



2025-2026 DISTRICT GOALS

Chester Union Free School District
Board of Education Presentation
September 10, 2025

The 2025–2026 District goals and objectives reflect key priorities of the community-supported budget:
Advancing student learning and opportunity, strengthening communication and collaboration, and enhancing facilities for safety, efficiency, and student success.

Investing in Excellence

Driven by a shared commitment and Chester pride, these objectives move us forward
together
toward a stronger future for our schools, families, and community.



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.



2025-2026 CUFS DISTRICT GOALS

1.	Promote an environment that prioritizes diversity, equity and inclusion where every individual feels safe, valued, respected and empowered to achieve their highest potential.	➔	Welcoming & Inclusive Learning Environment
2.	Provide innovative, data-driven, and career-connected learning experiences through highly qualified staff dedicated to supporting the success of all students.	➔	Innovative, Data-Driven Instruction
3.	Strengthen communication and engagement opportunities across multiple platforms to foster meaningful connections among students, staff, families, and the community.	➔	Collaborative Communication & Engagement
4.	Ensure the continual improvement and expansion of district facilities promoting safety, security and student opportunity in the most efficient and economical manner possible.	➔	Proactive Safety & Facilities Management
5.	Create a fiscally responsible budget that effectively addresses the needs of the district while considering the concerns and input of the community.	➔	Effective Budgetary Planning & Continuous Improvement



CUFSD PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

CHESTER GRADUATES ARE



Effective Communicators



Dynamic Collaborators



Innovative Problem Solvers



Digital Strategists



Ethical Citizens



Empowered Learners



Welcoming & Inclusive Learning Environment

1

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

- a. Continue professional development to promote inclusivity and culturally responsive practices that support the success and well-being of all learners.
- b. Advance PBIS (*Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports*) and the Choose Love initiative at Chester Elementary School to reinforce positive behavior, and support student social-emotional well-being.
- c. Strengthen the Safe School Ambassadors program, Advisory, and 7 Mindsets framework at Chester Academy to empower student leaders and foster a respectful, inclusive school community.



Welcoming & Inclusive Learning Environment

1

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

- d. Transition from an instructional-period device restriction to full bell-to-bell implementation, as required by NYS, extending to hallways, cafeterias, and all school-day activities to foster stronger peer connections, strengthen school culture, and support student well-being.

- e. Promote student well-being by strengthening the network of school-based support professionals, inclusive of newly added on-site mental health staff through the Orange County Department of Health (OCDOH).



Welcoming & Inclusive Learning Environment

1

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

- f. Create district-wide opportunities for students to share their voice and contribute their perspectives in shaping initiatives and improvements that strengthen the overall school experience.

- g. Continue to assess and enhance supports for students, staff and families in response to the evolving needs of our diverse school community.



2

Provide innovative, data-driven, and career-connected learning experiences through highly qualified staff dedicated to supporting the success of all students.

- a. Strengthen instructional programs and assessments aligned to the NY Next Generation Learning Standards through ongoing teacher input and targeted professional development.
- b. Advance data analysis of student performance using iReady, NYS assessments, midterms, and local benchmarks at the classroom, grade, building, and district levels to guide instructional decisions and support student achievement.
- c. Implement the new Synergy Student Information System with professional development to support a smooth transition from SchoolTool and ensure effective use of its core features for student data management, reporting, and daily operations.



2

Provide innovative, data-driven, and career-connected learning experiences through highly qualified staff dedicated to supporting the success of all students.

- d. Support the continued development of the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) to ensure all students receive timely academic, behavioral, and social-emotional support through inclusive practices that meet diverse learner needs, strengthened by the use of the new Synergy SIS platform.
- e. Advance Pre-K to 12 curriculum alignment by developing unit frameworks for each grade-level content area and course, building on the completed course descriptions published on the CUFSD website.

