



Linton-Stockton Schools

The Linton-Stockton School Corporation (LSSC) is located in Linton, Indiana. Its district logo emphasizes “Experience Tradition, Embrace Opportunity.” This aphorism emphasizes the system’s commitment to sustaining students’ sense of being a part of the overall Linton Stockton community while preparing themselves fully for the future. Highlights of the district include its extensive technology-infused classrooms designed to inspire and engage all learners; a proven instructional framework using the principles of rigor, relevance, and relationship; unique staffing with teaching staff averaging 15.6 years of experience; and extensive community partnerships that support all students and schools.

In the fall of 2018, LSSC embarked on a transformational journey from traditional K-12 education to becoming a Future Forward District intentionally designed to meet the needs of all learners. Set in rural Greene County in southwestern Indiana, this Lighthouse System serves 1,400 children and youth ages three through 19. A team-focused approach to decision-making and problem solving consistently asks such questions as “What if?” and “How do we get to YES?” Supporting creative thinking and innovative practices involves a systemic process of overcoming roadblocks such as funding, staffing, and negativity. LSSC’s transformation process began with an in-depth look at current instructional practices, resulting in the introduction of the Rigor Relevance and Relationships Framework (RRR) from the International Center for Leadership in Education. The process involves sustained professional development and reinforcing the critical importance of experience-based, hands-on learning. The RRR Framework has also helped district staff to evaluate its language arts and mathematics curriculum, with a commitment to new resources to reinforce relevance and rigor.

This Learning 2025 Lighthouse System also recognizes the need to provide essential skills that students require for success in the world of work. In addition to core academic skills, the district has revised its graduate profile to integrate work-ready competencies (i.e., skills, knowledge, and dispositions) that are being embedded in all school cultures and classrooms. The district uses community surveys and outreach sessions to employers to elicit sustained feedback. Six key competencies now comprise the LSSC Graduate Profile: i.e., graduates will be adaptable, collaborative, confident, creative thinkers, effective communicators, and responsible. The impact of the new Graduate Profile has been extensive, including modifying traditional practices in Parent/Teacher Conferences (which now include updates on student progress relative to identified workplace skills) as well as career development practices integrated into the curriculum and instructional process. Currently, students in grades 5, 8, and 11 choose exit projects for these transition grades.

A noteworthy component is the district’s commitment to monitoring the LSSC Graduate Profile and related performance data. The development of an accountability system emphasizes data that are concise, user friendly, and relevant to parents, teachers, and students. Learners are assessed using a rubric to highlight their competency proficiency levels, including Emerging, Developing, Approaching, and Proficient. A range of data analysis and presentation tools accompanies this process, including a Graduate Profile Progress Report and Competency Survey. LSSC’s commitment to students’ future

readiness also includes its participation in a Ready Schools Grant (through the Regional Opportunities Initiative, Inc.). Linton-Stockton was one of three districts selected, with projected plans for such program innovations as a Pre-K-12 Project Lead the Way curriculum, Pre-K-12 Career Exploration, Reimagined Learning Environments, Graduate Profile Exit Projects, and continual professional development.

Highlights of LSSC's progress include a range of innovative and high-impact programs, including: a Collaborative Internship Program; College Fairs, Career Fairs, and Enlistment Fairs; Lunch & Learn sessions for students to meet with business leaders and employers; a Business Spotlight to promote career connections; a Dress for Success initiative (with business clothing donated by community members); a Connection Board highlighting student job opportunities; Readiness Day; Work One Partnerships; Coach and Career Collaboration; Elementary Career Connection; and Reimagined Learning Environments (e.g., Connection Centers, FLEX Labs, and Fabrication Labs).