

**Life School**

**Life School Lancaster**

**2023-2024 Campus Improvement Plan**



# Mission Statement

The mission of Life School is to develop leaders with life skills through strong academics, character training, and partnerships with parents and the community.

## Vision

*Every student is Ready to Learn, Ready to Lead, and Ready for Life.*

## Values

Build Trust

Value People

Continuous Improvement

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# Comprehensive Needs Assessment

## Close the Opportunity Gap - Elementary

### Close the Opportunity Gap - Elementary Summary

Reading on grade level by the end of 3rd grade has been shown to be a predictor of improved learning and life outcomes. Reading on grade level is essential for closing the opportunity gap for our students. At this age students are transitioning from learning to read to reading to learn and we need our students to be ready for their required course content. Many students have gaps in their learning as we serve majority socio-economic disadvantaged students, but also students are still recovering from post-covid learning or lack of learning which negatively impacts students' achievement in all areas, and it requires more intensive interventions as well as teacher training.

### Close the Opportunity Gap - Elementary Strengths

- Curriculum is being utilized & implemented
- District provided scope and sequence
- Resources provided that support instruction
- Flex days
- Implementation of TEKS
- DRA and Running Records K-4
- Instructional PLCs & collaboration
- Quality teachers

### Problem Statements Identifying Close the Opportunity Gap - Elementary Needs

**Problem Statement 1:** Students are not consistently receiving quality instruction that is explicit and systematic with proper progression and repetition. **Root Cause:** The curriculum and instruction is not aligned to the latest brain-based research which emphasizes the need for explicit instruction and to have multiple opportunities to practice skills learned.

**Problem Statement 2:** As of August 2022, state data shows students are growing but still have many gaps. Based on 21-22 STAAR scores, achievement was 65 campus overall. GROWTH - campus overall is 88. Campus overall rated 84, "B". **Root Cause:** Targeted professional development and instructional coaching is needed for teachers to increase their instructional capacity.

**Problem Statement 3:** Students in K-2 are not reading on grade level by 3rd grade. **Root Cause:** The district curriculum does not provide enough repetition and practice in reading and math. Materials and resources for practice are not available or not specific to reading curriculum or phonics.

**Problem Statement 4:** Teachers in K-2 do not consistently collect and analyze student work to accurately determine skills using standards based grading (SBGs). **Root Cause:** The district and campus has not created a system for training, modeling, and follow up for teachers to use standards based grading effectively.

# Employer of Choice

## Employer of Choice Summary

Everything stops at the door-teacher will or skill are the key influencer in success. Our staff has the greatest influence on improving student outcomes. We cannot be successful without quality staff. An excellent employee experience will increase our retention, assist our recruiting efforts, and increase our student academic achievement.

## Employer of Choice Strengths

Accessibility of admin/support

Coaching/training support

Structured math curriculum

Coworker relationships

Common mission and vision

Ability to have a voice for curriculum/planning

Culture and climate - happy to come to work each day

## Problem Statements Identifying Employer of Choice Needs

**Problem Statement 1:** Paraprofessionals do not have differentiated training or growth opportunities. **Root Cause:** The district or campus does not have a leader/coordinator focused on hourly staff growth.

**Problem Statement 2:** Teachers and staff do not have enough collaboration opportunities to build strong relationships outside of their grade level/hallway. **Root Cause:** Staff development days are taken for C&I and not all staff are together for much time which inhibits the ability to have team building activities. Also, most staff do not attend after school collaborative activities.

# School of Choice

## School of Choice Summary

Families and their students have a variety of available education options. Life School aims to meet the needs of families and students by providing a great educational opportunity, preparing students, parents and stakeholders for Life through the intentional focus on Life Leader attributes, exceptional customer service and SAFE and clean buildings and classrooms for students and staff to reach their full potential. Providing excellent customer experiences create a positive culture and working/learning environments which will improve student retention and increase our desirability as an educational solution for families. By executing these qualities, student retention, as well as the waitlist, will increase allowing opportunities to serve new families as spaces become available.

