



Illinois Technology Plan Online

Lyons Township High School District 204 -- 2006-2009 - FY 2006-2009

Section 3: District/School & Community Profile

Characteristics

Lyons Township High School District 204 is a single unit high school district comprised of two campuses. The District is positioned just 15 miles west of Chicago's Loop, roughly bordered by the Salt Creek to the North, the Tri-State Tollway and County Line Road. to the west, the DesPlaines River to the south, and the McCook and the LaGrange village limits to the east. Its boundaries cover approximately twenty-eight square miles and include unincorporated portions of Cook County, the villages of LaGrange, Western Springs, Burr Ridge, Countryside, Hodgkins, Indian Head Park, LaGrange Highlands, LaGrange Park, McCook, and parts of Brookfield and Willow Springs.

Freshmen and sophomore students typically attend their classes at LT's South Campus, located in Western Springs, while just one mile to the north and east in LaGrange, juniors and seniors attend classes in the North Campus facilities. In spite of this two campus system, a cohesive curriculum taught by an experienced faculty, a collaborative school and District leadership, an award-winning co-curricular program, and a rich network of parent and community involvement all contribute to a unified identity expressed often by the phrase "We are LT!"

The community population of about 80,000 includes many residents that are college graduates and work as professionals and in managerial careers. With a long history and rich tradition of excellent education coupled with rich and varied co-curricular offerings, it is not uncommon for LT graduates to remain in or return to the District to raise their own families. Numerous families have multi-generational relationships with LT, quite a few stretching back three and four generations.

For more than 115 years, Lyons Township High School has lived its motto, Vita Plena, the quest for the fulfilling life. At LT, we are committed to making dedicated teaching and meaningful learning our highest priority. We promise to foster the full intellectual, physical, moral and aesthetic growth of each student.

School, Staff & Community Demographics

The racial / ethnic and economic compositions of the communities that make up the Lyons Township High School District vary significantly. From a median family income of \$36,090 in Hodgkins to one of \$129,507 in Burr Ridge, and from a 55.6% / 43.7% ratio of White to Hispanic in Hodgkins to Western Springs' report of 97% White compared to 1.7% Hispanic, the District does provide opportunities for students of quite disparate backgrounds.

The aggregated figures for all of the communities within the District, however, do closely match LT's enrollment. While the District is still predominantly White (85.6%), the Hispanic population has experienced some growth – 9% in 2005 as compared to 7.3% in 2002. In 2005, the African-American and Asian/Pacific and other populations remain relatively unchanged from prior reports at 3.3% and 2% respectively, as compared to 3.2% and 1.9% respectively from 2002. A total enrollment of 3,710 is slightly larger than modest projections from just three years ago.

With an average of 14.1 years of teaching experience, LT's 216 full-time teachers out pace the state average by a half year. The percentage of our faculty with Master's degrees or higher (84.7%) ranks significantly above the state average of 49.1%.

More than 80% of District residents 25 years and older are high school graduates and more than 30% hold degrees. This data points toward the community placing value in education at the high school level and beyond. Corroborating this conclusion, LT's 2005 graduation rate again surpassed the state rate figure, and nearly 91% of those graduating continued their education at either 4-year or 2-year colleges, while an additional 3% pursued some other form of post-secondary education.

Attributes & Challenges of the District/School and Community

LT is a four-year comprehensive high school with a solid economic base and experienced faculty. The District is fortunate to make available more than 100 activities, including academic clubs, communication arts, performing arts,

athletics, leadership and service organization. Twenty-five interscholastic sports, as well as 16 intramural activities and three performing teams are available. A community cable television station and radio station offer unique opportunities, as do its student newspaper, yearbook and literary/art magazine. Each student receives individual and group counseling and is under the guidance of the same class counselor for the entire high school experience. With more than 300 courses offered at five different ability levels, students can maximize their potential while exploring a myriad of career paths and interests.

While LT has a relatively small minority population, showing modest growth, the District values and appreciates its diversity. The school makes every attempt to highlight different cultural perspectives to help prepare students for life and work beyond LT. Outfitting students for continuing education and/or the labor force is a challenge LT embraces. Whether the task is networking our 100+ year-old building with state of the art technology, implementing a school-wide course by course curriculum review, or forming a new community service club, LT adapts and changes to meet the needs of its students and its community.

Fortunately, the District's economic base, both residential and commercial, is strong, as nearly 85% of funding comes from local property taxes (compared to a state average of 57%). LT's draw on state and federal funds is limited to 5.5% of total revenue – a figure significantly below the average of nearly 38% reported by other schools in Illinois. Due to our very low rate of Free/Reduced Lunch-eligible students, eRate funding opportunity is relatively limited (under \$25,000) and used exclusively for basic telecommunication and internet services. The proliferation of TIF (tax increment financing) Districts, which thwart LT's ability to capture property taxes from new businesses, remains a concern. Through the efforts of the entire leadership team and excellent financial stewardship, the District appears positioned to show success, in spite of the any adversities it faces financially.