



Somers Central School District
250 Route 202, Somers, NY 10589

2025-2026 FORWARD IN EXCELLENCE

Comprehensive Report





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A MESSAGE TO OUR COMMUNITY

Welcome to the Somers Central School District!

As we reflect on another remarkable school year, I am proud to share this collection presentations as part of our comprehensive *Forward in Excellence* report, which highlight the many accomplishments, initiatives and milestones that defined the 2025–2026 school year in the Somers Central School District.

Our mission remains rooted in providing every student with opportunities to learn, grow and thrive in an environment where they feel valued and supported: “*Somers Central School District will ignite a passion in each student by engaging all learners at a personal level to ensure success in a global society*”. Each day, our dedicated faculty and staff work tirelessly to challenge students academically while nurturing their social-emotional and physical well-being. Together with our families and community partners, we continue to create meaningful learning experiences that prepare our students to become thoughtful, compassionate and engaged citizens.

The presentations that follow offer a snapshot of the extraordinary work taking place across our district. They reflect the dedication of our educators, the achievements of our students, and the collaborative effort of our Board of Education, families, staff and community members. While each presentation focuses on a different aspect of our work, together they tell the story of a district committed to continuous growth and a shared vision of excellence.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and unwavering support of our schools. It is because of this collective commitment that we continue to move *Forward in Excellence*, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to reach their full potential. I invite you to explore the following presentations and celebrate all that we have accomplished together.

Fondly,

Dr. Adam Bronstein
Superintendent of Schools
Somers Central School District



Elements of Excellence

21ST CENTURY KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

2025-2026 District Priorities:

01

Examine and refine the K-12 MTSS structure and assessment plan.

02

Provide professional learning on the new data platform, LinkIt.

03

Support an articulated K-12 vision for mathematics instruction and expand implementation of best practices.



Portrait of a Graduate



A New York State high school graduate will be:

- Academically Prepared
- A Creative Innovator
- A Critical Thinker
- An Effective Communicator
- A Global Citizen
- Reflective & Future Focused

