

The School District of Onalaska

Schools & Community Profile

onalaskaschools.com



OUR MISSION

Working together to ensure high levels of learning for all.

OUR VISION

A model school district in service of students, staff, and community.

HIGHLIGHTS

- District Grades: PK-12
- Enrollment: 2,906
- Operating Budget: \$53M
- Teachers: 246
- Total Staff: 426

The School District of Onalaska is a public school district located in Western Wisconsin and is regionally recognized for providing opportunities to students of all ages to learn, grow, and succeed. Along with being a district of choice as shown by our high percentage of open enrollment compared to neighboring districts, our five schools span just 14-square miles making for one of the geographically smallest districts in the state thus offering an intimate and neighborly experience for all involved. These distinctions, along with many others, contribute to our students' positive post-graduation readiness, staff engagement and retention, and longstanding community support.

Our Schools

- 6 Early Learning Partner Locations
- Eagle Bluff Elementary School (grades PK-5)
- Irving Pertzsch Elementary School (grades PK-5)
- Northern Hills Elementary School (grades PK-5)
- Onalaska Middle School (grades 6-8)
- Onalaska High School (grades 9-12)

Our People

- Student-to-teacher ratio: 11-to-1
- % of teaching staff with Master's Degree: 71%
- Teaching staff average # of years in a classroom: 15
- Teaching staff average # of years working for the district: 10

Our Community

The city of Onalaska has supported every referendum for the School District of Onalaska since February 2006 - helping keep the district and its schools, staff, and programming financially stable. Most recently, taxpayers supported a \$75 million referendum during the 2022 general election which allowed the district to make major renovations, improvements, and additions to our middle and high schools.



Home of the Hilltoppers

PRIDE POINTS

- In 2024-25, our district was rated as a 4 Star District - Exceeds Expectations by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.
- Onalaska High School, Eagle Bluff Elementary, and Northern Hills Elementary are on U.S. News & World Report's "Best Schools" list.
- According to Niche, our district is ranked the #23 out of 367 districts in the state of Wisconsin.
- All three of our Elementary Schools rank in the top 5 of Niche's Best Elementary Schools in La Crosse County.
- Onalaska High School boasts a 99% graduation rate with a 76% college acceptance rate.



Our City

The School District of Onalaska is located in beautiful Western Wisconsin. Nestled between the Coulee Region's bluffs and Lake Onalaska, alongside the Mississippi River and six other rivers that wind their way throughout the region - there is no shortage of beauty or outdoor adventure. Other points of interest include:

- The number one employer is the healthcare industry with two nationally recognized hospitals and clinics.
- Onalaska supports the Omni Center, a facility that includes two large arenas used for banquets, sports, and conferences.
- Within a 2.5-hour drive to Madison, Wisconsin or Minneapolis, Minnesota, we enjoy small-town charm with large city benefits.
- Onalaska is just five miles north of La Crosse, Wisconsin - home to two universities, a municipal airport, a convention center that hosts large events and concerts, and a downtown that has experienced significant growth over the last two decades.

To learn more about the community, visit www.cityofonalaska.com or www.explorelacrosse.com.

District Contact

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onalaskaschools.com/jobs

District Office
237 Second Ave South
Onalaska, WI 54650

Featured Opening: Superintendent

The Board of Education is searching for the next superintendent to lead the School District of Onalaska. Anticipated start date of July 1, 2025. Scan the QR code for more information as well as the application requirements.



Superintendent Search School District of Onalaska Candidate Profile



The School District of Onalaska seeks a visionary educational leader with exceptional communication and collaborative management skills. The ideal candidate will exemplify approachability, integrity, and the ability to unite the school board, staff, families, and community in partnerships that sustain a high-quality school system.

This leader should be an open-minded yet decisive administrator who can inspire others to achieve excellence. In addition to a commitment to continuous growth and an improvement-oriented mindset, the next superintendent is expected to demonstrate the following qualities

LEADERSHIP SKILLS

- Foster growth, well-being, and empowerment within the administrative team, staff, and community.
- Champion innovative approaches to address the diverse learning needs of all students.
- Approach challenges with optimism and a calm demeanor.
- Cultivate a supportive, caring, and inclusive school culture.
- Leverage data, research, and the expertise of others to enhance decision-making, continuous improvement and outcomes.
- Collaborate with stakeholders and include diverse perspectives when gathering input.
- Prioritize building relationships with all employees and understanding their roles in the district.
- Lead with trust, empathy, and integrity, inspiring confidence through genuine connections and valuing the needs of others.

INTERPERSONAL AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS

- Be approachable and highly visible in schools and the community.
- Communicate effectively in public settings, providing clear explanations for decisions and policies.
- Ensure communications are transparent, timely, and consistent.
- Build trust and respect among staff, the school board, families, and community members.
- Use diverse communication methods to engage stakeholders.
- Actively participate in community events and organizations to foster engagement and develop partnerships to enhance opportunities for students.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SKILLS

- Develop and implement innovative strategies for recruiting and retaining top talent.
- Facilitate and manage referendum processes.
- Oversee capital projects and related initiatives.
- Ensure responsible financial stewardship through careful budget planning and resource allocation to meet district goals.
- Develop and implement district-level long range plans related to curriculum, instruction, mental health services and school improvement.

Application Process



Timeline

Application Deadline	February 14, 2025
Review of Applications	February 16, 2025
First Round of Interviews	February 25-26, 2025
Final Round of Interviews	March 6, 2025
Final Selection	March 10, 2025
Start Date	July 1, 2025

Requirements

Candidates must hold or be eligible for a Wisconsin superintendent's license.

How to Apply

The application process can be found on the WASB website: wasb.org

1. Create an account in the Search Services Portal.
2. Complete your profile.
3. Apply to the Onalaska search.

District website: onalaskaschools.com

Application deadline: February 14, 2025

Duties begin: July 1, 2025

Inquiries

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