

# Mahwah Schools

Strategic Plan 2025-2030 Introduction

[The Flight of the Thunderbird](#)

September 17, 2025

THE FLIGHT  
OF THE  
  
THUNDERBIRD  
2025-2030



# Mahwah Blueprint: The Vision



[Our Progress...](#)



# The Mahwah Blueprint 2020-2025: Accomplishments

## Curriculum and Instruction

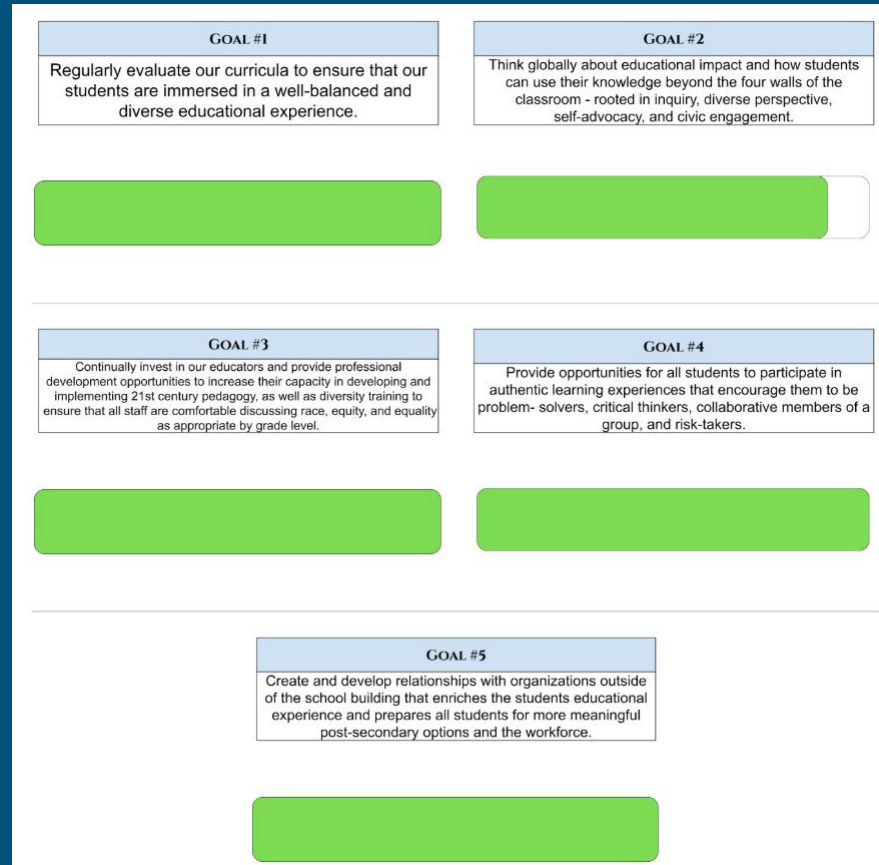
### Goal Statement – Curriculum and Instruction

*To develop a rich and diverse standards-based curriculum that challenges and inspires our children through the use of essential 21st century learning opportunities, for an ever-changing society. To further build the learners' capacity for success in the areas of collaboration, critical and creative thinking, respectfully nurturing their future pathway choices.*

- Regularly evaluate our curricula to ensure that our students are immersed in a well-balanced and diverse educational experience.
- Think globally about educational impact and how students can use their knowledge beyond the four walls of the classroom - rooted in inquiry, diverse perspective, self-advocacy, and civic engagement.
- Continually invest in our educators and provide professional development opportunities to increase their capacity in developing and implementing 21st century pedagogy, as well as diversity training to ensure that all staff are comfortable discussing race, equity, and equality as appropriate by grade level.
- Provide opportunities for all students to participate in authentic learning experiences that encourage them to be problem-solvers, critical thinkers, collaborative members of a group, and risk-takers.
- Create and develop relationships with organizations outside of the school building that enriches the students educational experience and prepares all students for more meaningful post-secondary options and the workforce.



# The Mahwah Blueprint 2020-2025: Progress to Date...



# The Mahwah Blueprint 2020-2025: Accomplishments



## Community Connections

### Goal Statement - Community Connections

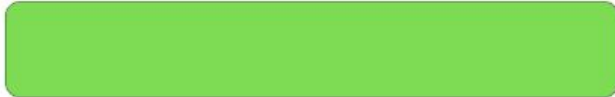
*To create enriching collaborations for our students that engage community-based experts and highlight meaningful, real-world experiences, both in and out of the classroom. To further promote the continued transparent and honest communication amongst the Mahwah Community.*

- Provide real-world experiences for our high school students through internships and other mentorships that our community has to offer.
- Develop a program that supports and guides new/current families through the educational experience/student and family ambassadors in each school.
- Engage local experts with our schools to expand career education and to support the curriculum with authentic voices, insights, and experiences.
- Explore how our schools support our diverse population and identify how to serve all groups more effectively.

