



**New Fairfield Public Schools
District Priorities
2023-24**

I. Teaching and Learning

Increase student growth and achievement by providing all students with high-quality instruction and curricula in an adaptive and flexible learning environment.

Instruction:

- Continue the district focus on [high-quality instruction](#) using a clear and consistent definition of HQI.
- Unify all district initiatives and efforts around the [Vision of the Graduate](#).
- Continue our work on task design through building capacity on lesson study.
- Continue to refine the instructional coaching model.
- Continue to develop tiered intervention systems K-12 to support student growth and achievement.
- Continue to provide training on best practices that support the science of reading to ensure timely and focused literacy instruction for all students.
- Continue to support the implementation of Bridges and Number Corner to ensure equity of content and numeracy instruction within K-5 classes.
- Support the implementation of new middle school resources for the math and science curriculum.
- Select a resource to support grades 4 & 5 science curriculum.

Curriculum:

- Continually update and revise district curriculum through a formal process and using a curriculum design template.
- Support the writing of curricula focused on mastery of discrete standards in each subject area.
- Identify and employ a curriculum mapping tool to support the vertical articulation of curriculum.

Special Education:

- Continue to develop and implement high-quality Individual Education Programs (IEPs) that result in academic and educational growth for students requiring special education services.
- Continue to provide support and training for consistent PPT facilitation across the district.

- Strengthen collaboration between regular and general leaders and educators regarding high-quality instruction to support all students.
- Continue to provide training for special education service providers on best practices in literacy instruction for students with identified reading disabilities, such as dyslexia.
- Continue to support the STRIDES program such that students requiring special education services after completing high school graduation requirements can receive those services in district.

II. Healthy Learning Environment

Promote a healthy learning environment that fosters physical and emotional safety, respect and a sense of belonging for all students.

School Culture & Climate

- Continue to train staff for fidelity of implementation of Responsive Classroom (K-8).
- Continue to train staff for fidelity of implementation of Restorative Practices (K-12).
- Continue to increase a sense of belonging for all students through work with district consultants (K-12).
- Ensure all staff, students, and families are familiar with our district-wide Code of Responsibility and Respect.
- Provide staff with ongoing professional learning on understanding the Code of Responsibility and Respect to support a shared understanding of expectations.

School Safety and Security

- Review and refine NFPS emergency response protocols and provide updated training to school staff.
- Establish safe and efficient arrival and dismissal procedures at the newly configured MS/HS campus.
- Continue to enhance our partnership with the School Resource Officers through regular monthly meetings and ongoing communication.
- Define expectations and parameters for the School Resource Officer program.
- Develop, evaluate and refine new safety and security procedures at the high school.

Health and Wellness

- Develop district-wide expectations, protocols, and procedures to address attendance concerns.
- Hold a community forum in collaboration with the NF Prevention Council regarding the high school attitudes and behavior survey results leading to the development of assets for youth in the community.
- Utilize a multi-prong approach to reduce incidents of substance use.
- Evaluate current and anticipated needs for school-based counseling services and plan programming to support students' mental health needs, including tier 2 and 3 interventions.
- Continue the use of the Aperture universal social/emotional competence screener in grades K-12.

High School Start/End Times & Master Schedule:

- Reconvene the Healthier High School Start/End Time Task Force, which will report to the BOE Subcommittee with its recommendations.
- Consider modifications to the high school's start & end times for the 2024-25 school year to align with adolescent sleep research.
- Continue to review the current high school master schedule by piloting a new schedule in order to enhance educational opportunities.

IV. Strategic Planning

Initiate a strategic planning process with community involvement to set New Fairfield Public Schools' priorities.

- Develop a strategic plan that includes soliciting input from various stakeholders.
- Create a strategic plan with targeted goals, action steps, and timelines for completion, which will serve to guide the next level of work for the district, including future budgets.
- Conduct a curriculum analysis as part of the strategic planning in order to benchmark the district's progress in developing and implementing a standards-based curriculum.

V. Resources to Support Learning

Provide the necessary resources for learning--defined as finances, facilities, operational systems, and human resources. Adequate resources are a foundational component for New Fairfield to achieve its Vision of the Graduate.

Finance

- Develop and present a FY 25 Operational and Capital Budget request to the community that is transparent, fiscally responsible and ensures continuous improvement.
- Manage the FY 24 Operational and Capital Budget to provide resources as planned and to address unanticipated expenses.
- Seek out and apply for available grants to address budgetary needs.

Transportation

- Conduct an analysis of the financial requirements in moving from a three-tier bus transportation system to a two-tier system with the high school and middle school sharing bus runs.
- Prepare a bid proposal and solicit bids for a new five-year transportation contract beginning with the 2024-25 school year.

Facilities

- Monitor the construction of the new high school to ensure an on-time opening for the 2023-24 school year and to ensure that the educational specifications have been met.
- Close out the Consolidated/Meeting House Hills Schools building project from a financial standpoint and ensure that the punch list has been completed according to the educational specifications and construction documents.
- Revise the 10-year capital improvement plan in anticipation of the budget process.

- Plan for a study of the middle school's facilities needs to be conducted during the 2024-25 school year.

Human Resources

- Attract and retain highly qualified staff to support continuous academic improvement; attend job fairs in the region.
- Attend area job fairs to attract high-quality candidates to apply to New Fairfield.

Technology

- Continue to curate, streamline and assimilate technology hardware (e.g., SmartBoards, document cameras) into classrooms to support the application of technology software throughout the district.
- Grow into our upgraded facilities to cultivate STEM initiatives and provide opportunities for real-world, authentic experiences. (e.g., K-5 STEM lab, new HS Robotics, theater, digital media, and art/music labs).
- Continue to maintain a streamlined digital repository of online tools and resources (technology toolbox/ClassLink) to support the delivery of high-quality instruction.