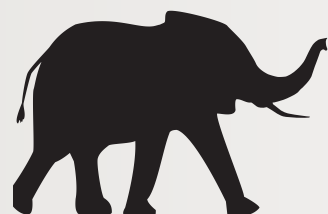




SOMERS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCSD 2030 PLAN FOR EXCELLENCE



SOMERS
Central School District
Forward in Excellence

Thank you Somers!

Throughout the development of the SCSD Plan for Excellence, SCSD leadership collaborated with and sought input from a wide range of stakeholders.

Thank you to the following:

- SCSD Board of Education
- SCSD Administrative Council
- SHS Faculty and Staff
- SMS Faculty and Staff
- SIS Faculty and Staff
- PES Faculty and Staff
- SHS PTA
- SMS PTA
- SIS PTA
- PES PTA
- SEPTA
- SHS Student Senate
- SMS Student Council
- Somers Community Pulse
- Somers Community



**IN THE FALL OF 2022-23, THE SOMERS
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT EMBARKED
ON A DELIBERATE JOURNEY TO REEXAMINE
AND REFINE ITS MISSION, VISION, AND
COLLECTIVE COMMITMENTS.**

District and school leaders engaged in collaborative discussions with various stakeholders, including parents, students, teachers, and community members.

During each workshop, participants were guided through an Appreciative Inquiry process to explore their aspirations for the district's future and help shape how the district will move Forward in Excellence.

In each session, small groups identified the district's strengths, providing concrete evidence and recounting "high point" stories. These stories were then used to identify overarching themes that SCSD must uphold in the future.

After sharing ways to enhance SCSD, each group created a headline for a fictitious news publication that captured the essence of the district's future. The headlines were accompanied by subheadings that represented aspirations for how we move into the future as a district.

These objectives were then aligned with the Elements of Excellence, thus providing a critical component of the SCSD 2030 Plan for Excellence. The last brick was laid when the "evidence of excellence" was defined for each element, providing an achievement roadmap. The result is the SCSD 2030 Plan for Excellence, which will guide SCSD in the coming years to ensure that all students from pre-kindergarten through high school move Forward in Excellence.



SCSD 2030 PLAN FOR EXCELLENCE

**BUILDING
THE ROAD TO
SCSD 2030**



SCSD 2030 PLAN FOR EXCELLENCE

WHO WE ARE

OUR MISSION

Somers Central School District will ignite a passion in each student by engaging all learners at a personal level to ensure success in a global society.

OUR VISION

The vision for SCSD encompasses three fundamental areas, each an important component of the Whole Child:

- 21st Century Knowledge & Skills
- Social, Emotional & Physical Wellness
- Global Citizenship

Our Collective Commitments

We desire to be a school district that...

- Values diversity, equity, and inclusion across all schools.
- Promotes our schools as the center of our community – a safe place to be and grow.
- Leads by example and encourages students to follow their passions.
- Develops a k-12 curriculum, instructional resources, and assessments intended to prepare students to thrive in a global community.
- Recognizes and celebrates the collective efforts and achievements of the Somers community and embraces a healthy balance of participation from all stakeholders.
- Holds high expectations for student achievement and character.
- Supports social, emotional, and physical wellness as much as academic achievement.
- Recognizes the arts as part of the core curriculum.
- Gives back to the community through service to others.
- Understands the law, the constitution, and our civic, ethical and personal responsibilities to each other.
- Develops relationships that are characterized by honesty, respect, and integrity.
- Learns from and works collaboratively with individuals from diverse cultures, religions, and lifestyles in a spirit of mutual respect and open dialogue.
- Supports and encourages professional collaboration, district wide and with local organizations, to promote student learning.
- Is driven by a sense of continuous improvement.

Elements of Excellence (EoE)

The district uses the Elements of Excellence to define goals and to guide decision making. Each of the six elements is derived from the mission of SCSD and focuses on the development of the Whole Child.

- **21st Century Knowledge & Skills**
SCSD will ensure the intellectual growth and development of critical skills so that all learners can thrive in an ever-changing world.
- **Social, Emotional & Physical Wellness**
SCSD will advance social, emotional, and physical wellness in all learners to successfully navigate current and future experiences.
- **Global Citizenship**
SCSD will nurture a sense of responsibility, belonging, and acceptance in all students and foster a respectful understanding of broader perspectives.
- **Professional Learning Communities**
SCSD will cultivate a community of professional learners focused on advancing student success.
- **Family and Community Engagement**
SCSD will strengthen and nurture connections across the Somers community through engagement, constructive partnerships, and the inclusion of all voices.
- **Fiscal Stewardship**
SCSD is committed to responsible financial planning and allocation of resources to ensure a safe learning environment where all students achieve excellence.



