Creating a Strategic Plan for the Lawrence Township Public School District

Session 3
Developing Strategic Planning Goals for the Lawrence Township Public School District

On June 8, 2026, Lawrence Township Public School District administrators, Board of Education members, staff, parents, students, and community members, sixty-five (65) in all, came together for the third strategic planning meeting. The meeting began with a welcome and introduction by the Board President, Ms. Michele Bowes and Dr. Robyn Klim, Superintendent. Mary Ann Friedman from New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) was introduced and explained the strategic planning process.

We reviewed the consensus process utilized in strategic planning. The topic for the third evening focused on developing goal statements and objectives for each of the four goal areas identified at the second meeting. Participants gathered in self-selected groups, four in all, to work on the goal area of their choice.

Each group reviewed the outcomes from meeting 1, strengths & challenges, and meeting 2, essentials and initiatives, to identify and develop objectives, and then develop an overarching goal statement for the goal areas. The four goal areas identified at the conclusion of the second meeting were: Health & Wellness, Safety & Security, Future-Ready Academics, Community Engagement & Involvement, and School Culture & Climate.

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.

Development of Goal Statements and Objectives

Four goal areas emerged from the common themes identified by the group at large at the end of the second meeting and are listed below:

1. Health & Wellness, Safety & Security
2. Future-Ready Academics
3. Community Engagement & Involvement
4. School Culture & Climate

Goal 1: Health & Wellness, Safety & Security

Goal Statement: To empower and support the LTPS community in making healthy and safe choices in a variety of environments and areas, i.e., digital, physical, and emotional.

Objectives:

1. To offer technology education to students, staff, and families, PK-12 delivering info to social media.
2. To provide nutritious and culturally diverse food options.
3. Introduce and expand students' coping strategies for social-emotional regulation PK-12 and community resources.
4. To collaborate with community services to support LTPS' schools, systems, processes, education, and communication.

Goal 2: Future-Ready Academics

Goal Statement: Students will develop the knowledge and skills necessary to become critical thinkers, problem solvers, and independent thinkers to contribute to society as productive, successful, and self-aware citizens.

Objectives:

1. All students are exposed to rigorous instruction.
2. All students should demonstrate measurable growth.
3. Hands-on learning & real-world experiences.

Goal 3: Community Engagement & Involvement

Goal Statement: Develop relationships that support student learning, social-emotional well-being and connecting families with age/developmentally appropriate resources.

Objectives:

1. Identify student needs and match them with appropriate community resources.
2. Clear, effective, and centralized district-wide communication.
3. Continuing to grow our community partnerships (create liaison lists).
4. Create opportunities for district-wide service learning (P-12)/internships.
5. Increase sense of belonging through family engagement opportunities.

Goal 4: School Culture & Climate

Goal Statement: Increase student, staff, and community pride by expanding equitable opportunities to celebrate achievement, strengthen school traditions, and promote a sense of belonging.

Objectives:

1. Create a sense of pride and connection to the greater Lawrence community.
2. Create more opportunities for students to engage in teamwork, school spirit, and collaboration.
3. Continue to celebrate students, staff, school and district successes.
4. Increase social opportunities to allow for face-to-face time to develop skills of good character.
5. Enhance the diversity of our academic, community, and faculty to allow for a sense of belonging.

Next Steps:

The next step in the process is the development of action plans. The Superintendent and the Administrative team will develop the action plans for the strategic plan. The timelines will be developed for a 3–5 year plan.

The action plans will include:

- Major activities for each objective
- Who is responsible for the activity
- The resources to be deployed
- Due dates for completion
- Indicators of Success (how we will know the activity has been accomplished)

Thank you to everyone who has contributed their time, talent, and perspectives during any or all the Strategic Planning meetings. We appreciate your participation!

The final plan will be presented to the Board of Education and community on September 9th, 2026. Please check the district website for further information. We hope you will attend and be recognized for your participation.

Thank you again for your contributions in developing the plan that will guide the board and district in moving forward over the next 3 – 5 years.