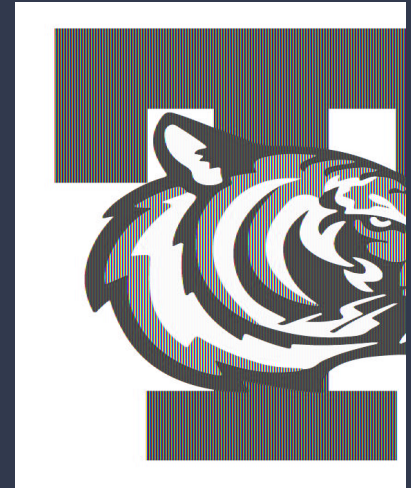


# Tewksbury Township School District

## Strategic Planning (2024-2029) Year 2 Update

Presented by: Dr. Shouffler  
March 18, 2026



# A Vision for our School District



**Overview by**

**Superintendent,  
Dr. Jennifer Shouffler**

# Three Goals

Goal 1 (Student Learning): To develop an environment that promotes creative and independent thinking with a focus on academic excellence and the arts; that is also adaptable to each student.

Goal 2 (Finance and Facilities): To create a financial framework so that the school district is fiscally responsible while supporting learning environments.

Goal 3 (Student Environment): To create a welcoming and supportive learning environment to foster a lifelong love of learning for all students; This includes robust connections to their school and wider community.



# Goal 1- Objective 1a



## 1a. Create an environment of teacher excellence through effective professional development

- Create and sustain partnerships with educational experts to support best practices for teaching and learning in the area of literacy
  - Updated Literacy Action Plan to focus on Writing
  - Arranged for workshops from a Literacy Coach for K-8 teachers.
  - Coaching Topics: Voice in Writing, Learning Rubrics, and supporting struggling writers
  - K-8 Teachers attended out-of-district workshops to support Literacy skills and turn-keyed learning
- Support of improving teaching and learning of mathematics: Consultant for Grades K-8 with demonstration lessons and out of district workshops
- Improve strategies for teaching in inclusion classrooms
  - Arranged workshops for *all* co-teachers to learn how to improve classroom inclusion strategies with expert consultant
  - K-8 Teachers attended out-of-district workshops on inclusion strategies
  - Administrators observed co-teaching throughout the district and collected data to determine strengths/areas for growth
  - Implemented co-teaching self-assessment rubric for all K-8 co-teachers
  - Professional learning for paraprofessionals: Workshop and meeting with Behaviorist
  - Special Area teachers and counselors met with Behaviorist for classroom strategies
- Support teachers in effective Professional Learning Communities to improve learning through targeted learning goals
  - Meetings in September/October to review student achievement data from NJSLA and AimsWeb
  - October Presentation to staff on encouraging more effective PLCs. Organized teams and collected goals sheets focused on improving student learning PK-8.
  - Monthly PLC meetings. Administrators and Teacher-leaders helped facilitate meetings.
  - Topics include: Differentiation for Gifted learners, early literacy skills, interdisciplinary lessons for math and science, civics project, writing rubric

# Goal 1- Objective 1b and 1c



## 1b. Maintain small class sizes throughout the district

- Reviewed class-size as related to 2025-26 and 2026-27 Budget
- Enrollment reports shared with BOE each month

## 1c. Encourage supportive parent-teacher communication

- Reminded all staff the importance of responding to parents within 24 hours
- Monthly Parent Newsletter from the CST department
- Continued the Monthly Newsletters from District, TES, and OTS
  - Added information from Grade-level teams and Departments in School Newsletters
- Reminder Cards from TES and OTS
- Regular Use of OTS Sign, Weekly Virtual Backpack Reminder, and Facebook Posts to highlight school happenings
- Clear communication about OTS clubs/sports to parents
- Referendum information section on our Website

# Goal 1- Objective 2



Support content area and grade-level articulation to encourage consistency and coherence implementation of curriculum and pedagogical strategies between and among grades

