



# 2023-2024

# DISTRICT GOALS

## End of Year Report

**Chester Union Free School District**  
**June 14, 2024**

# CUFSD MISSION





# CUFSD VISION

The Chester School District develops global leaders by providing students with learning opportunities that foster critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication. Students engage in authentic applications that support inquiry and innovation through partnerships with their community, local businesses, and higher education.



## CUFSD DISTRICT GOALS

**2023 - 2024**

<b>1</b>	Promote an environment that prioritizes diversity, equity and inclusion, where every individual feels safe, valued, respected and empowered to achieve their highest potential.
<b>2</b>	Provide innovative, data-supported and engaging learning experiences that foster college and career readiness through highly qualified staff who are student-centered, future-focused and team-driven.
<b>3</b>	Expand opportunities for meaningful community engagement, communication and partnerships that support real-world application in learning.
<b>4</b>	Ensure the continual improvement and expansion of district facilities promoting safety, security and student opportunity in the most efficient and economical manner possible.
<b>5</b>	Create a fiscally responsible budget that effectively addresses the needs of the district while considering the concerns and input of the community.



**1**

**Promote an environment that prioritizes diversity, equity and inclusion, where every individual feels safe, valued, respected and empowered to achieve their highest potential.**

**SAFETY**

**SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING**

**DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION**



**1**

**Promote an environment that prioritizes diversity, equity and inclusion, where every individual feels safe, valued, respected and empowered to achieve their highest potential.**

## **SAFETY**

**a. Ensure law enforcement and risk management expertise are involved in all facets of safety & security protocols and procedures.**

- Continued collaboration with the Town of Chester Police Department, Village of Chester Police Department, Orange County Sheriff's Office, New York State Police, Orange-Ulster BOCES Health & Safety Risk Management Team and Atlas Security.
  - shared commitment to safety and security at all levels
  - standardized protocols and procedures
  - fidelity of implementation
  - continuous evaluation & assessment focused on improvement
- Town of Chester Police Officers and Atlas Security on-site daily.
- Additional security personnel added to events and activities within and outside the school day. 6



1

**Promote an environment that prioritizes diversity, equity and inclusion, where every individual feels safe, valued, respected and empowered to achieve their highest potential.**

## SAFETY

### **b. Advance emergency drills and specialized training for staff and students.**

- Emergency drills and safety training expanded at CES and Chester Academy.
- “Expect the Unexpected,” emergency training for all staff.
- CPR/AED training expanded to instructional aides and support staff.
- Expanding crowd management operation training.



SHELTER-IN-PLACE



EVACUATE



HOLD-IN-PLACE



LOCKOUT



LOCKDOWN



**1**

**Promote an environment that prioritizes diversity, equity and inclusion, where every individual feels safe, valued, respected and empowered to achieve their highest potential.**

## **SAFETY**

- c. Continue to utilize building emergency response teams to review and expand emergency protocols.**
- Chester Academy and Chester Elementary School BERT teams continue to review emergency response specific to each building and provide input focused on continuous improvement.
  - Visitor process improved through implementation of photo identification pass.





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**Promote an environment that prioritizes diversity, equity and inclusion, where every individual feels safe, valued, respected and empowered to achieve their highest potential.**

## **SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL WELL- BEING**



**a. Advance PBIS (*Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports*) and Choose Love initiatives at CES.**

- PBIS continues to expand including monthly themes of safe, ready, responsible and respectful tied to daily classroom and building-wide activities and incentives.
- Choose Love SEL program implemented weekly in all classrooms with daily messages included in morning announcements.

**b. Enrich support systems within CES by introducing a dedicated specialist focused on school culture and student behavioral support.**

- CES School Culture & Student Behavioral Support Specialist focuses on PBIS, Choose Love, the newly implemented Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) and family-school partnerships in support of student success.





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## SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

### c. Initiate the Advisory Model at Chester Academy, integrating identified skills and *The 7 Mindsets* program.

- Advisory model, newly implemented, with the goal of establishing school-wide small groups of students, organized by grade level, each with a dedicated advocate to support students from sixth grade through the transition to high school and onward to graduation.



ADVISORY PERIOD BEGINS AT CHESTER ACADEMY

- Currently meets twice a month in an adjusted schedule alternating focus between The 7 Mindsets program and skill-based application specific to grade-level needs.
- Improvements to the Advisory Model at Chester Academy identified for the 2024-25 school year based on collective input from staff and students.



1

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## SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

c. Initiate the Advisory Model at Chester Academy, integrating identified skills and *The 7 Mindsets* program.

- The 7 Mindsets themes of: *Everything is Possible*, *Passion First*, *We Are Connected*, *100% Accountable*, *Attitude of Gratitude*, *Live to Give* and *The Time is Now*, are integrated into small group meetings, daily announcements, and student highlights school-wide.





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## **SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL WELL- BEING**



*Empowering Youth  
Transforming Communities*

- d. Continue the Safe School Ambassadors program at Chester Academy, empowering students to take an active role in supporting a safe and inclusive school community.**

The Safe School Ambassadors® Program identifies and selects socially influential students from diverse groups across campus. Ambassadors are equipped and empowered to safely intervene when they witness bullying, cyberbullying and other forms of mistreatment and harmful behaviors.

