



## Executive Summary

A result of the small group work activity

**Community Engagement Session (CES) #3 • Nov. 20, 2019**

---

An estimated 100 participants attended the *Destination 158* community engagement session on Nov. 30, 2019. Facilitating Team members, Board of Trustee members and some District staff are not asked to sign-in.

The topic for Session three of the *Destination 158* community engagement project was More Than The Basics: Academics, Curriculum and Student Achievement. Participants heard a presentation by Erika Schlichter, the Huntley Community School District 158 Assistant Superintendent, Learning and Innovation.

To view the presentation visit [Destination158.com](http://Destination158.com). Following the presentation, participants worked in small groups to complete the tasks discussed below. Following is a summary of the responses from the groups.

---

### ***Task #1: Thoughts on Academics and Student Learning***

*Based on what you learned tonight, and your experiences with District 158, what does your group think are the District's greatest strengths and opportunities for growth in the area of academics and student learning?*

#### **Strengths**

Participants thought the District's greatest strengths in the area of academics and student learning include the variety of opportunities available to all students at all levels, the personalization of learning and the overall high achievement level of Huntley 158 schools. Multiple groups specifically referenced the blended learning program, the academies, the integration of STEM programs and Vanguard as strengths.

#### **Opportunities for Growth**

The feedback provided about the greatest opportunities for growth in the area of academics and student learning was varied. Many groups think there are opportunities to provide additional career and technical education offerings. Participants also noted that there is room to enhance elementary and middle school offerings, including more hands-on educational experiences. Some groups commented that the assessment process could be streamlined, and that there is too much focus on preparing for and taking tests.

**Task #2: What is student success?**

*As District 158 develops a plan for the future, how should student success be defined? Please consider what your group thinks are the key elements and academic priorities for student success as you prepare your answer.*

Many of the groups noted the definition for student success should include individualization and be focused on the development and growth of each student. Each student should be provided with an education that helps them reach their goals for the future. Participants want students to be well-rounded and to have their social, emotional and academic needs met.

**Task 3: Academics, Curriculum and Student Achievement Priorities/Goals For Strategic Plan**

*Write up to five “priority” or goal statements for the academics, curriculum and student achievement portion of our district’s new strategic plan that we should consider as we move forward.*

1. Focus on individualized learning initiatives to allow each student to develop and reach their goals for the future.
2. Provide students with a variety of opportunities for success after graduation, which may include college, trade schools or job training programs.
3. Develop and maintain elementary and middle school initiatives to provide students with learning opportunities that are similar to those offered to secondary students.
4. Continue to close the gaps between subgroups to provide all students with the opportunity to succeed.
5. Develop assessment methods to determine the effectiveness of innovative programs by gathering data after students graduate.

**CONSENSUS POINTS**

**Points of general agreement from the work activity**

- The variety of opportunities available to all students at all levels, the personalization of learning and the overall high achievement level of Huntley 158 schools are considered strengths in the area of student achievement.
- There are opportunities to provide additional career and technical education offerings, and enhance elementary and middle school curricular offerings
- The definition of student success is Huntley 158 should include individualization and be focused on the development and growth of each student to help them reach their goals.