# The Mahwah Blueprint 2020-2025: Progress to Date...

## GOAL #1

Provide real-world experiences for our high school students through internships and other mentorships that our community has to offer.



## GOAL #2

Develop a program that supports and guides new/current families through the educational experience/student and family ambassadors in each school.



## GOAL #3

Engage local experts with our schools to expand career education and to support the curriculum with authentic voices, insights, and experiences.



## GOAL #4

Explore how our schools support our diverse population and identify how to serve all groups more effectively.



# The Mahwah Blueprint 2020-2025: Accomplishments

## Social Emotional Learning

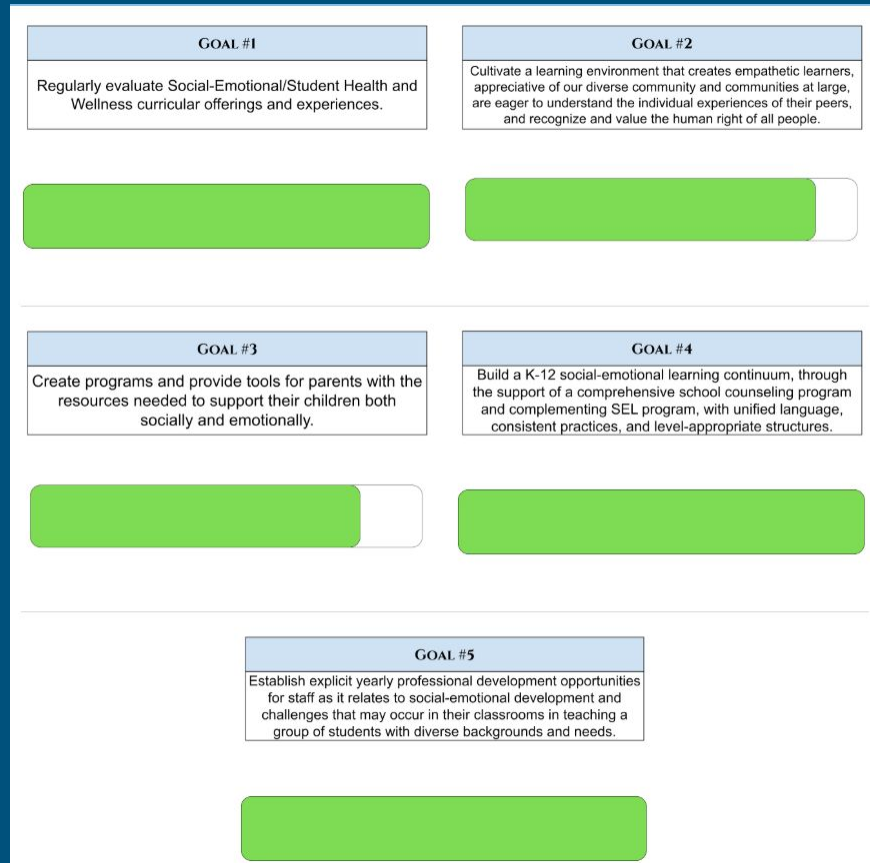
### Goal Statement – Social Emotional Learning

*To foster a demonstratively supportive learning environment that empowers students to be safe physically and emotionally, and allows for the healthy development of balanced and well-rounded individuals who will authentically integrate into our communities while simultaneously achieving their academic, career, and personal goals.*

- Regularly evaluate Social-Emotional/Student Health and Wellness curricular offerings and experiences.
- Cultivate a learning environment that creates empathetic learners, appreciative of our diverse community and communities at large, are eager to understand the individual experiences of their peers, and recognize and value the human right of all people.
- Create programs and provide tools for parents with the resources needed to support their children both socially and emotionally.
- Build a K-12 social-emotional learning continuum, through the support of a comprehensive school counseling program and complementing SEL program, with unified language, consistent practices, and level-appropriate structures.
- Establish explicit yearly professional development opportunities for staff as it relates to social-emotional development and challenges that may occur in their classrooms in teaching a group of students with diverse backgrounds and needs.



