



We Have Accepted The Challenge!

Central Islip Union Free School District

SHARON A. DUNGEE, Ed.D. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

MATTHEW MATERA ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR ADMINISTRATION

JESSICA IAFRATE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Phone: 631-348-5000 | Post Office Box 9027 Central Islip, New York 11722

March 27, 2024

Dr. Betty A. Rosa, Commissioner New York State Education Department 89 Washington Avenue Albany, NY 12234

Dear Commissioner Rosa

The Central Islip Union Free School District and the County of Suffolk are fully committed to supporting the My Brother's Keeper initiative. In order to expand the work of the Central Islip Union Free School District's My Brother's Keeper, we welcome the opportunity to be a part of the New York State My Brother's Keeper

Our district's My Brother's Keeper initiative launched this community engagement commitment to serve young men of color. We recognize the challenges faced by these young people. The Central Islip Union Free School District supports the six national MBK milestones that are focused on ensuring that all children/youth:

- Enter school ready to learn;
- Read at grade level by third grade;
- Graduate from high school:
- Complete postsecondary education or training; All youth out of school are employed; and
- 6. All youth remain safe from violent crime.

In addition to supporting the six milestones set at the national level, we are also committed to supporting the six NYS MBK Priorities:

- Ensuring equitable access to high quality schools and programs;
- Expanding prevention, early warning, and intervention services;
- 3. Using differentiated approaches based on need and culture;
- 4. Responding to structural and institutional racism:
- Making comprehensive and coordinated support services widely available; and
- 6. Engaging families and communities in a trusted and respectful way.

We are proud to stand beside the New York State Education Department as an active member of the New York State My Brother's Keeper Community Network in order to further these goals.

Sharon a. Dumer Dr. Sharon A. Dungee Superintendent of Schools

Edward P. Romaine Suffolk County Executive

MICHELE HARRIOT

GLENN C. MITCHELI

RALPH DELGADO, JR. MAUREEN ESPOSITO

DENISE RIDGEWAY District Clerk

A Letter of Commitment from **Edward P. Romaine, Suffolk County Executive**







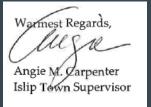
A Letter of Support from Angie M. Carpenter, Islip Town Supervisor

Dear Dr. Dungee,

I write in support of My Brother's Keepers (MBK) new initiatives.

I have had the pleasure of attending numerous MBK programs, and am always impressed by the students and leaders involved. MBK provides exceptional services to ensure that our youth have the emotional, educational, and community support that they need to thrive. I am certain that our local MBK program joining the New York State MBK network will only further help our local students succeed in all that they do.

Again, this is a wonderful program, and I support this initiative. Thank you for your consideration, and if I, or my office can ever be of any assistance do not hesitate to call upon me.







Central Islip School District Embraces the My Brother's Keeper Challenge

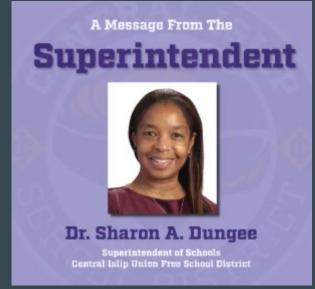
Our children are the heart of our community, and their success is our greatest responsibility. To help them thrive and succeed, we must unite as a village, united in purpose and driven by the belief that every child deserves a fair and meaningful chance to achieve their dreams. This vision is at the heart of our commitment to becoming a recognized My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Community.

The MBK initiative, introduced by President Obama in 2014, focuses on bridging opportunity gaps and ensuring that all young people—especially young men of color—can reach their full potential. Supported by the New York State Department of Education, this movement provides school districts and community partners with resources to foster meaningful conversations and drive tangible progress in academic achievement, college readiness, and career success.

