



SWEET HOME CENTRAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent Report

OUR MISSION: EVERY STUDENT,
ONE COMMUNITY, READY FOR THE FUTURE.



2024 - 2025

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Superintendent Report

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Tonight's Report:

- Tenure Reception
- Thank you Mayesha!
- District Safety Plan
- SmartPhone Task Force and Plan
- Strategic Plan Update
- Poetry Slam

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Superintendent Report



CONGRATULATIONS 2025 TENURE RECIPIENTS!

Matt Capriotto
Alexis Ciehomski
Kendra Ciezki
Dominique Dibble
Maggie Dirrigl
Dan Hammonds
Kim Harrison
Kailee Humbert
Jessica Jenkins
Carol Kamph
Megan Land
Kassie Magin

Lindsay Marcinelli
Josh Montalbo
Ben Morton
Emma Mulcahy
Kristen Noltee
Jamie Riddoch
Julia Ryan
Ashley Shutt
Jessica Spiesz
Dan Tracz
Christy Wach
Jessica Whitcomb
Dr. Toyia Wilson



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**Thank you and
Congratulations to Student
Ex-Officio Board Member,
Mayesha Subaita!**

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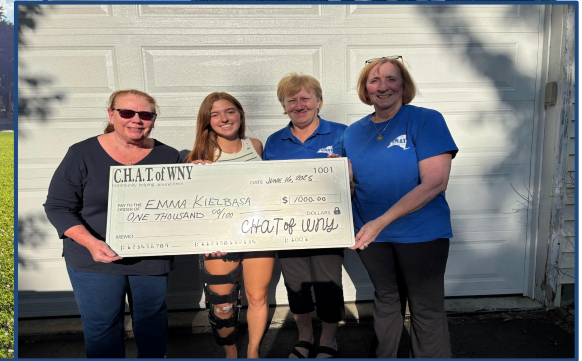
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2025 Senior Awards Night

- 59 Students Received an Award
- \$107,780 in Awards Distributed Last Night

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**SWEET HOME CENTRAL
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District-Wide School Safety Plan UPDATE

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

2024-2025

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District Safety Committee 24-25

- *Donald Feldmann, Assistant Superintendent*
- *Stephen Rozler, Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds*
- *Michael Ginestre, Superintendent*
- *Toyia Wilson, Asst. Supt. Director & Curriculum*
- *Grazyna Arnold, SRO / Amherst Police*
- *Kathryn Barillari, Director Special Education*
- *Ray Bailey, High School Assistant Principal*
- *Ariel Carlino, Admin Asst. Business Office*
- *Sheila Connors, Social Studies/Advisor*
- *Marissa Dauria, Middle School Principal*
- *Karen DeLaPlante, Glendale Principal*
- *Bob Ehlenfield, Systems Engineer*
- *Amanda Glenn, Kindergarten Teacher*
- *Rebecca Harmon, High School Senior Clerk*
- *Marianne Jasen, Board of Education*

- *Scott Johnson, Board of Education*
- *David Kasproicz, Erie 1 BOCES*
- *Lynn Kawa, Glendale Counselor*
- *Scott Kennedy, Supervisor of Transportation*
- *Matt LaRoach, High School Teacher*
- *Ben Morton, High School Assistant Principal*
- *Sherry McNamara, Admin. Asst. Supt./BOE*
- *Antonio Perry, Heritage Heights Principal*
- *Mallory Piwtorak, Program Aide, Parent*
- *Jason Phillips, Middle School Custodian*
- *John Radens, Community Member*
- *Christopher Schiumo, Athletic Director*
- *Gregory Smorol, Principal*
- *Jeremy Traverse, Science Teacher*
- *Rob Woodford, Parent/ Community Member*



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District-Wide School Safety Plans

Per NYS Education Law §2801-a and NYS Commissioner's Regulations §155.17, public school districts must adopt a District-Wide School Safety Plan and building-level Emergency Response Plans for each school building

- ❖ District-Wide Safety Plan:
 - annual public comment for a 30-day period
 - includes an annual public hearing
 - approved by the Board of Education by September 1

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Building-Level Emergency Response Plans