- Articulation Meetings (Increase amount of time and improve the quality)
- Support a shared vision for teacher teams to implement a coherent and cohesive curriculum across the grades and through the grades
  - Summer Curriculum Projects completed: Implementation of the New Grades 5-8 ELA Honors, Refined Grades 5-6 Math, Updated Grade 8 Algebra Honors, Refined Grade 5 & 7 Social Studies with expanded civics connections
  - Monthly Curriculum meetings at both schools held. Topics: Curriculum Updates, Hands-on Learning, Student Achievement
  - Grade-level team-time meetings held K-8 with teachers and administrators
  - Imbedded extended articulation meeting time during PD Days
  - Art and Technology articulation of curriculum integration
  - Grade-Level Articulation time for grades K-4 through sub-coverage to discuss lesson planning and observe peers
  - Articulation meeting time now built into schedule for special education and special area teachers

# Goal 1- Objective 3

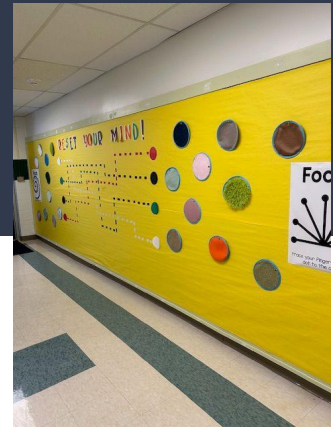


Develop robust experiential learning programs that expose students to applied skills, encourage artistic development, and civic awareness.

- Create opportunities for students to learn applied skills through programs, field trips, and assemblies
  - Reviewed Field Trips with BOE in Fall and recently
  - OTS: New Trips like Philadelphia and Historic Hunterdon Courthouse
  - TES: New Trips like Whittemore Arts, Crayola Factory, Califon Island Park, Food for America, Liberty Science, Mineral Minds
  - OTS Inspiration Cafe: nine presenters, ex/ judge and ER doctor
  - TES “Great Kindness Challenge” is now part of our school program
  - OTS March Assembly: I’m Just a Kid with an IEP
- Provide Field Trips, Assemblies, and partnerships that expose students to the arts
  - Student Art Show at Whittemore
  - Poet in Residence for Grade 3 in March
  - Increased displays of student artwork in each school
  - OTS Art Club and they helped with school musical scenery
  - Theater Club at OTS with performances
- Offer opportunities for students to expand their civic awareness through classroom experiences and programs
  - Grade 4 Service Learning Projects- The Pajama Project, Pennies for Patients, new Birthday Kits
  - December Giving Tree for Women’s Shelter
  - Grade 7 Capstone project: Youth Participation Action Research
  - Civics Related Field Trips: like Philadelphia, Police Station, Grade 5 *Biztown*
  - Remembrance Day
  - Assembly on Revolutionary basket weaving
  - 270th Anniversary of Tewksbury projects for each grades, with resulting booklet

# Goal 1- Objective 4

Ensure that the child study team has the necessary staffing and resources to create the best environment possible for this community of learners.



- Review staff and student data for special education programs and address areas of need
  - Collected data on special education staff and students' needs
  - Presentation to BOE by supervisor in February
- Improve inclusion practices across the district
  - Arranged 504 and dyslexia workshops for *all* teachers to learn how to improve classroom inclusion strategies
  - Consultant worked with co-teachers to strengthen inclusion practices
  - Pre-K Teacher attended out-of-district workshops on inclusion strategies
  - Administrators observed co-teaching throughout the district and collected data to determine areas of strengths and areas for growth. This will guide professional learning planned for Year 3
  - Professional learning for paraprofessionals: Workshops led by Behaviorist and supervisor
  - Increased inclusion practices in the classroom
- Improve and expand the Community-Based Instruction Program at OTS
  - MD students are piloting community functional skills through Spectrum Shepard app

# Goal 1- Objective 5

Support the academic and social emotional needs of gifted students through identification and Resources to ensure that these students are learning in an environment and at a pace that encourages them, understands their unique neurological profile, and aligns with their cognitive abilities per NJ law.

