

Coffee & Conversation

with Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Frank Santora**

held at Kennedy Elementary School • Tuesday, July 21, 2026





Proposed **District Goals** for 2026/2027

1 Multi-Tiered System of Support (**MTSS**)

Foster an environment that enables all students to receive a robust, comprehensive and individualized plan for learning.

2 Sustainability

Implement innovative programs to support students' sustainability.

3 Operational Efficacy

Continue to implement policies & procedures that lead to Operational Efficacy across the district.

4 Health & Wellness

Continue to develop an economically viable, safe, collaborative atmosphere for students, staff and community members to inspire all learners and support their mental wellness to increase a readiness to be able to learn and meaningfully participate in the greater school community.

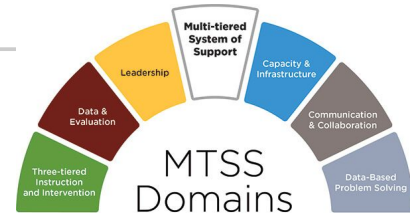
5 Parent Education & Engagement

Provide meaningful learning opportunities for parents & guardians that assist them in supporting the academic, social, emotional needs of students.





District Goal 1- Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)



Foster an environment that enables **all students** to receive a robust, comprehensive and individualized plan for learning.

Areas of Focus

- Continuation In-Support of Learning (ISL) services to support both Tier 2 and Tier 3 students.
- Leverage data analytic components of LinkIT to create strategy based interventions that are tied to standards based performance (to be used during all three tiers of Instruction)
- Implementation of the "Into Reading" ELA program for the 26-27 school year to improve Tier 1 core instruction.
- Moved toward systematic use of the Reveal Math Curriculum K-6
- Targeted intervention and enrichment provided at LRS and EMS via scheduling modifications
- Leveraging of increased instructional time inherent in the new RHS schedule
- Continuing to foster increased capacity among staff with using LinkIT
 - a. Targeted PD
 - b. Use of PLC and Data Meeting Time

Data, Systems, & Compliance

- Increased the use of targeted professional development
- Revised and rewrote district curriculum documents to ensure compliance with QSAC requirements.
- Fully implemented the Intervention Manager platform to create, track, and manage standardized student intervention plans across the district.



District Goal 2- Sustainability

Implement innovative programs to **support students' sustainability.**

- **Maintenance & Continuity:**
 - **SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS** ranking
 - Continuation of **GREEN TEAMS**
 - Club Activities~ **Early Act**





District Goal 3- Operational Efficacy



Continue to **implement policies & procedures that lead to Operational Efficacy** across the district.

Financial & Budget Management

- The administration addressed significant budget challenges by analyzing position control rosters to identify efficiencies and strategically plan reductions in force.
- The district achieved zero findings of noncompliance on its most recent audit despite staff transitions within the business office.

Contract Negotiations

- The Board of Education successfully negotiated tentative agreements with both the REA and bus drivers to provide financial stability and allow for long-term cost projections.

Program Efficiency & Revenue Generation

- An alternative high school program was developed at Lincoln Roosevelt to defer out of district costs as well accept tuition students from neighboring districts and create a new revenue stream.
- The district established two new Autism Programs at EMS and NES using existing staff to decrease costly out-of-district tuition expenses.
- All preschool programs were consolidated to Jefferson School to maximize staff time and realize transportation savings.

Compliance & Transparency

- The district successfully completed the NJ QSAC facilities visit and received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the county office.
- Public budget transparency was significantly enhanced through a dedicated, live-streamed Superintendent Coffee and detailed presentations at preliminary budget hearings.



District Goal 4- Health & Wellness



Continue to **develop an economically viable, safe, collaborative atmosphere** for students, staff and community members to **inspire all learners and support their mental wellness** to increase a readiness to be able to learn and meaningfully participate in the greater school community.

Mental Health & Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)

- Implemented the **Zones of Regulation** curriculum across all elementary schools to equip students with emotional management tools.
- Partnered with **Insight Health** to deliver comprehensive mental health counseling, on-site psychiatric clearances, and family care coordination.
- Hosted district-wide assemblies **promoting compassion**, including the KES Kindness Assembly, RHS ROX-thon, and an upcoming SEL family night.

Post-Secondary Planning & Counseling

- Successfully implemented the **SCOIR platform** to streamline the college planning process.
- Digitized scholarship applications via the **Going Merry platform**, making opportunities more accessible and increasing application rates.
- Hosted **RHS Instant Decision Days** with six colleges, resulting in 77 student acceptances and multiple academic scholarship offers.



District Goal 5- Parent Education & Engagement

SUPPORT
STUDENT
SUCCESS

Provide meaningful learning opportunities for parents & guardians that assist them in supporting the academic, social, emotional needs of students.

- **Community connections** were strengthened through regular Superintendent Coffees, school open office hours, and highly-viewed newsletters.
- **Targeted parent education sessions** were hosted to cover Math, ELA, and resources for multilingual learners.
- The School Counseling Department executed a robust series of **parent nights**, including FAFSA, NCAA, and Junior College Planning events.
- The Director of Special Services facilitated Special Education Parent Advisory Group (**SEPAG**) meetings to better support special education families.

4 Principles of Transformative Family Engagement

INCLUSIVE

Embracing and valuing diverse perspectives.



INDIVIDUALIZED

Meeting the unique needs of every family and child.



INTEGRATED

Connecting and aligning with the educational system.



IMPACTFUL

Empowering families to support their child's success.

