Long Branch Public Schools, Monmouth County

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) Lighthouse District Initiative recognizes districts that have demonstrated measurable progress across diverse groups of learners. The NJDOE is proud to welcome the Long Branch Public Schools to the second cohort of Lighthouse Districts.

Long Branch Public Schools serve a diverse group of students, birth-adult, who live in an urban coastal community on the eastern seaboard. The children educated in Monmouth County's largest city are from varied backgrounds and circumstances, most living in extremely modest households with family members who are non-native English speakers. The different qualities and experiences of each child are routinely embraced and celebrated as equity and inclusive practices are part of the school and community's culture.

To assist families with acclimation to the district and community, Long Branch created a welcome center for new families entering the school, community, and country. The district supports families through positive multilingual staff and numerous community resources including free adult language classes and reunification therapy. Business partnerships from career and technical education classes also provide students with industry perspectives and future employment opportunities.

The daily interactions between every person in Long Branch Public Schools describe and define the culture of the district. The minute you walk into a school or classroom in the district, you can observe the distinct character and high expectations held by every person in the building, reflecting a deep community connection beyond course content. Children of Long Branch are directly involved in the shared beliefs, values and actions that shape the school climate, especially when it comes to health, wellness and safety.

To support student social and emotional needs, Long Branch is launching a home-grown, diagnostic social and emotional learning alliance aimed at identifying and addressing every child's insecurities and vulnerabilities, regardless of background or circumstance, to make meaningful change.

Long Branch believes that through innovative practices, the school staff can evoke a future-ready mindset in learners and leaders throughout the district. Conceptualizing creative solutions to deep-rooted societal issues will bring meaning to newly learned content and complement the district's quest to promote advocacy through student voice.

Personalizing a learning path for each child in the district has become an overarching theme for many promising practices in classrooms throughout the district. To provide students with a sense of agency over their own learning, students are provided with opportunities to review their data profile, set goals, and design their educational experience through high interest, standards-based centers and small group instruction. Moreover, all children in the district are afforded access to high quality, research-based interventions.

Just as students make decisions from their own data, the district utilizes a robust data suite. The capabilities of the platform are maximized in the district as teachers and leaders have full access to a data story linked to each child from their inception into the district. School-wide strategic interventions are driven by data and analytics reviewed daily and planning and practice are both rooted in data that it easily accessible and reliable.

Long Branch Public Schools Demographic Information

Grades Served: Pre-K to 12
Number of Schools: 8
Total Enrollment: 5,735
Economically Disadvantaged: 83.1%
Students with Disabilities: 13.5%
English Learners: 23.5%

Ask Long Branch to Share Their Story

1) Project-based learning that enriches the community
2) Social emotional learning
3) Supporting our youngest learners
4) Using multiple measures of data to drive decision-making
5) Virtual Rounds and innovative professional learning

Contact Information

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