

Dover-Sherborn High School Improvement Plan 2025-2026

District Vision

We will distinguish ourselves through innovative teaching and learning experiences that inspire all students to pursue their individual passion for learning and excellence while we continue to be a nationally recognized, high-performing school system.

District Mission

The Dover Sherborn Schools share in the mission to inspire, challenge and support all students as they discover and pursue their full potential.

District Theory of Action

If we are able to successfully inspire, challenge, and provide the necessary support for all of our students, *then* they will be equipped with the tools necessary to achieve their fullest potential in a rapidly changing society.

District Core Values

The Dover Sherborn Schools commit to the following Core Values:

Commitment to Community
Equity and Excellence
Respect and Dignity
Climate of Care



Dover-Sherborn Strategic Objectives 2023-2028

Resource Allocation, Attainment, and Efficiency	Further Strengthen Partnerships with Families and Communities	Ensure World Class Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment	Ensure the Health and Wellbeing of Staff and Students	Maintain and Ensure Safe, Secure, State of the Art Facilities
<p>In an effort to provide the highest quality education in the most efficient and productive manner possible, evaluate district practices and protocols for securing and managing human and capital resources.</p>	<p>In an effort to broaden collaborative school relations with the parent and greater communities of Dover, Sherborn and Boston, , seek to strategically improve communications through the use of the latest technology and varied platforms, enhanced “professional development” for families and community members, and further develop relationships with community partners.</p>	<p>Given the complexities and diversification of the world, the shifting economic dynamic associated with globalization, and expansion of technology we will renew our focus on the offerings, programs, and learning experiences available in the Public Schools of Dover and Sherborn. We will seek to maintain our level of excellence, remain highly competitive, and continue to adapt to those best practices and offerings that will best prepare our graduates for success in the rapidly changing 21st century.</p>	<p>Through a commitment to student well-being both social-emotionally and physically, we will more deeply assess the learning experiences for our students. We will ensure program enhancements where necessary and a revision of policies or structures that may be hindering healthy student development. Recognizing that our teachers remain vital to the success of our system, we will respond to the increasing pressures on teachers, while seeking to strengthen their health and wellbeing through professional development and other focused efforts.</p>	<p>Ensure that all Dover Sherborn students are educated in safe and secure facilities that provide quality classroom, meeting, special education, and storage spaces, meeting reflective of the needs of the 21st Century learner.</p>

Dover-Sherborn District Goals 2025-2026

Setting a Strategic Path - Establish a shared vision for teaching and learning that engages students as active learners in the development of skills depicted in the Dover Sherborn Portrait of a Graduate

Student well being- Nurture a positive school culture and strong sense of belonging as a means to improve academic and social-emotional outcomes for all students.

Communication- Refine communication strategies relative to district goals and practices as a means to increase transparency and build trust with families and the community.



School Improvement Goal 1: Create and implement a new library design that will enhance the opportunities for students and staff to create and collaborate

District Strategic Objective	Action Step	Person(s) Responsible	Evidence of Effectiveness
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<p>Ensure World Class Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment</p> <p>Maintain and Ensure Safe, Secure, State of the Art Facilities</p>	<p>The School library is the heart and soul of our school. With upcoming renovations to the current space, this is an excellent opportunity to enhance and expand the use of the library in a way that supports teaching and learning, creates supportive spaces for student and staff collaboration and enables our students to infuse greater technology into their student experience.</p> <p>Research and purchase furniture and equipment that will maximize the opportunities to collaborate. *UPDATE-Due to unforeseen delays the actual construction of new spaces will not take place until the summer of 2026.</p>	<p>Librarian High School Administration Instructional Technology Select teachers District Business Manager</p>	<p>*Newly created instructional spaces, along with small breakout rooms will provide students and staff with additional areas to work and produce academic products. An Interdisciplinary course that puts student centered learning at the forefront, will be accessing this space as part of their instructional experience.</p> <p>The development of a maker space where students can use current technology to explore and create.</p> <p>Redesign of a laptop sign out where students can access the web as well as their Google classroom to complete assignments and conduct research</p>
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School Improvement Goal 2: DSHS will continue to refine and expand our co-teaching models in the academic areas of Social Studies, English, Mathematics and Science

