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## **Planning for Our Future Success**

By Kyle Hayden, USD 464 Superintendent of Schools

### A Message to Our Educational Community

As the administration and the Board of Education have considered the future of the Tonganoxie School District, we have focused upon staying true to our mission, “to provide each student with a positive and personalized educational experience which empowers them to achieve high levels of success in all endeavors, make responsible choices, and become positive contributors to society.” This is a mission that pledges our commitment to the academic and personal success of each student in the district.

The Tonganoxie School District has earned a reputation for success that is reflective of our outstanding staff and students. However, we must not become complacent. We must have a plan that will support the academic success and personal growth of every student. This Strategic Plan is the blueprint that will propel our district into the future. We are excited about a future that is centered upon teaching and learning. If we take ownership of this plan and together use it as a roadmap, Tonganoxie students will achieve even greater success.

The Strategic Plan represents a commitment to the educational excellence that makes Tonganoxie a great place to be. A commitment has been made to challenge ourselves and enable each student to develop the necessary knowledge, skills and attributes to become the very best they can be as citizens, family members and productive workers.

### What is the Strategic Plan?

The Strategic Plan is the district’s compass. It is the map toward a destination of success for students. In short, the Strategic Plan is a description of everything the district wants to be for students and how it intends to get there.

The plan starts with the identification of the district’s mission and vision. These statements represent the core of what we want to become. The Strategic Plan also contains ten goals aligned to the district vision statements.

### Why Does the District Need a Strategic Plan?

Planning and goal setting are essential in keeping a school district moving on the track of continuous improvement. The focus of every school district should be on teaching and learning; however, the demands of budget, personnel, facilities, and state requirements can easily overwhelm a district. A Strategic Plan is a powerful tool in maintaining focus on what’s important as a school district faces many challenges.

### What will Drive the Plan?

Our district and building teams of educational experts will drive the plan. The board, administrative team, teachers and staff members will work with a common purpose to reach the mission, vision, and goals of the district.

The result of this collaboration among educators creates ongoing opportunities to develop support for students who need to enhance or extend their learning. Professionals across the school district will learn and think together about how to improve their practice in ways that lead to improved student achievement.