## School of Choice Strengths

Marketing efforts (billboards, exposure)

Character development/leadership focus

Customer service/family feel

Provide students with a different environment and interactions than traditional ISDs or even other charters

Talented teachers who focus on the whole child and creative instruction

## Problem Statements Identifying School of Choice Needs

**Problem Statement 1:** The campus has minimal instructional time to devote to college and career investigation. **Root Cause:** The district does not provide room in the curriculum for in-depth focus on college and career in elementary.

# LifeLeader

## LifeLeader Summary

We believe that emphasizing character development for our staff, students and parents will improve student outcomes. Soft skills are important in the ever-changing labor market. The Life Leader Profile includes 15 attributes that represent skills and knowledge necessary to be Ready to Learn, Ready to Lead and Ready for Life.

## LifeLeader Strengths

Positive Referrals based on Life Leader

Staff Shout outs based on Life Leader

Bulletin Boards

Bear Bucks

Emotional support for students, parents, and teachers. Students - meeting about behavior. We understand that the behavior is more than just that but related to trauma. We work to get them through it.

Teachers, parents - there is an ability to lean on admin. Parents can lean in to teachers and they will help with this thing we call life.

ARD's- reminding of Life Leader attributes in tough situations.

Ease of implementation and integration.

Life Habits Pilot Classroom.

Staff Houses based on strengths. Used consistently throughout the year.

Monthly potlucks develop community.

## Problem Statements Identifying LifeLeader Needs

**Problem Statement 1:** Teachers and staff lack the knowledge for how to manage student behaviors and emotions. **Root Cause:** Teachers and staff have not received adequate follow up on how to incorporate Life Leader into our everyday interactions. Teachers and staff have not received social-emotional (SEB) or LifeHabits training.



# Growth and Development

## Growth and Development Summary

Life School believes in valuing and investing in people. Continual growth and development improves engagement, satisfaction, retention and outcomes. It is important as an organization that we are committed to developing ourselves and others.

## Growth and Development Strengths

Willingness and openness to new ideas about social and emotional situations.

Having the programs we have is the strength.

Positive culture

Trying to reach community

Focus is on grow and development of students

## Problem Statements Identifying Growth and Development Needs

**Problem Statement 1:** Staff and students do not have strong conflict resolution skills. **Root Cause:** Conflict resolution skills are not intentionally taught; many do not know appropriate ways to vocalize their feelings and/or assume positive intent.

# Parent Engagement

## Parent Engagement Summary

Life School believes that the parent is the primary educator of a child. We invite and encourage parents to participate in the education of their child. Parent engagement improves student outcomes, increases student retention, and enhances word-of-mouth marketing. Parents are Life School's greatest advocate in both the education of their child and at the state level.

## Parent Engagement Strengths

- Communication
- Donations
- Parent involvement
- Volunteers
- Family nights

## Problem Statements Identifying Parent Engagement Needs

**Problem Statement 1:** The campus lacks a reliable group of parent volunteers to engage opportunities within the classroom. **Root Cause:** Parents have full time jobs and cannot come to campus consistently

# Community Engagement

## Community Engagement Summary

Life School believes in making a positive impact in the community. We seek to bring value to the communities we serve. Engaging community provides benefits to individual community members and to our students and our fund development projects. Engaged community members become supporters, volunteers, and mentors. Core Belief: We are a complement to what is happening in the community. We should influence others by sharing operational best practices. We should collaborate with all school models to benefit students within and outside of our system. A high tide raises all boats. We believe in helping others become the best they can be. Community engagement activities are aligned to the Life School mission and goals.

## Community Engagement Strengths

- Community involvement with Pringles for Soldiers drive
- LifeSkills career fair
- College and Career Week guest speakers
- Veteran's Day guest speakers

## Problem Statements Identifying Community Engagement Needs

**Problem Statement 1:** Life School Lancaster has a lack of connection with community partners within the city Lancaster. **Root Cause:** Life school Lancaster does not have access to affordable transportation to bring students into the community to serve.

# Priority Problem Statements