Agenda Request Form

Meeting Date	Agenda Item Number
September 17, 2026	Board Member Item 1

Title

Launch of CCSD's Long-Range Strategic Plan: Elevate 2032

Requested Action

School Board Launch of CCSD's Long-Range Strategic Plan: Elevate 2032

Summary Explanation and Background

Over the past year, the Cherokee County School Board has charted an exciting new course to fully engage our community in shaping our next five years of districtwide improvement. The result of that collaboration is Elevate 2032, a five-year strategic plan for 2027-2032.

The community-built plan began with our Board's vision that students, parents, teachers, support staff, leaders, and business partners contribute their hopes and dreams for our district's future to design our path forward. Through in-person focus groups, community forums, and online surveys, nearly 4,500 participants shared insights, generating more than 9,000 ideas about our strengths and areas where we can grow.

A steering committee of principals, Teachers of the Year, Support Staff Employees of the Year, PTA presidents, and student leaders guided this work and identified key themes that emerged from community feedback. This summer, our School Board and leadership team refined these themes into a dynamic draft plan.

In a proud first, our School Board sat alongside student leaders and collaborated to finalize the plan and create a new vision statement. In July, our Board adopted revisions to Policy BA: Board Goals and Objectives to include this vision statement and our plan framework. Elevate 2032 has four pillars -- Academic Performance and Workforce Readiness, Professional Excellence, Safe and Supported Schools, and Financial and Operational Accountability -- with commitments and action steps to guide our direction over the next five years.

Tonight, we officially launch our community awareness campaign for Elevate 2032 with an illustrated plan that will be shared on our platforms and through focus group meetings with stakeholders this fall.

Financial Impact

N/A

Exhibits: (List) — Enter URL below

Elevate 2032 Plan

Source of Additional Information — Open URL

Janet Read Welch, Chair 770.479.1871



ELEVATE 2032

YOUR VOICE. OUR PLAN. THEIR FUTURE.

Our strategic plan is the result of months of focus groups and feedback sessions seeking the goals and ideas of thousands of people including parents, students, employees, and community leaders. This plan paves a path for CCSD to continue to elevate the excellence and ensure a high-quality and high-performing education is fostered for all students in our community.

The School Board worked alongside student leaders to draft and refine a new vision statement to guide the school district over the next five years.

OUR VISION: We are committed to creating opportunities for every learner to achieve academic success, build strong relationships, contribute to the community, and thrive in life.

Cherokee County School District

1 Academic Performance & Workforce Readiness

OUR COMMITMENTS

Enhance academics through expanding advanced learning opportunities and early literacy intervention

Build a K-12 System of Career and Workforce Readiness

2 Professional Excellence

OUR COMMITMENTS

Recruit, support, and retain an effective and high-quality workforce

Enhance leadership development across job families

3 Safe & Supported Schools

OUR COMMITMENTS

Advance school safety while ensuring a welcoming environment for students, families, and staff

Support for student behaviors

Enhance customer service, communication, and parent engagement

4 Financial & Operational Accountability

OUR COMMITMENTS

Advance operational efficiency, strategic resource alignment, and resource life-cycle management

Maintain and improve facilities and assets in schools, classrooms, performing arts, and athletics

ELEVATE 2032

YOUR VOICE. OUR PLAN. THEIR FUTURE.

1 Academic Performance & Workforce Readiness

COMMITMENT 1: Enhance academics through expanding advanced learning opportunities and early literacy intervention

TACTICS

Tactic A: Introduce advanced classes in elementary school and middle school.

Tactic B: Design a school setting for intensive reading education.

Tactic C: Increase AP opportunities in high school and AP-readiness opportunities in middle school.

Tactic D: Develop academic planning guides and advisement aligned to college and workforce preparation.

Tactic E: Advance instructional strategies, academic models and aligned resources to improve student achievement for each student group.



COMMITMENT 2: Build a K-12 System of Career and Workforce Readiness

TACTICS

Tactic A: Brand a Cherokee-specific K-12 Career and Workforce Readiness Program aligned to local and regional workforce demands.

Tactic B: Develop K-12 Career and Workforce Readiness standards (academic standards) that address Career Awareness, Military and Public Service, Financial Literacy, Personal Finance, Post-Secondary Awareness, Civic Literacy, Technology and AI Skills, Life Skills, Community, Service, and Workforce Skills (typing/keyboarding, oral communication, technical literacy, interview and resume skills).



Tactic C: Establish a Career and Workforce Academy at each high school, Connections class at each middle school, and Specials class at each elementary school.

Tactic D: Create a Career and Workforce Readiness Report Card for students.

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ELEVATE 2032

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2 Professional Excellence

COMMITMENT 1: Recruit, support, and retain an effective and high-quality workforce

TACTICS

Tactic A: Address compensation gap.

Tactic B: Review allotment structure for teachers and support staff.

Tactic C: Develop job-specific on-boarding; and sustained on-going training, support, and collaborative opportunities for each job category.

Tactic D: Advance recognition programs.



COMMITMENT 2: Enhance leadership development across job families

TACTICS

Tactic A: Design leadership development and training opportunities for teachers and support staff.

Tactic B: Expand customized leadership competencies for CCSD.



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ELEVATE 2032

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3 Safe & Supported Schools

COMMITMENT 1: Advance school safety while ensuring a welcoming environment for students, families, and staff

TACTICS

Tactic A: Improve school police presence across schools.

Tactic B: Evaluate and routinely update safety measures across school campuses.

Tactic C: Establish clarity and consistency for parents to attend school-day events and enhance parent involvement opportunities at all levels.



COMMITMENT 2: Support for student behaviors

TACTICS

Tactic A: Develop elementary school behavior intervention support, ISS programming, and—when necessary—alternative settings reflective of developmentally appropriate behavior expectations.

Tactic B: Maintain high standards and clear consequences for student behavior, personal cell phone use, and dress code in middle and high school.



COMMITMENT 3: Enhance customer service, communication, and parent engagement

TACTICS

Tactic A: Develop and deploy district-wide customer service training.

Tactic B: Design and deploy updated parent communication methods.

Tactic C: Develop additional academic engagement opportunities and academic communication tools.



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ELEVATE 2032

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4 Financial & Operational Accountability

COMMITMENT 1: Advance operational efficiency, strategic resource alignment, and resource life-cycle management

TACTICS

Tactic A: Continue to align budgets directly with student outcomes and district goals.

Tactic B: Enhance long term financial planning that addresses revenue uncertainty and update budget communication tools to display enhanced alignment of resources to strategic plan goals.



COMMITMENT 2: Maintain and improve facilities and assets in schools, classrooms, performing arts, and athletics

TACTICS

Tactic A: Identify schools most in need of replacement: Etowah HS, Hickory Flat ES, and Oak Grove ES on each current campus.

Tactic B: Group schools by condition for renovation, modification, and asset (furniture) replacement.

Tactic C: Enhance life cycle planning for technology, fine arts, athletics, and academic assets.



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