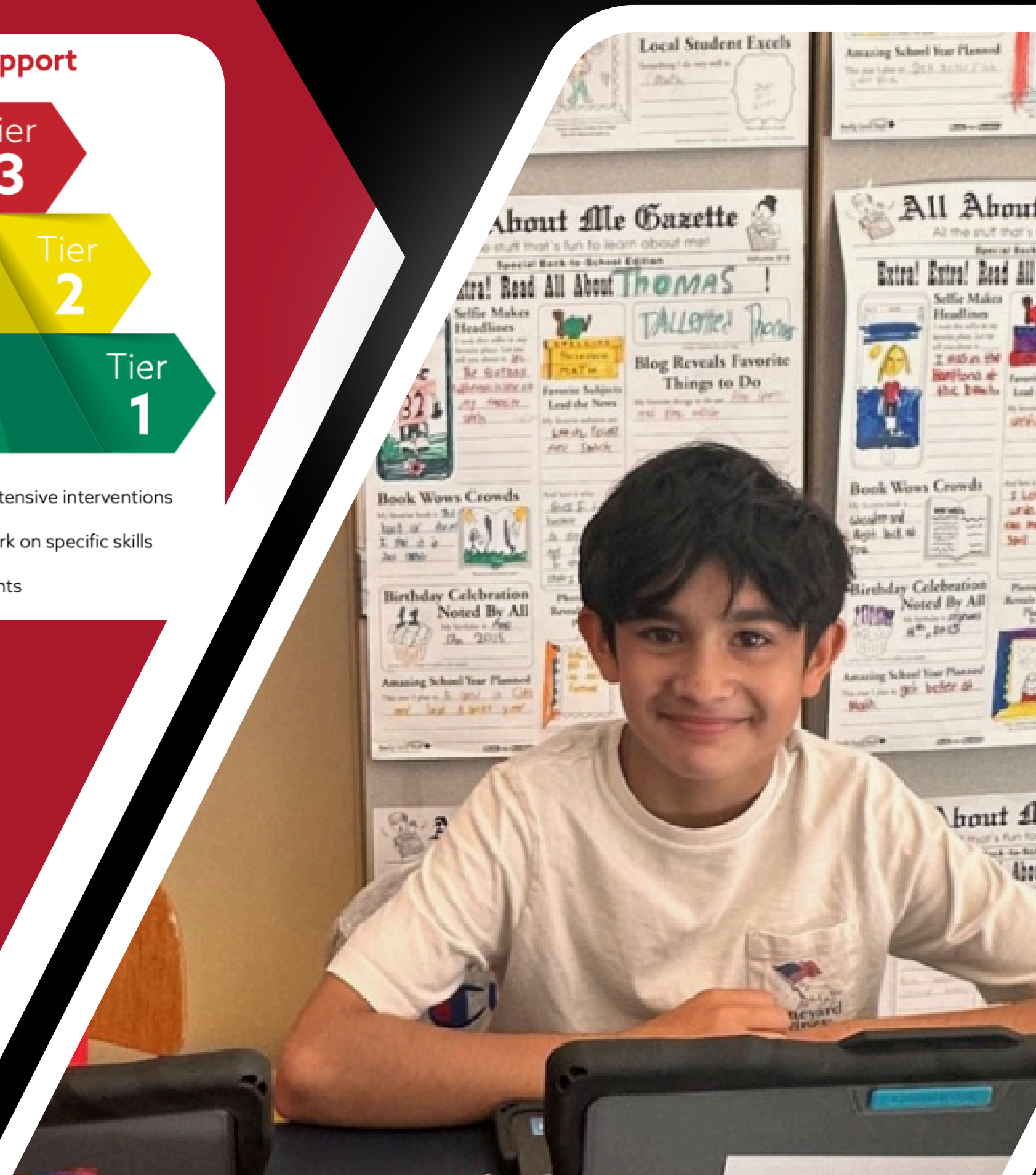
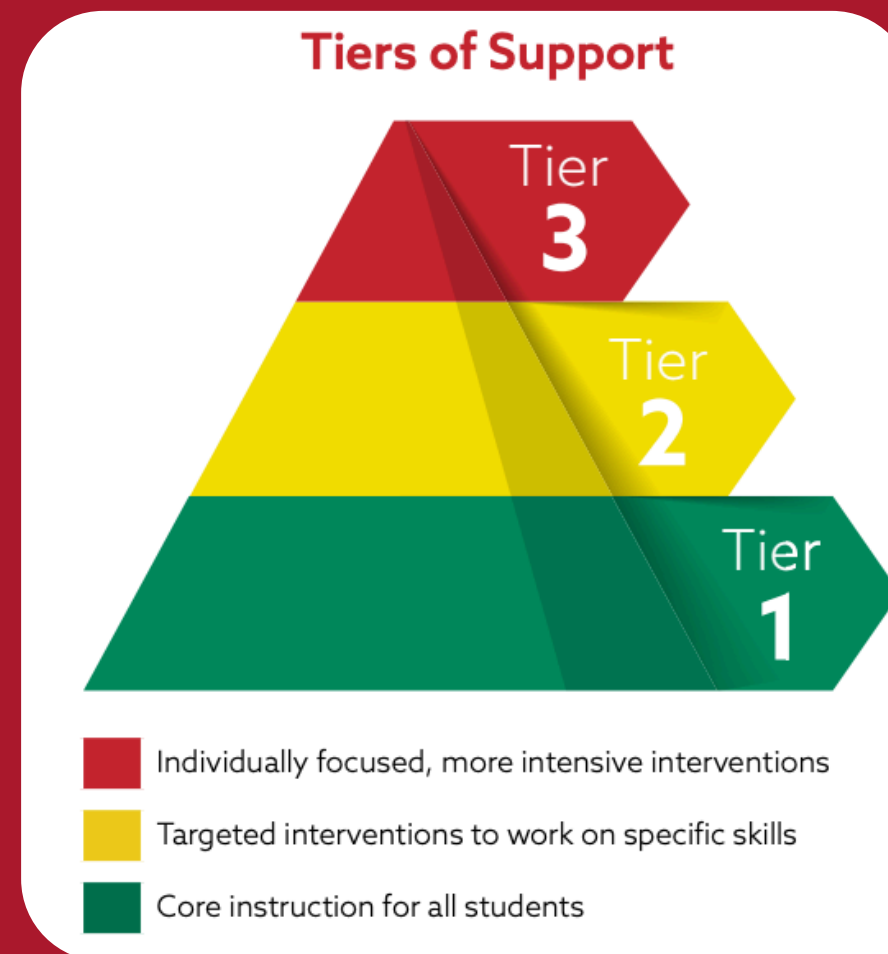


Examine and refine the K-12 MTSS structure and assessment plan.

Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS): a comprehensive framework that allows the district to identify academic and social-emotional needs and the appropriate supports

Action Steps:

- Piloting a new universal benchmark assessment - IXL Level Up
- MTSS Coordinator roles have been established at each school building to assist with data review and intervention planning
- The team is exploring resources to continue to expand wellness supports



IXL LEARNING

An online learning platform that provides assessment tools, analytics and supplemental skill-building resources

Uses:

- **IXL LevelUp Reading & Math Benchmark Assessments**
 - Piloting as a universal screening tool
 - Provides actionable data to plan instruction
- **Real-Time Arena**
 - Ongoing monitoring of students' progress and skills
- **Ongoing Skill Practice**
 - Supplemental to classroom instruction

21ST CENTURY KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS



Provide professional learning on the new data platform, LinkIt.

LinkIt is a K-12 data and intervention platform that supports educators in making informed decisions for the benefit of students.

- Administrators and MTSS coordinators will engage in ongoing professional learning and explore the capacity of the platform.
- Faculty will be introduced to the capabilities of this tool.



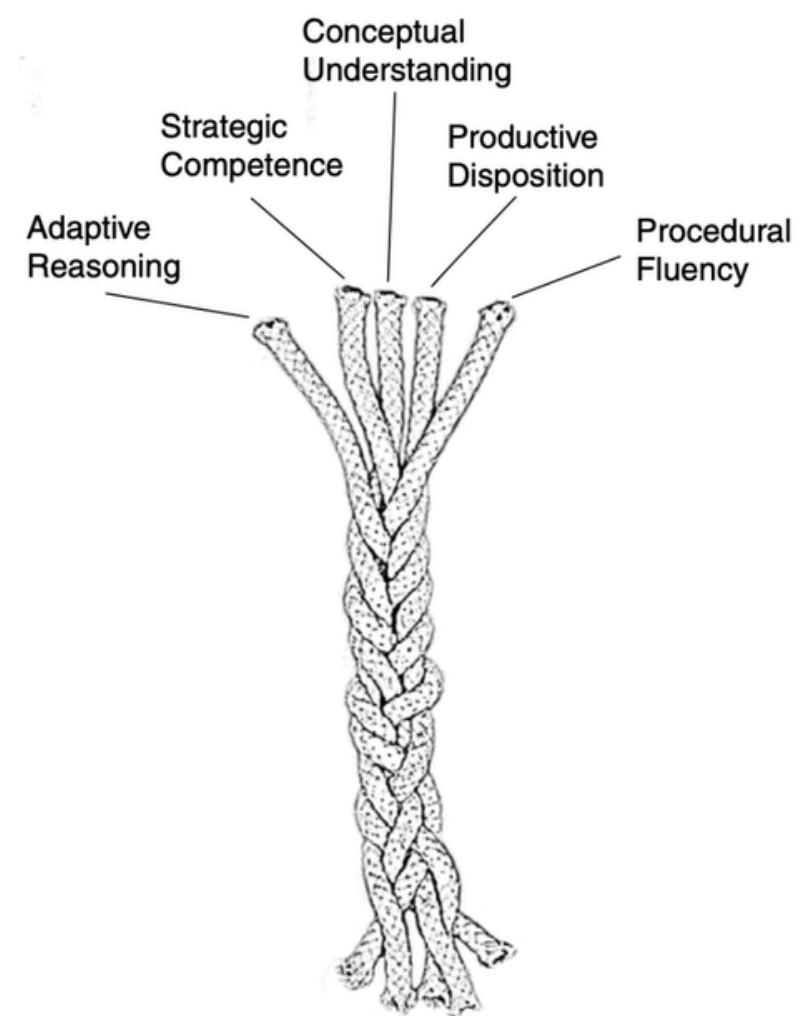
Support an articulated K-12 vision for mathematics instruction and expand implementation of best practices.



