SOUTH PLAINFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2019

South Plainfield Public Schools
Strategic Plan
2014-2019

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Paul Rafalowski, Coordinator of Curriculum

The South Plainfield Public Schools acknowledges the participation of community members, teachers, students, administrators, and board members in the development of the school district's Strategic Plan for 2014-2019. Through the support and energy of these committee members, the district will be prepared to guide South Plainfield's children to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

The following committee members joined the Board of Education and the Central Administration in developing the Strategic Plan:

Approved and Adopted: June 11, 2014

REVISED : MARCH 16, 2017

Strategic Planning Committee

Co-Chair: Dr. Stephen Genco, Superintendent of Schools
Co-Chair: Mrs. Nicole Pormilli, Assistant Superintendent

Deborah Boyle, Board Member
John Farinella, Jr., Board Member
Jim Giannakis, Board Member
Sharon Miller, Board Member
Annemarie Stoeckel, Supervisor of Technology
Paul Rafalowski, Coordinator of Curriculum
Kedra Gamble, Supervisor of English Language Arts and Social Studies
Vincent Parisi, Supervisor of Math and Science
Anu Garrison, High School Teacher
Carlene Allocco, High School Parent
Cody Decker, High School Student
Carol Christatos, Kennedy School Teacher
Colleen Berry, Middle School Parent
Devarshi Mistry, Roosevelt School Parent
Kavita Mistry, Roosevelt School Parent
Ellen Decker-Lorys, Grant School Principal
Erin Farrell, Kennedy School Parent
James Pedersen, High School Principal
Jayla Murcelo, High School Student
Jenn Cassio, Franklin School Parent
Jennifer Currao, Riley School Parent
Kathleen LeBlanc, Middle School Student
Toni Conselina, Middle School Parent
Kathleen Zoda, Middle School Teacher
Kevin Hajduk, Middle School Principal
Leo Whalen, Riley School Principal
Lisa Parker, Kennedy School Principal
Susan Aleksandrowicz, Grant School Parent
Tara Rocco, Franklin School Parent
Edwin Vasquez, Middle School Student
Sara Vasquez, Middle School Parent
Robert Diehl, Roosevelt School Principal
Debbie Lorenzo, Franklin School Parent

Purpose

The South Plainfield Public School district is undertaking an exciting opportunity and challenge in developing a long range plan for educating our community's children. The development of this plan involved an examination of the success of the district's 2014-2019 plan, as well as our current strengths and needs. Goals were created in five crucial areas: Curriculum, Student Climate, Technology, Professional Development, and Community Engagement. The tangible results of the committee's collaboration are summarized in the following Mission Statement, Values and Beliefs, and Goals and Objectives.

This plan, together with the results of the recent survey of all stakeholders, is not an end in itself, but serves as a direction for the district. In addition to the contents of the plan, an important consequence of its creation included strengthening of school/community partnerships, affirmation of the community's and staffs' vision for the future, and continued improvement of our students' performances at all levels.

Mission Statement

Students are the focus of the South Plainfield Public Schools. We will provide a dynamic, rigorous, relevant and technology-enriched curriculum, guided by the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. Our mission is to develop life-long learners who are prepared to succeed in a global and diverse society. We are resolved to educate the whole child, instilling the desire within our students to question and to become divergent thinkers who can achieve their fullest potential.

Values and Beliefs

We believe that:

- **All students can learn.**
- **Attendance is essential and critical to learning.**
- **Academic growth is our primary responsibility.**
- **Students will be provided with an environment that fosters creativity and critical thinking.**
- **Our students have individual learning styles, needs, and talents; education is most successful when these attributes are respected and utilized.**
- **Students learning in an atmosphere of acceptance, tolerance and mutual respect are a crucial component of a productive school community.**
- **All staff will strive to motivate students to learn and set high expectations.**
- **Technology is an integral part in redefining student learning and providing for increased student achievement and multiple learning opportunities.**
- **The arts, athletics and extra-curricular activities are essential components of an effective and well-rounded education.**
- **Highly qualified educational staff serves as a partnership with the family and the community in providing a quality educational experience for all students.**

District Goals and Objectives

By June 2019, the following benchmarks will be achieved:
Goal 1: Improve student learning and student performance for ALL students as measured by multiple and varied assessments.