- Enhanced the SSA program through on-site training led by Chester Academy staff fostering school-specific collaborative partnerships with students.
- Unified approach in support of a safe and inclusive school community by amplifying student voice, implementing actionable peer support, and promoting leadership initiatives.





1

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## SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

**e. Expand opportunities for staff professional development, leadership, collaboration, input and support.**

### What is a PLC?

“Professional Learning Community” is most often used in two ways to describe:

1. An entire organization committed to continuous learning and its applications through collaborative practice that values shared vision and collective strength;
2. A smaller team (also called a PLT) – in a school, a team of teachers who work together to improve student learning by enhancing classroom instruction.



Research supports that PLCs are the single most effective method for improving student learning in lasting ways because the practice supports enhanced teaching and LEARNING on multiple levels.

- Current programs, professional development and continuous improvement initiatives reflect staff input.
- Content area teacher leaders, building-specific committees and professional learning communities (PLC) teams identify needs aligned with District Goals and collaboratively developed objectives.
- Expanded mental health supports for students and staff through increase in staffing, programs and training continuing to support proactive versus reactive mindset.





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**Promote an environment that prioritizes diversity, equity and inclusion, where every individual feels safe, valued, respected and empowered to achieve their highest potential.**

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

### a. Expand programs and professional development focused on diverse, equitable, and inclusive practices



Civic Readiness is:



- Understand how the Bill of Rights protects Freedom of Speech.
- Three branches of government: Judicial, Legislative and Executive.
- Discuss how the U.S. Constitution represents both Democratic and Republican ideas.
- Voting process and why it is important to vote.



- Looking at current events and having classroom discussions on how they relate to past situations.
- Identify a problem in the school, community or local government, and determine how to voice your concern regarding it.
- Engage in classroom debates, respectfully disagreeing with other viewpoints and provide evidence for a counterargument.



- Actively participate with others respectfully.
- Promote democratic ideas.
- Be active citizens within our schools and communities, willing to contribute and help solve issues locally and/or nationally.



- Complete a capstone.
- Participate in negotiating and compromising in the resolution of differences and conflict.
- Volunteering and participating in community organizations.

- Programs and professional development focused on ensuring welcoming and inclusive practices.
- Increased student involvement in CES after school opportunities through expanded transportation offerings.
- Fifth grade student council representatives provide opportunities for student voice.
- Chester Academy Advisory & The 7 Mindsets, Safe School Ambassadors, Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers, Programs in support of NY Next Generation Learning Standards, NY Seal of Biliteracy and NY Seal of Civic Readiness.



# DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

## b. Finalize the District Policy on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion reflective of components in the four key principles of the New York Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education Framework.

The Chester Union Free School District is committed to providing a safe and welcoming learning environment for all students, staff, and families.

- We strive to ensure all students have equal access to opportunities that contribute to their success.
- We actively work to support the academic, social, and emotional development of our students.
- We commit to cultivating an environment where individuals are empathetic towards one another, seeking to understand and appreciate different perspectives.
- We aim to build connections, bridge divides, and promote collaboration among students, staff, and families.
- We believe that every voice matters and seek to create an inclusive environment where everyone's ideas, opinions, and experiences are heard, respected, and considered.
- We believe the diversity of our backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives enriches our school community, promotes innovation, and strengthens our ability to achieve our goals.

Through these commitments, we aim to foster a culture that embraces inclusivity as a fundamental value, driving innovation, collaboration, and excellence in education.

- **CUFSD Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Policy adopted at the December 20, 2023 BOE meeting.**



## DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

- b. Finalize the District Policy on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion reflective of components in the four key principles of the New York Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education Framework.



- CUFSD DEI Policy was selected to be included in the New York State DEI Repository reflective of model policies.

### Who is responsible for the Repository?

This initiative is led by the New York State Education Department in partnership with BOCES of New York State and diversity, equity, and inclusion consulting firm Tangible Development.

### How are materials selected for the Repository?

All materials in the Repository are submitted by educators from around the state. Each submission is reviewed by Tangible Development to select the resources that represent the most promising practices across the state. Tangible Development will provide private feedback directly to all organizations that submit resources.





1

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## DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION



**c. Establish platforms for student, staff, and family input, enhancing initiatives in support of a welcoming and inclusive school environment.**



- CUFSD Parent Advisory Panel, CUFSD Family Instructional Academy, PTA, PTSA and newly initiated SEPTSA.
- Fifth grade student council representatives, Board of Education Student Representative and newly created Chester Academy Student Expert Panel provide opportunities for student voice in addition to various student government and clubs offered at Chester Academy.
- Expanded translation services for ENL families with added on-site support utilizing current staff in addition to translation services and communication platforms.



**2**

**Provide innovative, data-supported and engaging learning experiences that foster college and career readiness through highly qualified staff who are student-centered, future-focused and team-driven.**

**INNOVATIVE, ENGAGING LEARNING EXPERIENCES**

**DATA-SUPPORTED INSTRUCTION**

**HIGHLY QUALIFIED STAFF**



2

**Provide innovative, data-supported and engaging learning experiences that foster college and career readiness through highly qualified staff who are student-centered, future-focused and team-driven.**

## INNOVATIVE, ENGAGING LEARNING EXPERIENCES

### a. Expand programs and professional development aligned to the NY Next Generation Learning Standards.



- Content area teachers continue to attend professional development aligned to NY Next Generation Learning Standards.
- Professional Development specific to i-Ready instruction and assessment expanded to support student growth in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

- EduPlanet21 professional development supported the completion of course descriptions PK-12 to be included on the CUFSD website for 2024-2025.