This ongoing K-12 collaboration is grounded in SCSD's *K-12 Vision for Mathematics Instruction* in alignment with the New York State Numeracy Briefs.

- The Briefs are designed to provide educators with research-based strategies for teaching mathematics and building student numeracy.

25-26 will bring continued partnership with the Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES Math and Data Coordinator, who will provide learning on NYS Math standards and best practices.



Elements of Excellence

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL & PHYSICAL WELLNESS

Wellness Team Mission: The mental health team teaches and models for all students the life-long skills of self-regulation, self-management, and effective social engagement.

2025-2026 District Priorities:

01

Build faculty and staff capacity to support students' executive functioning and self-management skills.

02

Implement a 5-12 wellness assessment and develop a corresponding reporting system

03

Continue aligning the K-8 Health and Wellness curriculum.



SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL & PHYSICAL WELLNESS

Build faculty and staff capacity to support students' executive functioning and self-management skills.

In 2022, we began a multi-year approach designed to support all teachers in reaching the goal of embedding effective EF strategies into daily instructional routines.

Research-Based Consultation Support (Cognitive Connections)

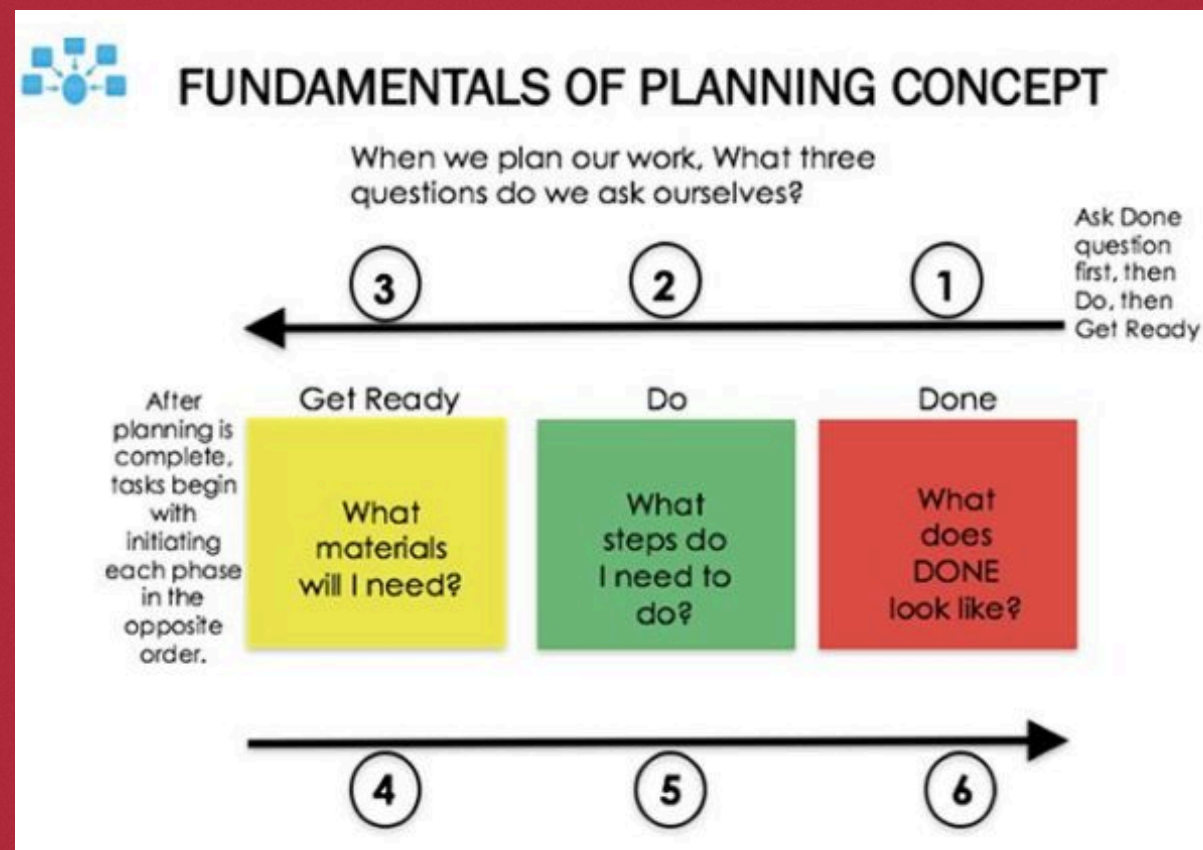
In-person and virtual EF training for Staff at all four schools has taken place over the past year, with a parent training offered during the Wellness Summit in November, 2023.

