



**New Fairfield Public Schools
District Priorities
2022-23**

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. (Continuation of 2021-22 goal with updated language).

Curriculum & Instruction: Continue the district focus on [high-quality instruction](#).

- Unify all district initiatives and efforts around the [Vision of the Graduate](#).
- Utilize our clear and consistent definition of high-quality instruction.
- Continually update and revise district curriculum through a formal process and using a curriculum design template.
- Provide professional learning opportunities for staff on task design, consistent with the district design template.
- Continue to refine the coaching and tiered intervention systems K-8 to support student growth and achievement.
- Continue to support the implementation of Bridges and Number Corner to ensure equity of content and numeracy instruction within K-5 classes.
- Continue to evaluate the vertical articulation of the 6-12 mathematics curriculum, identification of high-quality resources and key instructional practices to support the delivery of engaging problems based numeracy instruction at the secondary level.
- Continue to provide training on best practices that support the science of reading to ensure timely and focused literacy instruction for all students.

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.
- Provide training for special education teachers, school psychologists, speech and language pathologists, and building administrators on the new state requirements for identification of students with reading disabilities.

- Continue to provide training 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.
- Per state mandate, implement the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE)-provided IEP software (CT-SEDS), and work through the challenges inherent to the newly-designed software.

II. Healthy Learning Environment

Promote a healthy learning environment that fosters physical and emotional safety, respect and a sense of belonging for all students. (Continuation of 2021-22 goal with new language).

School Culture & Climate

- Continue to train staff for fidelity of implementation of Responsive Classroom K-5.
- Continue to train staff for fidelity of implementation of Restorative Practices 6-12.
- Continue to increase a sense of belonging for all students through work with district consultants (6-12).

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 Cons/MHHS campus.
- Continue to enhance our partnership with the School Resource Officers through regular monthly meetings and ongoing communication. Extend the SRO program to Cons/MHHS in order for all buildings to have a dedicated SRO.

High School Start/End Times & Master Schedule:

- Make modifications to the high school's start & end times for the 2024-25 school year to align with adolescent sleep research.
 - Re-start the High School Start/End Times Board of Education Ad Hoc Committee.
 - Convene the High School Start/End Time Task Force, which will report periodically to the BOE sub-Committee with its recommendations.
- Continue to review the current high school master schedule in order to enhance educational opportunities.

Health and Wellness

- Continue with the practice of periodically administering *Profiles of Student Life: Attitudes and Behaviors* surveys for grades 7-12 and compare to pre-pandemic results.
- Present findings to the Board and determine next steps.
- 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. Continue the use of the Aperture universal social/emotional competence screener in grades K-12.

III. Superintendent's Entry Plan

Develop an understanding of the district's priorities, programs, culture, and operations by listening and learning from stakeholders. ([See entry plan](#))

- Establish a successful and productive superintendent/board relationship.
- Establish relationships with stakeholders and gather feedback to inform goal setting and strategic planning.
- Develop an understanding of the extent to which New Fairfield's academic programs and services are meeting the needs of students.
- Actively gather information regarding the present status of school security, facilities and budget development.
- Utilize multiple approaches to effectively communicate with stakeholders.

IV. Strategic Planning

Initiate a strategic planning process to set New Fairfield Public Schools' priorities for the next three years.

- Develop a committee process, with the Board's input, for developing the strategic plan that includes soliciting input from various stakeholders.
- Create a multi-year strategic plan with goals, objectives, action steps, and timelines for completion, which will serve to guide the next level of work for the district, including future budgets.
- Present the strategic plan to the community and the board of education for refinement and Board approval.

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 a Graduate.

Finance

- Develop and present a FY 24 Operational and Capital Budget request to the community that is transparent, fiscally responsible and ensures continuous improvement.
- Manage the FY 23 Operational and Capital Budget to provide resources as planned and to address unanticipated expenses.

Transportation

- Utilize the services of a transportation consultant to 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.

Facilities

- 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.
- 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.
- Respond to state mandates in documenting and communicating the district's indoor air quality preventative maintenance plan to the public.

Human Resources

- Attract and retain highly qualified staff to support continuous academic improvement.
- Increase the substitute pool for certified and non-certified positions.

Technology

- Create continuity in access to educational support technology to support K-12 curriculum initiatives. (SmartBoards, document cameras, projection and sound reinforcement)
- Utilizing upgraded facilities, cultivate STEM initiatives to full potential with industry leading hardware and software. (K-5 STEM lab, new HS Robotics, digital media, and art/music labs)
- Streamline and clarify the digital repository of online tools and resources increasing efficiency in delivering high-quality instruction.