SCSD 2030 PLAN FOR EXCELLENCE

ELEMENTS OF EXCELLENCE



Teaching and Learning for All Through the IB Framework

The SCSD Plan for Excellence is built on two foundational principles: excellence for all and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme. These principles ensure that every student meets or exceeds universally high goals in a safe, nurturing, inclusive learning environment. IB establishes an internationally recognized educational framework for kindergarten through 12th grade that aligns with New York State Standards.

In 2013, the district recognized that IB complements the SCSD mission, vision, and collective commitments. The program supports the best instructional practices and a rigorous curriculum, emphasizing creative problem-solving, hands-on projects, inquiry-based learning, and community service.

After three years of intense preparation, the IB Diploma Program was implemented at Somers High School in 2016. By fall of 2022, the middle school became an accredited IB Middle Years Programme (MYP). The district expects MYP accreditation at the high school for grades 9 and 10 in 2024 and is currently exploring the Primary Years Programme for kindergarten through fifth grade.

The four distinguished IB programmes develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who are motivated to succeed.



SCSD 2030 PLAN FOR EXCELLENCE

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) PROGRAMME

IB is a whole child approach that gives students distinct advantages by building their critical thinking skills, nurturing their curiosity, and their ability to solve complex problems. Somers schools and the IB programmes foster strong academic skills and healthy social and emotional dispositions.

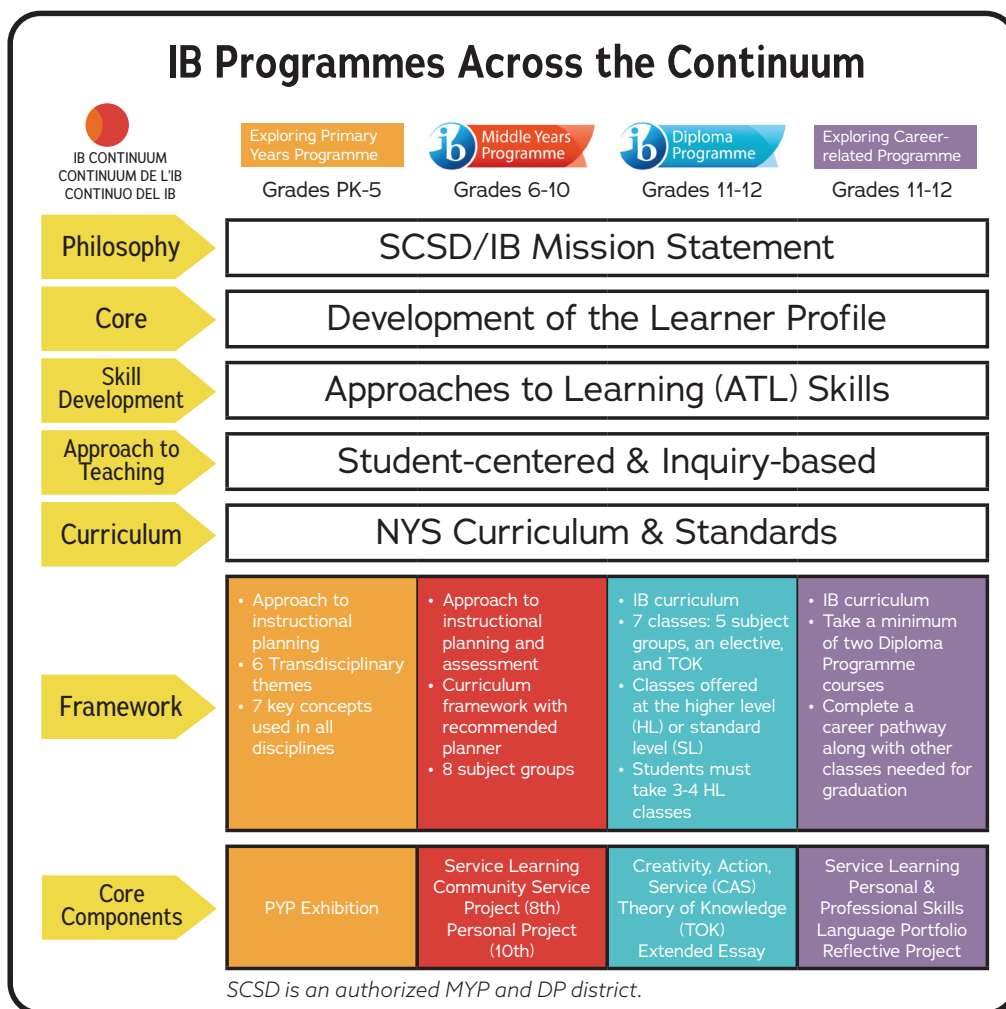
Read more about the International Baccalaureate Programme, including key research findings and the IB Continuum.