Additionally, in-service, focused study groups have been delivered at all schools.

Long term goals include equipping our students with more effective skill sets to best navigate current and future experiences and demands.



WHAT IS EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING?



SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL & PHYSICAL WELLNESS

Implement a 5-12 wellness assessment and develop a corresponding reporting system

2025-2026 SCSD Student Wellness Self-Assessment (WCSD, Nevada)

Students self-assess in a variety of areas such as Self-Awareness, Self-Management and Social Awareness

What We Hope to Capture

How students assess their own skill in managing their mood, social situations, schoolwork and personal and academic goals

How Will This Information be Used?

This feedback will help students, parents and school staff to identify student strengths that can be leveraged, as well as skills in need of further development. This can support both individual students and groups of students to engage in their academic and social experiences most effectively.





WELLNESS ASSESSMENT

Skills to be Self-Assessed & Sample Questions

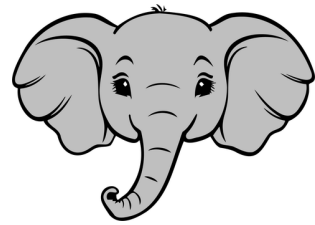
Response Options: 1 = Very Difficult; 2 = Difficult; 3 = Easy; 4 = Very Easy

- ▶ **Self Awareness: Self-Concept**
Knowing what my strengths are is usually:
- ▶ **Self-Awareness: Emotion Knowledge**
Knowing when my feelings are making it hard for me to focus is usually:
- ▶ **Social Awareness**
Learning from people with different opinions than me is usually:
- ▶ **Self-Management: Emotion Regulation**
Getting through something even when I feel frustrated is usually:
- ▶ **Self-Management: Goal Management**
Finishing tasks even if they are hard for me is usually:
- ▶ **Self-Management: School Work**
Doing my schoolwork even when I do not feel like it is usually:

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL & PHYSICAL WELLNESS

Continue aligning the K-8 Health and Wellness curriculum.

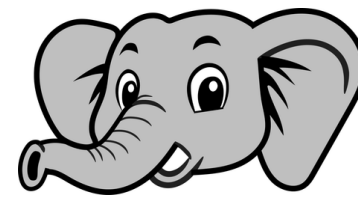
We're building a seamless progression of health education by adapting the standards and concepts from the middle and high schools for PES and SIS students in age-appropriate ways.



Primrose Elementary School

PES will provide handouts and online resources for teachers and staff to incorporate in their classwork and lesson planning. Topics include:

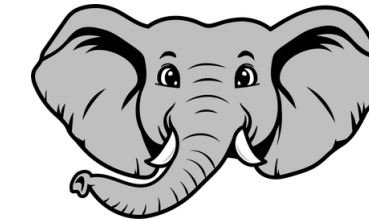
- Physical Activity and Fitness
- Germ Fighting/Hygiene
- Nutrition and Healthy Eating
- Outdoor Safety and Injury Prevention



Somers Intermediate School

SIS students will have health teachers push into classrooms monthly to teach on topics like:

- Heart Health
- Hygiene
- Nutrition
- Exercise
- The Importance of Sleep
- Fighting Germs
- Respiratory System
- Outside Health & Safety
- Circulatory System



Somers Middle School

SMS students will continue learning about the aforementioned health topics, in addition to:

- Human Growth
- The Dangers of Substance Use

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

SCSD will foster growth as global citizens in all learners.

01

Expand professional learning on the effective use of artificial intelligence for teaching and learning.

02

Increase student learning opportunities related to online safety and digital citizenship.

