



Vision

All the Lutheran Schools in the Nebraska District - LCMS will implement the Concordia Curriculum Guide for Lutheran elementary schools, map their curricula in a consistent manner, test the students using a consistent system, and become accredited through National Lutheran School Accreditation.

Purpose

Project Compass will strengthen the ministry and academic programs of the Lutheran schools of the Nebraska District LCMS by:

- Defining and coordinating school curricula to ensure that concepts taught are those consistent with the purposes and goals of the Lutheran schools of the Nebraska District LCMS.
- Providing a tool that will allow schools to clearly articulate their academic programs to parents and to the public at large.
- Allowing elementary schools, junior high schools, and high schools of the Nebraska District - LCMS to align curricula for a more seamless and consistent transition between schools for students graduating or transferring.
- Providing a tool that allows constant evaluation of curriculum effectiveness and appropriateness.
- Providing a system of continual school improvement.
- Creating a marketing tool for Nebraska District LCMS schools.

Implementation

Plan

Project Compass proposes to employ the use of the Concordia Publishing House Curriculum, Atlas Rubicon Curriculum Mapping, National Lutheran School Accreditation, and Northwest Evaluation Association to establish:

- the presence of a Lutheran school curriculum guide.
- a clear map of curriculum.
- an effective method of evaluation and continual school improvement.
- an effective method of evaluating student progress and program effectiveness for each participating school.

Implementation will require a process of introduction, training, and professional development of staff from each participating school.

Curriculum Guide: The CPH Curriculum Guide has been available for several years. Unfortunately, not all district schools have installed it. During Project Compass, the District Office will contact each Lutheran elementary school to determine whether or not they have the guide. Schools unable to afford to install it will be offered assistance to do so until all schools have the guide. Actual cost is dependent on the number of grades offered in a school. Guide sets are currently \$80 per grade for all subjects. The District Office will reimburse schools for 1/2 their cost.

Testing: Northwest Evaluation Association testing has already been implemented in nine District schools. The District Office acts as the fiscal agent for the testing service. Most of the principals in the District have expressed interest in participating in the testing program. Three training events for this service have occurred. Each school will pay their share of the training cost and 100% of the student testing. The cost for testing can be met by replacing the achievement tests the schools now employ. Each training session for the testing is \$2700. Testing costs \$12.50 per student for the basic testing and \$2.50 per student for the science tests.

Accreditation: Schools will be responsible for the cost of accreditation through the National Lutheran School Accreditation program. The NLSA costs are minimal and paid annually once accreditation is achieved. Schools must reapply every five years. The District will pay 1/2 the application fee for new applicants.

Curriculum Mapping: The initial step for implementing the Atlas Rubicon Curriculum Mapping System will require obtaining a commitment to participate from District schools. The commitment included promises to:

- carry the program through to final result.
- provide staff to be trainers and implementers for other schools.
- share the experiences for the purpose of encouraging participation by other District schools.
- share in the cost.

Staff training for curriculum mapping includes the Curriculum Mapping Academy, School Leadership, Core Team Training, School Faculty Training, Advanced Training for School Facilitators, and Atlas System Administrator training provided by Atlas Rubicon, delivered at various times in the District.

The cost for the Atlas Rubicon Curriculum Mapping System for a school with the Nebraska District average of 120 students at \$5.00 per student is \$600 for the first year. The cost of the curriculum mapping system will be divided between grants, participating schools (\$2.00 per student for each school), and private donors.

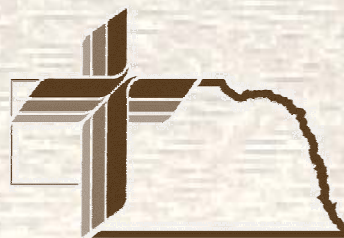
Expected Annual Cost to Schools: Schools fully participating in Project Compass will have an annual cost:

- Concordia Curriculum Guide @ \$325. (\$0 after initially installed)
- NWEA testing @ \$15.00 per student
- Curriculum Mapping @ \$2.00 per student
- Nation Lutheran School Accreditation @ \$350 per school

A school with 120 students will have an annual cost of \$2715 to maintain all services.

Questions: Contact Candi Menze at the District Office.

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**Nebraska
District LCMS**