined in the Transformation Plan’s Academic Pillar.

SCS Chief Executive Officer has started preliminary discussion regarding the future of ensuring that SCS remains in the forefront of the shifts in modern teaching and learning. The **2030 Vision for Sandusky City Schools Academic Achievement and Instructional Improvement includes the following eight components:**

1. Ensuring that all instructional staff function in the capacity as **instructional leaders**
2. Creating a vertically- and horizontally-aligned professional learning plan that addresses the differentiated needs of employees in Group 1 (**employees that directly impact the instructional core**) and Group 2 (**employees that create a readiness for learning**)
3. Advancing a **collaborative data-driven culture** outlined in “The Collective Efficacy: Academic 5K”
4. **Building capacity for significant role of technology** for learning for all (students and adults)
5. Ensuring the infrastructure is in place along with the hardware to be a **Google-certified district with one-to-one access for students and teachers** — **modern teaching and 21st-Century learning for all** (*student-led conferences, digital portfolios with badges and data dashboards that students, teachers can use*)
6. Utilization of a student information management system that connects data, professional learning, and creations of assessments aligned to Ohio State Testing
7. Implementing project-based learning and connecting this to our efforts to improving reading through preparing students for success in post-secondary choices
8. Our primary foci will be to go to scale with a vision to ensure “**Voice and Choice**” for students, teachers, and principals by building a more personalized infrastructure that speaks to-- “**equity as a key lever on our road to excellence**”

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## 2019-2020 GOALS

1. Create structures to implement a service delivery model that maximized support and accountability
2. Refine and strengthen Ohio Improvement Process (OIP) and Sandusky City Schools' continuous improvement process (Collective Efficacy: Academic 5K)
3. Identify resources and obstacles to achieve the vision - Building Better Dreams to Transform Every Child, in Every School, in Every Classroom to Excellence

## 2020-2021 GOALS

1. Create an instructional technology plan to advance core instruction and professional learning for Group 1 employees
2. Efficiently implement OIP and SCS continuous improvement process (Academic 5K)
3. Target pivotal partners to ensure stakeholders support the Academic 5K

## 2021-2022 GOALS

1. 50% of SCS Group 1 will have exposure to Google Training
2. 50% of the students and staff will have one-to-one access
3. 25% of the students 5th - 9th grades will convene student led conferences