- Seal of Civic Readiness and Seal of Biliteracy initiative progresses through ongoing professional development and support. 2023-2024 marks the first year Chester Academy students will be honored at graduation in recognition of achieving the Seal of Biliteracy.





2

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## **INNOVATIVE, ENGAGING LEARNING EXPERIENCES**

**a. Expand programs and professional development aligned to the NY Next Generation Learning Standards.**

- Programs and professional development continue in support of ENL learners fostering a welcoming and inclusive learning environment.
- Continued implementation of engineering and design practices reflected in the NY Next Generation Science Standards through STEM and Problem-Based Learning.
- Program/professional development reflect input from content area teacher leaders, collaborative PLC (Professional Learning Community) teams and building advisory committees.



2

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## INNOVATIVE, ENGAGING LEARNING EXPERIENCES

### a. Expand programs and professional development aligned to the NY Next Generation learning standards.

- CA Workplace Learning Program continues to expand, **currently offering over 50 internships for juniors and seniors through the support of local businesses and industry partners.**
- PK-12 Career Connections initiative provides opportunities to connect content area skills directly to applications in varied industries.



Chester Union Free School District

January 2 at 9:47 AM · 🌐

We wanted to highlight Michaelah and Mrs. Bonito for their participation in our Chester Academy Internship Program! Michaelah spent time helping out in the 3rd grade classroom while gaining real-world experience into the field of Elementary Education. Thank you to Mrs. Bonito and her students for this wonderful opportunity!





2

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## **INNOVATIVE, ENGAGING LEARNING EXPERIENCES**

- a. Expand programs and professional development aligned to the NY Next Generation learning standards.**
- Foundations literacy program expanded to third grade.
  - English Language Arts programs in support of NY Next Generation Learning Standards piloted PK-12.





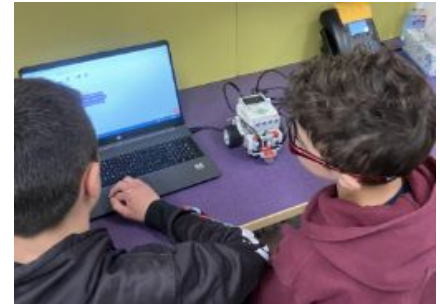
2

**Provide innovative, data-supported and engaging learning experiences that foster college and career readiness through highly qualified staff who are student-centered, future-focused and team-driven.**

## **INNOVATIVE, ENGAGING LEARNING EXPERIENCES**

**b. Integrate technology and multimedia resources to create interactive and innovative learning experiences.**

- CES Makerspace technology and multimedia resources are utilized across content and special areas to enhance innovative learning experiences.





2

**Provide innovative, data-supported and engaging learning experiences that foster college and career readiness through highly qualified staff who are student-centered, future-focused and team-driven.**

## INNOVATIVE, ENGAGING LEARNING EXPERIENCES

### b. Integrate technology and multimedia resources to create interactive and innovative learning experiences.

- Chester Academy Makerspace opened in September with varied use of innovative technological applications available to students.



### ADVANCED EQUIPMENT



#### 3D FABRICATION

- 3D PLA Printers
- 3D Epoxy



#### CUTTING & ENGRAVING

- Vinyl Cutter
- Laser Cutter/Engraver



#### CNC & MILLING EQUIPMENT

- CNC Routers
- Milling Machine



#### DIGITAL MEDIA TECHNOLOGIES

- Green Screen Setup
- Podcasting Setup



#### TEXTILE AND DESIGN TECHNOLOGIES

- Direct to Garment Printer
- T-Shirt Press
- Vinyl Printer
- Plotter



#### ROBOTICS & ELECTRONICS

- Vex Robotics
- Hummingbird Robotics
- Arduinos
- Raspberry Pi



#### IMMERSIVE TECHNOLOGIES

- Virtual Reality Headsets
- 3D Scanner





2

Provide innovative, data-supported and engaging learning experiences that foster college and career readiness through highly qualified staff who are student-centered, future-focused and team-driven.

## INNOVATIVE, ENGAGING LEARNING EXPERIENCES

### b. Integrate technology and multimedia resources to create interactive and innovative learning experiences.

- CA newly opened Makerspace facilitates the integration of creative arts, music, physical education, family & consumer science, library resources, various clubs and student independent projects.





2

**Provide innovative, data-supported and engaging learning experiences that foster college and career readiness through highly qualified staff who are student-centered, future-focused and team-driven.**

## INNOVATIVE, ENGAGING LEARNING EXPERIENCES

### **b. Integrate technology and multimedia resources to create interactive and innovative learning experiences.**

- Robotics instruction aligned to NY Next Generation Learning Standards and content areas skills expanding PK-8, with electives offered 9-12.
- Continued utilization of WeVideo software platform to support green screen technology utilized by the CES Broadcasting Team and CA Newsies.
- CA newly implemented podcast.





