

Mayoral Committee on Designing Franklin's Education for the 21st Century

Vision

To prepare all students to become responsible, caring and involved adults and community partners.

Mission

To offer the opportunity to every student to develop their innate talents and desires through a structured, supported school curriculum that addresses individual differences and promotes the development of caring adults able to function successfully in the work environment of today and in the future.

Purpose

The purpose of the committee is to study and provide suggestions on ways to restructure Franklin's primary (K-12) education system recognizing that its current system is based on an 18th Century model that has not fully incorporated the societal and technical changes resulting from our progression into the 21st Century.

It will take into consideration that the delivery of a primary education is facing continuing revenue restraints, unfunded mandates, and other financial concerns that local property taxpayers are unable to sustain.

The committee will provide suggestions on how major advancements in technology, consolidation, regional partnering, and other innovative solutions can be combined to reduce the cost of primary education while improving the educational experience of the city's students.

The committee will analyze what programs are missing from the city's education system that will help students adapt to the 21st Century. It will also make recommendations for improvement as well as look at what the district has already done to address budgetary restraints to provide an adequate education to the city's students.

The committee will investigate what other communities are doing to ensure their students are learning skills and achieving academic standards as well as how they are addressing student needs given the limited resources of the district.

The end goal of the committee is to find ways to provide the greatest opportunity for every school student throughout the district/region to be successful while significantly reducing the cost to the district for delivering these opportunities.

The committee recognizes that the end result of a 21st Century education program isn't just about restructuring. More programs may be needed to create a 21st Century Education; others may need to be deleted. However, there are technical skills and graduation requirements that still must be met. The present school day and school year are based on a farming, not an informational economy, and the committee will review the options with input from the community. Options for rebuilding and/or expanding the tax base will be considered as appropriate.

The committee was established on June 4, 2018 and will remain active for one year. It will issue a monthly report to the Franklin City Council to be included in its regularly scheduled meeting as part of the "committee report updates" agenda item. An interim report on committee progress and findings will be delivered semi-annually or when available, per discretion of the chairperson. At least two reports – one after six-months and an annual report – will be required.