

RSU 5 COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Systems & Sustainability Study

Identifying the values and priorities that should guide RSU 5's decisions as the district moves toward the vision of its 2026–2031 Strategic Plan.

Durham • Freeport • Pownal



ZEAL
EDUCATION GRP



Who is working with RSU 5



A national K–12 consulting firm of more than 100 superintendents, principals, directors, professors and authors. Zeal partners with districts on the challenges that matter most — program effectiveness, organizational structure, operations, finance and long-term sustainability.

Outside View, Inside Perspective



Education
Design
International

Education Design International brings learning-focused expertise in school design — how buildings, spaces and configurations either support or constrain the educational program a district wants to deliver.

Transforming Education by Design

Thank you for being here tonight

- RSU 5 has established a clear vision for what students should experience and become.
- Zeal Education Group has been engaged to conduct a Systems and Sustainability Study examining how the district's schools, programs, people, facilities, transportation and resources can best support that vision over the long term.
- Achieving the vision may require changes in the way the district operates today.
- Before any decisions are made, we need to hear what this community values most.

**Tonight is about
values — not
decisions.**

No recommendations have been written. No options have been chosen. Your input becomes one of the lenses through which every recommendation is tested.



How we got here

1 Portrait of a Graduate

RSU 5's North Star — what every student should experience and become.

2 2026–2031 Strategic Plan

The strategies, action steps and success indicators that move the district toward that future state.

3 Systems & Sustainability Study

Called for in the Strategic Plan: examine program efficiency, organizational structures and staff alignment — then use that analysis to inform equitable programming and resource decisions.

The Strategic Plan acknowledges that current structures, operations and configurations may no longer be suited to today's and tomorrow's challenges.



What tonight is — and what it is not

Tonight IS

- An honest, open-ended conversation
- A chance to name what you value most about RSU 5 today
- A place to say where you would — and would not — accept trade offs
- One of three community meetings, joined by a district-wide survey

Tonight is NOT

- A decision-making meeting — nothing is decided tonight
- A presentation of recommendations — none have been written
- A proposal to close, move or rebuild any school
- A discussion of building designs or construction plans



GROUND RULES

How we'll work together tonight

- 1 Reflect on your own and write your view on a note card.
- 2 Share your thinking with the colleagues at your table.
- 3 One person at each table records the table's responses on chart paper.
- 4 Add an "X" beside a comment when more than one person shares that view.
- 5 One person briefly reports the table's thinking to the whole group.

There are no wrong answers

Everything captured on chart paper tonight is recorded and carried forward. Disagreement at a table is useful — it tells us where the community's priorities pull against one another.



THE CENTRAL QUESTION

Thinking about the future of RSU 5 as a whole, what is the most important message you want district leaders to keep in mind as they make decisions about the future of our schools?

Tonight, we will try to answer that.

QUESTION

Reflect on your own

If RSU 5 successfully achieves the vision of its Strategic Plan, what is the one thing you most hope students and families will say about their experience in our schools 10–15 years from now?



QUESTION

Reflect on your own

As RSU 5 considers changes to how the district operates, what do you believe is most important to preserve or protect about the school system we have today? Why?



QUESTION

Reflect on your own

What belief or principle should RSU 5 use to judge every major decision about programs, staffing, facilities, transportation, school configuration, and the use of resources?



QUESTION

Reflect on your own

When RSU 5 faces difficult choices or tradeoffs, what should be most important in determining which option best serves students and the community? Why?



QUESTION

Reflect on your own

Where should RSU 5 be most willing to change the way it currently operates if doing so would strengthen educational opportunities for students and improve the district's long-term sustainability?



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Where should RSU 5 be most willing to change the way it currently operates if doing so would strengthen educational opportunities for students and improve the district's long-term sustainability?



THE CENTRAL QUESTION

Thinking about the future of RSU 5 as a whole, what is the most important message you want district leaders to keep in mind as they make decisions about the future of our schools?

Reflect on your own

**What can change?
What must we protect?**

Sustainability rarely means choosing between something clearly good and something clearly bad. More often it means choosing among priorities we all value.



Share your voice online

- The same questions you worked on tonight are open to everyone in Durham, Freeport and Pownal.
- Seven short questions — about five minutes.
- You can also read and rate what your neighbors have shared.
- Please share it with anyone who could not be here tonight.



Survey link:

<https://tejoin.com/scroll/101774011>



What happens with what you said tonight

1 Tonight

Everything on your note cards and chart paper is collected and recorded.

2 Three meetings + survey

Your input is combined with the other two community meetings and the district-wide survey.

3 Analysis

The community's priorities become one of the four lenses applied to every option the study considers.

4 Final report

Zeal delivers findings and potential recommendations to RSU 5 — tested against what this community said it values.

No decisions have been made tonight, and none will be made without this input in front of us.



Thank you

for your time, your candor and your care for RSU 5 students.

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