

READY FOR LIFE

Our Promise to Every Child

A Message from the Superintendent

Every child begins school with unlimited potential.

Each student who walks through our doors brings unique gifts, dreams, challenges, and possibilities. Our responsibility is not simply to educate students for the next test, the next grade level, or even graduation. Our responsibility is to prepare them for life.

That belief became the foundation for this work.

When we began developing a new strategic plan for Todd County Schools, we intentionally started with a different question than many organizations ask. Rather than asking, "What should our district accomplish over the next five years?" we first asked:

Who do we want our graduates to become?

The answer came not from one person or one committee, but from the collective voices of our community. Students, employees, parents, business leaders, community partners, and local citizens shared their hopes for the future of Todd County Schools. Although their experiences and perspectives were different, a common vision quickly emerged.

Our community wants graduates who are responsible, communicate with confidence, work well with others, solve problems, demonstrate strong character, and leave our schools prepared for whatever future they choose.

From those conversations, our **Ready for Life** Graduate Profile was born.

Ready for Life defines the knowledge, skills, character, and dispositions we believe every Todd County Schools graduate should develop from preschool through graduation. It represents far more than academic achievement.

"It reflects our shared belief that success is measured not only by what students know, but by who they become."

Once we established that destination, a second question naturally followed.

How will we help every student get there?

The answer became our five **Strategic Commitments: Learning, People, Culture, Partnerships, and Stewardship**. Together, these commitments represent the promises we make every day to our students, families, employees, and community.

One defines who we hope our graduates become. The other defines how we will help them get there.

This work is not about creating another initiative. It is about creating greater clarity. Great schools have always prepared students for life; Ready for Life gives us a common language and shared vision.

Preparing students for life is not the work of schools alone. It belongs to every adult who invests in the next generation.

They will experience it in the relationships they build, the opportunities they receive, the expectations we set, the encouragement they hear, the challenges they overcome, and the adults who believe in them every single day.

“Todd County Schools was a wonderful place to grow and learn.”

That is our vision.

That is our commitment.

That is our promise to every child.

Every student *known*.

Every student *challenged*.

Every student *prepared*.

READY FOR LIFE

Teaching. Caring. Serving.

Jessica Addison
Superintendent
Todd County Schools



TODD COUNTY *Ready* FOR LIFE

At **Todd County School District**, we believe student success means more than academic achievement alone. From preschool through graduation, students intentionally develop the knowledge, skills, character, and habits needed to succeed in college, careers, relationships, and life.

The **Ready for Life** Competencies represent the competencies every graduate will continuously build and ultimately demonstrate at mastery upon graduation.

THE FIVE READY FOR LIFE COMPETENCIES

1

RESPONSIBLE CONTRIBUTOR



Students demonstrate work ethic, accountability, perseverance, resilience, and independence.

2

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR



Students communicate clearly, confidently, respectfully, and professionally in speaking, writing, listening, and digital communication.

3

RESPECTFUL CITIZEN



Students demonstrate integrity, empathy, teamwork, leadership, and positive participation in their community.

4

CRITICAL THINKER



Students think critically, solve problems creatively, evaluate information responsibly, and adapt to challenges and change.

5

FUTURE READY



Students develop financial literacy, employability skills, life skills, and readiness for future education and careers.

1. RESPONSIBLE CONTRIBUTOR

INCLUDES

- Work ethic
- Personal Accountability
- Independence/ Self-Starter
- Time management
- Perseverance
- Grit
- Initiative
- Resilience
- Learning from failure

2. EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR

INCLUDES

- Verbal communication
- Writing
- Listening
- Public speaking
- Interview skills
- Professional communication
- Digital communication

3. RESPECTFUL CITIZEN

INCLUDES

- Respect
- Integrity
- Kindness
- Empathy
- Teamwork
- Leadership
- Citizenship
- Community involvement
- Working with diverse perspectives

4. CRITICAL THINKER

INCLUDES

- Problem solving
- Critical thinking
- Creativity
- Information literacy
- Research skills
- Technology use
- Digital literacy
- AI responsibility
- Adaptability

5. FUTURE READY

INCLUDES

- Personal finance
- Employability skills
- Resume/interview skills
- Postsecondary readiness
- Life skills
- Household management
- Workplace professionalism
- Prepared for college, careers, military, and life

KNOWLEDGE. CHARACTER. SKILLS. OPPORTUNITY.

TEACHING.

CARING.

SERVING.

#ReadyforLife



TODD COUNTY SCHOOLS

TEACHING. CARING. SERVING.

★ *Our Promise* ★

EVERY STUDENT KNOWN.

EVERY STUDENT CHALLENGED.

EVERY STUDENT PREPARED.

1



LEARNING

We provide challenging, high-quality learning experiences that inspire curiosity, build knowledge and skills, and prepare every student for success in college, careers, and life.

WE WILL...

- Provide rigorous, engaging instruction for every student.
- Personalize learning to meet individual needs.
- Expand career, technical, and postsecondary opportunities.
- Promote achievement, growth, and continuous improvement.
- Ensure every student is prepared for their next step.

2



PEOPLE

We recruit, develop, and retain exceptional employees and empower them to grow, collaborate, and make a lasting impact on students.

WE WILL...

- Recruit and retain exceptional, diverse employees.
- Invest in professional growth and leadership development.
- Foster a supportive, collaborative, and respectful culture.
- Recognize and celebrate employee contributions.
- Prioritize employee well-being and engagement.

3



CULTURE

We create learning environments where every student and staff member feels safe, valued, connected, and empowered to be their best.

WE WILL...

- Promote positive behavior, character, and accountability.
- Support student well-being and social-emotional health.
- Ensure safe, secure, and inclusive learning environments.
- Build strong relationships and a sense of belonging.
- Celebrate student success and school pride.

4



PARTNERSHIPS

We strengthen partnerships with families, businesses, and community organizations to expand opportunities and support the success of every student.

WE WILL...

- Communicate openly and build trust with our community.
- Engage families as partners in education.
- Expand community partnerships and real-world opportunities.
- Connect students with mentors, internships, and service.
- Celebrate and promote community involvement.

5



STEWARDSHIP

We responsibly manage resources, maintain safe and efficient facilities, and plan for the future to honor the trust placed in us by our community.

WE WILL...

- Maintain safe, modern, and effective learning environments.
- Prioritize safety, security, and emergency preparedness.
- Steward resources wisely and transparently.
- Plan for long-term sustainability and future needs.
- Earn and maintain the confidence of our community.



READY *for* LIFE

TODD COUNTY GRADUATE PROFILE

Our graduates leave Todd County Schools with the knowledge, skills, and character to thrive in college, careers, military service, and life—making a positive difference in the world.



RESPONSIBLE CONTRIBUTOR

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR

RESPECTFUL CITIZEN

CRITICAL THINKER

FUTURE READY

TEACHING. CARING. SERVING.

EVERY STUDENT. EVERY DAY. EVERY OPPORTUNITY.