2

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## INNOVATIVE, ENGAGING LEARNING EXPERIENCES

### **b. Integrate technology and multimedia resources to create interactive and innovative learning experiences.**

- Implementation of Newsela.com and Newsela Social Studies as resources to support instruction.
- i-Ready My Path utilized in Kindergarten through ninth grade to provide individualized instructional support based on the results of the i-Ready Diagnostic Assessment.

# NEWSELA

Read closely. Think critically. Be worldly.

Personalized lessons make learning active and engaging for students in several ways. Lessons:

- Feature culturally relevant topics, so students see themselves reflected in their learning
- Use corrective feedback to promote productive struggle, so students become more independent
- Encourage participation, not just listening
- Help students make real-world connections and understand the “why” behind the “how”
- Let students track their progress in their own dashboard, so they become owners of their personalized learning and growth



2

**Provide innovative, data-supported and engaging learning experiences that foster college and career readiness through highly qualified staff who are student-centered, future-focused and team-driven.**

## **INNOVATIVE, ENGAGING LEARNING EXPERIENCES**

**c. Promote collaborative and engaging learning experiences for students and staff, fostering a culture of teamwork within and between Chester Elementary School and Chester Academy.**

- Teachers continue to work collaboratively to develop interdisciplinary opportunities for students and staff between Chester Elementary School and Chester Academy.
- CES and Chester Academy Makerspace provide innovative learning experiences reflective of collaboration across multiple disciplines and content areas.







2










Provide innovative, data-supported and engaging learning experiences that foster college and career readiness through highly qualified staff who are student-centered, future-focused and team-driven.










## INNOVATIVE, ENGAGING LEARNING EXPERIENCES

d. Continue to evaluate and enhance high school courses and programs.

New courses implemented this year:

### THE MAKERSPACE PILOT PROGRAM

 <b>COOKIE CUTTERS</b> FACS - Grade 6 3D Printers	 <b>FUNKO POPS</b> FACS - Grade 7 3D Printers	 <b>GREEN SCREEN</b> Newsies- Grades 6-8 Green Screen & Camera	 <b>PAN FLUTE</b> General Music - Grade 7 3D Printer	 <b>DRUMLINE T-SHIRTS</b> Drumline - Grades 9-12 Vinyl Cutter & Press
 <b>ANIME AVATAR</b> Anime Club - Grades 9-12 Vinyl Printer	 <b>ABSTRACT MONOGRAM</b> Creative Arts - Grade 9 Laser Cutters	 <b>7 MINDSETS POSTERS</b> Guidance Department Large Format Plotter	 <b>TRACK SPIRIT WEAR</b> Track- Grade 7-12 Milling Machine	

- Algebra 2 and Algebra 3
- Dance 2
- Intro to Acting
- Exercise Science 2
- AIS Science



2

**Provide innovative, data-supported and engaging learning experiences that foster college and career readiness through highly qualified staff who are student-centered, future-focused and team-driven.**

## INNOVATIVE, ENGAGING LEARNING EXPERIENCES



**e. Finalize course descriptions PK-12, progressing the vertical alignment of curriculum and instruction district-wide.**

- PK-12 course descriptions through EduPlanet21 are completed and under review for Chester Elementary School and Chester Academy.
- PK-12 course descriptions will be added to the new CUFSD website for the 2024-2025 school year.



2

**Provide innovative, data-supported and engaging learning experiences that foster college and career readiness through highly qualified staff who are student-centered, future-focused and team-driven.**

## **DATA-SUPPORTED INSTRUCTION**

- a. Provide professional development opportunities that integrate data analysis to support differentiated instruction and optimize student learning.**
- Professional development provided on data analysis of i-Ready, student “data-chats” and student goal setting K-8.
  - March half-day professional development was provided to teachers and staff focused on data analysis and individualized instructional planning for PK-12.
  - Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) model incorporates student data and instructional supports to maximize student learning and growth.



2

**Provide innovative, data-supported and engaging learning experiences that foster college and career readiness through highly qualified staff who are student-centered, future-focused and team-driven.**

## DATA-SUPPORTED INSTRUCTION



### **b. Initiate student goal setting and item analysis of the iReady Diagnostic Assessments in ELA and Mathematics K-8.**

- Student growth goals were set prior to **and after** the second i-Ready Diagnostic in January.
- Introduced the iReady character, Plory, to inspire and encourage students in their pursuit of achieving their set goals.
- Item analysis of the second i-Ready Diagnostic results in ELA and Mathematics K-9 was a key area of focus for the March half-day professional development.







2

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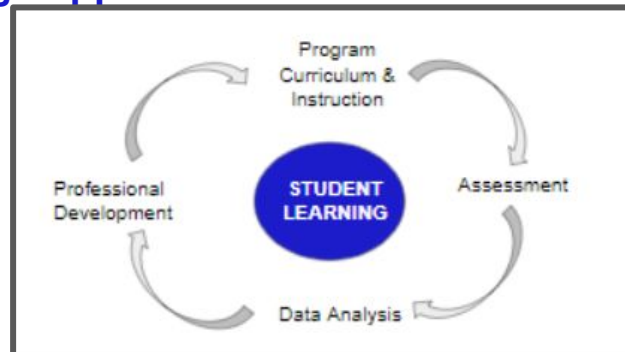
## DATA-SUPPORTED INSTRUCTION

**c. Initiate data analysis of student performance on NYS Assessments, Regents and grade level/course-specific assessments PK-12.**

- Data analysis of student performance was presented in September with ongoing review inclusive of the March half-day PD targeting item analysis of student assessment results.