- Building-Level Emergency Response Plans:
 - Confidential, detailed information on how school personnel and students should respond to different types of emergencies
 - shared with law enforcement agencies and emergency responders
 - submitted to NYSED by the October 1 annually

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District-Wide School Safety Plans

SECTION 1000: GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

SECTION 2000: GENERAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANNING

SECTION 3000: RESPONDING TO THREATS AND ACTS OF VIOLENCE

SECTION 4000: COMMUNICATION WITH OTHERS

SECTION 5000: PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

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District-Wide School Safety Plans

APPENDICES:

- Appendix I: Buildings covered by the District Plan
- Appendix II: Outside Resources
- Appendix III: Law Enforcement & Security Professional Services Contracts/MOUs
- Appendix IV: Public Employer Health Emergency Plan
- Appendix V: Cybersecurity Plan
- Appendix VI: NEW: Emergency Remote Learning Plan
- **Appendix VII: Crisis Response Plan**

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District-Wide School Safety Plans

Changes as mandated by NYSED:

Section 2000 General Emergency Response Planning

- **Revision of SHELTER IN PLACE** procedure (Sec 2000 B. 2220)
- **Addition of HOLD IN PLACE** procedure (Sec 2000 B. 2221)
- **Rename LOCKOUT to SECURE LOCKOUT** (Sec 2000 B. 2226)

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Shelter in Place

Current language 2024-25:

Shelter In Place is used when students and staff are required to remain in their current or a designated location. If there is an internal incident or administrative matter such as students fighting in a hallway, a maintenance issue or medical emergency that requires that student and staff movement be limited, a Shelter In Place may be initiated to keep students and staff out of the affected area until the situation can be rectified. Depending on the threat or hazard, students and staff may be required to move to a safe room or to a weather shelter.

2025-26 Change:

Shelter In Place is used when students and staff are required to remain in their current or a designated location for their own safety due to an external threat such as a weather emergency. Depending on the threat or hazard, students and staff may be required to move to a safe room or to a weather shelter.

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Hold in Place Procedures

2025-26 Change:

A **Hold In Place** is used when students and staff are required to remain in their current or a designated location due to a short term emergency within the building. If there is an internal incident or administrative matter such as students fighting in a hallway, a maintenance issue or medical emergency that requires that student and staff movement to be limited, a **Hold In Place** may be initiated to keep students and staff out of the affected area until the situation can be rectified.

Objectives

- To facilitate emergency responses.
- To establish safe routes and designated areas.

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District-Wide School Safety Plans

Sweet Home Safety Committee Recommendations:

Appendix VII - Crisis Response Plan

- provides strategies for addressing crisis intervention.
- purpose of crisis response is to help students and staff cope with painful emotions and feelings resulting from a school or community related crisis
- procedures outline the steps that Sweet Home Central School District will implement in the event of a crisis
- throughout this process, sensitivity to the wishes of the family/families involved will be a primary concern

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30-Day Public Comment Period

- District-Wide Safety Plan will be posted on Website for Public Review
- Comment Period runs May 14 to June 14
- Submit Comments Donald Feldmann, Assistant Superintendent
- dfeldmann@sweethomeschools.org

No comments were submitted to the District during the 30 day comment period.

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Questions from the Board



ANY
QUESTIONS?



SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Distraction Free Schools Plan

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2024 - 2025

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A committee of key-stakeholders was established that was composed of the following members:

8 Sweet Home Educators Association (SHEA) teachers, counselors, TOSA: 50%

3 Parents/ Guardians: 19%

4 Administrators: 25%

1 Board of Education member: 6%

Total 16 committee members

This team met: March 3rd, April 3rd, May 1st,
June 4th and June 9th, 2025

Committee Members

Ali Aljebori, Parent	Camille Coleman, Parent	Dan Hammonds, High School	Cheryl Palmer, Middle School
Danyelle Anthon, BOE Member	Marissa Dauria, MS Principal	Kendra Herbold, Maplemere	Antonio Perry, Elem Principal
Derek Baker, HS Principal	Anuja Geary, Glendale	Dannesha Jones, Parent	Stephen Shepard, Ready
Dean Bavisotto, High School	Kristin Gernatt, Middle School	Jenine Nowakowski, MS	Toyia Wilson District Office

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Student voice was collected to support the plan development during Student Leadership Luncheons which were:

- March 10, 2025: Maplemere
- March 11, 2025: Heritage Heights
- March 17, 2025: Willow Ridge
- March 27, 2025: Glendale
- April 2, 2025: High School
- April 28, 2025: Middle School

Town Hall
High School Auditorium
Tuesday, June 24
@ 7:15 pm
Parents, Students, Staff, All
are welcome to attend!

