



Creating a Strategic Plan for the Hunterdon Central Regional High School District

Mission Statement

Hunterdon Central is an innovative educational community dedicated to the intellectual, social, and emotional safety and growth of all students.

While fostering curiosity and promoting wellness, we aspire to create powerful learning experiences, establish strong partnerships, and serve as contributing members of society.

Session 2

Portrait of a Learner & Initiatives for the Hunterdon Central Regional High School District

On March 11, 2026, Hunterdon Central Regional High School District administrators, Board of Education members, staff, parents, students, and community members, sixty-three in all (63) in all, came together to continue the strategic planning process. Cathy Pouria and Dr. Timothy Teehan from New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) were introduced and explained the strategic planning process.

The consensus process was reviewed for strategic planning. The topic for the evening focused on reviewing the strengths and challenges from Meeting #1 from the perspective of a Portrait of a Learner. Each group brainstormed to identify the core skills that they believe should be the hallmark of every student who walks across their graduation stage and would prepare them for the future of their choosing. Each group was asked to come to consensus of an Essential core skill, create a list of “why” students do not currently possess the desired attribute, and develop initiatives, that when implemented, would enable the students to acquire those attributes. Each group reported their outcomes to the larger group. The large group then identified “Common Themes” that had occurred throughout the small group outcomes and ultimately developed 3 – 5 broad strategic planning goal areas.

The information that follows is a summary of the work of the small groups. As discussed with the meeting participants, all consensus points are recorded and posted on the district website to share the group work during the course of the strategic planning process.

Small Group Consensus: Essential(s) & Initiatives

Group #1:

Essential: “Future Ready”-Build student skills in areas to ensure they are ready to be successful

Initiatives:

- Consistency in rules (tech/cell phones)
- Growth mindset initiative reinforced in all departments
- Enhance communication skills across all mediums
- Professional development (common goals and trickle-down emphasis)

Group #2:

Essential: Expand opportunities to students in all levels to engage in learning that rewards curiosity, initiative, and critical thinking.

Initiatives:

- More time to prepare and develop curriculum
- More meaningful professional development
- More project-based learning and student choice

Group #3:

Essential: Life skills for all students

Initiatives:

- Change tire, etc.
- Write emails
- Cook, laundry

Essential: Necessary mental health support

Initiatives:

- Comprehensive tiered approach
- Right professional for right student need

Essential: Adequate Post Grad/Academic Planning-Comprehensive process to guide students into post grad

Initiatives:

- Job fairs for beyond high school
- Vo tech awareness and adaptability
- Identify potential careers

Group #4:

Essential: Health/safety, well fed and well rested, distraction-free

Initiatives:

- Consider bus ride length of time and safety of drop-off locations
- Consistent cell phone policy enforcement
- Lunchroom lines and seating

Essential: Students being involved in extracurricular activities and excelling outside of the academic year

Initiatives

- Club outreach
- Enhance summer offerings and credit opportunities

Essential: Fluent in diverse/alternative languages

Initiatives:

- Offer ASL for credit

Group #5:

Essential: Continue Fostering Student Individuality, Building Universal Resilience and Adaptability

Initiatives:

- Hold students to high standards/accountability
- Collaborative relationship with home and school to find common expectations
- Developing curriculum for an unknown future

Group #6:

Essential: Integrity and Ethics

-AI Literacy, Critical Thinking, Misinformation

Initiatives:

- PD
- Media Literacy
- Expectation
- Teaching the “why”

Essential: Belonging

-Student voice, balance of academics and activities, mental health, inclusion

Initiatives:

- Exposure
- Credit for involvement
- Support

Essential: Growth mindset

-Curiosity, allowance to fail

Initiatives:

- Formative assessments
- Grading standards
- Reflections

Essential: Executive Functioning

-Organization, study skills, time management

Initiatives:

- PD
- Embedded in classes

Group #7:

Essential: Strengthen communication soft skills to build civically responsible, creative, and inquisitive members of society.

