



2026-2027

District Goals & Objectives

Chester Union Free School District
August 19, 2026

CUFSD MISSION





CUFSD VISION

The Chester School District develops global leaders by providing students with learning opportunities that foster critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication. Students engage in authentic applications that support inquiry and innovation through partnerships with their community, local businesses, and higher education.



CUFSD PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

CHESTER GRADUATES ARE



Effective Communicators



Dynamic Collaborators



Innovative Problem Solvers



Digital Strategists



Ethical Citizens



Empowered Learners



2026-2027 CUFSD DISTRICT GOALS

1.	Promote an environment that prioritizes diversity, equity and inclusion where every individual feels safe, valued, respected and empowered to achieve their highest potential.	Welcoming & Inclusive Learning Environment
2.	Provide innovative, data-driven, and career-connected learning experiences through highly qualified staff dedicated to supporting the success of all students.	Innovative, Data-Driven Instruction
3.	Strengthen communication and engagement opportunities across multiple platforms to foster meaningful connections among students, staff, families, and the community.	Collaborative Communication & Engagement
4.	Ensure the continual improvement and expansion of district facilities promoting safety, security and student opportunity in the most efficient and economical manner possible.	Proactive Safety & Facilities Management
5.	Create a fiscally responsible budget that effectively addresses the needs of the district while considering the concerns and input of the community.	Effective Budgetary Planning & Continuous Improvement



Welcoming & Inclusive Learning Environment

1

Promote an environment that prioritizes diversity, equity and inclusion where every individual feels safe, valued, respected and empowered to achieve their highest potential.

- a. Provide ongoing support to ensure educators are informed about NY Inspires and the New York State Portrait of a Graduate to strengthen implementation and provide evidence of culturally responsive and inclusive learning experiences that support student engagement and success.
- b. Increase opportunities for students to demonstrate leadership and share their perspectives to strengthen district programs, initiatives, and the overall student experience.
- c. Continue to expand opportunities that welcome and engage students, staff, and families as active partners in our school community.



Welcoming & Inclusive Learning Environment

1

Promote an environment that prioritizes diversity, equity and inclusion where every individual feels safe, valued, respected and empowered to achieve their highest potential.

- d. Continue implementation of PBIS and the Choose Love initiative at Chester Elementary School by strengthening classroom-specific behavior supports that reinforce positive behavioral expectations and social-emotional learning.
- e. Strengthen student leadership and peer support through the Safe School Ambassadors program at Chester Academy by developing a grades 6–12 mentoring and intervention framework that empowers student leaders to provide peer support and promote positive social-emotional outcomes.
- f. Expand access to student mental health supports through on-site services at Chester Academy in partnership with the Orange County Department of Mental Health.



2

Provide innovative, data-driven, and career-connected learning experiences through highly qualified staff dedicated to supporting the success of all students.

- a. Strengthen instruction aligned with the NY Next Generation Learning Standards, NY Inspires, and the New York State Portrait of a Graduate through targeted professional learning.
- b. Expand the use of multiple measures of student learning, including state, local, classroom, and performance-based assessments, to inform data-driven instruction and support the competencies outlined in the New York State Portrait of a Graduate.
- c. Advance implementation of the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) through expanded use of the Synergy SIS platform to enhance data-informed academic, behavioral, and social-emotional supports for all students.



2

Provide innovative, data-driven, and career-connected learning experiences through highly qualified staff dedicated to supporting the success of all students.

- d. Expand authentic learning experiences through technology, multimedia, robotics, and engineering that prepare students to become innovative thinkers, creative problem-solvers, and collaborative leaders.
- e. Advance the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) tools to enhance teaching and learning, while empowering students to ethically and responsibly use AI as future-ready learners.
- f. Expand career-connected learning through workplace learning and internship opportunities while preparing for New York State Career and Technical Education (CTE) credit opportunities to further support college and career readiness.



2

Provide innovative, data-driven, and career-connected learning experiences through highly qualified staff dedicated to supporting the success of all students.

- g. Expand Universal Pre-K by increasing the program from one to two classrooms at Chester Elementary School and partnering with On My Way Early Learning Center, ensuring every eligible student has access to high-quality, engaging early learning experiences that build a strong foundation for kindergarten success.
- h. Increase student participation in the New York State Seal of Biliteracy and the New York State Seal of Civic Readiness while promoting multilingualism, civic engagement, and global citizenship.



2

Provide innovative, data-driven, and career-connected learning experiences through highly qualified staff dedicated to supporting the success of all students.

- i. Strengthen implementation of the Chester Academy Academic Eligibility Process to reinforce student responsibility, maintain high expectations, and provide timely academic support.
- j. Support the 2027–2028 transition to block scheduling at Chester Academy through Project Based Learning professional development aligned with NY Inspires and the New York State Portrait of a Graduate.



2

Provide innovative, data-driven, and career-connected learning experiences through highly qualified staff dedicated to supporting the success of all students.

- k. Strengthen connections between Chester Elementary School and Chester Academy through collaborative learning experiences that cultivate student leadership and strengthen school community.
- l. Establish teacher leaders to facilitate Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and lead collaborative discussions that support instructional improvement, professional growth, and improved student learning.
- m. Utilize building and district advisory teams as forums for collaboration, feedback, and identifying instructional and professional learning needs to support continuous improvement.



2

Provide innovative, data-driven, and career-connected learning experiences through highly qualified staff dedicated to supporting the success of all students.

- n. Support new teachers through mentor partnerships, cohort meetings, and targeted professional learning to strengthen instructional practice and promote professional growth.
- o. Strengthen the implementation of the Synergy Student Information System through ongoing user feedback and staff support to enhance communication, accessibility, and efficiency for students, families, and staff while supporting data-informed decision-making.



