

## Academy District 20 – Sustainability Program Plan (SPP)

### Summary

**Background:** The D20 SPP evolved out of specific steps taken in '08/09 to fully implement sustainability in the D20 culture through a cyclical process aimed at continuous improvement and sustainable goals implementation. The document focuses on (i) increasing education and awareness throughout the district, (ii) identifying existing and proposed district policy and guidance, and (iii) institutionalizing sustainability gains in the district culture. It is a roadmap that defines the organizational and operational philosophy, while laying out an action sequence toward sustainable practice.

**Need:** D20 serves +22,000 students in 31 schools with more than one million square feet and 500 acres. Current practice suggests D20 spends \$14/student more than a similar district (D11). If left unchecked the AY13/14 utility cost is expected to be \$4M. **Sustainability**, which is broadly defined as any practice that optimizes the triple bottom line: environmentally sound, socially just, and economically viable, is expected to cut these costs and improve the educational environment for all of D20.

**Existing D20 Policy:** Stated concisely, D20 uses sustainable principles to make healthy, productive, fiscally responsible and environmentally intelligent decisions. Sustainability is incorporated throughout the district decision making framework and instilled in the culture of all students, faculty, and staff.

**Policy Implementation:** The Sustainability Management Plan (SMP) provides guidance and a suggested framework for policy advancement. Documented best practices and recommended strategies include:

#### Existing Practices:

- Energy management efficiency focused (e.g., lighting upgrades, facility scheduling)
- Transportation optimization (e.g., implemented bus idling policy, route optimization)
- Implementing site-specific best practices (e.g., single-stream recycling, eco-clubs)

Implementable strategies to enhance energy management & sustainability structure and culture:

- Incorporate 10-15% energy savings annually (\$200K - \$400K/yr)
- School incentive program – educate teachers that are project champions using school sustainability toolkits with new concepts integrated throughout the curriculum
- Maximize funding sources via 5-year financing plan (e.g., Governor's energy office, rebates, etc.) to include a district energy manager and comprehensive staff training

#### Opportunities and goals:

- Enhanced sustainability leadership
- Increased sustainability training, awareness and recognition
- Enhanced resource conservation
- Improved waste diversion and recycling

Institutionalization of sustainability in culture is a priority to ensure gains are not lost.

## Example of proposed summary

### Academy District 20 – AY13/14 Sustainability program summary

Academy district 20 sustainability policy is designed to (i) increase education and awareness throughout the district, (ii) identify existing and proposed district policy and guidance for improvement, and (iii) institutionalize sustainability gains in the district culture. D20 serves +22,000 students in 31 schools with more than one million square feet on 500 acres. Current practice suggests D20 spends \$14/student more than a similar district (D11). If left unchecked the AY13/14 utility cost is expected to be \$4M. The focus for AY 13/14 sustainability goals, segmented into 4 broad opportunity categories identified in the Sustainability Program Plan are as follows:

1. Enhanced sustainability leadership
  - a. Develop/implement sustainability tools designed to educate schools on their utility use and resource conservation (Goal: 90% of schools publishing utility and resource metrics on-line to enable comparison and encourage accountability)
2. Increased sustainability training, awareness and recognition
  - a. Create and implement a sustainable teacher training program for curriculum support (Goal: Partner w/local higher education institutions to create sustainability focused education modules ready for classroom integration - 3-5 modules each for elementary, junior high and high school curriculum)
3. Enhanced resource conservation
  - a. Reduce utility consumption (Goal: 1.5% reduction in utility consumption for more than 90% of district facilities; plan developed to achieve by AY14/15 in remaining 10%)
4. Improved waste diversion and recycling
  - a. Decrease cafeteria waste stream by enhanced recycling programs (Goal: reduce cafeteria waste products by 10% via staff/student education and partnering with food services contractor).