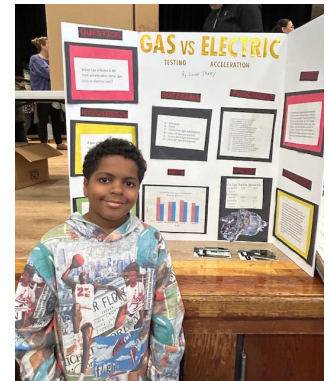
- Provide teachers with professional learning and resources to support gifted education and neurodevelopmental teaching strategies
  - Resources purchased: Art supplies, Advanced Novels, Math Manipulatives
  - Attended Gifted and Talented Conference and other workshops related to advanced learners
  - Analysis of Student Data completed and shared with teachers
- Strengthen opportunities for students seeking challenges in the area of mathematics
  - Refined Grade 8 Algebra Honors with new text and updated curriculum
  - Updated criteria for Aspire on Website
  - Math Teachers met to review student placement
  - Ongoing meetings with teachers and administrators this year to review program
- Strengthen opportunities for students seeking challenges in the area of English Language Arts
  - Updated ELA Aspire curriculum in the summer 2025
  - Planned and Implemented Grade 5-8 ELA Honors Program
  - Updated Scheduling and Staffing of ELA Aspire courses at OTS
  - TES Schoolwide Enrichment Program during recess time
  - Parent Meeting for Aspire and survey planned for Spring
  - Ongoing meetings with teachers and administrators this year to review program



# Goal 1- Objective 6

Develop capstone programs and extra experiences (i.e., science fairs) at every grade-level.

- Provide students in Grade K-4 with capstone experiences that demonstrate learning in various content areas, align with curriculum, and allow for opportunities to share learning with others
  - Meetings held with teams in the Fall to plan Capstone Projects,
  - Chart aligning plans with learning goals/standards(NJSLS)
  - Grade K- Community Helper Day in March (civics connection)
  - Grade 1- Solarbration in March (science/art connection)
  - Grade 2- Poetry Cafe in May (writing/art connection)
  - Grade 3- Research Presentation in March (literacy connection)
  - Grade 4- Science Fair in March (science connection)
- Provide students in Grades 5-8 with culminating experiences that demonstrate learning in various content areas, align with curriculum, and allow for opportunities to share learning with others
  - Meeting held with teams in the Fall to plan Spring 2026 Capstone ideas
  - Chart created aligning plans with learning goals/standards(NJSLS)
  - Grade 5- Biztown and Job interviewing experience (careers, financial literacy)
  - Grade 6- Shark Tank Presentations (interdisciplinary)
  - Grade 7- Action Research (civics connections)
  - Grade 8- Washington DC Project and Presentation (interdisciplinary)
- Improve student experiences in the arts
  - OTS Theater Club and successful school musical
  - Art shows in the community
  - Schoolwide Enrichment at TES- Art, Music, Spanish, Library and STEM



# Goal 2- Objective 1

Create outdoor learning spaces to enrich the physical learning environment and promote student learning.

- Plan and begin to refine inner courtyard space at OTS to encourage increased learning use
  - Completed summer 2024 with the help of the PTA-New planters and landscaping
  - Space is regularly used for: Grade 8 lunch courtyard privilege, Teacher meetings, Class Meetings
- Plan and begin to expand outdoor “Discovery Den” at TES
  - Planting and structure completed Spring 2024
  - Students continue to use the Discovery Den for play during recess time, to work collaboratively with classmates to build structures.
  - Will hold a Spring meeting with staff/students/parents to plan for any additions
- Research additional outdoor spaces at both schools
  - Administration visited other schools
  - Proposal presented at several Referendum BOE Committee Meetings but not ultimately included in the referendum



# Goal 2- Objective 2

Upgrade our Art, Science, and Technology classrooms at OTS to support engaged learning and interdisciplinary connections.