**d. Expand the i-Ready Diagnostic and individualized learning support to identified ninth grade Math and ELA courses.**

- Currently expanded to ninth grade with ongoing review of teacher input and student results.





2

**Provide innovative, data-supported and engaging learning experiences that foster college and career readiness through highly qualified staff who are student-centered, future-focused and team-driven.**

## HIGHLY QUALIFIED STAFF

**a. Establish professional learning teams in support of instructional programs and identified goals.**

- Chester Academy and Chester Elementary School PLC (Professional Learning Community) Committees in place to support progression of annual goals and objectives.

**b. Enhance the new teacher orientation and mentoring program.**

- New teacher orientation expanded to a two-day training incorporating collaborative team-driven approach District-wide.
- 2023-24 enhancements implemented based on input from current cohort of first year CUFSD teachers and staff participants to ensure ongoing continuous improvement.





2

**Provide innovative, data-supported and engaging learning experiences that foster college and career readiness through highly qualified staff who are student-centered, future-focused and team-driven.**

## HIGHLY QUALIFIED STAFF

**c. Continue to provide professional development for faculty and staff reflective of district goals and professional growth.**

- Professional development is ongoing, reflective of individual staff needs in support of professional growth aligned to District goals and objectives.
- Continued emphasis placed on professional development focused on safety and security measures, culturally responsive and inclusive practices as well as programs and instruction aligned to the NY Next Generation Learning Standards.
- Professional Learning Community (PLC) and Committee meetings established at both Chester Academy and Chester Elementary School to progress District initiatives through teacher input and leadership.
- Expanded professional development and staff collaboration opportunities through the addition of three half days with identified objectives, specific to CES and CA in support of District goals.



**3**

**Expand opportunities for meaningful community engagement, communication and partnerships that support real-world application in learning.**

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**COMMUNICATION**

**PARTNERSHIPS IN LEARNING**



3

**Expand opportunities for meaningful community engagement, communication and partnerships that support real-world application in learning.**

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**a. Expand informational workshops for parents and families reflective of current needs.**

- Family Instructional Academy workshops completed:
  - 9/26/23 Improving Communication
  - 10/26/23 The Tricks & Treats of Student Assessment Data
  - 11/28/23 Student Academic Supports
  - 1/25/24 New Year, New Solutions
  - 4/25/24 Let's GLOW Crazy for Art Education





3

**Expand opportunities for meaningful community engagement, communication and partnerships that support real-world application in learning.**

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### **b. Provide opportunities for community input and engagement related to communication, facilities planning, and district initiatives.**

- CUFSD opportunities for input and engagement continue through the use of surveys and engagement opportunities including:
  - CUFSD Parent Advisory Panel
  - CUFSD Career Connections
  - CUFSD Family Instructional Academy
  - CUFSD Maple Avenue Task Force
  - CUFSD Parent Athletics Panel
- Collaborative partnership with PTA & PTSA and newly initiated SEPTSA to increase family involvement.







3

**Expand opportunities for meaningful community engagement, communication and partnerships that support real-world application in learning.**

## COMMUNICATION

**a. Highlight student academic and extracurricular experiences by implementing a district-wide newsletter.**

- CUFSD Newsletter initiated with current publications in September, November, [January](#), [April](#) and [June](#).

# CUFSD NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2023 HOME OF THE HAMBLETONIANS

## Career Connections students gain practical experience

The Career Connections initiative is now in its second successful year providing opportunities for all students in the Chester Union Free School District – from pre-K to grade 12 – to build valuable bridges from classroom learning to real-world applications.

Teachers identify standards and skills where a career or trade is directly aligned with instruction. Representatives of different fields are either invited to work directly with students on-site or they are visiting an organization or business to see the relationship to their learning first hand.

"Students are forging valuable connections to career applications in their learning," said Superintendent Catherine O'Hara. "We are excited to see the continued progress of this initiative and the

Whether through the Career Connections initiative or Workplace Learning Internship Program, our students have worked with bankers, graphic designers, Chester police officers, artists, medical professionals including

### Parents create Special Education Parent Teacher Association

Parents, in collaboration with the Chester Union Free School District, created the Special Education Parent Teacher Association (SEPTSA) this year as a way to provide resources for families and students with special needs.

SEPTSA works on creating spaces for students with neurodiversity and is district-wide so students within elementary school, middle school and high school have access to the resources that SEPTSA provides. Any parent is welcome to join, not just families of students with special needs.

### Voice Ensemble headed to Radio City

Students in the Chester Academy Music Department will take a trip to Radio City Music Hall on December 11, 2023, to perform as the opening act for the Radio City Christmas Spectacular.

