

Watertown City School District Strategic Plan 2018-2023



"Watertown City School District is committed to building a caring culture that fosters lifelong learning and responsible citizens."

Watertown City School District will...

1. Strengthen collaboration among schools, families, and community.

Watertown is a tight-knit community. Whether strategizing in partnership with community agencies to meet student or family needs, or working in tandem with Fort Drum in some capacity, the focus of this goal is to capitalize on relationships we have with different organizations and what we, collectively, can offer students and their families. Expanding these relationships to ensure cooperative efforts in supporting students is paramount. Students have better opportunities for learning if their basic needs are met.



2. Promote physical and mental well-being among students and staff.

This goal takes on the "readiness to learn" capacity of not only students, but also staff. As a district, addressing mental and physical health ensures that all students and staff better possess a mindset that allows them to focus on learning. The foundation of this wellness goal is understanding the root causes of stress in children and adults, and expanding support and partnerships with community agencies as a result.

3. Assure that all structures meet the physical and functional needs of the district.



As the buildings in the district age, the demands for maintenance and upkeep increase. Additionally, there are instructional shifts that require changes in structure to meet the learning needs of students, so this goal will facilitate assessment of areas that might require changes to structures. Further, this goal extends to grounds planning and maintenance, with an intention to establish curb appeal but also sustainable environmental practices that can incorporate student leadership.

4. Expand learning opportunities for ALL students, including creating effective schedules to maximize these opportunities.

The paradigm of today's industries and workforce demands that we change how we create educational opportunities for students. This includes examining our current scheduling practices and how to alter the day-to-day movement of students throughout their respective buildings. We will also look closely at the course offerings our students experience and how to be both compliant in what New York State Education Department requires students to receive credits in and expansive in the electives and opportunities our students have to learn in different areas.

5. Engage students in current applications of critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity, which align with learning standards and incorporate meaningful assessments of student work.

A 21st century learner is one who is able to work with others effectively and can excel at doing so. This type of learner also can create solutions to real-world problems and issues and troubleshoot along the way. As a district, we will strive to create assessments that ask students to develop products and presentations that will closely resemble the industrial and external worlds as much as possible. To the extent that students can achieve real-world experience through the lens of this work, we will have supported their development as problem solvers, creative thinkers, collaborators, and effective communicators, regardless of the context provided to them.