Here in Central Islip, we're ready to step forward with determination and heart. Our work begins with partnerships with elected officials, community leaders, parents, and faith-based organizations. Together, we will create a strategic plan to lift outcomes for all youth, focusing on empowering young men of color. By joining the MBK network, we align ourselves with a national community of innovators dedicated to breaking down barriers and building pathways to opportunity.

As we embark on this transformative journey, I am reminded of the power of kindness. The Dalai Lama once said, "Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible." With kindness as our foundation, we will ensure every child feels seen, valued, and equipped to rise above challenges and embrace greatness.

This is just the beginning of something extraordinary. Together, we are MBK and Central Islip strong!







Introduction

The Central Islip School District serves as the heart of the community where students and families access academic, social, emotional, financial, and physical resources. With a student enrollment of nearly 8,000, the District is home to a diverse population, with 98% of students identifying as students of color. More specifically, the primary ethnicity of Central Islip School District's student population is Hispanic (82%), followed by African American/Black (14%), White (2%), Asian (15%), and Latinx, Pacific Islander, or Other (0.5%). Approximately 72% of students qualify for free or reduced lunch, and poverty is particularly concentrated to two of the six elementary schools. where over 81% of students live below the poverty line. Additionally, 40 different languages are spoken by students, and 33% of students Districtwide are English Language Learners, highlighting the community's need for targeted support systems to address these socioeconomic and linguistic challenges.

Despite the District's central role in supporting students and families, the broader Central Islip community is missing key facilities and centers that are critical for fostering strong community ties and addressing the needs of its residents. For example, the lack of youth and recreational facilities, such as a YMCA, limits opportunities for students and their families to engage in activities that promote physical wellness, personal development, and family bonding. Additionally, the nearest Head Start early childhood center is located 20 minutes—or three towns east—from the District's Central Office. This distance makes it challenging for many families to benefit from this community-based organization, which provides free early childhood programs and wrap-around services for low-income families.

The absence of these facilities leaves significant gaps in enrichment, engagement, and community connection, which directly impacts student outcomes. Given that Central Islip has a Total Crime Index of 29, indicating that it is safer than only 29% of U.S. cities, and has experienced gun violence resulting in multiple fatalities and injuries, the lack of safe spaces for youth and families is a pressing concern. Addressing these gaps would not only enhance the well-being of students but also foster enhanced safety, community pride, and resilience.

As the heart of the community, the Central Islip School District bridges these gaps through its comprehensive programs, clubs, and initiatives, providing a lifeline for families in need. By offering academic, social, and emotional support, the District not only supports students' success but also strengthens engagement, ensuring the safety, unity, and overall well-being of the entire community. The highly-qualified Central Islip administrators, teachers, faculty, and staff assist families and students by connecting them the resources they need.

Becoming a My Brother's Keeper Community will empower the Central Islip School District to further address these challenges. As part of the MBK initiative, the District has developed a targeted action plan that addresses academic achievement, personal growth, healthy lifestyles, and meaningful community connections. Through MBK, the District has already established community partnerships to provide additional resources such as healthcare providers, afterschool programs, and mentorship opportunities. These partnerships are essential for the development and success of our students and their families.

Furthermore, the Central Islip School District is supported by Islip Town Supervisor, Angie M. Carpenter, and Suffolk County Executive, Edward P. Romaine in its commitment to the MBK National Milestones and NYS MBK Priorities. These elected officials have formally expressed their support to the MBK initiative in Central Islip. The Central Islip School District is committed to achieving the goals set forth in the proposed plan through focused action steps that aim to provide equity to young males of color.

NeighborhoodScout. (n.d.). *Crime in Central Islip, NY*. Retrieved January 22, 2025, from https://www.neighborhoodscoutbom/ny/central-islip/crime

The Trace (2023, February 6). *Gun violence map: Tracking shootings across the U.S.* The Trace https://www.thetraceorg/2023/02/gun-violence-map-americashootings/?place=Centralslip-New-York







"The Central Islip School District is dedicated to fostering a safe and inclusive educational environment where kindness guides everything we do. We embrace all our students and empower them to achieve success in a global society."







