

FIRE ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT



BLUEPRINT FOR EXCELLENCE



STRATEGIC PLAN

2026-2028



<https://www.fi.k12.ny.us/>



PO Box 428
Ocean Beach, NY 11770

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Blueprint Committee Members



Dear Members of the Fire Island School Community,

It has never been more important to be focused, aligned, and intentional in our work. We are proud to share an **updated and refreshed** version of our Blueprint for Excellence—a strategic plan that builds on our past progress and charts a clear path forward as we continue to grow and improve.

This plan reflects the collective input of our Board of Education, leadership team, staff, families, and community members. Drawing on feedback gathered this winter, we've worked together to revise and strengthen our priorities to ensure they meet the evolving needs of our students and school community.

Our refreshed strategic plan will serve as a guide for our daily work and long-term goals. It reinforces our commitment to meaningful connections with every child and family, and to building a stronger, more united school community. We are in this together and look forward to continuing this important work alongside you.

Thank you for your ongoing support, input, and partnership. Your involvement makes a lasting impact on our students and our district's success.

Sincerely,

Mr. Travis Davey
Superintendent of Schools

Amy Wood
President, Board of Education



PROCESS INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Blueprint Planning is intended to:

- Involve all members of the school community and reflect their shared perspectives.
- Allow stakeholder representatives to review community feedback to clearly define the district's mission, vision and core values.
- Engage a team in defining the priorities of the district and suggesting action steps to accomplish objectives.
- Facilitate action planning focused on identifying who, when and how the work will get done.
- Provide the district with a road map that is transparent, accountable, and focused.
- Enable the district's efforts to innovate, allocate resources and continuously grow in a coordinated, thoughtful, and aligned manner.
- Be an iterative, evolving, and ongoing process that builds from one year to the next while reflecting emerging needs and changing demands.

January 2026:
Community feedback gathered.

February/March 2026: Action plans developed that specifically identify what will be done to meet the objectives of each priority area and who will be responsible for leading the work.

Summer/Fall 2026 : Revisions and review completed by the Leadership Team. Communication to the community and implementation of the plan with stakeholders.

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January 2026: Community team assembled, mission/vision/core values reviewed, priority areas developed, strategies suggested.

April 2026: Action plans revised and finalized. Plan deliverables developed and published.

WHO WE ARE

Our shared core purpose, aspirations and expectations are clear:

OUR MISSION

The Fire Island School District believes in a collaborative approach to instruction that is designed to meet the individual needs of the students. Our mission is to create a sustainable, safe, supportive, student-centered environment. We are committed to helping all children achieve academic excellence through creative challenges within our unique island setting.

Our goal is to prepare the students to be dynamic citizens of our ever-changing society.

OUR VISION

We nurture a welcoming and familial learning environment, where engaging and personalized experiences unfold, igniting a lifelong passion for learning. Within this distinctive and dynamic setting, we cultivate imaginative and critical thinkers, fostering caring, innovative, and future-ready citizens.

OUR CORE VALUES

Our vision and mission can be accomplished if all of our work is focused on clearly defined and consistently demonstrated core values.

To that end, we will:

- Focus on the needs of our students above all else.
- Demonstrate honesty and integrity in all of our work.
- Model and promote life-long learning.
- Embrace the beauty of childhood and opportunities for growth.
- Capitalize on the resources afforded by our unique location and small community.
- Foster a caring and compassionate environment.
- Ensure that each child is supported as an individual and feels a sense of connection to each other.
- Support students in developing the skills necessary to independently navigate academic and social scenarios.
- Partner with the community to prepare all students for life in the world beyond school.

OUR DISTRICT

The Fire Island Union Free School District serves the unique and close-knit communities of Fire Island, providing educational services tailored to a small, coastal population. The district is known for its intimate learning environment, where small class sizes allow for highly personalized instruction and strong relationships among students, staff, and families. It operates elementary programs on the island and typically partners with mainland districts for secondary education, ensuring continuity of learning beyond the early grades. Grounded in community connection and adaptability, the district reflects the distinctive character and seasonal rhythms of life on Fire Island.

