

THE MAX CHARTER SCHOOL

Five-Year Strategic Plan

2016 – 2021

Philosophy Statement: The Philosophy of the MAX Charter School is that all children can learn when their learning disorders are properly diagnosed, when their teachers are properly trained, and when their educational environment emphasizes support, dignity, and individual responsibility.

Vision Statement: The MAX Charter School, in collaboration with Nicholls State University and the Louisiana Center for Dyslexia and Related Learning Disorders, nurtures the whole child, academically, socially, emotionally, and physically. It is the desire of all stakeholders to empower each student with competence, confidence, and a willingness to complete school while realizing learning is a lifelong process

Mission Statement: The MAX Charter School is committed to meeting the unique educational needs of students with dyslexia and other language-related learning differences. Its mission is to empower the lives of these students who learn differently

Goal Number One: Academic Enhancement - The MAX Charter School will enhance the academic performances of its student body over the next five years by implementing these measurable objectives:

- By improving its school performance score by at least three points each year for five years;
- By piloting one new tutoring or mentoring program each year;
- By reviewing and enhancing the following assessment strategies:
 1. All students in Grades 1-8 will be bench mark assessed three times per year using a research-based instrument in mathematics and reading.
 2. All students in Grades 1-8 will be progress monitored every four weeks using curriculum-based measurement for oral reading fluency and mathematics.
- By producing and implementing a 1-8 curriculum vertically aligned to Louisiana's Academic Standards in all core subjects;
- By increasing academic staff development opportunities;
- By contracting with external experts to meet with PLCs with a focus on assessing student learning and using formative and summative assessments and using these data to drive instruction and improve individual student results;
- By ensuring the validity and reliability of assessment tools by researching and evaluating annually;
- By annually upgrading and maintaining technological infrastructure to align with the students' instructional needs;
- By annually recruiting and retaining effective faculty and staff and by reaching out to NSU and other entities for potential teacher candidates;
- By ensuring (1) that all students after completing one academic year at MAX Charter School will display a positive progression from the pertinent academic benchmarks they displayed at entry and that (2) after completing five years at MAX, students will equal or exceed comparable levels of progress.

Goal Number Two: Facility Enhancement – The MAX Charter School will enhance its physical facilities over the next five years by implementing these measurable objectives:

- By increasing the physical capacity of its facility to accommodate additional students by approximately 50% over the next five years;
- By adjusting the charter to allow a proportional and incremental upward adjustment in student enrollment as the physical capacity increases;
- By researching a plan to implement a virtual school specifically for Grades 9-12;
- By implementing a virtual school concept specifically for Grades 9-12 with preparation beginning in Grades 6-8 using enrichment for a pilot beginning in school year 2017-18;
- By implementing an evaluation system to ensure that buildings are well-maintained and properly cared for on a daily basis;
- By designating a liaison to develop and maintain meaningful interaction among community entities such as schools, law enforcement, business organizations, social service agencies, and public service organizations;
- By ensuring that students, staff, and visitors are safe and secure while in the school building or on the school campus through the following strategies or safety measures:
 1. A yearly review, evaluation, and update of the school's emergency procedures or Crisis Plan;
 2. Annual staff training on emergency and safety procedures to include CPR;
 3. Annual conduction of emergency response and lockdown drills;
 4. A yearly inspection of the fire alarm system, the security/surveillance/video camera system, and the school's messenger system/intercom—making sure they are fully operational;
 5. A yearly review, evaluation, and update on the effectiveness of the visitor check-in system or entry system into the school;
 6. A yearly review, evaluation, and update on the effectiveness of communications sent to parents via written or electronic to include follow-up communications procedures to parents after a concerning situation occurs.

Goal Number Three: Financial Enhancement – The MAX Charter School will enhance its financial position over the next five years by implementing these measurable objectives:

- By achieving clean financial audits each year;
- By increasing its fund-raising capacity by 30%;
- By writing at least one additional grant request each year;
- By strengthening fiscal management through yearly attendance or participation in networking opportunities and professional development opportunities offered by LAPCS or various training webinars;
- By increasing the number of donors/sponsors in the school's Race Fest;
- By initiating the process of recruiting a development officer and/or community-centered committee to assist with a more aggressive capital campaign.

Goal Number Four: Human Capital Enhancement – The MAX Charter School will enhance its human capital over the next five years by implementing these measurable objectives:

- By recruiting, employing, and maintaining a teaching staff that is 100% state certified;
- By developing a collaborative process for annual review of all salaries;
- By maintaining a salary schedule for beginning teachers that is equal to or exceeds the average for other salary schedules in the region;
- By developing a pool of interested persons in a social networking collaboration from across the nation with interests in serving students either directly or indirectly.

Goal Number Five: Professional Development Enhancement - The MAX Charter School will enhance faculty and staff professional development over the next five years by implementing these measurable objectives:

- By having at least one faculty member attend the National Charter School Conference or the National Dyslexia Conference if financially feasible;
- By continuing to incorporate professional development in the school calendar each year;
- By conducting professional development sessions on the new accountability system under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA);
- By collaborating with the Louisiana Center for Dyslexia at Nicholls State University to provide specialized professional development.

Goal Number Six: Parent and Community Connections Enhancement - The MAX Charter School will enhance its parent and community connections over the next five years by implementing these measurable objectives:

- By bringing in at least 2-3 motivational speakers from the community or the state each year to inspire MAX Charter School students to higher levels of achievement;
- By continuing to conduct annual parent satisfaction surveys of present MAX students;
- By maintaining contact with parents of former MAX students and by conducting parent surveys to assess and/or track their progress once these students leave MAX;
- By continuing to make local media aware of happenings and events at MAX—making this a major activity;
- By updating the MAX website www.mymaxcharterschool.org on a monthly basis;
- By enhancing and updating and printing multiple variations of MAX information pamphlets/brochures to appeal to different target audiences;
- By collaborating with the Louisiana Center for Dyslexia at Nicholls State University to provide parent training workshops;
- By establishing an “Alumni Club”;
- By creating an annual career day activity designed to broaden students’ awareness of various occupational opportunities.

Goal Number Seven: Local, Regional, State, National, and International Community Outreach Enhancement - The MAX Charter School will enhance its local, regional, state, national, and international community outreach over the next five years by implementing these measurable objectives:

- By developing collaboration with the National Institutes of Health to further serve as a research site for national and international studies related to brain research;
- By developing partnerships with the LSU School of Medicine's Department of Neurology in medical and health-related studies of learning as it relates to dyslexia and other learning disorders;
- By developing business and industry partnerships that examine training and work environments where persons with learning disorders or difficulties are integrated into the work force and are mentored into appropriate career paths;
- By working with multiple media developers who will create new methods of dissemination to the public;
- By continuing to collaborate with Nicholls State University to further enhance the existing partnership.