

The LAND School

On January 8, 2018 the Eau Claire Area School District Board of Education (BOE) denoted support for the further development of The Little Red Nature Campus (LRNC) proposal which was submitted by Initiative for New Directions in Education (INDE), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to the expansion of public, innovative learning opportunities for the students, teachers and families of our region.

This proposal garnered a great deal of interest from our local community, ECASD teaching staff, families, and the BOE. INDE has spent the 15 months since the BOE's approval answering many questions, analyzing the program deeply and developing a high-quality, equitable, and cost-effective way to deliver a creative, teacher-led, project-based learning track for the secondary students of our district. LRNC has evolved into what we are calling The LAND School (Liberal Arts, Nature, and Design), which includes the best elements of the initial proposal adapted to the specific needs of the ECASD.



What's the Same?

PBL Model: We remain committed to high-fidelity *project-based learning* where a rigorous academic experience is rooted in the liberal arts, nature and design thinking. Our diverse community of students will engage in learning through authentic, collaborative opportunities that foster 21st century skills.

Focus on Secondary: Our partnership with the middle school EauZone team ensures students access to a "PBL track" through graduation and improves access to the charter application process.

Public Charter: We believe the public charter model will allow for a high-fidelity program, accountability, autonomies, and creative community design.

Universal Design for All Students: We are committed to high-fidelity, rigorous and accessible innovative programs designed to be inclusive for *all students* in the district.

Access to \$800,000 Grant for Start Up: The LAND School implementation remains contingent on the successful grant application through the DPI which will neutralize much of the cost of planning and implementation for the school.

Teacher Powered Administration: We will engage a lead teacher with an administrative license in the planning phase who will develop a professional learning community of peers working collaboratively with students to maintain the integrity and accountability of the program.

Partnership with the ECASD: Our knowledgeable group of community advocates has proven success in working with public school administration to usher in innovative learning opportunities within our region.

What's Different?

Name: Due to concerns about the cost of renovating Little Red, we have focused on creating an educational opportunity that could function at any *facility* in the district. This openness to other locations required a change of name. The acronym LAND (Liberal Arts Nature and Design) represents the spirit of **PBL** learning that has been the hallmark of our work on LRNC for the last three years.

Grade Level: The shift from middle to high school allows for the incorporation of the EauZone as part of the **PBL** track at the secondary level. The EauZone will bridge students from elementary school, increasing access and ease of application to the charter high school program. The shift creates a contiguous thread of learning from 6th-12th grade, further preparing students for post-secondary success.

