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AY26-27 Strategic Plan for Columbus State University's Professional Development Lab School

For the Community, By the Community

Our Vision

Through a collaborative effort, Columbus State University's Professional Development Lab School (PDLS) at Dimon Magnet Academy enriches the community so that every student thrives.

Our Mission

The PDLS serves as a central hub for the community, prioritizing education and wellness.

Together, we create opportunities for every student to thrive while serving, equipping, and empowering the community through research-based practices.

To accomplish this, we will focus on:

Student Engagement & Achievement

Family & Community Engagement

Experiential Learning

Academic Inquiry

Our Beliefs

- ❖ Every student deserves a positive, transformative educational experience.
- ❖ Schools thrive when they are deeply connected to the families and communities they serve.
- ❖ Interactive, authentic learning experiences equip and empower individuals to lead with purpose.
- ❖ Academic inquiry guides our efforts to develop and enact data-informed practices that create a lasting impact in Columbus and the Chattahoochee Valley.

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The four strategic priorities outlined below serve as the framework for achieving the PDLS's vision and mission. Each priority identifies the intended outcomes, measurable goals, and key activities that will guide implementation, monitor progress, and support the long-term growth of the Professional Development Lab School. In AY26-27, the PDLS will prioritize the phased development of school-based health and wellness services through CSU's College of Education and Health Professions, creating a foundation for the future Early Learning, Health, and Wellness Centers.

Priority #1

Student Engagement & Achievement

To ensure every student thrives, we will:

- Provide authentic, engaging, and rigorous learning experiences for all students.
- Increase student achievement in reading and mathematics.
- Support the whole child by promoting social-emotional learning, positive relationships, and healthy coping strategies.

Goals Include:

1. Increase student achievement in literacy by 3% in AY26-27.
2. Increase student achievement in mathematics by 3% in AY26-27.

Activities supporting this priority are:

- Analyze student achievement data in literacy and mathematics to identify students who could benefit from individualized interventions.
- Leverage CSU students to provide instructional support through individualized interventions, deliver high-yield strategy instruction, and progress-monitor evidence of learning.
- Offer after-school tutoring to students who could benefit from individualized interventions in literacy and mathematics.
- Collaborate with CSU's Bo Bartlett Center to facilitate the program, Art Makes You Smart (AMYS), for Dimon's students.
- Offer one-on-one mentorship for Dimon's students.
- Lead an innovative summer enrichment program that provides extended learning opportunities, supports student engagement, and reduces learning loss.
- Implement nursing-led health education and prevention initiatives.

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Priority #2

Family & Community Engagement

To support and enrich students' learning experiences while also empowering families, we will:

- Position family and community engagement as the cornerstone of the PDLs by creating meaningful opportunities for families and community partners (e.g., CSU and CTC) to learn, serve, and grow together.
- Provide opportunities for families to support and serve students and the community.
- Expand partnerships that connect students and families to health, wellness, and preventive care resources.

Goals Include:

1. Increase family participation in Dimon Magnet Academy's Parent-Teacher Association by 15%.
2. Increase family engagement and support in school-related activities by 15%.

Activities supporting this priority are:

- Offer a Back-to-School Bash to welcome students, families, and community members while showcasing the PDLs' programs, services, and community partnerships.
- Collect and analyze families' feedback to help identify assets and opportunities across the community.
- Increase family participation and leadership through Dimon's Parent-Teacher Association and other school-based engagement opportunities.
- Collaborate with Columbus Technical College to continue offering Family Literacy Nights and expand access to adult education, workforce development, and career advancement opportunities for families.
- Partner with CSU's College of Education and Health Professions to provide family-centered health, wellness, and social-emotional learning opportunities that promote healthy lifestyles and overall well-being.
- Host family and community engagement events that connect students and families to educational resources, health and wellness services, community organizations, and enrichment opportunities.

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Priority #3

Experiential Learning

To increase experiential learning opportunities, we will:

- Expand interdisciplinary experiential learning opportunities that connect coursework, service, and community engagement.
- Provide meaningful opportunities for students, faculty, staff, and community partners to collaborate in addressing educational, health, wellness, and workforce development needs.
- Develop future-ready professionals through authentic field-based experiences, mentorship, leadership, and service-learning opportunities.

Goals Include:

1. Increase the number of CSU students participating in field-based experiences, practicum placements, internships, and community-engaged learning opportunities that support the PDLS's goals.
2. Expand interdisciplinary partnerships across CSU and CTC to address community needs while strengthening workforce readiness and professional competencies.

Activities supporting this priority are:

- Collaborate with CSU's academic departments and programs to identify experiential learning opportunities that support the PDLS's priorities.
- Orient CSU's RIVR course faculty and students to the PDLS and connect them with projects that align with coursework while also serving Dimon's staff, students, families, and community.
- Provide leadership and workforce development experiences that strengthen communication, collaboration, problem-solving, and community engagement skills.
- Expand opportunities for CSU students to serve as tutors, mentors, wellness ambassadors, counselors-in-training, health educators, and community engagement leaders.
- Engage CSU and CTC students in outreach initiatives that lend themselves to the Early Learning, Health and Wellness Centers, and workforce development.
- Co-develop and co-facilitate professional learning opportunities that address the needs of Dimon's families and community members.

Priority #4

Academic Inquiry

To develop and enact data-informed decisions and practices, we will:

- Consistently engage in continuous improvement efforts grounded in evidence-based practices.
- Conduct academic inquiry that contributes to student achievement, engagement, health, wellness, and family outcomes.
- Collaborate on research and evaluation efforts that inform decision-making and support long-term sustainability of the PDLs.

Goals Include:

1. Use outcome-level data to inform instructional decisions, targeted interventions, family engagement efforts, and health and wellness initiatives.
2. Generate research-based recommendations and evidence of impact that contribute to continuous improvement and future expansion of the PDLs.

Activities supporting this priority are:

- Apply for grants and external funding opportunities that support the PDLs's strategic priorities, including education, health and wellness, family engagement, and workforce development initiatives.
- Engage in collaborative inquiry projects involving CSU faculty, staff, students, and Dimon personnel to examine the effectiveness of PDLs initiatives.
- Collect, analyze, and monitor outcome-level data related to student achievement, student well-being, family engagement, experiential learning, and community impact.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of tutoring, mentoring, Family Literacy Nights, health and wellness initiatives, and community engagement efforts.
- Disseminate findings through reports, presentations, publications, and stakeholder updates to inform continuous improvement and demonstrate impact.
- Utilize findings to guide the phased development of the PDLs's Early Learning, Health, and Wellness Centers and other future initiatives.



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We invite you to get involved in Columbus State University's Professional Development Lab School at Dimon Magnet Academy! For more information, please email Dr. Pam Wetherington, [Wetherington Pamela@columbustate.edu](mailto:Wetherington.Pamela@columbustate.edu), Director of Education & Community Initiatives, College of Education and Health Professions.

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