Members from the committee engaged their students in a review of the plan to gather feedback. There were 174 students from across the district engaged.

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Our task, develop a plan to support the new law:

In May 2025, New York State adopted education Law 2803(2) to restrict student use of internet-enabled devices.

Ed law 2803(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (b) of subdivision one of section 2854 of this chapter, each school district, charter school, and board of cooperative educational services shall adopt a written policy prohibiting the use of internet-enabled devices by students during the school day anywhere on school grounds. Each school district, charter school, and board of cooperative educational services shall consult local stakeholders, including but not limited to the employee organization representing each bargaining unit within the school building, parents/ guardians, and students, in the development of such policy prior to its adoption.

Student use of personal internet-enabled devices is prohibited for the entirety of the school day, this law will take effect during the 2025-2026 school year.

Schools **cannot suspend** a student **solely for using an internet-enabled device** in violation of the policy.

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Definition of Distraction Free School Internet-enabled Devices:

Personal internet-enabled devices -- internet-enabled devices and the associated headphones/ headsets (bluetooth enabled accessories). Personal internet devices includes but is not limited to: smartphones, tablets, smartwatches, laptops, gaming-consoles, Fitbits, Google glasses, VR headsets, MP3 players, iPods, and iPads.

Does NOT include:

- Basic devices that **can't connect to the internet**
- Devices **provided by the school** for learning
- There are exemptions that will be outlined later in the presentation

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Time and locations of the Distraction Free School requirement:

School Day -- The **entire school day**, including all instructional time, plus **homeroom, lunch, recess, study hall, and time between classes.**

School Grounds -- Anywhere on school property — this includes **buildings, playgrounds, athletic fields, and all land** within the school's property lines.

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What are **our expectations** for internet-enabled devices during the distraction free school zone times?

From the time students enter the building at the start of the day until they exit the building at the end of the day:

Our recommendation is that students leave devices at home as much as possible.

- **For elementary students in grades UPK to 5** devices must be turned off and stored in student backpacks.
- **For secondary students in grades 6-12** devices must be turned off and stored in lockers.

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How will **students and families access** communication during the day?

Schools will identify 1-2 locations at the elementary level and 2-3 locations at the secondary level that are suitable for students to use a school phone to call parents/ guardians.

Teachers may give permission to students to use classroom phones to communicate with parents/ guardians at their discretion.

For limited use, parents/ guardians may email messages to be issued to students using each school's attendance office (each school will communicate the process for the use of this option).

We continue to seek out more options for families that could be app based.

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Distraction Free Schools Plan

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Which **exemptions** apply to internet-enabled devices during the distraction free school zone?

Students may use their personal, internet-enabled devices under the following circumstances:

- Healthcare needs - As required for tracking health conditions or medical purposes as per individual Healthcare Plan (example: Diabetic monitoring) - doctor note required.
- Required by law - if the use of a device is mandated by law - legal documentation required.
- IEP/ 504 Plans - When specified in a student's Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan - evaluation through the Committee of Special Education (CSE) or 504 process required.
- Exemptions will be documented in the 504, IEP, legal documentation, or medical records; this will be added to Powerschool notifications as a flag.

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Law enforcement experts agree: Cell phones make emergencies **less** safe!

- Most threats are made via cellphone.
- Cell phones during emergencies make it harder for first responders to protect kids.
- The most important thing is that kids' undivided attention is on the adults giving them directions.
- Phone use during a lockdown can make students a target or even trigger a device.
- Our protocols and procedures should be guided by accurate information and tested strategies not anxiety and fear.

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What are the **consequences** for not following the requirements of the Distraction Free School Zone?