Initiatives:

- Integrate cross curricular themes across all content
- Engage students in more class discussions
- Collaborate with other educators through professional development
- Provide more authentic experiences.

Group #8:

Essential: Student +Engagement + Belonging=Investment

Initiatives:

- Community outreach
 - Affinity Groups
 - Need to think outside of the box
- Global Citizenship
- Media Literacy
- Restorative circle
- Teaching empathy
- Mental health and emotional support
- Engage with diverse community partners

Group #9:

Essential: Problem Solving and Perseverance

Initiatives:

- Cross-curricular collaboration
- Develop course work
- Engage students
- Provide opportunities to practice

Group #10:

Essential: Communication Skills

Initiatives:

- Active Listening

Essential: Critical Thinkers

Essential: Civic Knowledge

Essential: Life Skills

Initiatives:

- Organization management

Essential: Financial Literacy

Initiatives:

- Teach throughout high school

Group #11:

Essential: Critical Thinking

Initiatives:

- Develop patience to solve non-routine problems
- Analyze information
- Teach strategies to validate resources
- Use tools for approach problems

Essential: Collaboration

Initiatives:

- Development of empathy and respect for different perspectives
- Encourage less focus on personal devices
- Use community building strategies
- Encourage productive struggle

Essential: Self-awareness

Initiatives:

- Address lack of sense of belonging and social awareness
- Work on receiving feedback to move forward, not as criticism
- Build positive math identity

Group #12:

Essential: How to use AI Responsibly

Initiatives:

- Develop or adopt a standard method of teaching it
- Find room in schedules/classes
- Train teachers
- Find funding

Essential: Verbal Communication Skills/Interpersonal Skills

Initiatives:

- Increase opportunities to present outside of advanced courses
- More opportunities for group work and face to face interaction

Group #13:

Essential: Critical Use of AI

Initiatives:

- Courses for students focusing on AI use
- Building confidence in teachers
 - PD
 - Common Read/Study
 - Encourage teacher and student use
- Infusion of AI across disciplines
- Awareness of AI's impact on career paths
- Teaching and research

Group #14:

Essential: Fully developed critical thinking habits and practices

Initiatives:

- Continue developing and standardizing cell phone policies and protocols for de-screening.
- PD opportunities built into the school day on topics such a brain science, tech integration and curriculum design and review.
- Adjust schedule to better support teen wellness.

Group #15:

Essential: Critical Thinking/Decision-Making

Initiatives:

- Professional development in higher-order thinking
- Focus on problem-solving
- Small group instruction
- Safe space to make mistakes
- Community projects-service learning

Following the small groups reporting out on their essentials and initiatives, the large group identified the following **common themes**:

Common Themes	
Critical Thinking	Academic Offerings
AI Usage	Safety
Communication	Executive Functioning
Engagement	Life-long learners
Problem Solving	Inclusivity
Curricular Development	Civic Engagement
Pathway Planning	Growth Mindset
Empathy	Global Perspective
Permission to Fail	Cultural Literacy
Self-awareness	Mental Health
Balance	Collaboration
Life Skills	Professional Development
Future-Ready	Well Rested and Well Fed
Curiosity	Resilience

Following the large group's identification of common themes, they then identified the following emerging goal areas:

1. Student Learning Experience
2. Future-Ready
3. Engagement
4. Health and Wellness

The third strategic planning session is scheduled for:

Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at 6:00 pm

Sign-in begins at 5:45 pm.

The Commons, 11/12 Campus

Meeting #3 is scheduled for 1.5 hours. Meetings start and end promptly.

During the April 14th meeting, participants will review the outcomes from meetings 1 and 2 and develop broad goal statements and objectives for the goal areas identified above. These strategic planning goals will guide the board and district over the next 3 – 5 years.

Please join us. Bring a friend! Everyone is welcome! We look forward to seeing you!

Please RSVP by *using the Google RSVP form on the district website-*

[Strategic Planning 2026 - Hunterdon Central Regional High School](#)