"To create a communityfocused educational environment that is safe and fosters kindness, we aim to empower every student to achieve their full potential. By fostering ethics, trust, and integrity, we prepare students for success in a global society."





National MBK Milestones

Selected by Central Islip School District's MBK Steering Committee & Community



	National MBK Milestones	
1	Entering School Ready to Learn	√
	All children should have a healthy start and enter school ready – cognitively, physically, socially, and emotionally.	
2	Reading at Grade Level by Third Grade	
	All children should be reading at grade level by age 8 – the age at which reading to learn becomes essential.	
3	Graduate from High School	√
	All youth should receive a quality high school education and graduate with the skills and tools needed to advance to postsecondary education or training.	
4	Complete Postsecondary Education or Training	
	Every American should have the option to attend postsecondary education and receive the education and training needed for the quality jobs of today and tomorrow.	
5	All Youth Out of School are Employed	
	Anyone who wants a job should be able to get a job that allows them to support themselves and their families.	
6	All Youth Remain Safe from Violent Crime	
	All youth and young adults should be safe from violent crime; and individuals who are confined should receive the education, training, and treatment they need for a second chance.	







NYS MBK Priorities

Selected by Central Islip School District's MBK Steering Committee & Community

	NYS MBK Priorities	
1	Ensuring equitable access to high-quality schools and programs	
2	Expanding prevention, early warning, and intervention services	✓
3	Using differentiated approaches based on need and culture	✓
4	Responding to structural and institutional racism	~
5	Making comprehensive and coordinated support services widely available	
6	Engaging families and communities in a trusted and respectful way	✓





Events

Juneteenth Community Celebration

June 15, 2024







Councilman Jorge Guadron is pictured with parents, students, and community members at the Juneteenth Community Celebration at Central Islip School District's Ralph G. Reed Middle School. The event celebrated Black history, music, and culture.







Events



6 WEEK
SUMMER LEADERSHIP AND
ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

July 8th through August 16th, 2024 9:00AM to 2:30PM



Empact Inc. is a not-for-profit organization that partnered with the Central Islip School District to offer Rising Star. Rising Star is a six-week summer program that develops leadership skills and provides students with academic enrichment. Students participated in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and character building activities. A student from the program is pictured above.





Events

Local Action Summit August 16, 2024





Top Row from Right to Left:

Eric Haruthunian, Julian Middleton, Marvin Smith, Lady Combs, Dr. Corrinne Graham

Bottom Row from Right to Left:

Christina Guastella, Dr. Sharon A. Dungee, Sandra Townsend, Mary Ann Pfeiffer

Central Islip School District met with community members and strategic partners to discussthe District's MBK Community initiative. Collaboratively the attendeesassessed needs, assets, and priorities of the Central Islip School District.







Events

MBK Town Hall October 22, 2024

Policy & Data Review



Superintendentof Schools, Dr. Sharon A. Dungee, held the MBK Town Hall on October, 22, 2024. Central Islip School District administrators and students met with community members including parents, local community-based organization representatives, and government officials to discuss the MBK Community initiative and conduct a policy and data review. Local policies, programs, and practices were examined to identify areasfor improvement. The key stakeholders formulated recommendations for action.





Events

MBK Town Hall October 22, 2024





Pictured Above: Deputy Undersheriff Dr. Keith L. Taylor

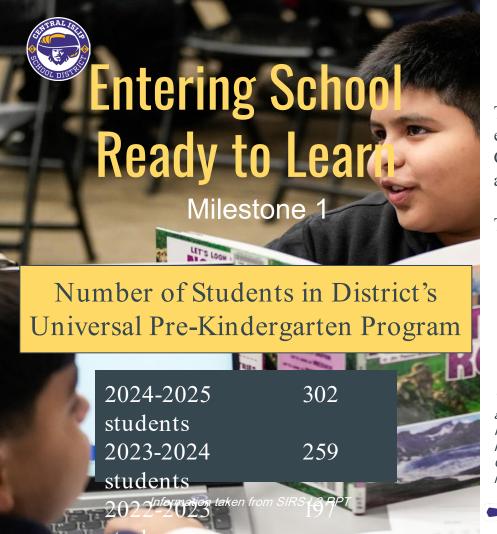
Pictured Below: Legislator Samuel Gonzalez