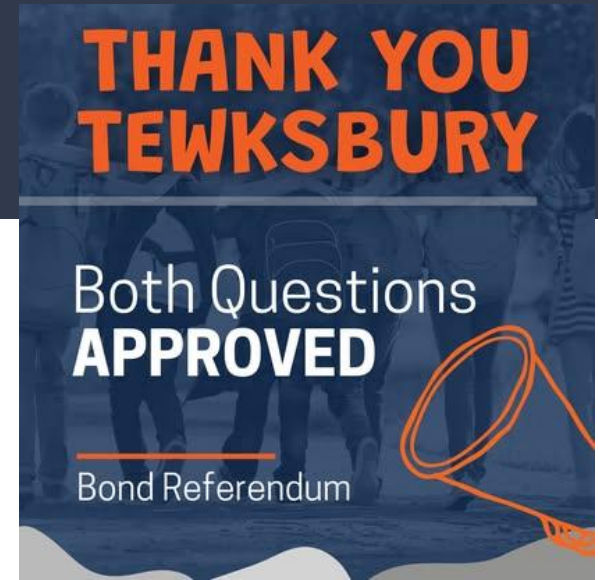
- Make upgrades to OTS Art Room and Technology Room
  - OTS Kiln fixed and working
  - Meeting held with teachers, administrators, and architect i
  - Meetings held with Referendum BOE Committee to discuss proposal
  - Approved in the Referendum
- Upgrade the 5th and 6th grade science classrooms
  - Meeting held with teachers, administrators, and architect in November
  - Meetings held with Referendum BOE Committee
  - Visits to other schools
  - Approved in the Referendum
- Art and STEM Interdisciplinary Connections
  - Meetings with teachers
  - Written in the curriculum



# Goal 2- Objectives 4

Upgrade the OTS Stage, including the structure, audio, and lighting.

- Renovate the OTS All Purpose Room
  - Meetings Architect
  - Approved in the Referendum



# Goal 3- Objective 1

Expand enrichment and co-curricular programs to provide engagement with others

- Enhance extracurricular experiences for all students
  - Collecting data on current clubs and enrollment
  - Added Dance Club
  - OTS STEM Bridge Building competition against other schools in Hunterdon
  - Enthusiastic Reader Competition against other schools
  - Unsung Hero Award through Hunterdon County
  - Administration worked with PTA to plan TES clubs
  - OTS Clubs: Odyssey of the Mind, Battle of the Books, Art, Gaming, Jewelry/Crafts, Homework, Cra
  - Recreational Sports
  - TES Clubs: Odyssey of the Mind, Safety Patrol, Many PTA Clubs
  - OTS Sports: Ski Club, Softball, Baseball, Soccer, Basketball, Cheering, Track, Cross Country, Volle
- Enhance enrichment experiences for students within our current courses and programs
  - Added ELA Honors program at OTS
  - Schoolwide Enrichment Program at TES with:
  - Inspiration Cafe at OTS: Nine presenters including commissioner Susan Soloway
  - 9/11 Field Trip
  - Remembrance Day
  - 270th Anniversary of Tewksbury Projects with Art Contest



# Goal 3- Objective 2

Expand flexible learning environments to include seating, visual aids, and upgrades to educational Technology.