- **Objectives:**

1. District curriculum, instruction and assessments will reflect and exceed current state, national and international standards and expectations, as well as prepare students for next generation assessments.

2. Students will receive high quality instruction in all areas, through the implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

3. Students will be engaged in strategies implemented for enrichment and differentiation of instruction to meet the needs of all learners.

4. Students will be provided with cross-content curriculum projects a comprehensive language arts experience to read, write, speak and communicate effectively.

5. Students will have the opportunity to participate in hands-on projects and inquiry-based activities that are aligned with science, technology, and mathematics and provided with multiple STEM experiences.

6. Students will participate in instrumental, vocal, visual art and/or related practical art experiences.

7. Students will have expanded opportunities to link academics to career through electives, work experiences, higher education, internships, mentoring, and service learning.

8. Students will be prepared to live in a society where culture and linguistic diversity are honored through learning and using foreign languages for communication in both written and spoken form.

9. Students will become lifelong learners of health and wellness through participating in activities that develop and encourage healthy decision-making, appropriate social skills, and lifelong physical fitness in and outside of the educational setting.

Goal 2: Improve student life/ school climate as measured by multiple and varied assessments.

- **Objectives:**

1. School should be a safe welcoming environment, emotionally, physically and intellectually while maintaining an atmosphere of inclusion, acceptance, and mutual respect.

2. The school community will support the values and beliefs that correspond to its mission.

3. Students will be given multiple opportunities to develop individual life and career plans.

4. Student interests will be met through a variety of curricular and co-curricular activities.

5. An emphasis will be placed on developing student/teacher relationships for the overall well being of the individual.

6. Promote and recognize good citizenship that encourages positive learning that benefits the entire school community.

Goal 3: Improve student learning and preparation for the 21st century through enhanced experiences using technology in their everyday classroom experience.

- **Objectives:**

    1. Students demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge, and develop innovative products and processes using technology.

    2. Students use digital media and digital environments to communicate and work collaboratively, both locally and globally, to support individual learning and contribute to the education of others.

    3. Students apply current technological tools to gather, evaluate, and use information.

    4. Students use critical thinking skills to plan and conduct research, manage projects, solve problems, and make informed decisions using appropriate resources.

    5. Students understand human, cultural, and societal issues related to technology and adhere to legal and ethical behavior.

    6. Students demonstrate a sound understanding of technology concepts, systems, and operations.

Goal 4: Improve student learning by providing more targeted professional development opportunities for all instructional staff and annually assess and adjust our progress.

- **Objectives:**

1. Teachers will engage in ongoing learning opportunities to deepen knowledge and skills in order to provide all learners with engaging curriculum and learning experiences based on local and state standards.

2. Teachers will engage in meaningful and appropriate professional learning experiences aligned with his/her own needs and the needs of the learners, school, and district.

3. Independently and in collaboration with colleagues, the teacher uses a variety of data (e.g., systematic observation, information about learners, research) to evaluate the outcomes of teaching and learning and to adapt planning and practice.

4. Student needs and data collected will assist teachers to actively initiate and develop their own Professional Learning Communities (PLC's) to form a collaborative culture to enhance and improve student achievement.

5. Teachers will continuously work in PLC's to evaluate and reflect on their own effectiveness based on the students' skills and assessment results.

6. Teacher-driven professional development opportunities, that differentiate for the various needs and interest of all staff, will be supported

7. The District will foster a professional culture of data-informed decision making.

8. Establish a culture of learners who continuously seek opportunities to improve instructional practice, based on current education policy and research as sources of reflection.

Goal 5: We as a school district, recognize the importance of the engagement of the entire community therefore will improve communication and engagement between the school district and the community.

- **Objectives:**

    1. Expand communications and outreach to community members and/or organizations to attend district and school events.

    2. Expand opportunities to educate parents and the community on curriculum assessment, district and school events.

    3. Increase the use of technology sources (website, etc.) to highlight school and district events.

    4. Increase active participation in school, parent organizations and activities.

    5. Utilize and integrate community organizations, resources, and individuals into the School community.

    6. Enhance community enthusiasm, pride, and spirit for the school(s).