

What is our working definition of mission?

A mission should:

- define the long-term goals for student learning
- go beyond the content standards
- be supported by all stakeholders
- be specific enough to guide the creation of curriculum, instruction and assessment
- be a “living, working” goal that stakeholder groups across the school are taking shared responsibility for

May include beliefs and values about learning and/or schools, but is not complete without the long-term goal(s) for student learning defined.

Examples of missions from other schools:

Science Leadership Academy, Philadelphia PA

*"How do we **learn**?"*

*"What can we **create**?"*

*"What does it mean to **lead**?"*

Memphis City Schools, Memphis, TN

The mission of Memphis City schools is to prepare all children to be successful citizens and workers in the 21st century. This will include educating them to read with comprehension, write clearly, compute accurately, think, reason and use information to solve problems.

High Tech High, San Diego, CA

High Tech High's mission is to develop and support innovative public schools where all students develop the academic, workplace, and citizenship skills for postsecondary success.

Tech Valley High School, Albany, NY

Collaboration. Innovation. Success.

School of the Arts, Rochester, NY

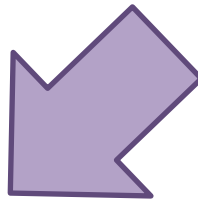
Our mission is Student Success...Academic, Artistic and Humanistic!

What is our working definition of vision?

A vision is:

- a picture of what mission accomplished looks like
- created for a school or for a more specific focus, i.e. the graduate, the teaching and learning, the environment, the assessment system, etc.
- developed and revised by all stakeholder groups with an implied commitment to working towards realizing it or making it happen
- clear expectations related to the end goal that can be used to monitor success as you work towards those goals
- NOT a road map of how you will accomplish the mission; it is a more likely a list of indicators of a successful mission. If your mission is to create effective communicators, what are the attributes of an effective communicator?

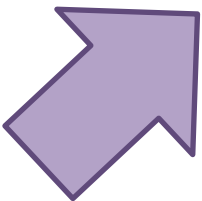
Example of a mission & vision from Granby Public Schools, Granby, CT



This is the mission!

*Mission: All students become powerful thinkers, effective collaborators, and compassionate contributors in preparation for success in a dynamic, interdependent world
What is their vision of the powerful thinker? Someone who:*

- *defines and pursues personal curiosity and complex problems*
- *develops a plan, evaluates and adjusts based on feedback in order to accomplish a task or take on a challenge*
- *creates innovative products or connections that contribute to quality of life or collective knowledge*
- *analyzes text to construct meaning or make connections*
- *effectively communicates information or ideas for a given purpose, audience or task*
- *reflects on or applies knowledge or wisdom to future inquiries*



This is the vision!

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