

I. EDUCATION

VISION

Before 2020, Angelina County will have an educational system with high expectations that drives both jobs and incomes through creation of a balanced mix of career, technical and professionally trained citizens.

STRATEGIES

A. K-12

1. **Expect¹ all of our young people to graduate from high school ready to go to work or attend a college or university. Provide remediation immediately at each grade level to ensure that students stay on track. Motivate all students to achieve at the highest level possible.**
2. **Expect parents to be mentors and role models for their children. When parents cannot fulfill this role, community organizations including businesses, civic clubs, faith-based organizations, retirees, higher level students, and others will ensure that every student that needs a mentor will have one.**
3. **Provide career academies² that prepare students for meaningful careers and provide the foundation for the next level of skills training and education. Enlist business/school partnerships that clearly help with the skills required for specific Angelina County job sectors and provide internships, field trips to businesses, apprenticeship programs and other programs.**
4. Increase emphasis on math and science beginning at an early stage.
5. Ensure that our young people graduate with basic life skills.
6. Provide recognition and emphasis for academic achievements that parallel or exceed recognition for sports.

¹ The highest priority strategies resulting from balloting by the Vision Task Force are in bold.

² Career Academies are high-standards themed schools within public high schools. Career academies have significant employer- and higher education- involvement. Research shows that career academies will improve educational outcomes and graduation rates while decreasing absenteeism and discipline problems. Graduates of career academies are much more likely to continue education and secure high wage employment.

7. Expect the community, parents and school boards to support the administration and teachers as they provide the discipline required for a safe learning environment.
8. Recognize the importance of standardized testing for improving educational quality and learn to work within the system while achieving all our educational strategies.
9. Expect parents and churches to teach sex education to teenagers. However, if parents and churches do not fulfill this role, expect sex education to be taught at school.
10. Encourage and enable people with special skills and training to teach in the school system.
11. Ensure continuous improvement, increased productivity and education processes that achieve academic excellence.
12. Provide students entering the ninth grade with resources to determine possible career track(s) and thus influence class schedules.

B. Higher Education

1. **Create a Multi-Institutional Teaching Center in Angelina County that involves UT, Texas A&M, SFASU, and other educational institutions that would offer Bachelor's, Masters, and PhD level curriculum in Angelina County. Distance learning could be a component. A focus should be on opportunities for adults to continue their higher level education.**
2. Increase the number of slots available for nursing students at Angelina College to meet local requirements for these high paying jobs. Provide the incentives required to recruit and retain qualified teachers and expand the clinical facilities.
3. Attract more male students at Angelina College. (currently 64% female, 36% male)

C. Skills training and Life-Long Learning

1. **Increase productivity potential of young people and adults through education and skills training in alignment with employee and market needs. Ensure skills training is available to replace retiring or laid-off workers and provide workers for new businesses that are relocating, expanding, or starting up.**

Employers should help educators and employees understand and respond to skill sets required for advancement.

- 2. Provide training for parents with emphasis on changing attitudes, increasing communications, providing discipline, building character, and ensuring quality family time that will result in stable families and parenting skills. Help parents to understand the competitive nature of the global economic system and the fact that continually increasing educational achievements provide the best opportunities for higher incomes.**
3. Increase the Functional adult literacy rate.

D. Pre-K

- 1. Ensure that every child in Angelina County enters kindergarten with the skills and knowledge needed.**