- Create sensory environments at both schools
  - Completed Sensory Wall at OTS and is used by students often
  - TES' Sensory Walk is used daily
  - Sensory Room at TES is useful
- Create flexible seating and student/staff workspaces at TES and OTS
  - OTS World Language room and Grade 7 ELA with desks and chairs
  - Replaced chalkboards with whiteboards at both schools
  - Purchased additional Wobble Stools
  - Flexible seating in TES STEM room
  - Purchased sliding whiteboards in a Grade 1 and a Grade 4 classroom to increase opportunities for student engagement
  - Purchased wooden easels for group learning in Kindergarten
  - Purchased and installed additional whiteboards to display student artwork
  - Viewed seating alternatives at state conference
  - Met with teachers to discuss seating through classroom observations and team time
- Improve classroom with Visual Aids (board space) and Technology at TES and OTS
  - Upgraded screencasting tool to Vivi at OTS allowing for greater functionality for students and teachers
  - Upgrading classrooms with additional whiteboards and moving Smartboard for better classroom engagement

# Goal 3– Objective 3

Prioritize group and interpersonal interaction among students and teachers while reducing reliance on screens for school work/projects whenever possible.



- Meet with Teachers to discuss the need for engaging, hands-on lessons and student discourse
  - Met with teachers several times discuss this goal: team meetings, faculty meetings, post-observation conferences, and curriculum meeting presentation
  - Teachers were given additional articulation meeting time this year to discuss the need for increased hands-on learning opportunities
  - Principals met with teachers to refine and prioritize purchase of digital tools for the 2026-27 school year
  - Provided Tech-free learning periods with 'No Homework Breaks'
- Offer Professional Learning for Teachers to support student engagement and reduce the use of technology
  - Research articles on hands-on learning strategies shared with teachers, connected to classroom observations
  - Updated curriculum areas to increase student engagement
  - Several teachers attended out-of-district workshops to learn new strategies for increasing classroom engagement and student discussion
  - In-district professional learning focused on Hands-on learning
- Observe teaching and learning and offer feedback/instructional tools on ways to increase engagement while reducing dependency on technology
  - Administrators met in Sept and October to review strategies for observations
  - Areas for growth and strengths were identified and shared with teachers via observations
  - Data collected on technology use
  - Chromebook use turned off after 11:00pm and open at 6:00am
  - Considering Chromebook carts purchase for Grade 5 in 2026-2027 to reduce home use of technology in that grade

# Goal 3- Objective 4

Create more opportunities for community service projects and family/community involvement.

- Create opportunities for students to connect with the community through various events
  - TES service learning projects: Pajama Project, Open Cupboard, Birthday cake Seeing Eye Dog donations, Week of Respect, Kindness Challenge.
  - TES community events: Holiday Concert, Family Bingo, Grade 2 Poetry Cafe, Spring Fling, Art show, Family Math, Science Fair, Solarbration, Suessabration
  - OTS projects: Week of Respect, Food Drive, Giving Tree, Remembrance Day
  - OTS community events: Holiday Concert, Art show, 9/11 Field Trip, AI Parent Workshop
  - 270th Anniversary of Tewksbury project
- Provide opportunities for families and community members to support our outdoor learning spaces
  - TES garden (Discovery Den) committee meetings. PTA ice cream social coming up.
  - OTS space completed by PTA and parent support. Space is in regular use by students and staff.
- To connect students with people in and outside our Tewksbury community to learn about various careers and jobs
  - Robust Inspiration Cafe at OTS
  - Family Math at TES
  - Community Helpers Kindergarten Capstone Project
  - Grade 5 Field Trip to Biztown to learn about jobs and financial literacy
  - DC trip to Naval Academy
  - TES Fields Trips: EMS and Police Station, Farm visit, Food for America



# Goal 3– Objectives 5a

5a. Cultivate an inclusive climate where student differences are celebrated to promote a sense of belonging including kindness initiatives and more exposure to diverse cultures and backgrounds.