OUR COMMUNITY

The communities surrounding the Fire Island Union Free School District are small, coastal villages connected by a shared appreciation for the natural beauty and relaxed pace of Fire Island. Residents include a mix of year-round families and seasonal homeowners, creating a dynamic that blends tight-knit familiarity with an influx of visitors during warmer months. The absence of cars in most areas fosters a walkable, bike-friendly lifestyle centered on beaches, boardwalks, and community gathering spaces. This unique setting cultivates strong civic pride, collaboration, and a deep commitment to preserving the island's environment and sense of community.

OUR LEADERSHIP

Board of Education

Amy Wood, President
Judi Phelan, Vice President
Byron Chenault, Member
Lisa Kaufman, Member
Linda Nowachek, Member
Kathleen Skelly-Kurka, Member
Marisa Wyckoff, Member

Administration

Travis Davey, Superintendent/Principal
Jacqueline Lizza, Assistant
Superintendent for Business &
Operations

Blueprint Leadership Team

Bruce Kurka, School Maintenance Crew
Leader
John Lastorino, Head School Bus Driver
Dana DeRuvo, School Nurse
Chris Forget, Teacher's Assistant /
Technology Data Protection Officer
Colleen Ferry, Special
Education/Reading Teacher
Karen McNulty, Grades 1 & 2 Teacher
Bianca Daidone, ENL/Library/Art
Teacher
Danielle Flaumenhaft, Grades 5 & 6
Teacher
Kerry Stertz, Grades 3 & 4 Teacher

OUR PLAN

The Fire Island Union Free School District Blueprint for Excellence is grounded in a mission centered on collaboration, personalization, and a deep commitment to meeting the individual needs of every student. The district strives to create a sustainable, safe, and student-centered environment where children are supported and challenged to achieve academic excellence through creative and engaging opportunities. Within its distinctive island setting, the district embraces innovative approaches that prepare students to become adaptable and dynamic citizens in an ever-changing world. This mission reflects a strong belief that meaningful learning occurs when students feel supported, inspired, and connected.

The district's vision builds upon this foundation by emphasizing a welcoming, family-oriented atmosphere where personalized learning experiences spark curiosity and a lifelong love of learning. Students are encouraged to think critically and creatively while developing the skills necessary to navigate a complex future with confidence and compassion. The learning environment is intentionally designed to be both nurturing and dynamic, allowing each child to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Through this vision, the district aspires to cultivate innovative thinkers and responsible citizens who are prepared to contribute meaningfully to society.

At the heart of the Blueprint are core values that guide every decision and interaction within the school community. A steadfast focus on students drives the work, alongside a commitment to integrity, lifelong learning, and honoring the unique journey of childhood. The district leverages its small size and coastal location to create authentic, connected learning experiences while fostering a culture of care, belonging, and mutual respect. By prioritizing individualized support and strong relationships, the district ensures that each student feels known, valued, and equipped to grow both academically and socially.

The district's priorities translate these beliefs into action through a focus on academic excellence, student and staff experience, and long-term sustainability. Rigorous and engaging academic programming is designed to connect learning to real-world experiences, while a collaborative culture strengthens relationships and shared responsibility among all members of the school community. At the same time, the district is committed to thoughtful planning and strong community partnerships to ensure its continued vitality and success. Together, these priorities position the district to remain responsive, resilient, and deeply connected to the community it serves.

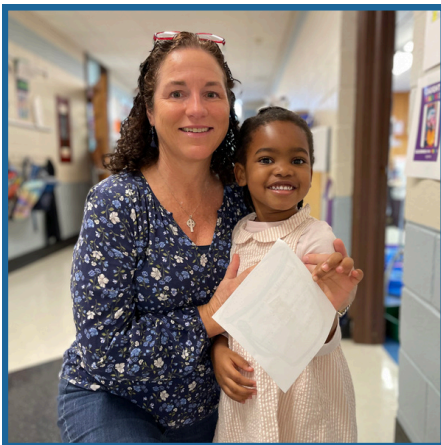


PRIORITY AREAS

Based on community feedback, the following areas were identified as priorities to be focused on in order to fulfill the mission of the district. Goals have been developed for each area.



Academic
Excellence



The Student and
Staff Experience



Long-Range
Sustainability &
Community
Partnerships

PRIORITY AREA GOALS

Academic Excellence	Goal: We will develop engaged citizens through rigorous, dynamic academic programming rooted in the environment, creativity, and real-world learning.
The Student and Staff Experience	Goal: We will foster a supportive and collaborative school culture where students and staff experience a strong sense of connection, belonging, and shared responsibility for the school community.
Long-Range Sustainability & Community Partnerships	Goal: We will strengthen the long-term sustainability of the district through responsible planning, strong community partnerships, and thoughtful strategies that support enrollment, operations, and the vitality of the Woodhull School.



