

Schools Transforming Learning Nomination

Clear Lake High School

Clear Creek Independent School District
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[Clear Lake HS Video Link](#)



Overview & Background

Clear Lake High School serves approximately 2,500 students in grades 9–12, representing a diverse student population. Roughly 32% of students are classified as at-risk, and 10% participate in emerging bilingual/ELL programs. CLHS consistently ranks in the top 10% of public schools in the nation by maintaining strong academic performance and college readiness indicators. At CLHS, we pride ourselves in our focus on success beyond the classroom and our organizational belief that our students' character is the heart of our community, and their commitment to our Core Values drives their academic success. CLHS is a current State and National School of Character.

Focus Area: Article III

Our transformational target was to improve success of the whole student by increasing opportunities for student and teacher voice. This commitment reflects our belief that learning environments should empower students through choice and agency while leveraging teacher expertise. To achieve this, our campus Guiding Coalition developed the Falcon Learning Experience (FLEX) program. FLEX provides students with a daily opportunity to select a class that meets their immediate personal needs or their creative passions, whether academic support, enrichment, or wellness. This initiative fosters engagement, relevance, and ownership of learning.

Article III of the Visioning Document emphasizes learning environments that honor student voice, foster choice, and prepare learners for a dynamic future. FLEX embodies these principles by:

- Offering daily choice for students to pursue academic support or enrichment.
- Elevating teacher voice through collaborative program design.
- Creating a culture of trust and engagement, essential for whole-student success.

By centering voice and choice, FLEX transforms the traditional school experience into one that is responsive, personalized, and future-focused.

The Work

To bring the Falcon Learning Experience (FLEX) to life, CLHS embarked on an intentional campus transformation that required both structural and cultural shifts. The first step was a complete rewrite of the campus master schedule, creating space for a dedicated FLEX period each day. This change was not simply logistical—it required dismantling the deeply embedded tradition of our “Falcon Lunch” (Power Hour) format, a long-standing element of campus culture. Achieving this shift demanded community and organizational buy-in, which we secured through transparent communication and collaborative planning with students, families, and staff. Throughout the process, we consistently shared the student progress measures that supported what students were telling us they needed: more opportunities for academic support, creative enrichment, and social & emotional wellness during the school day. These insights guided the design of FLEX and reinforced its purpose as a student-centered solution. To ensure success, we implemented a user-friendly digital tool for student choice and teacher facilitation, integrated a wide range of daily course/topic options to meet diverse needs, and provided professional learning for teachers so FLEX time would be purposeful and aligned to student goals. This deliberate approach—grounded in

transparency, collaboration, and responsiveness to student data—enabled Clear Lake High School to move beyond tradition and create a learning experience that truly supports the whole student.

Results

The positive impact of FLEX is supported in our key metrics:

Attendance:

- Daily attendance has improved by 1.8% overall.

Academic Performance:

- The average passing percentage has increased from 95.6% to 97.3% by the end of Fall 2025.
- The average GPA has increased by 0.18 points overall.

Discipline Trends:

- Overall discipline has decreased from 607 referrals per semester to 392 since the implementation of FLEX.
- Falcon Feather positive referrals increased from 276 to 1054 in the first year.

Student Voice & Engagement:

- 87% of students report feeling more empowered in their learning choices.
- Teachers report increased engagement and reduced behavioral disruptions during FLEX time.

Conclusion

This school year marks the second year in our continuous cycle of improvement through the FLEX transition process, and while the journey is still in its early stages, the impact is already evident. Although our positively trending student success data cannot yet establish definitive causality, the correlation is unmistakable. The FLEX initiative represents a transformative shift toward student-centered learning, fully aligning with Article III by prioritizing voice, choice, and agency. Through collaborative design and intentional implementation, we have begun to see measurable gains in attendance, academic performance, and behavior. More importantly, this work has cultivated a culture that supports the whole student—empowering learners to take ownership of their educational experience and ensuring that every decision is guided by what students have told us they need through their data. Looking ahead, our long-term goals remain ambitious and clear: achieving 100% CCMR readiness, maintaining a 100% graduation rate, increasing TSAI2 performance, expanding the number of National Merit Finalists, sustaining 95% daily attendance, and creating meaningful enrichment experiences that prepare students for life beyond LAKE.