- Educate staff and create more inclusive opportunities for Special Education students.
  - Administrators reviewed schedule and teachers' assignments, made changes to support co-teaching
  - Observations of co-teaching classes with data collection.
  - Workshops for all teachers on co-teaching
  - Workshop for paraeducators
  - Special Education booklet created for district-wide use
- Expand inclusive opportunities for special education students in clubs and afterschool activities
  - Students were provided with teacher-aides or support structures to participate in clubs and sports
  - Added Recreational Sports Club
- Expand character-education opportunities for OTS students through the Advisory Program, supporting kindness and belonging
  - Peer Leadership connects with the Advisory program this year to encourage more school-wide activities
  - Assembly for Students with an IEP
  - March Mammal Madness:cross grade activity
- Expand character-education opportunities for TES students, supporting kindness and belonging for all
  - Kindness Challenge
  - Enhanced Den Program activities to include Pre-Kindergarten students (those with disabilities and traditional students)



# Goal 3- Objectives 5b



Expand opportunities for students to learn world languages.

- Expand student experiences with the Spanish Language
  - Pen pal program with Grade 4 students and students in Madrid
  - OTS/TES World Language Reading Buddies
  - Schoolwide Enrichment program with sessions for Grades 1-4 in additional Spanish time
  - Additional Spanish class per week for both Grade 6 and Grade 8 students
  - Music connections with Spanish songs at TES
- Create opportunities for students to explore other world language
  - Exploration within World Language classes and during Schoolwide Enrichment Program
  - Japanese language exposure at OTS

# Goal 3– Objective 6

Increase collaboration within and between the schools.

- Enhance opportunities to support students as they transition between schools
  - Meetings with principals and counselors to better support Grade 4>5
  - Grade 4 students will visit OTS for a full-day in Spring, including a visit to the lunch line
  - A 'Sneak Peak' for rising Grade 5 students in summer
  - Grade 4>5 Parent Open House in Spring
  - Meetings with new HS Transition Coordinator in Fall to plan additional support for transition to Voorhees
  - New Google site with increased information from Voorhees HS shared with students and parents
  - Music students visit Voorhees to attend a concert and learn about music program i
  - Grade 8 visited Voorhees in winter to observe during a school day
  - SEPAC meetings on transitioning to new school/grade
  - Individual CST meetings with parents/students transitioning to Voorhees
  - Increased CST meetings with Voorhees CST to plan for transition
  - Special Education teachers also visited Voorhees to support transition
- Create opportunities for greater student engagement between TES and OTS
  - Planned Grade 4/5 teacher-meeting on transition: Pen Pals, OTS Visit by Grade 4
  - Grade 4 students to be paired with grade 5 buddy for visit to OTS
  - K-8 Art Shows
  - Grade 5 Spanish students read to TES students
  - OTS Play will be performed at TES
- Support students as they transition to next grade level within their school
  - Continue Kindergarten parent event and summer Playdate
  - Continue "Registered Students Day" at TES in Spring
  - Continue 'Sneak Peeks' into TES classrooms in August
  - "Newcomers" counselor meetings at TES
  - Supporting roles in school Musical now open Grade 5-7 students
  - Peer Leaders meeting with 5th graders and helping parents to tour OTS
  - Added a PreK>Kindergarten transition visit for June



# Goal 3- Objective 6 (more)



Increase collaboration within and between the schools.

- Increase teachers' articulation meeting time between grade levels to study the curriculum
  - Monthly Curriculum meetings at both schools held. Topics: Curriculum Updates, Hands-on Learning, Student Achievement
  - Grade-level team-time meetings held K-8 with teachers and administrators to discuss curriculum and assessment
  - Imbedded extended articulation meeting time for cross-grade discussion during PD Days
  - Articulation between OTS teachers and Voorhees through collaborative meetings
  - OTS Department meetings for grade-level and content area articulation during the day with sub-coverage to discuss curriculum
  - Grade-Level Articulation time for grades PK-4, including special educators, with sub-coverage to discuss lesson planning.
  - Articulation meetings after-school through Curriculum Meeting time
  - Coverage for teachers to meet when needed

This 5-year plan will help lead the district and guide our goals.

