



# TOMAH AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

129 W. Clifton St.  
Tomah, WI 54660

[www.tomah.k12.wi.us](http://www.tomah.k12.wi.us)

## About the School District

The Tomah Area School District serves a student population of 3,150 in eleven (11) schools that includes seven (7) elementary buildings, a 6-8 middle school, a 9-12 high school, an alternative school and an early childhood center. The district covers a large geographic area and has schools based in several small communities. An experienced seven person school board provides oversight and direction to the school district.

Advanced Placement courses are offered in six areas. Three elementary schools were recently recognized by the DPI as Wisconsin Schools of Promise. A comprehensive staff development program is in place and the district recently completed a strategic planning process. The Tomah Area School District has a legacy of fostering educational leaders and striving for educational excellence while maintaining a strong sense of fiscal responsibility.

An extensive array of extra-curricular and co-curricular opportunities is available to students. The school district is a member of the Mississippi Valley Conference. Technology is readily available in all schools; four distinct software programs have been developed on site and are used in the operations of the school district.

## Statistics

District Grades:	PreK-12
Enrollment	3,150
Administrators	13
Teachers	258
Support Staff	194
Operating Budget	\$31,500,000



## Mission Statement

There are three critical corollary questions:

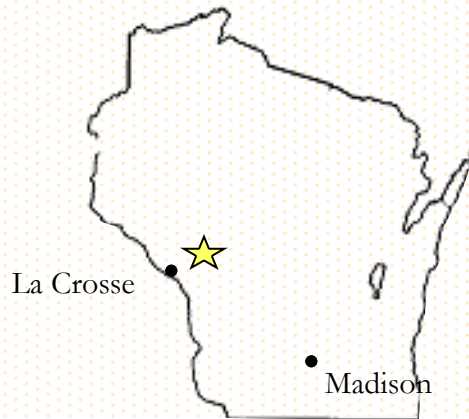
1. What is it we expect students to learn?
2. How will we know when they have learned it?
3. How will we respond when they don't learn it?

# About Tomah

The Tomah Area School District is located where the “I divides (Interstates 90 & 94)” in beautiful west central Wisconsin, approximately 40 miles from La Crosse and 90 miles from Madison. With a population of 15,000 in Tomah and an additional 5,000 in the surrounding communities, the area offers year round recreational activities, a revitalized Lake Tomah, and a new Area Community Theatre focusing on the arts. Several golf courses are located within the district. Tomah Memorial Hospital provides access to excellent medical care.



The area is host to several major entertainment attractions; the Grand National Tractor Pull, the Monroe County Fair, and the Warren’s Cranberry Festival. Community members also value the role of extra-curricular activities. The recent change in the logo/mascot to Timberwolves was accomplished in an atmosphere of mutual respect without the animosity that has surrounded the issue in some communities.



Post secondary educational opportunities are readily available at the campus of Western Technical College. Nearby Fort McCoy and Volk Field add a global perspective to the community, while the presence of the Ho Chunk Nation influences a strong sense of the area’s heritage. The Tomah Veterans Hospital is a major employer and serves as a regional center of medical care for veterans. Tomah boasts of a strong industrial base, which includes a large Wal-Mart Distribution Center, Toro Products and Cardinal Glass.



Photo by Jeff Miller, courtesy UW-Madison University Communications

# Qualifications

The Tomah Area School District Board of Education is seeking an exemplary superintendent to lead a high performing and achievement oriented school district. The district's mission focuses on three corollary questions: What is it we expect students to learn? How will we know when they have learned it? How will we respond when they don't learn it? These questions anchor the district's instructional program and guide all decisions made by the superintendent.

The ideal candidate will possess strong communication skills and have demonstrated his or her abilities in previous positions to interact in positive ways with staff, students, parents and the community. The superintendent must exhibit integrity, inspire trust and demonstrate the courage to make difficult decisions using the criterion of what is best for students. The school board values collaborative decision-making practices and is seeking a person who will lead other members of the administrative staff to maximize their abilities and effectiveness. The new superintendent is expected to provide strong leadership to the school board based on the district's vision, community expectations and current educational trends and research. A strong understanding of school finance, budgeting and planning coupled with the ability to explain these matters to the school community is essential. It is expected that the superintendent will advance and foster positive working relationships with the business community, the Ho-Chunk Nation, military establishments located within and adjacent to the district and with area colleges and universities. The goal of continuous improvement across all areas of the school district's operations is expected based on goals jointly developed with the school board. It is expected that the superintendent will reside within the school district and be highly visible in the schools and throughout the community.

Strong leadership skills and a passion for continuous improvement in all programs are traits desired by the school board. In addition, the superintendent should possess and exhibit the following characteristics and strengths:

**Communications** - Demonstrates abilities to write and speak with clarity in ways understandable to all segments of the school community. Maintains open and honest two-way communications with all persons based on good listening skills and a willingness to consider divergent points of view before reacting to or deciding upon issues of importance to the school district. Uses technology to enhance communications and to reach all members of the school community.

**Instruction** - Displays a comprehensive understanding of current educational issues and strategies aimed at improving opportunities for all students. Demonstrates a keen understanding of student assessment and how it can be used to foster high academic achievement. Knowledge of Wisconsin's WKCE testing program is expected. Exhibits a desire to hold staff accountable for continuous improvement.

**People Skills** – Practices excellent interpersonal skills. Strives to know all staff by name and is visible on a regular basis throughout the school district and in the community. Demonstrates honesty and consistency in all interactions. Exhibits a willingness to make difficult decisions always keeping the best interests of students in the forefront. Represents the school board with integrity in all circumstances, regardless of difficulty.

**Leadership** – Displays an ability to lead people with honesty and integrity. Exhibits the skills necessary to gain consensus on challenging issues. Encourages staff to achieve common goals set by the school board. Demonstrates an ability to provide professional leadership to the school board, staff and administrators. Encourages creative thinking and motivates staff to gain ownership of key district initiatives.

# Application Process

Vacancy Announcements ..... February 19, 2010	Site Visit .....by April 26, 2010
Application Deadline postmarked by March 19, 2010	Final Selection.....by April 28, 2010
Review of Applications.....by March 25, 2010	Announce New Superintendent .....May 3, 2010
First Round of Interviews .....begins April 6, 2010	Position Start ..... July 1, 2010
Final Round of Interviews.....April 22, 2010	

**Requirements** Candidates must hold or be eligible for a Wisconsin Superintendent's license. Prior administrative experience in public education.

A description of the application process and relevant documents can be downloaded from the WASB website at [www.wasb.org](http://www.wasb.org). Additional information about the district can be obtained from the district's website, [www.tomah.k12.wi.us](http://www.tomah.k12.wi.us). Applications must be postmarked by March 19, 2010. Duties will begin on July 1, 2010. Inquires should be directed to:

## **Tomah Area Superintendent Search**

Dennis Richards, Ph.D., Search Services Consultant, [drichards@wasb.org](mailto:drichards@wasb.org)

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