

An Invitation to Apply for the Position of

Superintendent

Lakeview Community Schools

Columbus, Nebraska



LAKEVIEW
Vikings

Lakeview has a small school environment
with large school opportunities

The Position

The Lakeview Community Schools, Columbus, Nebraska, Board of Education is seeking a highly qualified and fully certified Superintendent. The Board wishes to have the successful candidate assume the responsibilities of the position July 1, 2025.

McPherson & Jacobson L.L.C., Recruitment and Development has been engaged as the consultant in a search for outstanding candidates. They will assist the Board of Education in identifying and screening the candidates.

The Qualifications

The candidate must have the background, skills and abilities essential for excellence in educational leadership. The Board recognizes that selecting the Superintendent is the most important decision it will make. The Board has identified the following desired characteristics:

- A decisive, courageous leader who embodies accountability, fosters team growth, and demonstrates strength and resilience while ensuring transparency and high expectations for all.
- A hands-on leader who takes full ownership of the district's success, engages daily with staff and students, participates actively in school activities, and leads with humility and dedication.
- A community-oriented leader who values living within the district, builds strong relationships, understands rural communities, maintains a visible presence, and inspires confidence through active engagement.
- A skilled communicator with strong social and interpersonal abilities, who demonstrates humility, situational awareness, and a proactive approach to fostering trust and understanding.
- A visionary, growth-oriented leader who thinks creatively, approaches challenges with innovative solutions, and strategically drives progress to meet the district's evolving needs.
- An instructional leader with a strong educational background who prioritizes student opportunities, values all activities, champions excellence in instruction, and exemplifies servant leadership in fostering success for all learners.
- A leader with a strong budgetary background, business acumen, and strategic thinking skills, who is experienced in securing grants and actively engaged in legislative processes to support district goals.

Community

Lakeview Community Schools, located on the north side of Columbus, Nebraska, serves a community of approximately 24,464 residents and offers a small-school atmosphere with big-school opportunities. These opportunities are made possible through strong partnerships with local businesses, community organizations, and educational institutions.

In collaboration with Central Community College, located just a few miles from Lakeview Jr.-Sr. High, students can access over 40 hours of dual-credit coursework, taken either at the high school or on the college campus. Columbus Community Hospital provides critical support with a full-time certified athletic trainer for student activities and a licensed health professional to teach Health Science courses, enabling students to complete a Health Science Career Pathway, including courses like Health Science I, II, III, and CNA certification.



Lakeview also works with local businesses such as Behlen Manufacturing, Truck Center, Platte Valley Equipment, and Habitat for Humanity to provide students with valuable work-based learning experiences. Programs like Drive for Five—offering Mock Interview Day, Reality 101, Vehicle Day, and Banking in Schools—further enhance community ties and prepare students for successful futures.

These partnerships, along with the district's commitment to excellence, ensure that Lakeview students are well-equipped for college, careers, and lifelong success.

The District

Lakeview Community Schools is a public school district serving approximately 1,050 students from suburban and rural Columbus, as well as the nearby communities of Platte Center and Creston. The district comprises three schools: Lakeview Junior-Senior High School, Shell Creek Elementary, and Platte Center Elementary, and welcomes the majority of 9th-grade students from Christ Lutheran and St. John's Lutheran parochial schools.

The district employs 141 staff members, including 5 administrators, 84 certified teachers, and 52 support staff. Over the past several years, Lakeview has undergone significant facility upgrades to accommodate growth. These include a 2009 addition to the Junior-Senior High School for 7th and 8th grades, the initial expansion of Shell Creek Elementary in 2013, and a 2019 bond-funded renovation and addition to the Junior-Senior High School in 2021, and a second expansion to Shell Creek in 2022. Preschool programs were introduced in 2020 at Platte Center Elementary and expanded to Shell Creek Elementary in 2022.

Lakeview offers a wide range of academic and extracurricular opportunities, including Advanced Placement (AP), dual credit, college-level courses, and a robust STEM and agriculture education program. Career education, English as a Second Language (ESL), and migrant education programs further support students' diverse needs. The district consistently demonstrates academic excellence, with NSCAS and ACT scores exceeding state averages.

The assessed valuation for the district is \$1,932,343,183. The operating budget is \$17,543,484.



School district website: www.lakeview.esu7.org

Board of Education

The Board of Education consists of six members who are elected to serve a four-year term. The tenure of the Board members ranges from 4 to 18 years.

Name	Occupation	Years Served
Keith Runge, President	Owner of Columbus Feed & Hatchery/Farmer	18 years
Chad Anderson, Vice-President	Plant Manager at Behlen Manufacturing Co.	6 years
Jerry Jaixen, Secretary	Self-employed/Farmer	12 years
Jeremy Sprunk, Treasurer	Director of Fertilizer at Central Valley Ag.	8 years
Joy Escen, Member	Assistant Director for Children's Ministries at Highland Park Church	2 years
Eric Stuthman, Member	Owner of Shell Valley Insurance/Farmer	4 years

MISSION STATEMENT

“Building a Strong Foundation in Character, Academics, & Mindset ”

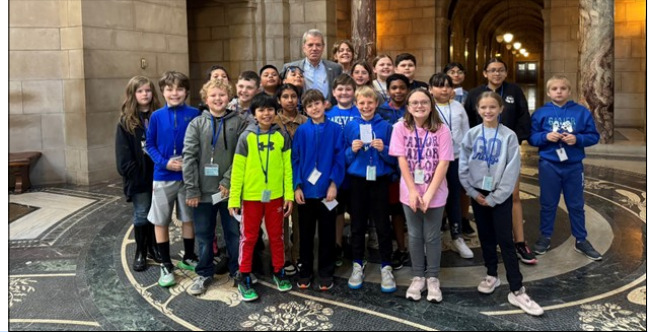
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APPLICATION available at www.macnjake.com



An application for superintendent should include:

- A letter setting forth personal qualifications, experiences and reasons for interest in the position.
- A current résumé.
- A completed application form.
- Reference letters, certificates and licenses, and academic transcripts from colleges/universities indicating degree(s).

Candidates are asked not to directly contact board members. Any effort to do so may eliminate them from consideration. Names of applicants will be held in strict confidence whenever possible; however, McPherson & Jacobson complies with individual states' Freedom of Information laws. In the final process, the school board may visit the district where the candidate is employed, but will not proceed without the knowledge and consent of the candidate.

Selection Time Line

- Closing date for applications: **January 7, 2025 (11:30 p.m. central time)**
- Board of Education selects finalists: **January 20, 2025**
- Interviews with the Board of Education: **January 23, 2025**
- Board meeting to approve new hire: **January 27, 2025**
- Start date: **July 1, 2025**

Lakeview Community Schools, Columbus, Nebraska, is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The district does not discriminate based on race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or disability and, when needed, will provide reasonable accommodations to applicants and employees. Anyone requesting reasonable accommodation in the application or recruitment process please contact McPherson & Jacobson at the address/phone/email above.