The Voice Ensemble class had its audition tape submitted by teacher Rachel Scall in June. The students were accepted to perform, were able to successfully fundraise for their trip and are looking forward to



3

**Expand opportunities for meaningful community engagement, communication and partnerships that support real-world application in learning.**

## COMMUNICATION

**b. Expand communication avenues for families, inclusive of the District website and social media platforms.**



- Continue to enhance social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) highlighting student achievement in all areas.
- CUFSD Website continues to expand with updates to pages providing additional information to families. [Transition to FinalSite is underway for the 2024-2025 school year with identified improvements to communication.](#)
- School Messenger and District website offered in multiple languages.
- Schooltool online registration added.
- Improved access and translation services for Spanish-speaking families.
- CA Sports Media class expanded athletics highlights.





3

**Expand opportunities for meaningful community engagement, communication and partnerships that support real-world application in learning.**

## PARTNERSHIPS IN LEARNING

**a. Expand the workplace learning internship program and the newly initiated Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers program.**

- Chester Academy Workplace Learning Internship program continues to expand with [over 50](#) internships providing students with experiences and opportunities to support future career interests.
- TSTT (Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers) program is in its second year with 11 student participants.
- Summer instruction at CA and CES was utilized to provide students with their 20-hour summer internship requirement through the collaborative support of CUFSD teachers and staff.
- Continuation of IT Intern partnership with local colleges and universities.



**Today's  
Students  
Tomorrow's  
Teachers™**

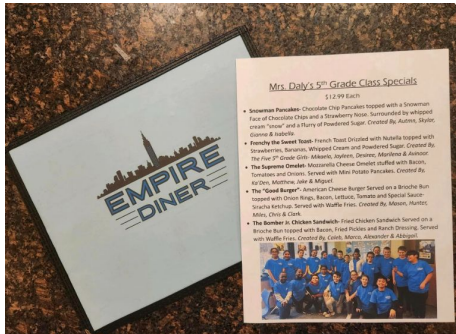


### 3 Expand opportunities for meaningful community engagement, communication and partnerships that support real-world application in learning.

## PARTNERSHIPS IN LEARNING

### b. Continue to develop career connections to student learning through partnerships with families, businesses and higher education.

- Career connections to student learning continue to expand in Chester Academy and Chester Elementary School.





**4**

**Ensure the continual improvement and expansion of district facilities, promoting safety, security and student opportunity in the most efficient and economical manner possible.**

**SAFETY & SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS**

**CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT & EXPANSION OF FACILITIES**



**4**

**Ensure the continual improvement and expansion of district facilities, promoting safety, security and student opportunity in the most efficient and economical manner possible.**

## **SAFETY & SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS**

- a. Continue to evaluate district safety plans ensuring law enforcement and risk management expertise are involved in all facets of safety and security protocols.**
- Town of Chester Police Department, Village of Chester Police Department, Orange County Sheriff's Office, New York State Police, and the Orange-Ulster BOCES Health & Safety Risk Management Team and Atlas Security have been directly involved in all facets of building safety & security to ensure:
    - shared commitment to safety and security at all levels
    - standardized protocols and procedures
    - fidelity of implementation
    - ongoing evaluation & assessment focused on continuous improvement to systems & procedures



**4**

**Ensure the continual improvement and expansion of district facilities, promoting safety, security and student opportunity in the most efficient and economical manner possible.**

## **SAFETY & SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS**

- a. Continue to evaluate district safety plans ensuring law enforcement and risk management expertise are involved in all facets of safety and security protocols.**
- Town of Chester Police Officers and Atlas Security on-site within and outside buildings daily.
  - Additional security personnel added to events and activities within and outside the school day.
  - District safety and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) meetings continue monthly to review emergency drill procedures and identify areas for continued improvement in safety protocols and procedures.
  - All building emergency drills are followed by safety team meetings to review and assess the implementation of emergency procedures and identify any potential areas for improvement.



**4**

**Ensure the continual improvement and expansion of district facilities, promoting safety, security and student opportunity in the most efficient and economical manner possible.**

## **SAFETY & SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS**

### **b. Ensure all staff is trained in building safety procedures and protocols.**

- Safety policies and procedures included in new hire orientation training in addition to required training through GCN (Global Compliance Network) video applications.
- Professional development expanded to include District-specific scenarios in “Expect the Unexpected” training through collaboration with OU BOCES Safety and Law Enforcement.
- Incorporated improved CUFSD Fire Safety and SHELL Procedures manual in staff/faculty training.
- Expanding crowd management operations and training District-wide.





4

Ensure the continual improvement and expansion of district facilities, promoting safety, security and student opportunity in the most efficient and economical manner possible.

## SAFETY & SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS

### c. Evaluate and pursue options for the Maple Avenue School building and property.

- Maple Avenue Overview and FAQ Publication
- CUFSD Advisory Panel
- Maple Avenue Task Force
- Thought Exchange Community Survey
- Community Forums
- Email specific to Maple Avenue
- Dedicated Maple Avenue Information on CUFSD Website
- Added exterior lighting as measure to address ongoing security risks.