First offense: device confiscated, parent/ guardian notified, warning, **device returned to student at the end of the day.**

Second offense: device confiscated, parent/ guardian notified, warning, **device returned to parent/ guardian at the end of the day.**

Third offense: device confiscated, parent/ guardian notified, student must turn in the device at the start of the school day for **5 days** to have it **returned to student at the end of each day.**

Beyond the third offense: device confiscated, parent/ guardian notified, student must turn in the device at the start of the school day for **5 days** to have it **returned to parent/ guardian at the end of each day.**

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Refusal to comply: in-school or out-of-school suspension will be issued depending on the severity of the behavior in connection with the refusal to comply. A student's refusal to comply repeatedly will result in an in-school or out-of-school suspension and the requirement of turning in the device every day at the start of each school day for the remainder of the school year.

This plan will be added to the district code of conduct.

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Distraction Free Schools Plan

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What will be **managed** by each school site?

The full plan for the Distraction Free Zone must be implemented beginning the school year of 2025-2026. School leaders will be responsible for the implementation and the development of the following systems:

- the identification and use of the 1-2 (elementary) and 2-3 (secondary) locations for students to access a school phone for limited parent/ guardian communication and the system to support the use of parents/ guardians emailing the attendance email address. Principals must communicate this plan to families and staff prior to the start of the school year.
- the process staff must use when a student is in violation of the Distraction Free School Zone policy. This plan must be made available to staff prior to the start of the school year.
- a plan that communicates the students who have violated the policy and the level of consequences that have been issued to students so as to maintain consistency across the school community.

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What is the **cost to Sweet Home**?

Sweet Home will be reimbursed approximately \$13K by New York State to support the implementation of the Distraction Free School Zone. Headphones will be purchased to support instruction and assessment.

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This a partnership between students, families and the district.

It is important that:

- The district make collaborative plans, and continue to monitor, we are required to track the progress and report out on consequences effective September 1, 2025.
- Students work to make the shift for the start of the year.
- Parents/ guardians are urged to express to students the importance of following the Distraction Free School Zone Plan.

As a community of learning, the collaboration between home and school will be critical to the success of the plan's implementation.

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What is our **communication plan**?

The plan is scheduled to be presented during a town-hall (June 24, 2025) and a Board of Education meeting (June 17, 2025). After June 17, the plan will be posted on the district website for public comment, to be voted on by the Board during the August Board meeting. Upon approval by the Board, the plan will be added to the District Code of Conduct.

Along with the leadership luncheons, members from the committee engaged their students in a review of the plan to gather feedback. There were 174 students from across the district engaged.

Feedback from all interactions will be used to develop a FAQ to be communicated in August 2025 along with communications of the plan district wide and at the school level. A detailed communication plan will support summer connections and help provide consistency.

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Distraction Free Schools Plan

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References

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Chuck, E. (2024, September 7). *Lifeline or distraction? Georgia shooting reignites debate over cellphones in schools*. NBC News.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/lifeline-distraction-shooting-reignites-debate-phones-schools-rcna169920>

Governor Hochul unveils plan to restrict smartphone use in schools statewide and ensure distraction-free learning in New York. (2025, January 22). Governor Kathy Hochul.

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-unveils-plan-restrict-smartphone-use-schools-statewide-and-ensure-distraction>

National School Safety and Security Services. (2024, September 8). *Cell phones, school safety and phone ban complexities* [Video].

YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NRaMT8dJhaU&t=9s>

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Distraction Free Schools Plan

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SWEET HOME CENTRAL
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Strategic Plan Update
June 17, 2025

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2023 - 2026

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SWEET HOME CSD

STRATEGIC PLAN

**OUR MISSION: EVERY STUDENT,
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OUR GOALS

Teaching & Learning

Sweet Home provides learning experiences that are focused on supporting students in developing strong academic skills through experiential learning while amplifying student voice.

Future Focused

Sweet Home coursework provides real-world experiences that engage students across a series of pathways while teaching and nurturing critical life skills in everyone.

Whole Child

Sweet Home students grow and learn in an environment that is fully engaging, welcoming, accepting, and safe, where students believe their voices are heard and where they have opportunities to actively engage with each other in all subject areas through relationships and the real world.