Deputy Undersheriff Dr. Keith L. Taylor and Legislator Samuel Gonzalezattended the MBK Town Hall hosted by the Central Islip School District on October 22, 2024. They addressed the community and students by confirming their support for and commitment to the MBK Community initiative in Central Islip.









The District's goal is to attain the maximum full-time equivalent or program capacity, set by the NYSED, in the Central Islip Universal Pre-Kindergarten program, annually.

The District will:

- make the lottery application available in both English and Spanish at the public library, school main offices, and District's website.
- make the lottery application available in two formats- digital and print (hard copy) to increase accessibility.

This goal aligns with National MBK Milestone 1: Entering School Readyto Learn and NYS MBK Priority 2: Expanding Prevention, Early Warning and Intervention Services The District aims to expand the Universal Pre-Kindergarten program annually by reaching its seat count set by the NYSED Office of Early Learning through enhanced outreach efforts. This goal will be measured through the District's annual BEDS Day data



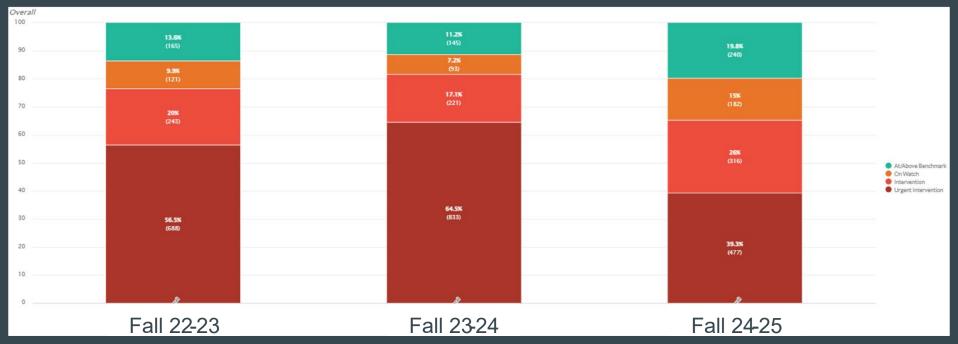


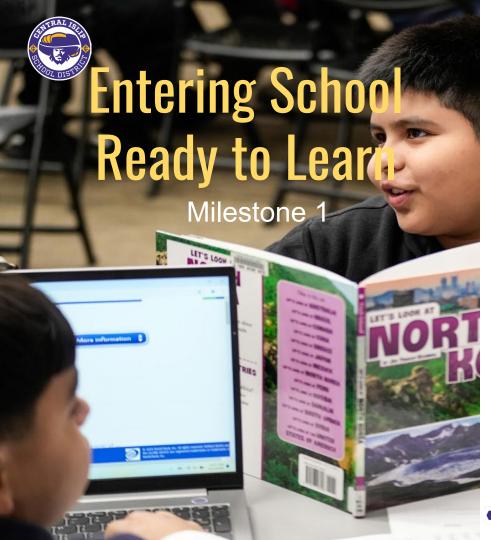
Star 360 Early Literacy

Pre-K-Grade 2 Student Performance on Fall Benchmark Assessment in Reading % of Students Meeting or Exceeding District Benchmark Expectations in Reading

The data below summarizes the Star 360 Early Literacy fall benchmarkscores for pre-k through grade2 students over three consecutives chool years In 2022-23, 136% of students in this gradeband met or exceeded the 40th percentile in early literacy. This percentage decrease do 112% in 2023-24 but rose to 198% in 2024-25, reflecting an 8.6% increase over the previous year. Despite this increase in Reading performance 65% of students still require intervention, and an additional 15% are classified as "on-watch" for intervention services

