



## **DOWNINGTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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ROBERT J. O'DONNELL, Ed.D. SUPERINTENDENT

To: Board of Directors  
From: Robert J. O'Donnell  
Re: 2024-25 DASD District Initiatives  
Date: September 11, 2024

As we continue to strive to improve upon how we serve our students and employees, we've developed our annual areas of focus or District Initiatives for 2024-2025. Please note that these are not inclusive of every project in our district, including our most important daily work led by our faculty.

Because we are utilizing our six-year strategic plan as our framework for prioritizing district initiatives, we are framing our 2024-2025 educational initiatives within the goals of our plan. Additionally, we've included key initiatives relating to fiscal stewardship and facilities.

We are currently finalizing our Strategic Plan's dashboard and will post the initial measures for each goal to our website this fall. A student achievement update will be presented during the October board meeting.

### **Strategic Plan Goals**

#### **Goal #1: Students feel safe, connected and engaged**

- All students will feel valued in the school community.

#### **Goal #2: Students achieve core academic standards and skills**

- All students will meet or exceed local, state, and national standards.

#### **Goal #3: Students experience growth through equitable support**

- All students will have access to a comprehensive system of supports that advance their learning, growth, and achievement.

#### **Goal #4: Students are prepared for a future of their choice**

- All students will graduate with the skills necessary to pursue one or more of the four "Es": Education, Employment, Enlistment, and Entrepreneurship.

## 2024-25 DISTRICT INITIATIVES

### 1. Student Learning: Positively impact student learning

- a. Provide 30 minutes per day of flexible time for all high school students to receive direct support from their teachers outside of class during *Lunch and Learn* (**Goal 2, Goal 3**)
- b. Implement new start and end times at both the elementary and secondary levels to promote student wellness and academic achievement (**Goal 1, Goal 2**)
- c. Commitment to Curriculum Development Cycle (**Goal 2**)
  - i. Support faculty learning and implementation of updated curriculum
    1. Implement new science curriculum K-12
    2. Pioneer new math curriculum
    3. Develop financial literacy curriculum in line with new state standard
- d. Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) (**Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 3**)
  - i. K-5 mathematics intervention implementation
  - ii. Conduct a needs assessment of MTSS practices at each school/program
- e. Develop and Implement Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) Guidance (**Goal 2, Goal 4**)
  - i. Leverage A.I. tools to support student learning
  - ii. Initiate and assess faculty and student pilot experiences utilizing several A.I. tools, including Magic School A.I., Microsoft Copilot, and Kahnmigo
- f. Develop Full-Day Kindergarten Program (**Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 3**)
  - i. In collaboration with our kindergarten faculty, develop a balanced curriculum that includes academic instruction, play-based learning, and social-emotional activities that support diverse learning needs
  - ii. Develop and implement communications plan to promote community understanding
- g. Implement High School Retesting (**Goal 2, Goal 3**)
  - i. Ensure students achieve a deep understanding of course material by providing opportunities for reassessment and mastery
- h. Attract, support, develop and retain high quality faculty and staff (**Goal 1, Goal 2**)
  - i. Utilize faculty voice to develop responsive, high-quality professional development
  - ii. Continue marketing efforts to attract and recruit a highly qualified, diverse workforce
  - iii. Achieve a new collective bargaining agreement with our Downingtown Area Education Association

**2. School Climate: Cultivate a supportive and inclusive school climate for all students and employees (Goal 1)**

- a. With guidance from DASD’s Wellness Committee and CCIU/UPenn Mental Health Consortium Team, move initiatives forward to support student wellness **(Goal 1)**
  - i. Mental health screening (grade 3-9) student universal screening using BASC), including group supports by school counselors and prevention specialists
  - ii. K-8: Provide social-emotional learning experiences with direct instruction
- b. Reenvision Board’s Student Life committee at each high school to create a supportive environment where students can share their thinking regarding school experiences, including their suggestions regarding school district procedures and/or policy **(Goal 1)**
- c. Solicit feedback and compare data from previous year’s climate survey to enhance student and staff experiences within the district **(Goal 1, Goal 3)**
- d. Develop 5-year projections for each special education program that requires unique space to identify future needs for staffing and classroom/space **(Goal 3)**
- e. Evaluate special education paraprofessional staffing model, including process for approving new positions **(Goal 3)**
- f. Provide all high school students with a regularly scheduled hour-long flexible time for lunch, a break from academic work, opportunities for physical activity, and student meetings via *Lunch and Learn*
- g. Promote student involvement in extracurricular, co-curricular and/or DASD community activities **(Goal 1, Goal 4)**

**3. Strategic Plan: Implement year one of six-year DASD community-based educational strategic plan (Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 3, Goal 4)**

- a. Develop plan to actualize portrait of a graduate
- b. Develop and implement communications plan to ensure community understanding, including a web-based data dashboard
- c. Develop six-year plan of district initiatives aligned to goals of strategic plan

**4. Facilities: Provide all students with quality learning environments (Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 3)**

- a. Complete construction and renovation projects
  - i. Complete renovations and additions to Beaver Creek and West Bradford Elementary Schools while continuing to provide valuable learning experiences
  - ii. Develop preliminary plans for Lionville Elementary (LE), Bradford Heights and Brandywine Wallace (BW) Elementary Schools, including cost estimates, scope and initial sketches

- iii. Partner with East Brandywine Township to realize public water, sewer and natural gas at BW
- b. Finalize plan to achieve classroom capacity for full-day kindergarten implementation in August of 2025
  - i. Collaborate with district facilities team to create classroom spaces at schools lacking space for full-day kindergarten
  - ii. Reduce LE enrollment by shifting students to lowest-enrolled elementary school, Pickering Valley

**5. Fiscal Stewardship: Effectively manage financial resources to optimize student learning outcomes**

- a. Develop a 2025-26 budget proposal that strategically allocates resources to support district educational programs and operations
- b. Ensuring full-day kindergarten staffing plan within budget proposal: initiate and publicize kindergarten in early 2025
- c. Reduce district energy consumption through facility upgrades and consideration of sustainable energy sources
- d. Reduce transportation costs by investigating walking zones and bus allocation
- e. Update multi-year capital finance plan to align with facility plans