

Dartmouth Middle School 2025-2026 School Improvement Plan



OneDartmouth



Leadership Team

Peter Rossi, Principal

Sarah Decas, Associate Principal

Marc Hayes, Assistant Principal

Sam Madden, Assistant Principal

Staff Profile 2024-2025	Student Demographics 2024-2025
Administration: 4	African American: 1.5%
Custodial Staff: 4	Asian: 1.1%
Educational Support Professionals: 9	Hispanic: 5.4%
School Counselors/Guidance Counselors: 4	Native American: 0
School Nurses: 2	Caucasian:85.6%
Security Monitors: 2	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander:0
Teachers: 85	Multi-Race, Non Hispanic:0
Average Class size: 21	Female:375
	Male:426
	Non-Binary:0

District Strategic Plan Overview

District Mission: Together with students, staff, families, and community, we are committed to cultivating a safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environment that empowers all students to become compassionate, informed, and contributing members of our local and global community.

Core Values:

Personal excellence and responsibility

Respect for self and others

Inclusivity, equity, and belonging

Diverse opportunities and student agency (voice and choice)

Ethical commitments

Vision Statement: United as One Dartmouth, we are invested in the ongoing improvement of our community. Dartmouth Public Schools proudly offers unparalleled opportunities leading to educational excellence and success for current and future generations.

Theory of Action:

If we support student and staff needs by engaging ALL to:

- Ensure an aligned curriculum employing culturally and intellectually affirming practices
- Support a sense of belonging and social emotional well-being
- Strengthen community and family engagement
- Create a joint vision to address funding and facility needs

Then we will cultivate a safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environment that empowers all students to become compassionate, informed, and contributing members of our local and global community.

Focus Area 1: Teaching and Learning

Objective: Develop a responsive and vertically and horizontally aligned curriculum for all middle school students

TL1: Ensure vertical and horizontal alignment of curriculum and instructional practices that incorporate data to inform instruction and align to the Portrait of a Learner

School Based Action Steps	Timeline	Led By	Measures of Success
Participate actively in the district's curriculum review cycle	5/25-6/29	Director of Teaching & Learning, Associate Principal	Meeting minutes, curriculum maps, scope and sequences
New science curriculum rollout (Science, world language)	9/24-6/29	Associate Principal, Science teachers grades 6-8	Common assessments, scopes and sequences, CPT minutes, classroom observations, student reflections, lesson plans, PD sessions
Establish vertical alignment between elementary and high school curricula	1/25-6/29	Directors of Teaching and Learning/Admin Team/Coaches	Vertical team meeting minutes, aligned scope and sequences, PD session
Continue to develop and implement common assessments across grade levels (6-8)	1/25-6/29	Coaches Associate Principal, Teachers	Common assessments and data analysis in all subject areas. CPT minutes
Create consistent expectations for classwork, homework, and student participation	8/24-8/26	Admin team, teachers	Rubrics, CPT minutes, ERD minutes, parent letters

Focus Area 1: Teaching and Learning

TL2: Increase student voice and choice in learning experiences

School Based Action Steps	Timeline	Led By	Measures of Success
Develop and implement student led lessons	9/24-6/29	Admin Team, Coaches, teachers	Classroom observations, lesson plans, scope and sequence, rubics, student surveys, CPT minutes
Provide opportunities for students to make choices in their learning	9/24-6/29	Admin Team, Coaches, teachers	Lesson plans, rubrics, classroom observations, student surveys.
Incorporate opportunities for students to discuss their learning and create pathways for them to explore the process.	9/24-9/29	Admin Team, Coaches, teachers	OpenSciEd science circles, Civics projects and showcase. Career exploration, scope and sequences, lesson plans, work samples, classroom observations.



Focus Area 1: Teaching and Learning

TL3: Provide targeted professional development for middle school educators

School Based Action Steps	Timeline	Led By	Measures of Success
Design professional learning opportunities specific to middle school teaching strategies and professional practice goals	9/24-6/29	Director of Teaching and Learning, Admin team, Coaches	Smart Goal progress, PD programs and attendance, teacher surveys and reflections
Continue with collaborative planning time for all content areas and interdisciplinary teaching	9/24-6/29	Teachers, Associate Principal, Coaches	CPT minutes, scope and sequences, common assessments
Develop working school-wide PD calendar aligned to SIP	9/25-6/29	Principal & Associate Principal	PD calendar

Focus Area 2: Safe and Supportive Schools

Objective: Ensure that all students feel a sense of belonging and social emotional well-being in school through the use of culturally and intellectually affirming practices

SS1: Maintain a strong, inclusive school culture

School Based Action Steps	Timeline	Led By	Measures of Success
PBIS team collaborates and implements celebratory activities that celebrate the school's core values	9/24-6/29	Principal, PBIS Committee	RARE celebrations, student and teacher surveys, PBIS meeting minutes and action plans
Student leadership opportunities	9/24-6/29	Admin and guidance team	Project 351, RARE representatives Civics projects, Playbook Initiative
Promote the Unified Sports programs	9/24-6/29	Admin Team, Adjustment Counselor, Coaches, Program teachers	Unified programs, games, events.