ACTION PLAN



Priority 1: Academic Excellence:

Goal: We will develop engaged citizens through rigorous, dynamic academic programming rooted in the environment, creativity, and real-world learning.

Action Steps:

Person/People
Responsible

Timeframe

Focus Area 1: Environment, History & Community

We will leverage the unique environment, history, and community of Fire Island to create meaningful learning experiences that connect students to the world around them.

1. Develop curriculum connections to Fire Island ecology, history, and stewardship
2. Expand partnerships with environmental organizations such as Fire Island National Seashore (FINS)
3. Integrate outdoor learning opportunities and environmental projects across grade levels.
4. Increase student awareness of environmental responsibility
5. Expand community-based experiential learning including local experts and nature-based programming

Principal/Superintendent

Faculty

TOSA (upon establishment)
Teacher's Assistant /
Technology & Data
Protection Officer

Community Partners

Bus Drivers

Spring 2026 -
Summer 2026

Focus Area 2: Engaging Academic Programs

We will ensure academic programming remains dynamic, engaging and responsive to student interests through inquiry, creativity, and real-world learning opportunities.

1. Expand project-based learning opportunities across grade levels.
2. Expand learning opportunities in science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics (STEAM) across both classroom and after-school programs.
3. Expand career awareness and community-based learning opportunities including local trades and community expertise
4. Develop life-skills curriculum (financial literacy, communication, digital citizenship, and practical independence)

Principal/Superintendent

TOSA (upon establishment)

Faculty

Teacher's Assistant /
Technology and Data
Protection Officer

Community Partners

Fall 2026 -
Winter 2026

ACTION PLAN



Focus Area 3: Academic Program Coherence

We will strengthen alignment and clarity across academic program areas, including social studies, science, health, early childhood, and language learning, to ensure a coherent and well-balanced educational experience that reflects the mission of the district.

1. Review alignment of social studies and science programming to ensure strong connections to inquiry, environmental learning, and interdisciplinary opportunities. 2. Strengthen curriculum alignment across grade levels so learning builds clearly and intentionally from one grade to the next. 3. Review the language learning program to ensure alignment with district goals and long-term program coherence. 4. Evaluate the structure and goals of the early childhood program (Pre-K & K) to ensure developmentally appropriate learning experiences.	Principal/Superintendent Faculty TOSA (upon establishment) Teacher's Assistant / Technology & Data Protection Officer Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations	Spring 2027 - Summer 2027
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ACTION PLAN



Priority 2: The Student and Staff Experience

Goal: We will foster a supportive and collaborative school culture where students and staff experience a strong sense of connection, belonging, and shared responsibility for the school community.

Action Steps:

Person/People
Responsible

Timeframe

Focus Area 1: Communication, Roles & Collaboration

We will promote clear communication structures and shared understanding of roles that support collaboration, transparency, and clarity around responsibilities across the school district.

1. Ensure staff have clear reference points for organizational roles and responsibilities.
2. Clarify communication pathways across departments and roles.
3. Establish predictable routines for sharing updates and key information in all departments.
4. Provide structures for constructive staff dialogue and collaboration.
5. Develop pathways for families to access school resources and provide parent workshops.

Principal/Superintendent

Assistant Superintendent
for Business and
Operations

Main Office Assistants

Transportation Operations
Manager (once established)

Faculty

Nurse

Teacher's Assistant /
Technology & Data
Protection Officer

Spring 2026 -
Summer 2026



ACTION PLAN



Focus Area 2: Developmentally Responsive School Environment

We will support the adult practices and shared expectations that help create a safe, supportive, and developmentally responsive school environment where students can grow socially, emotionally, academically, and physically.