OUR VISION

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO BE:

- INNOVATIVE
- SELF-DIRECTED
- CURIOUS
- COMPASSIONATE
- RESILIENT
- PERSISTENT
- LIFELONG LEARNERS



LEARN MORE AT [SWEETHOMESCHOOLS.ORG](https://www.sweethomeschools.org)





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Strategic Plan Update

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Year 2 Review

- Tracked progress of each goal
 - Curriculum and Instruction
 - Teaching & Learning/ DEI committee
- Reviewed Language to make recommendations on shifts and changes (pink highlights)

Tracking documents:

[Goal 1](#)

[Goal 2](#)

[Goal 3](#)

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SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Strategic Plan Update

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Goal 1

Teaching & Learning

Sweet Home provides learning experiences that are focused on supporting students in developing strong academic skills through experiential learning while amplifying student voice.

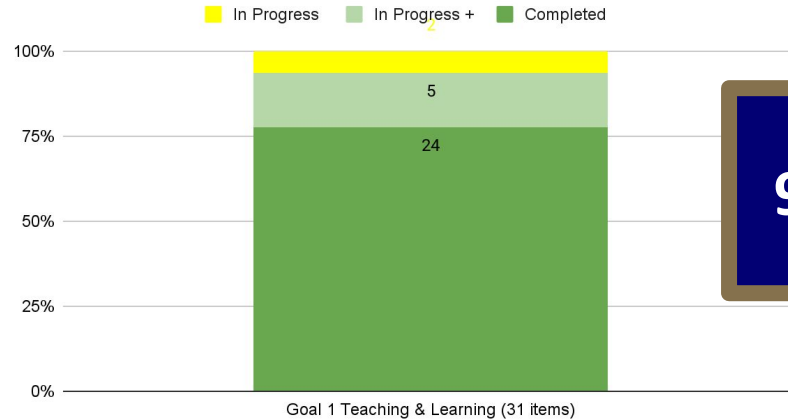
1.1.A. Conduct a curriculum and assessment audit for English Language Arts (ELA) and numeracy to determine the effectiveness of our program and the need for adoption of new assessments.

- Professional development numeracy underway and ELA in the initial process (1.1.A).

1.2.C Empower students by amplifying student voices in the curriculum.

- Leader in Me emphasis across schools (1.2.C).
- Sweet Home C2C and Regional C2C (1.2.C)

Semester 2, Yr. 2 Update, June 2025



94%

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SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Strategic Plan Update

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Goal 2

Future Focused

Sweet Home coursework provides real-world experiences that engage students across a series of pathways while teaching and nurturing critical life skills in everyone.

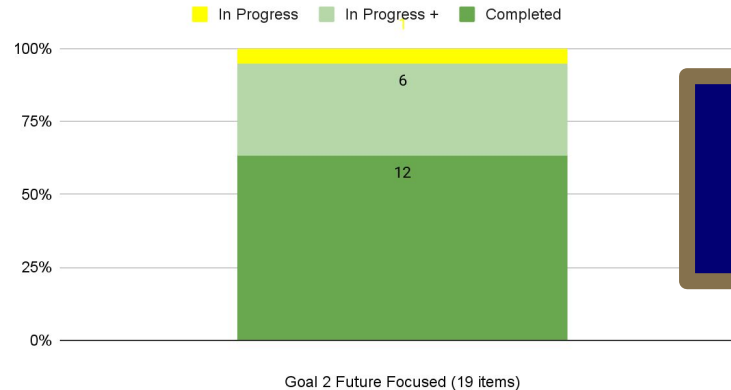
2.1.B. Leader in Me support across all four schools - the habits will be embedded into subject areas/aspects of a child's day.

- School visits and district lighthouse coordinator session (2.1.B)

2.2.C. Explore and identify a curriculum that supports the development of global citizenship skills in high school.

- LiM expansion, 7 Habits for all MS & HS, lighthouse teams established (2.2.C).

Semester 2, Yr. 2 Update, June 2025



95%

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Strategic Plan Update

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Goal 3

Whole Child

Sweet Home students grow and learn in an environment that is fully engaging, welcoming, accepting, and safe, where students believe their voices are heard and where they have opportunities to actively engage with each other in all subject areas through relationships and the real world.

3.1.B. & 3.2.B Establish clear Multi-Tiered Systems and Supports through Intervention (MTSSi) tiers for behavioral interventions and training for Trauma Informed Care for all students.