# The Mahwah Blueprint 2020-2025: Progress to Date...



# The Mahwah Blueprint 2020-2025: Accomplishments

## Facilities

### Goal Statement - Facilities

*To create a safe, inspiring, student-centric, and progressive learning environment that will support student health and safety, while equipping our learners with the experiences and skills essential to compete in an ever-evolving world.*

- Regularly evaluate our learning spaces to assure that they are flexible enough to adjust to the changes presented by new technologies, ideas, and safety needs.
- Regularly update innovative learning spaces (inside and outside of the school building) to reflect updated curriculum, technological needs, and the diverse learning styles of all students.
- Identify outdated or under-utilized spaces (including exterior campus spaces), with an accompanying priority list, to redesign spaces with an aim to serve current and future programs and to increase productive utilization.
- Allocate funds yearly to ensure safety of all staff and students, making adjustments to building/room layout, electrical, plumbing, and HVAC to ensure that students are learning in clean/safe environments and staff feel physically comfortable in their working/learning space.



# The Mahwah Blueprint 2020-2025: Progress to Date...

## GOAL #1

Regularly evaluate our learning spaces to assure that they are flexible enough to adjust to the changes presented by new technologies, ideas, and safety needs.



## GOAL #2

Regularly update innovative learning spaces (inside and outside of the school building) to reflect updated curriculum, technological needs, and the diverse learning styles of all students.



## GOAL #3

Identify outdated or under-utilized spaces (including exterior campus spaces), with an accompanying priority list, to redesign spaces with an aim to serve current and future programs and to increase productive utilization.



## GOAL #4

Allocate funds yearly to ensure safety of all staff and students, making adjustments to building/room layout, electrical, plumbing, and HVAC to ensure that students are learning in clean/safe environments and staff feel physically comfortable in their working/learning space.



Introducing: *The Flight of the Thunderbird*



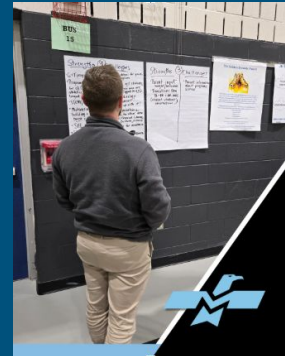
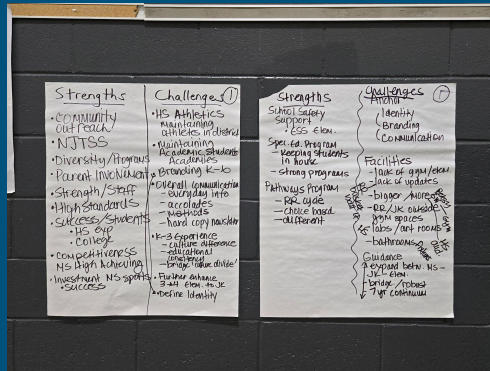
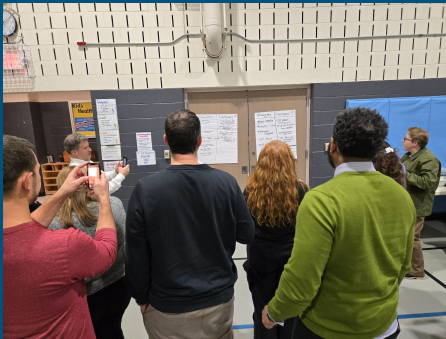
# Our Flight Plan: Developed with Input from Stakeholders

Path-planning took place on the following dates...

First Meeting (12/16/24): Determination of Strengths/Achievements & Challenges

Second Meeting (3/12/25): Dare to Dream Vision + Expectations for the Future

Third Meeting (4/9/25): Developing Broad Goal Statements + Supporting Objectives



- Curriculum and Instruction (Soaring Thunderbirds)
- Community Connections (Flight Calls)
- Social-Emotional Learning (Wings of Wellness)
- Facilities (Future-Ready Habitats)

# Ideas that Hatched . . .

- "Develop student leaders who take an active role inside of school and outside in the global community."
- "Grit, resilience, and perseverance are at the core of each student."
- "Self-development, risk-taking, hunger for improvement, expansion, visionary."
- "Involve families and students in their educational progress."
- "Comprehensive programs to serve ALL."
- "Abstract thinkers who can problem-solve, collaborate, and cultivate their own positive futures."
- "Ensure an authentic pathway for non-college-bound students."
- "Modern cutting-edge flexible adaptive learning spaces."
- "State-of-the-art facilities."

# Familiar Frames with New Names →

## Curriculum and Instruction →

- Soaring Thunderbirds: [Fostering Intellectual Curiosity and Lifelong Learning](#)
- Launching Leaders: [College, Career, and Future-Ready Skills](#)

## Community Connections →

- Flight Calls: [Communicating and Connecting on our Flight Path](#)

## Social-Emotional Learning →

- Wings of Wellness: [Social-Emotional and Personal Growth](#)

## Facilities →

- Future-Ready Habitats: [World-Class Learning Environments](#)



# 2025-2030 Flight of the Thunderbird: *Soaring Thunderbirds*

## Soaring Thunderbirds: Fostering Intellectual Curiosity and Lifelong Learning

Sustain programs and instructional experiences that challenge learners at all levels while developing 21st century skills.