03

Utilize LIFE committee to expand professional learning on inclusive practices.



AI & Digital Citizenship

- **K-12 AI Committee**
 - Guiding Principles & Best Practices
 - SchoolAI
- **AI Professional Learning**
 - PES in-service: Expansion of Instructional Technology Skills
 - SHS in-service: Exploring the Use of AI for Educational Purposes
 - Learning sessions for teachers new to SCSD
 - Tri-State Consortium Study Group
 - Art: AI in Art and Design Summit
 - ENL: Using AI Tools to Increase the Success of English Language Learners and Enhance Teacher Productivity
- **Digital Citizenship**
 - Online safety opportunity for 5th graders
 - CSDF standards integrated K-12

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP



LIFE & Inclusive Practices

Staff survey:

- Strategies to support positive behavior
- How to explicitly teach executive functioning for all students

**Inclusive
Schools Week**

Learning Inclusively for Everyone

- K-12 EF committee:
 - Developmental milestones
 - Building representatives for strategies to guide their colleagues
- PLC for TAs and Monitors on behavioral strategies provided by behaviorists and BOCES
- DBT Steps-E training this Spring for elementary counselors



Elements of Excellence

FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

SCSD will strengthen and nurture connections across the Somers community.

01

Host the 3rd Annual Tusker Café community event.

02

Ensure all families have access to district communications and expand outreach strategies.

03

Share resources with families to support distraction-free learning environments.



Host the 3rd Annual Tusker Café Community Event

Tusker Café is a community event series that gives the Somers Central School District the opportunity to connect with the larger community on an opportunity to foster engagement with families.

April 28, 2026 - Somers Middle School

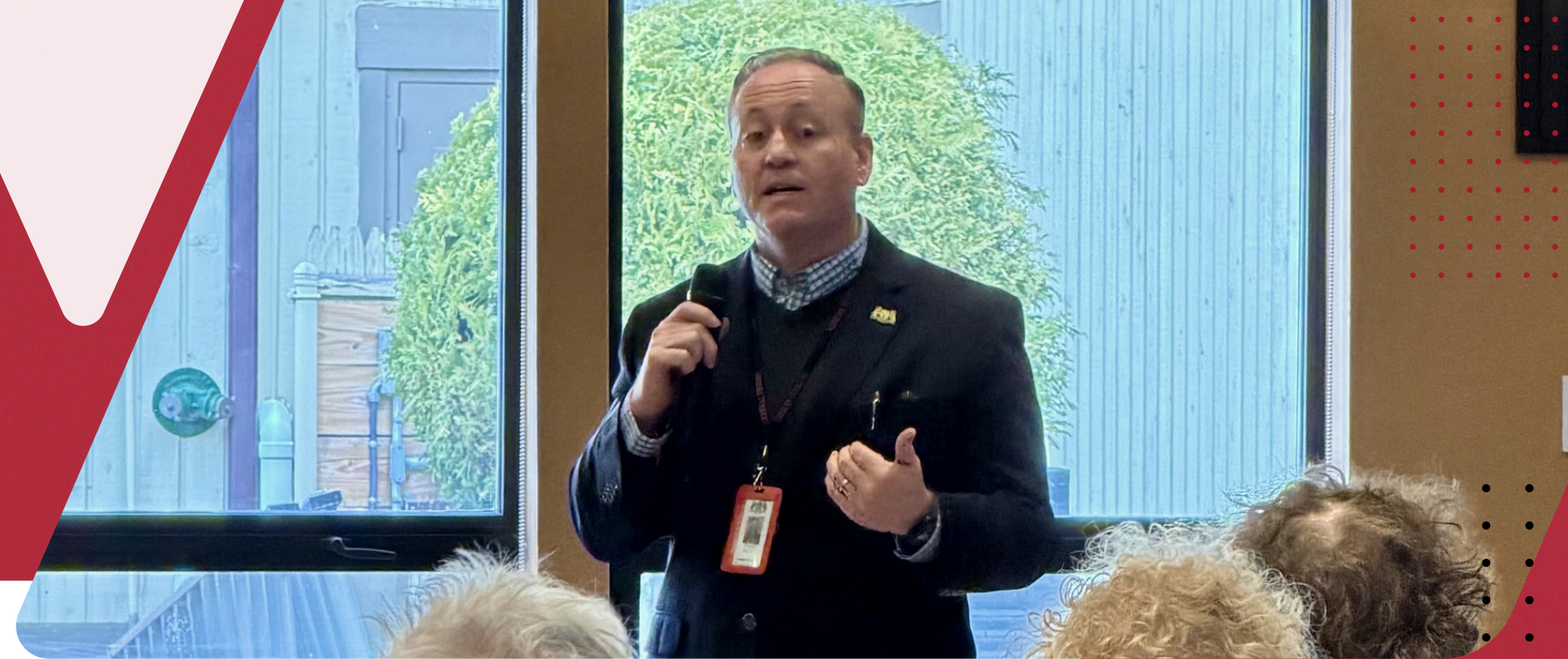
This year's Tusker Cafe was a presentation of "*13 Drivers' Licenses*," a traveling exhibit and educational project that details the 1938 Nazi confiscation of drivers' licenses belonging to Jewish residents in Lichtenfels, Germany, shortly after the November Pogrom, also known as Kristallnacht. Following the discovery of the licenses, 80 years later, the local high school created a project to learn about the fate of the license holders.