Innovative, Data-Driven Instruction

2

Provide innovative, data-driven, and career-connected learning experiences through highly qualified staff dedicated to supporting the success of all students.

- f. Integrate technology, multimedia, robotics, and engineering applications to provide innovative, engaging learning experiences.
- g. Implement AI integration using the selected platform, Magic School AI, with a focus on ethical, responsible use that supports differentiated instruction, enhances teaching, and empowers students with future-ready skills.
- h. Strengthen cross-building collaboration between students and staff at Chester Elementary School and Chester Academy through purposeful projects and shared learning experiences that promote teamwork, leadership, and a connected school community.



Innovative, Data-Driven Instruction

2

Provide innovative, data-driven, and career-connected learning experiences through highly qualified staff dedicated to supporting the success of all students.

- i. Expand high school course offerings at Chester Academy to reflect the evolving needs of students, align with future college and career pathways, and ensure learning experiences are relevant and responsive to life beyond the classroom.
- j. Transition from Today's Students, Tomorrow's Teachers to the Orange-Ulster BOCES Future Teachers Enrichment Program, expanding access for 11th and 12th grade students to explore careers in education and earn college credit.





2

Provide innovative, data-driven, and career-connected learning experiences through highly qualified staff dedicated to supporting the success of all students.

- k. Implement a new Academic Eligibility policy at Chester Academy for all students, promoting individual responsibility and high expectations while providing targeted support to achieve academic success.
- l. Expand opportunities for students to earn the New York State Seal of Biliteracy and the New York State Seal of Civic Readiness, recognizing graduates for multilingual proficiency and active civic engagement.
- m. Review the block scheduling model for potential implementation at Chester Academy in the 2026–2027 school year, with a focus on improving student learning outcomes and opportunities.

Innovative, Data-Driven Instruction

2

Provide innovative, data-driven, and career-connected learning experiences through highly qualified staff dedicated to supporting the success of all students.

- n. Expand new hire teacher-mentor partnerships and professional learning through a cohort model that provides phased, targeted support aligned with NYS Teaching and Learning Standards and district expectations, guiding professional growth as educators progress toward tenure consideration.





Collaborative Communication & Engagement

3

Strengthen communication and engagement opportunities across multiple platforms to foster meaningful connections among students staff, families, and the community.

- a. Continue the monthly CUFSD Newsletter to highlight district initiatives and student achievements at Chester Elementary and Chester Academy, while expanding access to keep the community informed and connected.
- b. Utilize the CUFSD Parent Advisory Panel to engage grade-level parent representatives in providing input on key initiatives and identifying opportunities for district-wide improvement.
- c. Provide informational sessions through the CUFSD Family Instructional Academy to share student learning practices and foster strong home-school partnerships that support student success



Collaborative Communication & Engagement

3

Strengthen communication and engagement opportunities across multiple platforms to foster meaningful connections among students staff, families, and the community.

- c. Continue to improve the CUFSD website by enhancing accessibility and ensuring families and the community can easily find timely, relevant information related to current district initiatives and future plans.
- d. Expand use of the ParentSquare communication platform to include teacher-to-parent messaging and broaden community access to district updates, initiatives, and engagement opportunities.
- e. Upgrade the outdoor welcome signs at Chester Academy and Chester Elementary School from scrolling displays to modern digital information screens to improve visibility, accessibility, and clarity of school updates and announcements for students, families, and visitors.



Collaborative Communication & Engagement

3

Strengthen communication and engagement opportunities across multiple platforms to foster meaningful connections among students staff, families, and the community.

- f. Continue the CUFSD Parent Athletics Panel to foster collaborative discussion and input focused on continuous improvement of the student-athlete experience, the athletics program, and planning for proposed future athletic facilities.
- g. Streamline team communication using Hudl for in-season updates and Google Classroom for pre-season and off-season information. Leverage ParentSquare, the CUFSD website, and social media to share updates, highlight achievements, and keep families engaged.
- h. Establish an Interscholastic Athletics Facility Advisory Panel, along with opportunities for presentations, surveys, community forums, and a dedicated website, to ensure transparent communication and meaningful community input on the proposed Athletics Facility Capital Project before the referendum.