The data suggests potential correlation betweenincreased UPK enrollment and improved early literacy performanceamong pre-k through grade2 students in the subsequents chool year, as shown by the Fall 24-25 results below. UPK enrollment grew by 7.6%, from 197 students to 259 students, during the 2023-24 school year. This increase in enrollment coincides with an 8.6% rise in the percentage of students meeting or exceeding District benchmark expectations in Reading in the 2024-25 school year.







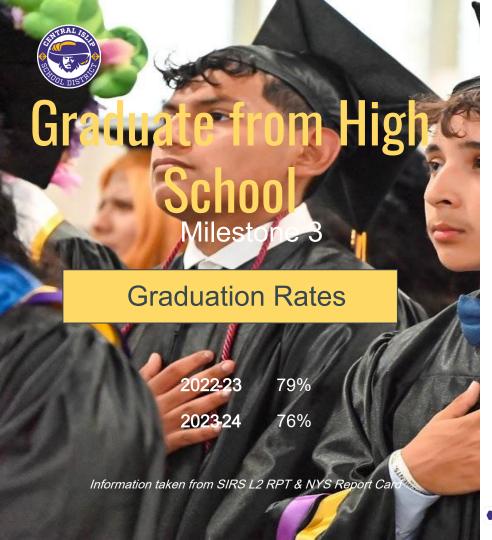
The District's goal is to increase the percentage of pre-k through grade 2 students scoring at or above the 40th percentile on the Star 360 Early Literacy assessment by 7% on the Fall Benchmark.

The District will:

- partner with UPK providers that demonstrate the ability to retain high-quality instructional and non-instructional staff.
- partner with UPK centers that demonstrate effective and developmentally appropriate teaching practices in the classroom.
- offer summer learning programs for students in pre-k through grade 2.

This goal aligns with National MBK Milestone 1: Entering School Readyto Learn and NYS MBK Priority 2: Expanding Prevention, Early Warning and Intervention Services The District aims to increase its Star 360 Early Literacy assessment tesults for pre-k through grade 2 students by retaining high-quality UPK providers that have low staff attrition rates and by offering summer learning programs for students in this grade band. These action steps will address expanding prevention, early warning, and intervention services This goal will be measured using the Fall benchmark results from the Star 360 Early Literacy assessment







The District's goal is to attain a minimum graduation rate of 83%.

The District will:

- offer academic after-school learning programs to support students' participating in NYS assessments.
- offer secondary summer school to increase the percentage of students passing courses and NYS assessments.
- utilize best teaching practices.
- teach financial literacy.

This goal aligns with National MBK Milestone 3: Graduate from High School and NYS MBK Priority 3: Using Differentiated Approaches Basedon Need and Culture. The action steps address the needs of the students within the school district by fostering a holistic approach that bridges academic, social, and cultural gaps These strategies ensure that students have access to the resources they need to graduate and succeed in their post-secondaryeducation This goal will be measured using data from the SIRSL2 RPT and NYS Report Card.







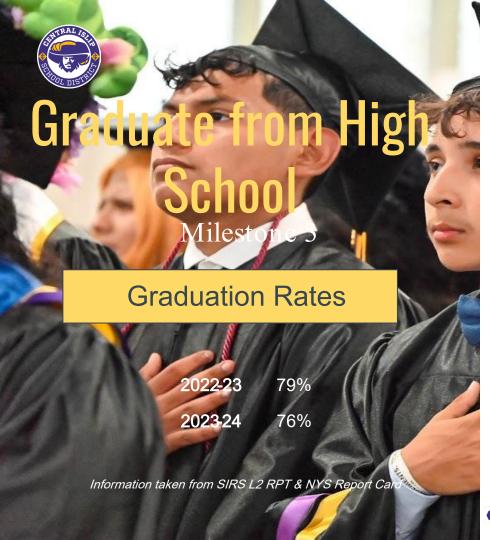
The District's goal is to attain a minimum graduation rate of 83%.

