



# NORTHGATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## Northgate School District recognized as an AASA Lighthouse Demonstration System

The Northgate School District was one of eight school districts in the country recognized by the AASA, The School Superintendents Association as a Fall Lighthouse Demonstration System.

The selected designates are members of AASA's Learning 2025 Network, a cadre of more than 120 demonstration systems representing forward-leaning, urban, suburban and rural school districts engaged in learning, networking and working together to help drive education policy and ultimately improve student learning. Earlier this year, 13 districts were named Lighthouse designates.

The Lighthouse systems are selected by AASA, in partnership with the Successful Practices Network and Battelle for Kids, to serve as models of positive change in public education.

The goal of the network, which was created by the AASA National Commission on Student-Centered, Equity-Focused Education, is to guide Learning 2025 leaders as they chart their progress toward "Lighthouse" designation in one or more areas of growth. The commission called for identification of exemplary educational systems to serve as beacons of light in key areas of holistic redesign of American education.

“The work that our ‘Lighthouse’ systems are doing is an example of providing equity-focused and future-driven change to an educational system to better respond to the needs of the students in their respective areas,” said Daniel A. Domenech, executive director, AASA. “As we emerge from the pandemic, it is critical to invoke positive best practices for the well-being, self-sufficiency and success of our young learners. I congratulate these districts, as well as all of the school districts associated with the Learning 2025 Network.”

The AASA Fall Learning 2025 Lighthouse Systems are:

- **College Community School District, Cedar Rapids, Iowa**  
Superintendent: Douglas Wheeler
- **Collegiate Edu-Nation\*, Roscoe, Texas**  
Executive director: Kim Alexander
- **Fox Chapel Area School District, Pittsburgh, Pa.**  
Superintendent: Mary Catherine Reljac
- **Mehlville School District, St. Louis, Mo.**  
Superintendent: Chris Gaines
- **Mineola Public Schools, Garden City Park, N.Y.**  
Superintendent: Michael Nagler
- **Northgate School District, Pittsburgh, Pa.**  
Superintendent: Caroline Johns
- **San Ramon Valley Unified School District, Danville, Calif.**  
Superintendent: John Malloy
- **Shaler Area School District, Glenshaw, Pa.**  
Superintendent: Sean Aiken

“I firmly believe that the leaders of the districts we’re honoring are the soldiers—the ground troops for democracy,” said Mort Sherman, AASA senior associate executive director and co-chair of the commission. “We hope that by using the word ‘Lighthouse,’ it’s seen not just as a label, but rather an important concept for school districts large and small to learn and grow and take action with each other. This initiative should be viewed as a way to envision the arc of possibilities bestowed on the millions of children we serve across our great country—to provide endless opportunities to reflect on the majesty of the work that is happening right now in our school communities.”

A review panel comprised of independent education leaders from across the country evaluated applications that needed to be submitted by Oct. 31. Districts were reviewed based on strategies and recommendations developed by the commission. Redesign component indicators included:

- Social, Emotional and Cognitive Growth
- Future-ready Learners
- Cognitive Growth Model
- Learners as Co-authors
- Accelerator A1: Diverse Educator Pipeline
- Accelerator A2: Early Learning
- Accelerator A3: Technology-enhanced Learning
- Accelerator A4: Community Alignment

The profile is meant to guide superintendents and their teams as they consider progress toward their growth. AASA will provide feedback on behalf of selected districts’ progress and efforts for system redesign.

