Five Year Vision Statement

Derry Township School District

2026-2030

Derry Township School District is what public education can and should be for all students who enter our doors. We are recognized among the top schools in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; we are known not only for academic excellence but for something rarer and more enduring: We Educate the Whole Child.

Everyone who enters our schools, every child, every staff member, every family, feels welcomed, respected, and loved. Our buildings are communities where students feel like they belong. Every student is connected to at least one activity that anchors them to something larger than a grade or a graduation requirement. They are connected to a team, an ensemble, a club, or a cause. All of our structures to support our students sit under one umbrella – a multi-tiered system of supports that holds academic and behavioral domains together, so that a student's need, whether it's learning to read, managing a hard emotion, or finding a place to belong, is a collective responsibility we meet together.

Our students graduate with more than academic knowledge. They leave us with the emotional intelligence to navigate complex relationships and the self-awareness to understand their own strengths and areas of growth. Our students recognize differences as strengths and celebrate the diversity of thought that populates our halls. They seek information to support their own learning, and they know how to identify a reliable source in a world flooded with generated content. Our students understand their own data, who collects it, how it is used, and how to protect their agency in an increasingly monitored world. They move into their lives as confident drivers in a rapidly changing economy. Our students are adaptable, discerning, and in control of their own futures.

Our curriculum is rigorous and prepares our students for the world they are entering. It is grounded in a rich liberal arts foundation, because the questions raised by a rapidly changing world – what should we build, who does it serve, what

does it cost – are human questions before they are technical ones, and students who know history, literature, science, mathematics, and the arts are ready to ask them. Our curriculum is also forward-looking, helping our students understand the convergence of artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and advanced technology that is reshaping every field they will work in after they leave our hallways. Our staff members use these same tools thoughtfully in our classrooms to help students learn, while also making sure every student builds the judgment to know when to lean on a tool and when to trust their own thinking.

Our classrooms are designed for the way learning works; they are collaborative, hands-on, project-based, and connected to the experiences our students will face in the future. Students engage with our region's most dynamic industries; they intern, they observe, they ask questions of people doing consequential work right in our community. They are building the confidence and adaptability to step into careers and fields they will encounter in the years ahead. In partnership with our community, we equip students with the digital wisdom and self-regulation needed to maintain balance, focus, and mental well-being in a world that never stops asking for their attention.

Every adult in our school community understands that they are an educator. Our operational leaders ensure that their staff members are equipped to complete their tasks and keep our school district moving forward. Our bus drivers greet students at the start of every day and model what emotional regulation looks like under pressure. Our food service workers know that fueling the body is inseparable from fueling the mind. Our custodial and maintenance staff model craftsmanship and pride in skilled work. Every adult is an Educator and every child that enters our schools is our responsibility.

We prepare our students to lead with the same foundation, whatever path they choose. We instill the character to do meaningful work well, the judgment to keep learning, and the grit to continue the work in the face of setbacks. Some will lead as doctors, scientists, entrepreneurs, and public servants, adapting as entire fields are remade by automation and artificial intelligence. Others will lead as electricians, plumbers, and builders, whose skill will only grow more essential as the systems around us grow more advanced.

Our teachers are consistently working to improve their craft, and the work they do to help our students reach their full potential proves it every day.

They work in collaborative teams that seek out just-in-time professional learning, constantly refining their practice in response to what students need. They build upon one another's expertise, learning and growing together. Instructional coaches are woven into the fabric of every building, trusted thought partners who help teachers see their own practice more clearly.

Our administrators are instructional leaders who build relationships with students and staff members. They are in classrooms regularly, learning alongside teachers, staying present, and modeling the lifelong curiosity they ask of students. They are in hallways and at student events working to build a sense of belonging in our school buildings. They hold high expectations for every member of their school community, and they create the conditions for people to meet those expectations. Our administrators model the continuous improvement they ask of others. They pilot new approaches, learn openly from what doesn't work, and keep students at the center of every decision.

Our school board represents a community that shows up. They sit in the stands at Friday night games and the audience at spring concerts, not because it's expected, but because they believe in what happens inside these halls, many with children of their own in these seats. They know what it costs to rush a decision and what it costs to delay one, and they choose rigor and innovation together rather than picking one at the expense of the other. They understand what every parent in this district understands, that an investment in a child's education is a long-term investment in the social, civic, and economic health of Derry Township itself. Our graduates have options: some leave, some stay, many find their way back home after time away. Others arrive with no Trojan history at all, and this becomes their district too — all of them drawn to a place where, as our alumni say, Trojan Pride Never Dies.

Families feel welcome and supported in our schools. When parents and guardians come through our doors, they are met with warmth, because we see them as partners in raising healthy, well-rounded children. They know their voice changes what happens here, and that we love and respect their children as much as they do. We share a common goal: children who explore their interests, who grow resilient and confident, who carry a love of learning that lasts well beyond their years with us.

That goal asks something of all of us. We commit to showing up for their children with warmth and rigor; families commit to the habit of reading together, the discipline of unplugging, and modeling the curiosity they hope to see in their children. Together, we have built a space where staff and families hold that goal side by side, trusting each other with the harder conversations too.

We are relentlessly eliminating gaps in reading and mathematics, ensuring every student reaches their full academic potential. Every student has access to the full richness of what DTSD offers, held up by the same multi-tiered system of supports that runs beneath every classroom, every relationship, and every decision we make. That equity is not an aspiration; it is the standard by which we measure ourselves.

Derry Township School District is not reacting to the future. We are helping to shape it because WE EDUCATE THE WHOLE CHILD.









