

# **Comprehensive District Education Plan**

By Marvin Kreps, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

At the August 3, 2004 meeting of The Rhinebeck Central School Board of Education, the District adopted the Comprehensive District Education Plan (CDEP). The completion and approval of the CDEP represents a major accomplishment by the members of the Rhinebeck educational community. Many important stakeholder groups participated in the development of the plan which is in effect from 2004-2007. The Rhinebeck Teachers Association, Board of Education, parents, non-instructional staff, and administrators, collaborated to develop the plan. The CDEP is complex, having several components that affect the District's educational programs. It sets forth a clear vision for the future of the District. The full text of the CDEP can be found at the District website. In this article I intend to highlight some of the more important features.

The CDEP is both a process and a product. The central goal of the process is to continuously improve the quality of all educational programs in the District in order to increase student achievement. The product is a document that has many carefully articulated components. These components translate into action the District's Mission, Vision, and Values.

The Action Plan and Professional Development section contains the two strategic goals set by the District. The Action Plan contains those activities the District will engage in to accomplish those goals.

## **FIRST STRATEGIC GOAL:**

*“90% of students tested will score in the proficient range or higher as measured by the NYS Assessments in Mathematics, English Language Arts, Science and Social Studies for all students and close the performance gap in target sub-groups.”*

The federal legislation known as the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) has set the goal for all school districts in the country to have 100% of their students scoring proficient or better by the 2013-2014 school year. While the majority of our students score proficient now, there is still much work to be done if we are to meet the goal of 100% proficient. The plan calls for teams of teachers to be assembled to carefully analyze the quality of curriculum, instruction, and assessment in all areas. In addition, the plan calls for faculty and staff to engage in ongoing substantial professional development in order to enhance their skills.

## **SECOND STRATEGIC GOAL:**

*“The District will develop a positive and safe learning community that will keep students and staff engaged and connected in meaningful ways to help all students achieve their full potential.”*

This goal reflects the District's commitment to meeting the needs of the *whole child*. Here in Rhinebeck, we recognize that both students and faculty need an emotionally safe and nurturing environment in order to take risks, grow, and change. Several initiatives will grow out of this goal. One example of the District's commitment is the opportunity for the faculty and staff at Chancellor to participate in a program called **“The Responsive Classroom.”** This has been identified as a “best practice” for establishing a safe and bully-free school. Another initiative is the Bulkeley Middle School's **“Social-Emotional Development Program.”** This program is designed to teach our middle school students the skills they need in order to be good citizens of our educational community.

The Annual Professional Performance Review Plan (APPR) describes how our faculty will be evaluated. The APPR articulates the purpose of evaluation, and the criteria to be used in the evaluation process. This evaluation will apply to tenured and non-tenured faculty. A clear process is described for improving practice in the event a teacher is found to be in need of improvement.

**Our Mission:**

The Rhinebeck Central School District is an educational community that provides an excellent learning environment and is dedicated to the development of every student's generosity of spirit, passion for learning, and ultimate success.

**Our Vision:**

The Rhinebeck Central School District meets the changing needs of our community with courageous programming consistent with State Standards, and mindful of best learning practices. Each student enjoys an enriching experience while mastering the skills and knowledge to reach his or her maximum potential. We educate our students to become self-directed learners, complex thinkers, collaborative workers, quality producers, community contributors, and ethical decision-makers.

**Our Values:**

**Safety and Health:** Students and staff need a healthy and safe environment.

**Resources:** A successful education program requires appropriate facilities, equipment, and materials.

**Respect:** We respect and honor the dignity and worth of ourselves, others, and our environment.

**Responsibility:** Each person is responsible for what he or she says and does.

**Courage:** Courage is required to grow, change, take risks, and make commitments.

**Integrity:** Personal integrity develops as one attends to and becomes increasingly ethical in one's speech and actions. Adults model this process.

**Whole Child:** In order for students to be successful, their emotional, social, physical, and academic needs must be met.

**Collaboration:** The education of our students is a process involving the entire educational community: students, teachers, administrators, non-instructional staff, The Board of Education, families, and the community at large.

**Student Achievement:** Continuous growth and improvement occur when there is use of best practices, an articulated/aligned curriculum, and pertinent data.

**Recognition:** Acknowledging and celebrating successes, large and small, nurtures growth and a sense of community.

**Components of the CDEP**

- Mission, Vision, Values
- Description of District
- Action Plan and Professional Development
- Academic Intervention Services Plan
- Annual Professional Performance Review Plan
- Technology Plan
- New Teacher Mentor Plan
- Data Reporting Section