



A VISION OF EXCELLENCE

Dr. KC Somers
Peoria Unified School District
Superintendent



PART I | INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As we embark on a new chapter together, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to our entire Peoria Unified community—students, parents, educators, staff and all our dedicated supporters. Your engagement and commitment to our shared vision and mission have been instrumental in shaping the future of our district. Through our collective efforts, we strive for excellence and ensure that every student, every day is prepared to shape tomorrow!



PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

Reflecting on our journey, it's essential to consider both our past experiences and our future direction. Over the past several months, our district has been deeply engaged in a series of Listen, Learn, and Lead Sessions. These conversations have provided a platform to hear directly from you—our community members, parents, staff and students—about your hopes, concerns and ideas for the future of Peoria Unified School District.

We explored a wide range of topics, from student achievement and support services to the state of our facilities and the role of technology in education. The feedback gathered has been invaluable, offering clear direction for our strategic planning and goal-setting process.

This report is organized into three parts:

- **Part I:** An introduction and overview of our current and desired state in the district
- **Part II:** A summary of feedback from the Listen, Learn, and Lead Sessions
- **Part III:** A preview of the Superintendent's goals for the upcoming year

Together, these elements set the stage for our collective efforts to create a thriving educational environment where every student can realize their full potential.

OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT STATE

The Peoria Unified School District is at a pivotal moment. Recent years have presented significant challenges, from adapting to new learning environments to addressing diverse student needs. Yet, we have also achieved remarkable successes. Our commitment to academic excellence and innovation remains strong. Key initiatives, such as enhancing support systems and integrating technology, have positioned us to better serve our students and community.

PART II | SUMMARY/SYNTHESIS OF FEEDBACK FROM LISTEN, LEARN, AND LEAD SESSIONS

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK

Over the past several months, Peoria Unified School District has been engaged in a series of Listen, Learn, and Lead Sessions, connecting with our community—parents, staff, students, and other stakeholders—about the future direction of our schools.

These sessions have offered an opportunity to gather diverse perspectives on critical issues. The feedback we received was honest and insightful, addressing student achievement, support services, facilities, and technology.

A strong theme emerged: a shared commitment to student success. There was a consistent call for ensuring that students are effectively prepared for the future and have every opportunity for success.

Concerns about school safety and the state of our facilities were frequent. Many expressed the need for updates to ensure that our learning environments are safe and conducive to modern teaching practices. The role of technology was also a focus, highlighting the importance of access to digital tools and resources.

A clear desire for stronger community engagement was evident, with participants expressing interest in more collaborative decision-making processes and increased transparency from district leadership.

These insights will directly inform the Superintendent’s goals for the upcoming year, ensuring our district remains responsive, forward-thinking, and aligned with the needs and expectations of those we serve.

The full Listen, Learn & Lead summary can be found on the [Peoria Unified School District](#) website.

PART III | PREVIEW FOR THE FUTURE AND SUPERINTENDENT GOALS FOR 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

WHAT PROPELS US FORWARD? PEORIA UNIFIED: OUR STORY, OUR FUTURE

In Peoria Unified, we are driven by a profound sense of unity—a belief that together, we can achieve greatness. Our story is one of a community bound by shared values, a common purpose, and a vision for the future. This unity is our strength, guiding us toward a future filled with possibility.

THE PROCESS OF UNIFICATION AND GROWTH

As we move forward, it's essential to re-envision what is possible. Strengthening our connections within our schools and community is crucial. We must ask ourselves: What propels us? What compels us? The answer lies in our students' futures, dependent on the strength and efficacy of our education system.

To bridge our past with our future, we must be willing to re-evaluate our practices. Some traditions may need reconsideration to ensure alignment with our goals. The more we hold onto outdated practices, the more we hinder our progress.

THE PURSUIT OF OUR POTENTIAL

As we look ahead to the new school year, I share a vision for Peoria Unified rooted in the shared values and aspirations of our community. This vision is framed by the 5 P's: People, Progress, Principles, Purpose, and the Pursuit of Potential. These elements are more than guiding principles; they represent the foundation of our efforts to create a supportive and innovative educational environment for every student.

- **Our People:** At the heart of our success are the people who make it possible. We celebrate every individual and ensure that everyone is known, valued, and cared for. Your contributions are invaluable as we build a future honoring our legacy while creating new opportunities.
- **Our Progress:** Reflecting on our achievements, we've made incredible strides. From scholarships earned to state championships, our progress is a testament to our community's dedication. We recognize that progress involves learning from challenges and embracing resilience as we move forward.
- **Our Principles:** Our principles—integrity, collaboration, excellence, and equity—guide our actions and decisions. This year, we will focus on living out these principles in every aspect of our work, from teaching and learning to creating a culture of service.
- **Our Purpose:** Every action is driven by a shared purpose: preparing every student for a successful future as a responsible citizen. This purpose unites us in our efforts to make a meaningful difference in students' lives.
- **Our Potential:** The pursuit of our potential is a journey we undertake together. It's about recognizing possibilities and committing to achieving them. By working together, we can turn our vision into reality and create a brighter future for our students, staff, and community.

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

As we begin this new school year, I invite each of you to join me in the pursuit of our potential. Together, we can achieve remarkable things and create a lasting impact on our district and the lives of the students we serve.

Thank you for your dedication, passion, and commitment to making Peoria Unified a place where every student can thrive. Let's move forward with hope, determination, and a clear vision of what we can achieve together.

SETTING OUR COURSE: SUPERINTENDENT GOALS 2024-2025

As we move forward with our strategic vision, it is crucial to establish clear, actionable goals that will guide our efforts and measure our success. The Superintendent's goals for the upcoming year are designed to address the key priorities and opportunities identified through our Listen, Learn, and Lead Sessions. These goals provide a roadmap for our collective work, ensuring that we remain focused on achieving our shared vision for excellence in education. Each goal is crafted to address specific areas of improvement, support, and growth, reflecting our commitment to creating a thriving educational environment where every student, every day is prepared to shape their future.

GOAL 1A | IMPROVE STUDENT ACADEMIC OUTCOMES

Improve academic outcomes for all learners through measurable indicators.

GOAL 1B | IMPROVE DISTRICT CULTURE & CLIMATE OUTCOMES

Enhance district culture and climate to foster a safe, secure, and welcoming environment.

GOAL 2 | STRENGTHEN SCHOOL SAFETY AND STUDENT BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE SUPPORTS

Emphasize the dual importance of school safety and effective student behavioral support.

GOAL 3 | ENHANCE EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT, WELLNESS, RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

Enhance employee engagement and support high levels of workforce performance.

GOAL 4 | DEEPEN HIGH-QUALITY INSTRUCTION AND HIGHLY EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP

Develop a comprehensive approach to effective instruction and leadership.

GOAL 5 | PROMOTE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

Promote robust stakeholder engagement and prepare students for the future workforce.

GOAL 6 | PRACTICE FISCAL STEWARDSHIP AND LONG-RANGE FACILITY PLANNING

Optimize district resources and facilities through effective fiscal stewardship and planning.

GOAL 7 | REVIEW AND RENEW DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN

Ensure the Strategic Plan remains relevant to current challenges and opportunities.

GOAL 8 | EVALUATE AND ENSURE EFFECTIVE BOARD POLICIES AND DEVELOPMENT

Evaluate and enhance Board policies to ensure effective governance and alignment with strategic objectives.

The full report of Superintendent Goals for the 2024-25 school year can be found on the [Peoria Unified School District](#) website.