



Baldwin Union Free School District

Baldwin UFSD is an award-winning K-12 public school district located in Long Island in Baldwin, New York. It has a total enrollment of approximately 4,500 students and includes two high school sites, one middle school, and five elementary schools. The district has a population comprised of 47.6 % African American students, 32.6% Hispanic, and 10.3% White. 40.21% of its students are identified as low income. Like all Learning 2025 Lighthouse Districts, Baldwin emphasizes the importance of teaching the “whole learner,” including emphasizing students' sense of belonging and safety, efficacy, perceived value for effort and growth, and engagement in work that is relevant and culturally responsive.

Baldwin has articulated its commitment to reinventing the learning experience, creating a future-focused culture, and learning experience for all students. Its vision and mission emphasize its dedication to being a forward thinking, progressive school system that offers a challenging educational program tailored to meet individual learner needs. The learner is to become a co-author of his or her learning journey—and producer of his/her knowledge. As a result, the district has received recognition for its innovative and rigorous academic programs, multiple cross-institutional partnerships, redesigned and personalized classrooms, and pride in helping all learners become college-, career-, and life-ready.

Structural changes enacted by Baldwin UFSD to achieve its long-range goals include extensive school-to-career programs, Academic Academies, community college partnerships, multiple AP courses, Dual Enrollment courses, as well as nationally recognized Arts and Athletics programs. The district's Action Plan highlights include the following: (1) Participation of all students in high school Algebra for All program for learners starting in the eighth grade; (2) academies that promote and align rigorous college level classes with shadow days and internships and extracurricular competitions; (3) high school seniors finishing out their high school career as full-time college freshman on the college campus; (4) Replacing Global Studies 1 Honors (a ninth grade course) with AP Human Geography (with approximately 60% of freshmen taking the new AP offering) and (5) college-level media/information literacy course for all students.

The results of these various initiatives, programs, and structural modifications include an increase in the number of Advanced Placement courses and exams taken by students and an increase in the percentage of Advanced Regents Diplomas earned. In addition, the Baldwin Senior High School had a remarkable 98% graduation rate in June 2021 with no gaps in graduation rates among various subgroups (other than learners with severe disabilities).

Like all Learning 2025 Lighthouse Districts, Baldwin UFSD is committed to an organizational culture that is future-driven. Its vision, mission, and strategic plan emphasize that we need to prepare learners to think critically, collaborate, communicate clearly, predict problems, and be prepared to be civically engaged. The district has embarked on a journey to reinvent the learning experience for all students, creating a future-focused culture and learning experience within the system and its schools. As part of this commitment, the district has partnered with the Successful Practices Network (SPN) to work with a

group of thought leaders comprised of leadership, faculty, staff, and parents of each school. SPN is dedicated to ensuring that all learners and staff are future literate and future focused with a shared vision and action plan.

Identified cornerstones of the district's action plan include a vision (i.e., In 2035, each Baldwin school will be a community center and incubator of learning in which educators design, engineer, and facilitate learning experiences and each learner is a producer, explorer, collaborator, and innovator) and clearly articulated cornerstones (i.e., develop foundational knowledge and skills; relationships, citizenship, and collaboration; community partners and real-world experience; wellness and social-emotional health; and problem solving and entrepreneurship). Finally, Baldwin has implemented a unique and transformational professional learning opportunity called the Educator Residency Program (ERP). The ERP will allow educators to be placed on special assignment for up to two years to focus on redefining the educational experience and exploring effective and innovative pedagogical practices.