- Facilitate an academic environment that encourages intellectual risk-taking.
- Increase connections with trade/vocational programs.
- Create opportunities to cultivate empathetic national and global citizens.

Curriculum and Instruction



# 2025-2030 Flight of the Thunderbird: *Soaring Thunderbirds*

---

## Soaring Thunderbirds: Fostering Intellectual Curiosity and Lifelong Learning

Expand the differentiated curriculum to support, challenge, and raise achievement for students at all learning levels.

- Innovatively use technology and other tools (e.g., AI) in “hands-on” opportunities.
- Implement personalized learning and goal-setting plans to raise students’ abilities at all levels.

Curriculum and Instruction



# 2025-2030 Flight of the Thunderbird: *Launching Leaders*

## Launching Leaders: College, Career, and Future-Ready Skills

Expand problem-based learning opportunities for all grade levels with connections to real-world problem-solving.

- Support students in exploring self-directed and motivated interests.
- Create opportunities for learners to develop self-awareness in the mastery of their autonomy, executive functioning, and social emotional competencies.
- Develop the profile of a Mahwah graduate.

Community Connections



# 2025-2030 Flight of the Thunderbird: *Flight Calls*

Flight Calls: [Communicating and Connecting about our Flight Path](#)

Educate and engage the community at large to be a part of the flight alongside us.

- Engage and partner with our families on the journey for all students.
- Communicate with parents and students regularly regarding academic, athletic, and extracurricular offerings, and available resources district-wide.
- Invitations to the community to all open activities including extracurricular and sporting events.
- Regular updates and postings about school and district happenings.
- Continue to build our alumni network.

Community Connections



# 2025-2030 Flight of the Thunderbird: *Wings of Wellness*



## Wings of Wellness: Social-Emotional and Personal Growth

Facilitate a growth mindset that empowers student success in a complex future.

- Maintain the CASEL competencies of self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making in learning experiences.
- Create opportunities where students can take risks and step outside their comfort zone by developing grit, resilience, and perseverance.
- Encourage healthy nutrition and active movement.

Social-Emotional Learning

# 2025-2030 Flight of the Thunderbird: *Future-Ready Habitats*

## Future-Ready Habitats: [World-Class Learning Environments](#)

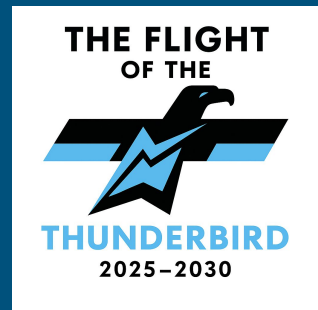
To build and maintain innovative spaces that sustain student learning with a future-ready-focus.

- Enhance spaces for student to student collaboration opportunities (e.g., lab spaces, flexible furniture).

To procure ongoing upgrades to facilities.

- Regularly review facilities audit to make required adjustments to district schools.
- Maintain and support safe and healthy learning spaces

Facilities



## District Goals

### Goal 1: Curriculum and Instruction

Mahwah Public Schools will continue to implement the New Jersey Tiered System of Supports (NJTSS) with a focused commitment to strengthening Tier 2 and Tier 3, and maintaining Tier 1 interventions. We will deepen our use of multiple data sources to identify student needs and guide instructional decisions, ensuring that targeted strategies are in place to address areas for growth, particularly for students who require additional academic or behavioral support, and/or advancement, beyond core instruction.

### Goal 2: Finance and Facilities

Mahwah Public Schools will initiate the process of planning and preparing for a facilities referendum focused on enhancing the district's infrastructure to meet current and future needs. This includes assessing critical facility upgrades, prioritizing long-term sustainability, and ensuring our learning environments support high-quality education. A key component of this work will be meaningful community engagement, including soliciting feedback, providing transparent updates, and ensuring that all stakeholders are informed and involved throughout every phase of the process, from initial planning to final vote.



# MAHWAH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2030

### THE FLIGHT OF THE THUNDERBIRD

#### SOARING THUNDERBIRDS

Fostering Intellectual Curiosity  
and Lifelong Learning

#### FUTURE-READY HABITAT

World-Class Learning Environments



#### FLIGHT CALLS

Communicating and Connecting About Our Flight Path

#### WINGS OF WELLNESS

Social-Emotional and Personal Growth



# Strategic Plan 2025-2030

## *Flight of the Thunderbird:*

### Website



- Tab on our district homepage:
  - All communication posted.
  - Progress/action steps connected to each goal statement.
  - All resources connected to our school district's strategic plan and its process.





*#MahwahConnects*