IB Learners

- are encouraged to think critically and solve complex problems
- drive their own learning
- are more culturally aware through the development of a second language
- can engage with people in an increasingly globalized, rapidly changing world

Aspirations for SCSD 2030

- Become accredited International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (k-fifth grade)
- Become recognized as an International Baccalaureate Continuum district
- Become an accredited International Baccalaureate Career Programme (11th and 12th grades)



ELEMENTS OF EXCELLENCE

21st Century Knowledge & Skills

SCSD WILL ENSURE THE INTELLECTUAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF CRITICAL SKILLS SO THAT ALL LEARNERS CAN THRIVE IN AN EVER-CHANGING WORLD.

Aspirations:

- Increase authentic "real world" experiences
- Expand broad range of academic options
- Foster an adaptable mindset
- Personalize and align the learning experience of all students k-12
- Learn through community-based experiences

Evidence of Excellence:

- Explore International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme Exhibition of Learning in fifth grade
- Expand WIN (What I Need) opportunities for academic support and enrichment
- Explore International Baccalaureate Career Programme
- Receive accreditation of the Middle Years Programme at SHS (MYP)
- Receive accreditation of the Primary Years Programme (PYP)
- Expand SHS senior internship experience



ELEMENTS OF EXCELLENCE

Social, Emotional, & Physical Wellness

SCSD WILL ADVANCE SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND PHYSICAL WELLNESS IN ALL LEARNERS TO SUCCESSFULLY NAVIGATE CURRENT AND FUTURE EXPERIENCES.

Aspirations:

- Align k-12 social, emotional, and physical wellness curriculum and support structures
- Create a welcoming and affirming learning environment for all learners
- Equip students with the skills needed to navigate the use of technology and media responsibly and ethically

Evidence of Excellence:

- Provide health education at the elementary level that supports lifelong, healthy habits starting at a young age
- Design processes to respond proactively and positively to student behavior
- Implement New York State Computer Science and Digital Fluency Standards to help students navigate online resources and social media
- Expand social and emotional wellness resources to meet the growing needs of our students
- Strengthen structures (physical and operational) that enhance student and faculty belonging and engagement



ELEMENTS OF EXCELLENCE

Global Citizenship

SCSD WILL NURTURE A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY, BELONGING, AND ACCEPTANCE IN ALL STUDENTS AND FOSTER A RESPECTFUL UNDERSTANDING OF BROADER PERSPECTIVES.

Aspirations:

- Work locally to make a global impact
- Be responsible to each other and to the planet
- Demonstrate mutual respect for a diverse school community
- Facilitate students' celebrations of family traditions and cultural heritage

Evidence of Excellence:

- Integrate International Baccalaureate Learner Profile k-12
- Implement SHS International Baccalaureate 10th Grade Personal Project
- Expand World Language to k-12
- Incorporate Learning Inclusively For Everyone (L.I.F.E.) with the Somers Educational Equity Advisory Team (SEEAT) structure to ensure that all students feel a sense of belonging in our school community



ELEMENTS OF EXCELLENCE

Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)

SCSD WILL CULTIVATE A COMMUNITY OF PROFESSIONAL LEARNERS FOCUSED ON ADVANCING STUDENT SUCCESS.

Aspirations:

- Create a passion for life-long learning for all faculty and staff
- Structure collaborative partnerships
- Increase opportunities for interdisciplinary learning experiences
- Guarantee support so that all students learn at high levels
- Support evidence-based instructional practices through professional learning opportunities

Evidence of Excellence:

- Participation in professional learning opportunities
- Alignment of best practices among professional learning communities
- Implement recommendations from k-12 literacy committee



ELEMENTS OF EXCELLENCE

Family and Community Engagement

SCSD WILL STRENGTHEN AND NURTURE CONNECTIONS ACROSS THE SOMERS COMMUNITY THROUGH ENGAGEMENT, CONSTRUCTIVE PARTNERSHIPS, AND THE INCLUSION OF ALL VOICES.

Aspirations:

- Bring school to life for families
- Provide more community-building events across all schools
- Align communication practices between home and classroom, k-12

Evidence of Excellence:

- Increase student mentor programs
- Implement SMS International Baccalaureate MYP 8th Grade Community Project
- Create more opportunities for family and community engagement
- Build greater supports for families to engage in school community
- Increase outside visitors, speakers, presenters k-12
- Create home-classroom communication guidelines



ELEMENTS OF EXCELLENCE

Fiscal Stewardship

SCSD IS COMMITTED TO RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL PLANNING AND ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO ENSURE A SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT WHERE ALL STUDENTS ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE.

Aspirations:

- Reimagine learning spaces
- Build state of the art facilities
- Collaborate as teams in flexible spaces

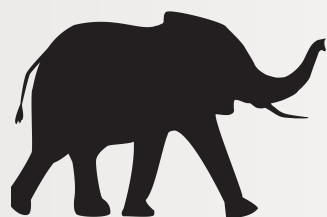
Evidence of Excellence:

- Create team spaces for professional collaboration
- Create flexible learning spaces
- Passage of 2025 bond



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SOMERS

Central School District

Forward in Excellence

SOMERS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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