Standard 1 Vision and Purpose

In developing and communicating a vision and purpose, the Louisiana State University Laboratory School engages stakeholders in a collaborative process through the following: listserv e-mails; classroom/ Moodle sites; online surveys; focus groups; grade-level parent meetings; Cub Club (parent/teacher organization) meetings; faculty meetings, grade level chair, middle school team, and departmental meetings. We have ensured that our vision, mission and beliefs define a compelling purpose and direction that focuses on improving student learning by rewriting our beliefs to be student-centered and creating a vision that is based upon the philosophy of learning communities. Our vision, mission and beliefs guide our efforts to improve teaching, learning, and our school's operation. The Lab School has created a vision based upon committees' suggestions and provided an opportunity for feedback from all stakeholders through the use of online surveys and/or face to face meetings. We ensure that our vision, mission and beliefs reflect current research and sound instructional practices through analysis of test scores for placement and intervention programs; the use of Understanding by Design (UBD) and Criterion Reference Learning guides (CRLGs) to continually update our curriculum; and our focus on Professional Learning Communities (PLC) to foster collegial dialogue. Through surveys, newsletters, the school website, Moodle and classroom pages, the Lab School has ensured open lines of communication to regularly review and discuss the mission and vision of the school.

The process for establishing and building understanding of the vision among stakeholders is guided by administration with input from faculty and staff through monthly meetings including K-12 faculty meetings, staff meetings, grade-level, team, and department chair meetings. The school website, email, and annual surveys are also used to establish an understanding of the vision among stakeholders.

Stakeholders hear about, respond to, and support the vision through clearly posted and distributed documentation in parent/student handbooks, electronically on school website, on visitor bulletin boards and throughout K-12 classrooms. Electronic surveys provide feedback from stakeholders that shapes and supports the vision. Additionally, visits from outside including prospective students/parents, outside elementary and secondary colleagues, and collegiate students/faculty provide an opportunity for response and support of the vision.

Expectations for student performance grows out of the vision in the form of research based UBD units and CRLGs given to students/parents at the beginning of each new curriculum unit and available through individual instructor classroom/Moodle websites.

The school's data-based profile demonstrates that both organizational effectiveness and student achievement approach the vision of the school. Our data-based rankings in various publications (i.e. US News and World Report) and five star status in the state-wide ranking system show that our approach and vision are effective for achieving high levels of student success.
Growing out of the established vision of the school, professional learning communities are developed and reflect state and national educational organization standards (i.e. National Councils of Teachers of Math, Science, Social Studies, English, etc.) and address the needs and interests of the faculty and staff. Further, with the adoption of the UBD and CRLG formats for units of study, curriculum and stakeholder expectations are more clearly communicated to all stakeholders.

The vision and mission statements are annually reviewed and renewed by a committee of stakeholders to ensure both statements reflect rigorous, relevant instructional practices and national and state standards. The revisions are then presented to the entire community on the Lab School website and all community members are given the opportunity to provide feedback and/or suggestions.