The District will:

- strengthen and create partnerships with organizations that will provide resources to the community, including internship and mentorship opportunities to students.
- provide informational workshops about college scholarships, grants, and financial aid opportunities with students and their families.
- host an annual college and career fair.

This goal aligns with National MBK Milestone 3: Graduate from High School and NYS MBK Priority 4: EngagingFamilies and Communities in a Trusted and Respectful Way. The action steps describe activities that the District will implement to achieve increased graduation rates Local community-based organizations offer valuable resources to the Central Islip community. The District will link their families to those resourcesthrough promotion at school events, on social media, and in local businesses College scholarships grant, and financial aid workshops, including a college and careerfair, will offer a platform for students and families to learn about available opportunities that enhance their access to higher education These initiatives foster trust and collaboration between the District, families, and the community, ensuring students are supported in achieving their academic and career goals This goal will be measuredusing data from the SIRSL2 RPT and NYS Report Card.







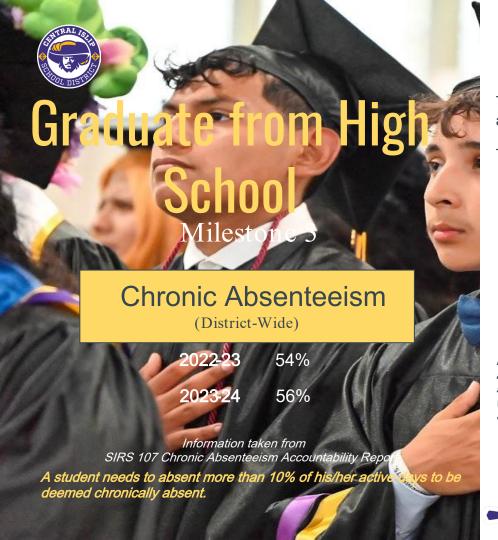
The District's goal is to attain a minimum graduation rate of 83%.

The District will:

- provide mentorships and internships for students that include learning opportunities about business development, social media, and trades.
- provide career exposure opportunities in elementary and middle school.
- create graduation pathways, additional college creditbearing courses, and career and technical education (CTE) programs.

This goal aligns with National MBK Milestone 3: Graduate from High School and NYS MBK Priority 4: Responding to Structural and Institutional Racismby creating equitable opportunities that address the need for increased graduation rates and post-secondary outcomes for students of color. Mentorships, internships, career exposure, additional pathways, college credit-bearing courses, and CTE programs will ensure that all students, regardless of race, have multiple opportunities to graduate with advanced skills, tailored to their individual interests, that enhance their employability and career outlook. This goal will be measured by using data from the SIRSL2 RPT and NYS Report Card.







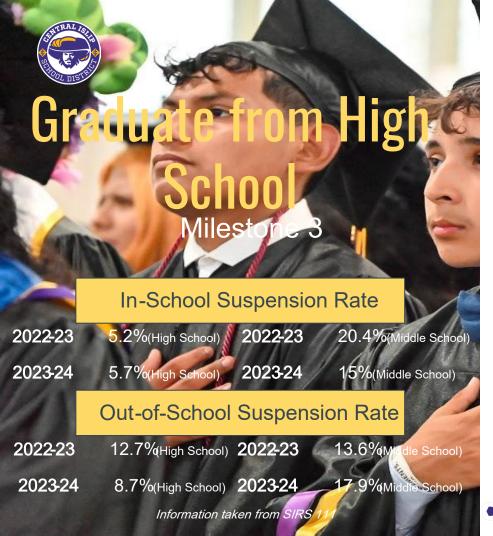
The District's goal is to decrease the percentage of students who are chronically absent from school by 6%.