Collaborative Communication & Engagement

3

Strengthen communication and engagement opportunities across multiple platforms to foster meaningful connections among students staff, families, and the community.

- a. Strengthen communication across ParentSquare, the district website, newsletters, and social media to provide timely information, highlight district initiatives and student achievements, and keep students, staff, families, and the broader community informed and connected.
- b. Provide learning opportunities through the CUFSD Family Instructional Academy to ensure families have access to educational programs, district resources, and information that strengthen home-school partnerships and support student success.
- c. Engage CUFSD Parent Advisory Panel representatives to gather parent feedback, inform district initiatives, and identify opportunities for continuous improvement.



Collaborative Communication & Engagement

3

Strengthen communication and engagement opportunities across multiple platforms to foster meaningful connections among students staff, families, and the community.

- d. Collaborate with the CUFSD Parent Athletics Panel to gather parent input and identify opportunities for continuous improvement in communication, the student-athlete experience, athletics programming, and future planning.
- e. Develop a Chester Academy promotional video to showcase the opportunities, programs, and student experiences that welcome and inspire prospective and incoming students and families.
- f. Monitor and expand student use of Passport for Good in grades 6–12 to document extracurricular, volunteer, and community service experiences while strengthening student engagement, fostering school and community connections, and supporting achievement of the New York State Seal of Civic Readiness.



Collaborative Communication & Engagement

3

Strengthen communication and engagement opportunities across multiple platforms to foster meaningful connections among students staff, families, and the community.

- g. Strengthen partnerships with families who speak languages other than English by improving access to district communication, resources, and engagement opportunities while using family feedback to inform continuous improvement.
- h. Partner with the PTA, PTSA, and SEPTSA to support initiatives that strengthen family engagement and foster a positive, inclusive school community.
- i. Utilize the digital welcome signs at Chester Academy and Chester Elementary School to improve visibility of important school and district information, announcements, and events.



Collaborative Communication & Engagement

3

Strengthen communication and engagement opportunities across multiple platforms to foster meaningful connections among students staff, families, and the community.

- j. Provide regular updates on the Interscholastic Athletics Facility Project through the district website and public presentations to keep the community informed of project progress and key milestones.
- k. Upgrade Board of Education meeting technology, including presentation capabilities and audio/video systems, to improve public accessibility and enhance remote viewing of Board meetings.



Proactive Safety & Facilities Management

4

Ensure the continual improvement and expansion of district facilities promoting safety, security and student opportunity in the most efficient and economical manner possible.

- a. Evaluate and strengthen district safety protocols through ongoing collaboration with local and state law enforcement agencies, risk management partners, and the addition of the Orange-Ulster BOCES District Safety Coordinator position.
- b. Utilize Building Emergency Response Teams (BERT) to provide ongoing training and strengthen district safety protocols through implementation of the Incident Command System (ICS).
- c. Strengthen districtwide emergency preparedness through ongoing safety drills, S.H.E.S.L. training, and the implementation of comprehensive building safety protocols.
- d. Strengthen district reunification procedures through ongoing staff training, technology integration, documentation, and emergency preparedness to ensure a safe, efficient, and coordinated response.



Proactive Safety & Facilities Management

4

Ensure the continual improvement and expansion of district facilities promoting safety, security and student opportunity in the most efficient and economical manner possible.

- e. Upgrade the district's two-way radio communication system to improve emergency communications, operational reliability, and coordination across district facilities.
- f. Install district-branded one-way privacy window film to enhance building security, improve privacy, and upgrade the appearance of district facilities.
- g. Implement the Synergy-integrated Digital Hall Pass System at Chester Academy to strengthen student accountability, enhance school safety, and support data-informed decision-making.
- h. Advance upgrades to the district's core network infrastructure to improve performance, reliability, security, and support future technology needs.



Proactive Safety & Facilities Management

4

Ensure the continual improvement and expansion of district facilities promoting safety, security and student opportunity in the most efficient and economical manner possible.

- i. Complete targeted facility and infrastructure improvements to enhance safety, functionality, accessibility, operational efficiency, and the overall condition of district facilities.
- j. Advance the Interscholastic Athletics Facilities Project following New York State Education Department approval through bidding, contract awards, construction, regulatory compliance, and ongoing project oversight.

5

Create a fiscally responsible budget that effectively addresses the needs of the district while considering the concerns and input of the community.

- a. Maximize federal, state, and other available funding sources to advance district priorities, expand opportunities for students, while ensuring compliance with all applicable laws and regulations and optimizing available aid.
- b. Evaluate the effectiveness and cost-efficiency of district programs to ensure budgeted resources are used strategically to support student success and remain responsive to changing student needs and demographics.
- c. Expand shared services and collaborative partnerships with neighboring districts, BOCES, and municipalities to increase operational efficiency, reduce costs, and maximize district resources.



5

Create a fiscally responsible budget that effectively addresses the needs of the district while considering the concerns and input of the community.

- d. Effectively communicate the implications of the Property Tax Levy Cap to ensure stakeholders clearly understand budget parameters and how they influence district priorities.
- e. Ensure families and the community remain informed and involved in the budget process through clear, timely updates shared through ParentSquare, the district website, newsletters, and social media, as well as accessible budget presentations through livestreamed meetings.
- f. Continuously align financial planning with changing enrollment trends, demographic shifts, and the district's long-term goals to promote sustainable budgeting, strategic resource allocation, and data-driven decision-making that supports the district's mission, vision and future growth.