Collaborative Communication & Engagement

3

Strengthen communication and engagement opportunities across multiple platforms to foster meaningful connections among students staff, families, and the community.

- i. Expand the student-driven use of Passport for Good in grades 6–12 to capture extracurricular, volunteer, and community service experiences, supporting both the development of a digital résumé and achievement of the New York State Seal of Civic Readiness.
- j. Strengthen engagement with ENL families by ensuring access to communication platforms, with input guiding ongoing improvement and partnership.
- k. Maintain strong partnerships with the PTA, PTSA, and SEPTSA to support initiatives that promote a positive and inclusive school community.

Proactive Safety & Facilities Management

4

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

- a. Evaluate and strengthen district safety protocols through ongoing collaboration with local and state law enforcement agencies and risk management expertise.
- b. Utilize Building Emergency Response Teams (BERT) to expand safety protocols incorporating the Incident Command System (ICS).
- c. Strengthen emergency preparedness for students and staff through focused drills, training in S.H.E.S.L. procedures, and implementation of comprehensive building safety protocols.





4

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

- d. Advance upgrades to the district's network, camera, and Wi-Fi systems to improve connectivity, security, and overall technology infrastructure across all schools.
- e. Implement the new Synergy Student Information System to enable immediate, secure access to essential data in support of effective emergency response.
- f. Strengthen data privacy and cybersecurity through enhanced security measures and continued staff training.
- g. Advance ongoing facilities upgrades at Chester Academy and Chester Elementary School, with continued focus on infrastructure improvements and operational efficiencies.

4

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

- h. Begin the separation of emergency systems, utilities, and access, between the gymnasium and the remainder of the Maple Avenue property, now owned by Orange County.

- i. Provide all relevant information from the two-year feasibility study, analysis, and design work completed for the proposed Interscholastic Athletics Facility to ensure a thorough understanding of all considerations prior to a potential capital project vote.



5

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

- a. Maximize the use of available federal and state funding to advance district priorities and expand opportunities for all students, while ensuring full compliance with all applicable laws and regulations and optimizing available aid.
- b. Evaluate the effectiveness and cost-efficiency of current programs to ensure that budgeted resources are being used strategically to support student success. This includes aligning programs with the district's changing demographics.
- c. Communicate financial considerations related to a proposed interscholastic athletics facility capital project including an analysis of long-term costs, projected tax implications, available state aid, and potential impact on property values.



5

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

- d. Continue expanding shared services with neighboring districts, BOCES, and municipalities to reduce costs through collaboration.

These partnerships help us save taxpayer dollars by sharing expenses for transportation, professional development, purchasing, and specialized staff while still delivering high-quality programs and services to students. By working together, we can maximize every dollar further and reinvest those savings into our core educational priorities.



Effective Budgetary Planning & Continuous Improvement

5

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

- e. Effectively communicate the implications of the Property Tax Levy Cap to ensure stakeholders clearly understand budget parameters and how they influence district priorities.
- f. Strengthen communication of budget information through platforms such as ParentSquare, the district website, newsletters, and social media to keep families and the community informed and involved in the budget process with clear, timely updates and opportunities to share input.



5

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

- g. Continuously align financial planning with changing enrollment trends, demographic shifts, and the district's long-term goals to promote sustainable budgeting, strategic resource allocation, and data-driven decision-making that supports the district's mission, vision and future growth.
- h. Enhance financial accountability through the Treasurer position, established to strengthen internal controls and support the segregation of duties within our financial operations. This role reinforces our commitment to responsible budgeting, transparency and ongoing compliance with audit recommendations, helping the district continuously improve financial practices and maintain community trust.

