Western States Benchmarking Consortium
Defining Future Collaboration
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Blue Valley Unified School District, Dr. Tom Trigg, Superintendent
Cherry Creek School District, Dr. Harry Bull, Superintendent
Lake Washington School District, Dr. Traci Pierce, Superintendent
Peoria Unified School District, Dr. Denton Santarelli, Superintendent
Plano Independent School District, Dr. Brian Binggeli, Superintendent
Poway Unified School District, Dr. John Collins, Superintendent
Vancouver School District, Dr. Steven Webb, Superintendent
Consortium Coordinator, Jim Hirsch
Western States Benchmarking Consortium (WSBC)

Our History

Since 1996, this small group of superintendents and other key central office executives from seven large, high-performing western U.S. school districts has joined forces in pursuit of educational excellence for all students. From the Consortium’s inception, a deep commitment to improve student learning has been the unwavering focus that has bonded these member districts.

Our Commitments:

- Shared values and beliefs;
- Innovative thinking and practice;
- Organizations focused on learning;
- Professional learning networks; and,
- Fair and balanced performance accountability.

Our Purpose

To leverage learning across member districts in pursuit of excellence in education for all students

Our Vision

To develop and sustain an unprecedented professional learning network that builds hope and confidence in a world-class, public education for all learners by:

- Inspiring exceptional collaboration
- Enhancing each district’s mission and vision
- Supporting innovation in education
- Providing leadership at a national level

Our Core Values and Beliefs

The Consortium members believe that public education systems must activate and apply school and community determination, capabilities, and resources to assure the highest levels of learning for each student that:

- Ensure personalized learning opportunities so that each student makes measurable progress and masters high standards for college, career, and life readiness;
- Transform our policies and practices to embrace innovative and research-based learning;
- Value diversity and inclusive excellence;
- Embrace authentic accountability for the continuous growth and development of each student;
- Use data to guide the transformation and personalization of learning and ensure continuous improvement toward specific benchmarks for learning and system performance; and,
- Remain future-focused and solution-oriented, and act as agents of change to illustrate the vital role that district-based public schools play in our democracy.
Our Focus Areas

In the pursuit of educational excellence, Consortium members concentrate their work in four strategic areas aimed at achieving the highest quality public schools. These strategic areas help the districts recognize and act on key areas of emphasis to improve student outcomes.

- Student learning
- Innovation
- Community engagement
- Organizational strength and agility

The strategic areas also provide a framework for sharing best practices and strategies for continuous improvement. Results, insights, and best practices emerging from self-assessments are shared routinely across member districts. The Consortium uses the necessary bodies of evidence and a peer review process to identify and share promising, best and exemplary practices within and outside the Consortium.

Our Work

- Develop processes to explore common areas of interest or problems of practice;
- Build cross-district relationships and networks;
- Serve as critical friends among member districts;
- Influence and inform the national dialogue by modeling what we advocate at a system level.