1. Deepen shared understanding of childhood developmental stages to inform instructional practices and age-appropriate expectations for student behavior. 2. Provide professional learning opportunities that build expertise in developmentally responsive approaches to student behavior in all settings including classrooms, common spaces, and bus. 3. Maintain clear and consistent schoolwide expectations that promote respectful interactions and student responsibility building cohesive and collaborative responses to support student growth. 4. Continue using predictable routines and structures that support a safe and supportive school environment. 5. Expand opportunities for student leadership and peer mentorship.	Principal/Superintendent TOSA (upon establishment) Faculty Transportation Operations Manager (once established)	Fall 2026 - Winter 2026
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Focus Area 3: Social Emotional Development

We will support the development of students' social, emotional, and interpersonal skills so they can build positive relationships, communicate effectively, and navigate challenges with confidence.

1. Align social-emotional learning practices across classrooms and grade levels. 2. Strengthen access to counseling and wellness supports. 3. Provide structured opportunities for students to develop communication, empathy, and relationship skills. 4. Establish partnerships with professionals who can support student wellness learning. 5. Implement peer mentorship systems.	Faculty Principal/Superintendent Nurse TOSA (upon establishment) Teacher's Assistant / Technology & Data Protection Officer Community Partners	Spring 2027 - Summer 2027
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ACTION PLAN



Priority Area 3: Long-Range Sustainability & Community Partnerships

Goal: We will strengthen the long-term sustainability of the district through responsible planning, strong community partnerships, and thoughtful strategies that support enrollment, operations, and the vitality of the Woodhull School.

Action Steps:	Person/People Responsible	Timeframe
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Focus Area 1: Transportation Systems

We will ensure transportation systems are safe, reliable, and clearly structured to support students, staff, and families.

1. Conduct comprehensive transportation system review.	Principal/Superintendent	Spring 2026 - Summer 2026
2. Maintain and plan for long-term sustainability of the transportation fleet.	Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations	
3. Clarify procedures and communication protocols across department.	Administrative Assistant for Business & Operations	
4. Continue to provide driver training including in behavior management techniques to support safe, respectful, & responsible behavior.	Transportation Operations Manager (once established)	
5. Identify opportunities to strengthen student supervision and safety during transportation.	Faculty	

Focus Area 2: Community Partnerships

We will strengthen connections between Woodhull School and the broader Fire Island community.

1. Expand partnerships with local organizations and environmental groups.	Principal/Superintendent	Fall 2026 - Winter 2026
2. Create opportunities for community members to share expertise with students.	Faculty TOSA (once established)	
3. Develop opportunities and events that connect students, families, alumni, and community partners.	All Staff	
	Community Partners	

ACTION PLAN



Focus Area 3: Enrollment & Outreach		
We will support the long-term viability of the school through thoughtful outreach and visibility.		
1. Highlight the unique strengths of Woodhull School to prospective families. 2. Strengthen outreach to surrounding communities and partner organizations. 3. Explore strategies that support long-term enrollment sustainability such as promotional events.	Principal/Superintendent Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations Administrative Assistant for Business and Operations Faculty Community Partners Board of Education	Fall 2026 - Winter 2026



OUR NEXT STEPS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Timeframe	Activity	Who
April 2026	Refreshed Blueprint Plan Presented to the BOE and Community.	• Superintendent • Administrative Team
April 2026	Blueprint Plan and/or Presentation Shared with Faculty, Staff and Community.	• Superintendent • Administrative Team
June and September 2026	Blueprint Plan “unpacked” and shared with the faculty and staff at faculty meetings.	• Superintendent • Administrative Team
February 2027	Blueprint Budget Recommendations Made. Blueprint Expenditures Finalized.	• Superintendent • Administrative Team
Quarterly	Blueprint Updates provided to the BOE, Community and Staff.	• Superintendent • Administrative Team
June 2027	Blueprint Planning Meeting / Plan Updated for 2027-2028. Updates provided to the BOE, Faculty, Staff and Community.	• Superintendent • Administrative Team
Spring 2028	Blueprint Phase 3 Developed.	• Board of Education • Superintendent • Administrators • Staff • Community Members

2025-26 Blueprint Team

Gera Amaya-Thomson
Ben Cherveney
Lexi Cherveney
Lauren Chenault
Bianca Daidone
Travis Davey
Dana DeRuvo
Colleen Ferry
Danielle Flaumenhaft
Chris Forget
Elin Garrel
Deb Gerken

Nicole Girgenti
Bruce Kurka
John Lastorino
Dawn Lippert
Jackie Lizza
David Mann
Karen McNulty
Tara Moran
Traci Murphy
Glen Roesch
Kerry Stertz



2026-2028

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