The District will:

- identify and contact the parents and/or guardians of students who are frequently absent.
- make home visits to conduct wellness checks on students.
- provide parent training about school avoidance and fostering resilience.
- provide in-school mental health support to students, including connecting students and their families with wrap-around care.

This goal aligns with National MBK Milestone 3: Graduate from High School and NYS MBK Priority 3: Using Differentiated Approaches Based on Need and Culture. The action steps address the individual needs of students and their families through a supportive and dynamic approach to address barriers to attendance and overall wellnes which are factors that impact graduation rates. This goal will be measured using the SIRS 107 Chronic Absenteeism Accountability Report.







The District's goal is to decrease the percentage of suspensions through supportive and responsive practices by a minimum of 2% at the high school and 4.5% at the middle school.

The District will:

- utilize its mental health clinical support team to provide school-based care to students in need a Tier 3 interventions.
- offer the Empowering Minds Program to educate students about healthy lifestyles and decision-making.

This goal aligns with National MBK Milestone 3: Graduate from High School and NYS MBK Priority 2: Expanding Prevention, Early Warning, and Intervention Services. School based mental health services allows students to attend their classes while receiving intensive intervention. This student support promotes positive wellness and equips students with the tools to selfregulate their emotions. The Empowering Minds Program is intended for students who are attisk for suspension and disciplinary action, to educate them about safe and healthy life choices. The action steps aim to maintain students engagement in their education and provide a toolkit for students in making choices that lead to reduced suspensions and increased graduation rates. This goal will be measured using the SIRS 111 Report.







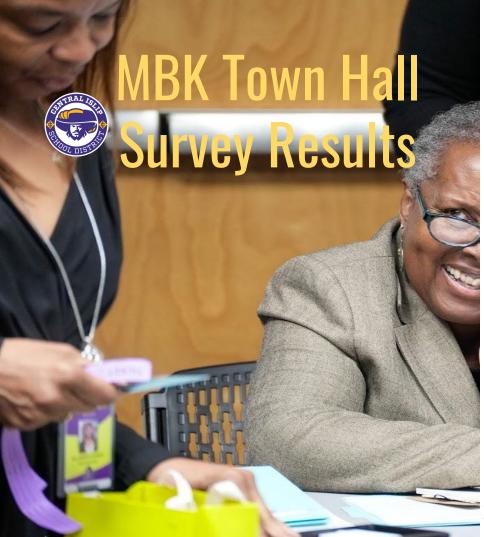
The District's goal is to decrease the percentage of suspensions through supportive and responsive practices by a minimum of 2% at the high school and 4.5% at the middle school.

The District will:

• strengthen school engagement through family events that encourage physical activities such as running and walking.

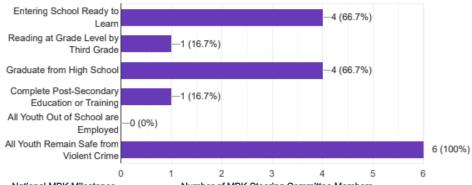
This goal aligns with National MBK Milestone 3: Graduate from High School and NYS MBK Priority 4: Engaging Families and Communities in a Trusted and Respectful Way. Running and walking events encourage healthy lifestyle choices that can help families and students connect with each other and bridge the home-school connectedness while promoting alternative outlets for managing stress The District aims to decrease disciplinary action through hosting family engagement events This goal will be measured using the SIRS111





CENTRAL ISLIP MBK Town Hall Survey Results

Selection of National MBK Milestones by MBK Steering Committee Members



National MBK Milestones

Number of MBK Steering Committee Members

The My Brother's Keeper Town Hall was held on October 22, 2024. A survey was administered to the MBK Steering Committee following the event Results indicate that all of the MBK SteeringCommittee respondentssupport Milestone 6: All Youth Remain Safe from Violent Crime. However, the MBK Steering Committee is prioritizing Milestone 1: Entering School Ready to Learn and Milestone 3: Graduate from High School The MBK SteeringCommittee is confident that Milestone 6 will be met through the action plan developed for Milestones 1 and 3. Milestone 1 discussions emphasized expanding accesso early childhood education and improving school readiness through supplemental summer learning programs Creating additional pathways, promoting culturally responsive teaching practices, and offering career and technical education were recommended as action steps to increase graduation rates (Milestone 3). Other recommendations included family physical activities or sporting events, career exploration, internships for students, and enhancing community pride.