#### MAPLE AVENUE BUILDING Presentation of District Options

##### Option 1: Building remains vacant (mothballed)

*Costs: \$25k Annually (maintenance, utilities, insurance, fire system)*

##### PROS

- Building remains on site
- Minimal costs associated with this option
- No voter approval required

##### CONS

- Building will continue to deteriorate beyond repair
- Safety concerns for community and spectators near this building
- Security risk for district (ie, people breaking into this location)
- Environmental growth (mold) will impact neighboring homes
- Temporary as building will eventually deteriorate beyond repair



4

**Ensure the continual improvement and expansion of district facilities, promoting safety, security and student opportunity in the most efficient and economical manner possible.**

## **SAFETY & SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS**

### **c. Evaluate and pursue options for the Maple Avenue School building and property.**

- **Voter Support:** Overwhelming approval of the proposition to transfer ownership and operation of the Maple Avenue School building and property to Orange County.
- **District Retention:** The district maintains ownership and use of the 1965 gym and athletic fields, ensuring continued access for students and community activities.
- **Shared Vision:** Collaboration between the district, families, community, and county result in an outcome reflective of input and communication from all stakeholders.



**4**

**Ensure the continual improvement and expansion of district facilities, promoting safety, security and student opportunity in the most efficient and economical manner possible.**

## **SAFETY & SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS**

**d. Continue to upgrade the district computer network infrastructure to improve safety, security and efficiency.**

- Continued partnership with outside organizations to upgrade and expand network security and efficiency.
- The NIST Disaster Recovery (DR) system project has been completed.



**4**

**Ensure the continual improvement and expansion of district facilities, promoting safety, security and student opportunity in the most efficient and economical manner possible.**

## **SAFETY & SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS**

**e. Expand data privacy and cybersecurity efforts through training and improved security applications.**

- Data privacy and cybersecurity training provided to all faculty and staff annually in addition to key topics identified through the newly implemented GCN (Global Compliance Network) software.
- KnowBe4 monthly phishing simulation continues with individualized training based on data.
- Improved access to Wi-Fi, as a previously identified security improvement, through the installation of five Verizon extenders District-wide.
- Initiated a District-wide Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) through the use of DUO keys.



**4**

**Ensure the continual improvement and expansion of district facilities, promoting safety, security and student opportunity in the most efficient and economical manner possible.**

## **CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT & EXPANSION OF FACILITIES**

**b. Continue to advance facility improvements and the implementation of a district-wide energy efficiency plan.**

- Energy efficiency plan developed and submitted for NYSED approval through collaboration with Orange & Rockland and New York State Energy Research and Development (NYSERDA).
- Chester Academy Makerspace open to students and staff in September 2023.
- Chester Elementary School Main Office renovation completed..



**5**

**Create a fiscally responsible budget that effectively addresses the needs of the district while considering the concerns and input of the community.**

**DISTRICT NEEDS**

**COMMUNICATION & COMMUNITY INPUT**





**5**

**Create a fiscally responsible budget that effectively addresses the needs of the district while considering the concerns and input of the community.**

## **DISTRICT NEEDS**

**a. Access federal and state “stimulus” funds to support district goals and programs.**

- CEP (Community Eligibility Provision) grant was approved in October, providing all CUFSD students the opportunity to receive a free breakfast and lunch through the end of the 2023-24 school year and beyond contingent on NYS funding the revenue loss.
- We continue to access all federal and state funds in support of District goals and initiatives.
- Budget implications from the discontinuation of COVID stimulus funds were evaluated in preparation for the 2024-2025 budget.



**5**

**Create a fiscally responsible budget that effectively addresses the needs of the district while considering the concerns and input of the community.**

## **DISTRICT NEEDS**

### **b. Evaluate the usefulness of current programs and shifting demographics.**

- Enrollment is projected to increase slightly in 2024-25.
- Current programs are evaluated based on student participation and performance, District priorities and emerging needs targeting continuous improvement in all areas.
- An increase in expenditures in Special Education, ENL support services, health insurance premiums and negotiated increases for staff is anticipated.



**5**

**Create a fiscally responsible budget that effectively addresses the needs of the district while considering the concerns and input of the community.**

## **DISTRICT NEEDS**

### **c. Evaluate financial implications of identified safety and facility improvements.**

- District-wide safety and facility improvements were included in budget presentations for voter consideration.
- Voters approved the safety capital project proposition, leading to significant safety and security enhancements. These include the construction of doors and transactional areas at Chester Elementary School, the creation of a transactional area at Chester Academy, and districtwide security upgrades.



5

**Create a fiscally responsible budget that effectively addresses the needs of the district while considering the concerns and input of the community.**

## COMMUNICATION & COMMUNITY INPUT



A **tax levy** is the total amount of property taxes a school must collect to balance its budget, after accounting for all other revenue sources including state aid.

- **Communicate the implications of the Property Tax Levy Cap.**
  - The projected tax levy represents about 60% of all District revenue and a 2.6% increase in taxes will support only a 1.5% increase in total spending.
  - The Property Tax Levy Cap was detailed in budget presentations and also included on the District website under Board of Education - Budget Information.



5

Create a fiscally responsible budget that effectively addresses the needs of the district while considering the concerns and input of the community.

## COMMUNICATION & COMMUNITY INPUT

### CHESTER UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT MAPLE AVENUE BUILDING FACT SHEET



#### DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

The Chester Union Free School District and the Chester community must make a decision regarding the future of the Maple Avenue building. To find the best solution, the District is taking the following steps:

- Engage an outside advisor
- Provide transparency and
- Involve the community

The District will also evaluate such as the building's condition, the building's location, the building's history, and the building's future. The District will also evaluate the building's condition, the building's location, the building's history, and the building's future.