Focus Area 2: Safe and Supportive Schools

SS2: Enhance social-emotional learning and support with a comprehensive student support system

School Based Action Steps	Timeline	Led By	Measures of Success
Identify and provide tiered interventions for student support through the RTI process	9/24-6/29	RTI team	DCAPs, Student schedules, guidance social support groups
Train staff in culturally responsive and emotionally affirming practices	Ongoing through June 2026	Principal, Admin Team	Teacher reflections, survey feedback, Attendance at PD
Provide high-interest after-school programming - Ensure every student has access to extracurricular activities	10/24-5/29	Admin Team, after-school coordinator, teachers	Student surveys, attendance for after-school programs

Focus Area 2: Safe and Supportive Schools

SS5: Align safety practices across the district to further enhance emergency response preparedness

School Based Action Steps	Timeline	Led By	Measures of Success
Participation in District School Safety Committee	Ongoing	District Admin -School Safety Committee	Meeting Agendas, PD Development
Implement multiple drills in conjunction with District Planning	Ongoing through June 2029	Principal, Admin Team	Completion of quarterly drills and review of feedback from DPD and Staff
Seek continued education opportunities and Professional Development (Annual School Safety Conference)	September 2025-June 2029	Admin Team	Staff PD training (Teachpoint, IPDIP)
Train staff in De-Escalation Techniques (CPI)	Annually	Principal, District Admin	CPI Certification for Designated Staff
Collaborate with DPD on school safety drills, video coverage, and Intercom usage.	September 2025-June 2026	Principal, Admin Team	Adoption of uniform language, familiarity with our cameras/Intercoms, and drill feedback

Focus Area 3: Family and Community Engagement

Objective: Strengthen interactions and seek multiple ways to engage all families and stakeholder groups as partners

FCE1: Create and offer multiple engagement opportunities for family engagement

School Based Action Steps	Timeline	Led By	Measures of Success
Participate in school-wide family engagement surveys	Annually (fall)	Principal	Survey data
Host regular parent-teacher conferences, Open House with virtual and in-person options provided, and New Parent Orientation	12/24-12/28	Teachers, admin team, guidance	Attendance, conference schedule
Create opportunities for family involvement in school activities	September 2025	Principal	BINGO nights, drama productions, Career Day, Literacy night
Parent-Teacher organizations	Monthly	Principal	Attendance at monthly meetings, events

Focus Area 3: Family and Community Engagement

FCE2: Community Connections

School Based Action Steps	Timeline	Led By	Measures of Success
Career exploration opportunities	9/25-6/29	Principal, guidance	Career Day, guest speakers, guidance curriculum
Invite community leaders in for events and participate in statewide Civics showcase	1/25-6/29	Admin Team, media specialist, grade 8 SS teachers	Inhouse Civics showcase, Statewide Civics

Focus Area 3: Family and Community Engagement

FCE2: Open Communication with families

School Based Action Steps	Timeline	Led By	Measures of Success
Provide information on multiple platforms	9/24-6/29	Principal, tech specialist	Parent Square notifications, Sample parent letters, Emails, phone logs, parent night participation, Aspen
Continue to provide grade-level communication strategies to best meet the needs of parents	09/24-6/29	Admin Team, teachers	Parent Square, Google Forms, Emails, phone logs, Aspen

Focus Area 4: Budget and Capital Improvements

Objective: Enhance collaboration between schools, town government and the community with the goal of creating a joint vision to address school funding, facility issues and staff recruitment

BCI1: Communicate and advocate for the instructional and operational needs of the district addressing identified structural deficiencies

School Based Action Steps	Timeline	Led By	Measures of Success
Collaborate with District, Maintenance and Custodial staff with Capital Improvement Plan priorities	Ongoing	Principal	Work Completion
Collaborate with stakeholders to implement improvement plans	June 2025-June 2026	District Leadership, Principal, Admin Team	Scheduling to accommodate facilities staff and instructional programming

BCI2: Communicate and advocate for the facility and capital improvement needs of the district

School Based Action Steps	Timeline	Led By	Measures of Success
Invest in Digital Hall pass system to maximize time on learning and limit hallway movement	June 2025- June 2026	Admin Team	Implementation of System- Data Collected
Survey and Reflect on Instructional Needs and space based on current population and schedule.	June 2025-June 2026	Principal, Admin Team	Requests submitted for instructional needs, Assignment of Classrooms for SY 25/26