



2018 Legislative Priorities

THE FOLLOWING REPRESENT THE CLAY COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD'S PRIORITIES FOR 2018:

Many districts throughout the country now offer schools with specialized programs to serve the special interests of students within their community. These schools focus on a unique approach to academics, specific career pathways, the arts or many other themes appealing to different student interests and goals. Therefore, Clay County District Schools will seek to offer Choice Programming within the public education setting in order to attract, retain, and recruit students. The proposed areas of school choice, along with support from local legislators, will drive the vision and implementation of providing robust programming in Clay County.

- Provide Junior High School students the option to pursue a more rigorous and ambitious curriculum through Pre-AICE Accelerated Programs. AICE is internationally recognized as a university-level qualification and is committed to a flexible curriculum with global acceptance while maintaining the academic rigor that is a keystone of Cambridge.
- Provide Performing and Visual Arts Choice School for Clay County students. Clay County will offer a curriculum that combines rigorous academics with experiential learning, allowing students to deepen and demonstrate skill-sets through visual and performing arts. Clay County Visual and Performing arts will offer communication arts, dance, theatre, music, band, and visual design.
- Offer Pre-Early College in select Junior High Schools to afford students the opportunity to earn up to four high school credits along with college credits. The program is designed for mature, highly motivated students. The Pre-Early College path can lead to High School Early College Programs or other acceleration options such as AICE, IB and AP.
- Provide high School students with the option of attending Firefighter/EMS Academy. This pathway will provide students the opportunity to learn about a career in the Fire Service while focusing on leadership development, preparing students with skills, including but not limited to fire behavior, first responder model, personal protective equipment, use of ropes, tools and equipment, use of fire streams, fundamentals of extinguishment and rescue procedures in partnership with Clay County Fire Department.
- Offer Middle Years IB program in select Junior High Schools. The Middle Years Programme aims to develop active learners and internationally minded young people who can empathize with others and pursue lives of purpose and meaning. MYP programme empowers students to inquire into a wide range of issues and ideas of significance locally, nationally and globally.
- Develop a Montessori Program in select Elementary Schools. Clay families are looking for alternatives to the traditional classroom setting and expectations. Montessori education recognizes that children learn in different ways, and accommodates all learning styles. Montessori is a method of education that is based on self-directed activity, hands-on learning and collaborative play. In Montessori classrooms, children make creative choices in their learning, while the classroom and the teacher offer age-appropriate activities to guide the process.
- Expand STEM education to STEAM in Elementary and Secondary Schools. STEAM is a movement championed to add Art Design to Science Technology, Engineering, and Math with the intent to transform research policy and influence innovative problem solving. By adding Art Design, STEAM is an educational approach to learning that guides student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking, which fosters an end result for students to take thoughtful risks, engage in experiential learning, persist in problem solving, embrace collaboration, and work through the creative process.
- Provide transportation to all Choice Programs in order to create equity and access for all Clay County students.