

Plattsmouth Community Schools



Middle to High School Transition Plan

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*Working in partnership to ensure **A**cademic achievement, responsible **B**ehavior and **C**areer readiness in a Safe environment.*

Transitions into formal schooling and between programs are significant milestones for students and their families and are often accompanied by a range of emotions. Successful transitions require intentional planning and preparation. At Plattsmouth Community Schools, transition planning is a systematic and integral component of the district's continuous improvement process. All transition plans are aligned to AQuESTT and meet ESSA requirements. Each program's transition plan is developed through thoughtful collaboration with administration and relevant staff, as appropriate. The professionalism and expertise of each program are recognized and respected throughout the transition process.

Management of Transition Practices

Audience: 8th to 9th Grade Students

Transition Team

- **Middle School:** Principal, Assistant Principal, Social Worker, Data Coordinator/Student Support, Special Education 8th Grade Teacher
- **High School:** Principal, Assistant Principal, Social Worker, Counselor, Special Education 9th Grade Teacher

Transition Plan

The original transition plan was developed in **April 2018** and is reviewed **annually each** December. Teachers, administration, and district teams use data to reflect on the effectiveness of transition strategies and guide continuous improvement. Surveys are administered to students and parents to provide feedback on the success of strategies. Additionally:

- An 8th Grade Informational Night is held in the spring
- A 9th Grade Informational Night is held in the fall for incoming students

Data Collection

Data is systematically collected to monitor student adjustment and support effectiveness.

Event Feedback:

- Exit surveys from informational nights
Parent sign-in sheets at events
- Teacher feedback collected via Google Sheets

Student Success Data:

- **Discipline data** (fall) – collected by assistant principals
- **Social-emotional data** (fall) – collected by 9th grade school social workers
- **Academic data** (fall) – collected by 9th grade teachers

Transition Components

Students New to the District

- New families receive welcome folders containing documents, forms, handbooks, curriculum guides, and community information
- New students have access to a student ambassador and counselor

School-to-Community Connections

- District social workers provide information to families
- PHS gathers input from agencies regarding high school-eligible students
- Registration advertisements are posted on the district website, CassGram, and social media
- Materials are shared with local agencies to promote high school programs

Student-to-School

Information Exchange:

- Parents receive registration dates and times
- Handbooks are available on the district website
- 8th graders are invited to spring transition informational night and CTE tours
- 9th grade parents are invited to a fall orientation highlighting the wall-to-wall career education program
- High school counselors visit middle school to discuss scheduling and career education opportunities
- Special programs (ROTC, Fine Arts, etc.) visit PCMS for recruitment

Orientation to School:

- 8th graders tour PHS and participate in a student panel during informational night
- 9th graders attend a dedicated orientation day at the start of the school year
- Middle school band and choir members perform with high school groups in spring

- Families are always welcome, and new students receive tours during registration
- Back-to-School Night is held in August

Peer Relationships:

- Academy Core Leadership Team meets with 8th graders to discuss academies
 - Leadership team members (10th–12th graders) support 9th grade orientation
 - High school students collaborate with middle school band, choir, and afterschool programs
- 9th grade students observe academy classes and participate in career-related team-building events

Teacher Relationships:

- 9th grade teachers email advisories to students before school starts
 - Teachers meet with 9th graders during orientation
- Daily advisories focus on relationship building and student success
Teachers organize events to build school spirit and positive student connections

Family-to-School

Communication:

- Principals and staff communicate with future parents via Facebook and Twitter
- Parent Handbook and Addendum provide essential information
- Parents have access to district and building websites, curriculum, and resources

Information & Support:

- Relevant data is collected during registration
- School social workers support families in need and coordinate between middle and high school
- Senior officers provide registration support during parent/teacher conferences

Networking:

- Parents are invited to participate in booster clubs, Fine Arts associations, and other school events

School-to-School Collaboration

Joint Professional Development:

- PCMS and PHS teachers participate in all district professional development opportunities
- Curriculum work at the district level includes representatives from both buildings

Intentional Sharing:

- Teachers have access to current and historical student data
- PHS and PCMS staff share expectations and instructional practices

Curriculum Alignment and Awareness:

- Both schools use common curriculum materials
- New teachers receive training on state standards, district initiatives, and K–12 procedures
- Teachers develop aligned curriculum maps, program missions, visions, beliefs, and guidelines reflected in the Program Guide

Student Data:

- Teachers access current and historical data to support placement in math and reading classes
- Both buildings maintain individual data folders, with assessment and report card information available through Infinite Campus

Student Readiness:

- The district MTSS process ensures students are ready for 9th grade
- School social workers discuss needs and organize support groups when emotional readiness is a concern, guided by relevant data