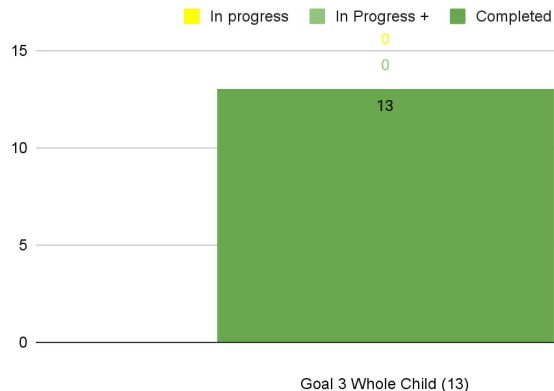
- BESS assessment identified, SEL lessons to support consistent focus across the district.

Next steps **Year Three:** Monitor and assess, use data to drive identifying supports, continue to expand HS supports.

**Thank you to Director Katie Barillari for
her leadership in this work!**

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Semester 2, Yr. 2 Update, June 2025





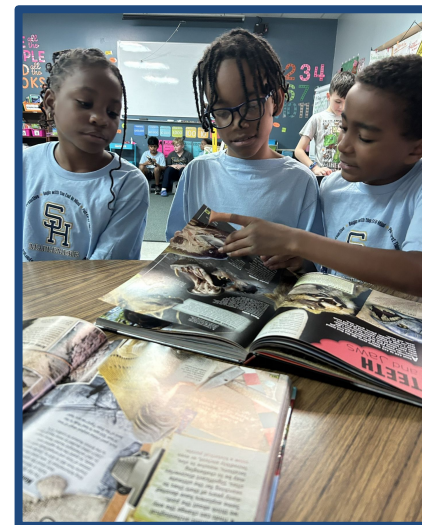
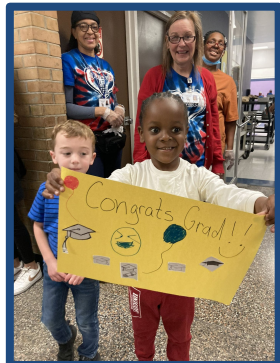
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Strategic Plan Update

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Looking Forward to Year 3:

- Set a plan for kicking off year 3 (prepare for revisions in the next year).
- Foundation in the first 3 years, next three will have metrics assigned!



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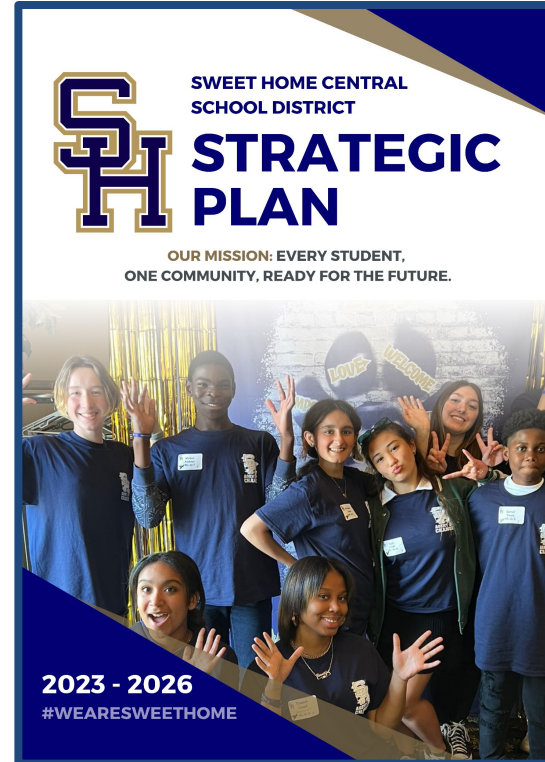
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Teaching & Learning Sub-Committee

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Thank you, Questions?

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Maplemere Fundraiser

Ice Bucket Challenge June 13



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**Congratulations to the
Class of 2025!**

**Graduation Ceremony
UB Center of the Arts
6 p.m. June 26, 2025,**



#WEARESWEETHOME



SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent Report

OUR MISSION: EVERY STUDENT, ONE COMMUNITY,
READY FOR THE FUTURE.

Questions from the Board?

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