

Ravenswood Promise School Canvass Pilot Report



RAVENSWOOD PROMISE SCHOOL CANVASS

The Ravenswood City School District set out on an 18-month journey in partnership with our community to create the **Ravenswood Promise**, a shared vision of what we want to be true for all of our students.

In April 2024, our schools welcomed families and community leaders for our first-ever **Ravenswood Promise School Canvass**. Together with school and Home Office staff, they visited classrooms to see student learning in action.

Each Canvass team visited about 5 classrooms at each RCSD school to observe how students are currently embodying the Ravenswood Promise learner profile. Afterward, they discussed their experiences with school leaders and identified key insights, highlighting both successes (bright spots) and areas for improvement (opportunities).

The Canvass was not about evaluating teachers or schools. Its findings are one of many data points helping to provide a well-rounded understanding of RCSD student experiences. These insights will help inform key priorities and actions for the **Ravenswood Community Action Plan**, an action plan that will help guide our work toward fulfilling the Ravenswood Promise.



WHAT'S GOING WELL? - OUR BRIGHT SPOTS

The **Ravenswood Promise learner profile** clearly outlines the skills, experiences, and knowledge we want our students to have when they graduate. It is a shared vision that will guide our Action Plan efforts and support the RCSD community to prioritize and agree on what's most important and what changes are needed in our district.

Here are some highlights from the Canvass showing where our students are excelling in meeting the Ravenswood Promise outcomes. Overall, Promise 1, which focuses on student belonging and joy, is a strong theme across all RCSD campuses.

Bright Spots Observed Across Classrooms

Examples and Evidence

Promise 3
I discover and explore with an open mind

- Exploring new experiences and engaging in hands-on learning across subjects.
- Building strong relationships with caring adults like teachers, CSEAs, and parent volunteers.
- Making independent choices with support.

- Student engagement with roly pollies, snails, guinea pigs, chickens, rocks, and more.
- Programs like City Year and parent volunteers are actively present to assist students.
- Students select electives in middle school.

Promise 2
I choose to approach my learning with a growth mindset

- Improving their reading and writing through effective teaching and learning strategies.
- Taking risks with challenges and are comfortable with making mistakes with teacher support.
- Solving challenges and know how to ask for help.

- Students were supporting each other in making sense of the lesson in English and Spanish.
- A student made a mistake during a spelling lesson and was supported with feedback from the teacher.
- A student supported a peer who needed help.

Promise 1
I find joy in who I am and the communities I am part of

- Learning together in English and Spanish, and celebrating their cultures in classrooms.
- Trusting of supportive adults and peers.
- Contributing to friendly learning environments.

- A Spanish-speaking student was celebrated and affirmed for progress during the lesson.
- A teacher was seen as helpful, not an authority.
- A student was helpful in passing out materials to classmates.



WHERE DO WE NEED TO IMPROVE? - OUR OPPORTUNITIES

Through learnings gathered from the canvass and a number of community listening events, we heard a clear **call to action** from our community around:

- o Ensuring our students are **strong readers and writers** so they are prepared for academic success and what comes next
- o **Attracting and retaining great educators** to support student outcomes
- o Making sure our students continue to enjoy **safe and healthy school environments**

We have identified **priorities** that will drive our district's commitment to fulfilling the Promise for each student over the next 18 months. By taking the following actions, we hope to see growth in the identified student characteristics highlighted in orange on the Ravenswood Promise learner profile:

- o Improve literacy initiatives that focus on the **Science of Reading** to ensure all students are reading at grade level by the third grade
- o Increase the **core instructional time** all students are spending reading, writing, and doing math at grade level
- o Enhance our **talent initiative** through continued efforts to find, recruit, grow, and retain the best educators in the region

Ravenswood Promise Learner Profile

El Perfil del Alumno de La Promesa de Ravenswood

I DISCOVER AND EXPLORE WITH AN OPEN MIND

- I engage in a variety of new experiences that may become important passions to me
- I build relationships with people who help me navigate my future
- I am preparing for future challenges and successes in my career, finances, and physical/mental health

DESCUBRO Y EXPLORO CON LA MENTE ABIERTA

- Participo en una variedad de nuevas experiencias que pueden convertirse en pasiones importantes para mí
- Establezco relaciones con personas que me ayudan a navegar mi futuro
- Me preparo para los desafíos y éxitos futuros en mi carrera, finanzas y salud física/mental

I CHOOSE TO APPROACH MY LEARNING WITH A GROWTH MINDSET

- I set and achieve grade-level learning goals in partnership with my family, educators, and peers
- I take on new challenges and learn from my mistakes and feedback
- I communicate confidently and advocate for myself and others

DECIDO APRENDER CON UNA ACTITUD DE CRECIMIENTO

- Establezco y logro metas de aprendizaje para el nivel de grado en colaboración con mi familia, educadores y compañeros
- Assumo nuevos retos y aprendo de mis errores y comentarios
- Me comunico con confianza y puedo abogar por mí mismo y los demás

I FIND JOY IN WHO I AM AND THE COMMUNITIES I AM A PART OF

- I know and celebrate where I come from and who I am
- I trust adults and peers at school to help me
- I contribute to a safe, welcoming, and inclusive school environment where I feel connected

ENCUENTRO ALEGRIA EN QUIEN SOY Y EN LAS COMUNIDADES DE LAS QUE FORMO PARTE

- Conozco y celebro de dónde vengo y quién soy
- Confío en los adultos y compañeros de la escuela para ayudarme
- Contribuyo a crear un entorno escolar seguro, acogedor e inclusivo donde me siento conectado

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR STUDENT FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Here are some ways that you can support your student in preparing for the 2024 - 2025 school year, guided by our commitment to ensuring our students are strong readers and writers and are prepared for academic success:

- This summer, make sure your student spends at least 30 minutes a day reading a grade-appropriate book. You can read with them or discuss the most important ideas they take away each time they read.
- During the first week of the new school year, your student's teacher should reach out to schedule an appointment with you. Here are some questions that you can ask during your meeting:
 - o In what areas is my student at or above grade level, and where are they below grade level?
 - o What standards and skills should my student be focused on growing the most right now?
 - o How can I support in accelerating my student's growth at home?
 - o What did my student's learning look like last year? What areas did they learn and grow a lot in? What areas did they need additional assistance?

WHERE RCSD IS HEADED

Our journey is well underway, and we are making significant progress:

We have started a movement with ~1,000 stakeholders participating in the Ravenswood Promise so far and a coalition of family and community leaders.

We have a clear vision of success in our Ravenswood Promise learner profile, informed by student and community Vision Team sessions, a visit to Lindsay Unified, and deep grassroots engagement across the Ravenswood community.

We are making changes and seeing results across the district, including:

- Most grades have surpassed their literacy growth targets in SY23-24, and most are showing improved math growth compared to this time last year
- Districtwide, chronic absenteeism and suspension rates have fallen
- All schools have adopted Universal Tier 2 Time to support literacy
- Teacher compensation has increased district-wide, improving our recruitment and retention of high-quality staff

We are bringing the Ravenswood Promise to life through a Community Action Plan that embraces the idea that we are stronger together. The plan will highlight key actions for educators, families, students, and community members to take toward the fulfillment of our priorities.