#### BUILDING STATUS

In 2018, after the student referendum, the building was found to be in poor condition. The building was found to be in poor condition. The building was found to be in poor condition.

#### JULY 3 STORM DAMAGE

The damage to the building was caused by a storm on July 3, 2018. The storm caused significant damage to the building. The storm caused significant damage to the building.

The damage to the building was caused by a storm on July 3, 2018. The storm caused significant damage to the building. The storm caused significant damage to the building.

### MAPLE AVENUE BUILDING Community Engagement

IMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	OBJECTIVE
D Parent Advisory Panel Meeting	Overview of District Goals Presentation of Maple Avenue Options for Consideration Input on community survey and presentation on Maple Avenue Representatives (4) identified for Maple Avenue Task Force
Maple Avenue Task Force Meeting #1	Purpose & objectives defined Presentation of Maple Avenue Options for Consideration Input & discussion on results of Maple Avenue Task Force Survey
Open to the community for input	Opportunity for all community members to provide input on the options for consideration.
Maple Avenue Task Force Meeting #2	Public Presentation of Maple Avenue Options for Consideration
Maple Avenue Task Force Meeting #3	Review Community Survey Results
Maple Avenue Task Force Meeting #4	Public Presentation of Community Survey Results Announce Community Forum Wednesday, November 29
Wednesday, November 29, 2023	Community Forum Presentation of Maple Avenue Options for Consideration Presentation of Community Survey Results, Input Q & A

Next Steps: Additional information provided specific to option preferences. Community engagement opportunity. Referendum & vote.

b. Provide opportunities for community input and engagement related to the Maple Avenue School and future safety and facility improvements subject to voter approval

- Maple Avenue History and FAQ publication, BOE presentations, Maple Avenue Task Force, Community Forums, ThoughtExchange Survey, Dedicated Maple Avenue information tab on CUFSU website, [mapleavenue@chesterufsd.org](mailto:mapleavenue@chesterufsd.org) email open to community for questions.



5

Create a fiscally responsible budget that effectively addresses the needs of the district while considering the concerns and input of the community.

## COMMUNICATION & COMMUNITY INPUT

### CHESTER UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT MAPLE AVENUE BUILDING FACT SHEET



#### DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

The Chester Union Free School District and the Chester community must make a decision regarding the future of the Maple Avenue building. To find the best solution, the District is taking the following steps:

- Engage the community
- Provide transparency and
- Increase the community

The District will also consider the following factors in its decision-making process:

- The building's condition and safety
- The building's location and accessibility
- The building's size and capacity
- The building's cost and value
- The building's impact on the community

#### BUILDING STATUS

In 2018, after the most recent inspection, the building was found to be in poor condition. The building's roof is in need of replacement, and the building's foundation is in need of repair. The building's interior is in need of renovation, and the building's exterior is in need of repainting.

#### JULY 3 STORM DAMAGE

The damage to the building was caused by a severe storm on July 3, 2018. The storm caused significant damage to the building's roof, foundation, and interior. The damage was so severe that the building was deemed unsafe for occupancy. The District is currently working to assess the damage and determine the best course of action.

### MAPLE AVENUE BUILDING Community Engagement

IMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	OBJECTIVE
D Parent Advisory Panel Meeting	Overview of District Goals Presentation of Maple Avenue Options for Consideration Input on community survey and presentation on Maple Avenue Representatives (4) identified for Maple Avenue Task Force
Avenue Task Force Meeting #1	Purpose & objectives defined Presentation of Maple Avenue Options for Consideration Input & discussion on results of Maple Avenue Task Force Survey
y open to the community for input	Opportunity for all community members to provide input on the options for consideration.
resentation of Maple Avenue Options resideration	Public Presentation of Maple Avenue Options for Consideration
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resentation of Community Survey Results	Public Presentation of Community Survey Results Announce Community Forum Wednesday, November 29
Wednesday, November 29, 2023	Community Forum Presentation of Maple Avenue Options for Consideration Presentation of Community Survey Results, Input Q & A

Next Steps: Additional information provided specific to option preferences. Community engagement opportunity. Referendum & vote.

b. Provide opportunities for community input and engagement related to the Maple Avenue School and future safety and facility improvements subject to voter approval

- Voters approved the Maple Avenue Building proposition. This approval gives the District the authority to transfer ownership and operation of the Maple Avenue building property to Orange County. The District will maintain ownership and use of the 1965 gym and athletic fields.





**5**

**Create a fiscally responsible budget that effectively addresses the needs of the district while considering the concerns and input of the community.**

## COMMUNICATION & COMMUNITY INPUT

### Board of Education

Board Meeting Dates

BoardDocs Agenda and Minutes

District Goals

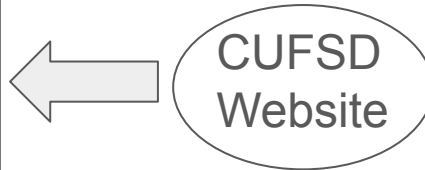
Budget Information

CUFSD Policy Manual

Meet Our Board

**c. Continue to use the district website, newsletters, and social media to disseminate budget information.**

- In addition to BOE Presentations, the CUFSD website, newsletters and social media provided information specific to the 2024-2025 budget.



**Thank you to the Chester community for your support of our 2024-2025 school budget and propositions.**