District Strategic Objective	Action Step	Rationale	Person(s) Responsible	Evidence of Effectiveness
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<p>Ensure World Class Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment</p> <p>Given the complexities and diversification of the world, the changing economic dynamic, and expansion of technology we must ensure that the offerings, programs, and experiences available in the Public Schools of Dover and Sherborn are maintaining their excellence, highly competitive, and remaining adaptive to best prepare our graduates for success in their post-secondary lives.</p>	<p>After one full year of co teaching, we will be expanding our co teaching courses to a second course in English, Math, science and Social Studies.</p>	<p>Co teaching opportunities bring together the skills of general education teachers with that of special educators who understand proper modification and can help differentiate instruction so that all students in the general education classes can access the curriculum</p>	<p>Administration, Department Chairs, Special Educator Director, Co teaching teachers</p>	<p>Students will become more aware of the nine best practices. Connections will be made from the nine best practices to the tenants of the Portrait of a DS graduate. Students will have greater supports in order to access the general education curriculum</p>
	<p>Additional training will be provided for all co teachers and new co teachers will have additional common prep time to design modify and implement instructional activities and assessments that will provide all students with access to the full curriculum</p>	<p>When teachers work together across regular education and special education, they can significantly add to the success of response to intervention and other methods of assessing, identifying and teaching a wide range of students.</p>	<p>Administration Student Support Services Classroom teachers/Some Special Education staff</p>	<p>Positive feedback from student surveys. Students meeting and exceeding educational goals Positive collaboration among co teachers to support all students</p>
	<p>Teachers will continue to use the nine best practices as their focus when delivering instruction and creating assessments. This year we will examine high impact strategies that enhance the student experience and direct more of the implementation to the students rather than from the teacher to the students.</p>	<p>All students learn differently and there are numerous strategies that can assist students in creating a level playing field for learning. We are focused on high impact activities that allow students to maximize their personal opportunities for high level learning and</p>	<p>Administration, Department Heads, full faculty</p>	<p>Feedback from faculty as to key strategies used for student success Student survey feedback to learn what strategies students used and how this helped them show mastery of a topic.</p>



School Improvement Goal 3: Greater teacher collaboration across all disciplines using the district's nine best practices

District Strategic Objective	Action Step	Rationale	Person(s) Responsible	Evidence of Effectiveness
<p><i>Ensure World Class Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment</i></p>	<p>Create professional development activities during faculty time, some half days and during our full day professional development in November to share exemplars of the nine best practices including high impact strategies that puts students at the center of their own learning.</p>	<p>In department head discussions throughout this past year, teachers and administrators discussed the need to share the nine best practices across all departments as a way to increase use of the nine best practices as well as examining new and creative ways to deliver instruction</p>	<p>Administration Department Chairs and full faculty</p>	<p>Professional developments activities that showcase exemplar examples of high impact learning from the nine best practices. Faculty feedback from surveys indicating positive learning from these opportunities More consistent observations of teaching implementing the nine best practices and high impact strategies in their everyday instruction.</p>
	<p>The Social Studies Department will engage in work this summer as well as during early release days in the 2025-2026 school year to create shifts in the World History and United States History in order to engage students in more modern world and United States history.</p>	<p>With a shift in the scope and sequence of Social Studies in grades 6-8, it is also imperative that the High School shifts some of their instructional content in order to engage students in understanding history of the world and our country over the last fifty years.</p>	<p>Administration Social Studies Department Head, Assistant Superintendent and members of the High School Social Studies department.</p>	<p>Elimination of some units of study. More content that is post 1970. Instruction in modern World and US History throughout all courses.</p>



School Improvement Goal # 4: *Student Sense of Belonging- To foster a school environment where students feel a sense of belonging and connectedness, while also promoting safe behaviors and attitudes towards alcohol and drugs among the student body.*

District Strategic Objective	Action Step	Rationale	Person(s) Responsible	Evidence of Effectiveness
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Further Strengthen Partnerships with Families and Communities

In an effort to broaden collaborative school relations with the parent and greater communities of Dover and Sherborn, seek to strategically improve communications through the use of the latest technology and varied platforms, enhanced “professional development” for families and community members, and further develop relationships with community partners.

<p>Organize regular school-wide events that celebrate diversity, inclusion, and unity, such as club activities, talent shows, club/activity fairs, ice cream socials, sports tournaments, movie events and community service projects/field trips.</p> <p>- Encourage parents to actively participate in school activities, volunteer opportunities, and parent-teacher associations to strengthen the school-home partnership.</p> <p>Examine ways to increase student involvement across our various clubs, sports and organizations .</p>	<p>Through discussions with parents, students, faculty, local community members and all other stakeholders, there is still a need to increase overall spirit and connectedness within many of our extracurricular and club programs.</p>	<p>Administration, Athletics Department Guidance Department Performing Arts Department Full faculty Teacher Advisors PTO School Council Activity Advisors SPAN DS</p>	<p>Creating School Wide opportunities for students to get together outside of the school day to increase student spirit for their school as well as a greater understanding of each other</p> <p>Increased activities across the entire school year that bring students together</p> <p>Increased participation in clubs and activities</p> <p>Increased attendance at drama, music and sporting events through the school year</p> <p>Decrease in data (Metro west Youth Risk Survey) of students using alcohol and drugs as a means to cope with stress or the reason to gather with friends.</p> <p>Regularly assess student perceptions of belonging, connectedness, and attitudes towards alcohol and drugs through surveys, focus groups, and anonymous and general reporting mechanisms.</p>
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DSHS SIP 2025-2026