MBK Community Letter of Commitment

March 2024

Suffolk County Executive, Edward P. Romaine acknowledged commitment to Central Islip School District's MBK Community initiative.



Juneteenth Event

June 2024

Central Islip School District hosted a Juneteenth event at Ralph G. Reed Middle honoring Black history, culture. and music.

MBK Steering Committee

July 2024

The Central Islip School District developed the MBK Steering Committee, which includes parents, students, district administrators, and community members/partners, who meet monthly to discuss the MBK initiatives, district data, policies, and action plan.

Policy & Data Review

October 2024

A MBK Town Hall event was held on October 22, 2024 to conduct a policy and data review with district administrators, students, parents, community members, and local government officials.

Action Plan Launch

February 2025
The Central Islip School District publicly launched its action plan with key stakeholders, on its district website, and social media accounts.

Rising Star Summer Leadership Program

July - August 2024

Empact Inc. is a not-for-profit organization that partnered with the Central Islip School District to offer Rising Star. This six-week program develops leadership skills and provides students with academic enrichment.

Local Action Summit

August 2024

A Local Action Summit was held on August 16, 2024 with its community partners and key stakeholders, to assess needs, assets, and priorities.

MBK Community Letter of Commitment

December 2024

Islip Town Supervisor, Angie M. Carpenter acknowledged commitment to Central Islip School District's MBK Community initiative.

MUSKETEERS





MBK Community Partners

Central Islip Civic Council

Constrafor

National Association for the Advancement of Colored

People (NAACP) Islip-Smithtown Branch

National Grid

PSEG Long Island

South Shore University Hospital Northwell

Suffolk County Sheriff's Department

The Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk

Youth Enrichment Services





MBK Steering Committee Members



Angela Capone, Community Partner

Christina Guastella, Funded Programs Administrator

Daniel Mejia, Student

Dr. Corrinne Graham, MBK Consultant

Dr. Keith Taylor, Community Partner

Dr. Sharon A. Dungee, Superintendent

Eric Haruthunian, High School Principal

Isaiah Hoyte, Student

Josiah Garcia, Student

Julian Middleton, Community Partner

Kenneth Cox, Community Partner & Resident

Lady Combs, Community Partner & Resident

Lance Johnson, Community Partner & Resident

Lennis Joya, Student

Livingstone Harriott, Community Partner & Resident

Marvin Smith, Community Partner & Resident

MaryAnn Pfeiffer, Community Partner

Nicholas Laibhen, Student

Sandra Townsend, Community Partner & Resident

William Escobar, Community Partner & Resident





MBK Steering Committee Members





"We are not only creating pathways for young people to achieve their potential but also reinforcing the critical role of opportunity and community in their success.

By exposing students to careers in construction, technology, healthcare, and entrepreneurship, we align their passions with purpose, building confidence and skills. Providing these positive pathways fosters a safer environment for everyoneand lays the foundation for a brighter, strongerfuture."





"Central Islip MBK will instill in our youth the strength and resilience to succeedby overcoming challenges of poverty and lack of equitable, educationalresources"

Marvin (The Oracle) Smith
MBK Steering Committee Member, Community Partner, &
Central Islip Resident





Board of Education



Luis Alcantara President



Debra Cavanaugh Vice President



Glenn C. Mitchell, Trustee



Michele Harriott, Trustee



Jim Musumeci, Trustee





Ralph Delgado, Jr., Trustee



Maureen Esposito, Trustee