In a partnership between the Somers Central School District, the Town of Somers and the Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center, this Tusker Cafe featured a 45-minute presentation, followed by a Q&A session.



FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Ensure all families have access to district communications and expand outreach strategies.



Dr. Bronstein's 2025-2026 Entry Plan:



Hire a Public Relations Coordinator

Bring on a dedicated, full-time SCSD Employee who doesn't split time with other districts



Engage With Various Local Partners

Somers Library, YMCA UPK, Somers Town Supervisor, local police and volunteer fire departments, Somers Lions Club, Heritage Hills, Kennedy Catholic, state and local legislators, SYSO



Regularly Meet With Parent & Community Groups

PTA Council, Somers Education Foundation, Citizen's Finance Committee, Partners in Prevention, TEAM Tuskers Mentoring, Safety Team



Ensure all families have access to district communications and expand outreach strategies. (cont'd)

► Spreading the News

- Facebook, Instagram, X, LinkedIn
 - Student Successes
 - Athletic Accomplishments
 - Touting New Administrative Hires
 - Sharing Job Openings
- Tusker Tracks
- The Somers Spotlight
- Website/Branding/Policy Updates

► Transparent Communication

- Sharing Safety Updates
- Regular updates on ParentSquare
 - ParentSquare:
 - 99.5% Contactable (at least one student contact is contactable)



Ensure all families have access to district communications and expand outreach strategies. (cont'd)

Additional Outreach Strategies:

- “Hold Music” made from a medley by the Somers music department & students
- *Tusker Shop* – gives community members a chance to donate new and gently used items directly to those in Somers, as well as the chance to shop for donated items
- Maintaining relationships with local media (The Somers Record, The Journal News/LoHud.com, News12 Westchester)

Beginning Next Year:

- District-wide physical calendar
- Celebrating new hires on social media
- Checking in with recent hires on social media
- Continued website/branding updates



Share resources with families to support distraction-free learning environments.

NYS Internet-Enabled Device Ban

Last summer, New York State passed a law that all schools must follow, which bans the use of internet-enabled devices during the school day.

This includes smart phones, tablets, smart watches or other internet-enabled devices.

Somers Central School District Policy

As required by Education Law §2803, this policy prohibits student use of internet-enabled devices during the school day, on school grounds, unless under an exception.

Lessons Learned in Year One

- While the existing policy is not perfect, students agree that the device ban causes them to be more focused during the school day
- Some students expressed worry about missing SportsU messages from coaches regarding a change or cancellation

Students & Staff Have Noted:

- More conversation
- SHS students are utilizing board and card games, playing pool in the commons



FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

FISCAL STEWARDSHIP

SCSD is committed to responsible financial planning and allocation of resources.

01

Obtain SED approval for Phase I of the capital project.

02

Form committees to gather stakeholder feedback on project components.

03

Provide regular capital project status updates to the Board of Education.



Obtain SED approval for Phase I of the capital project

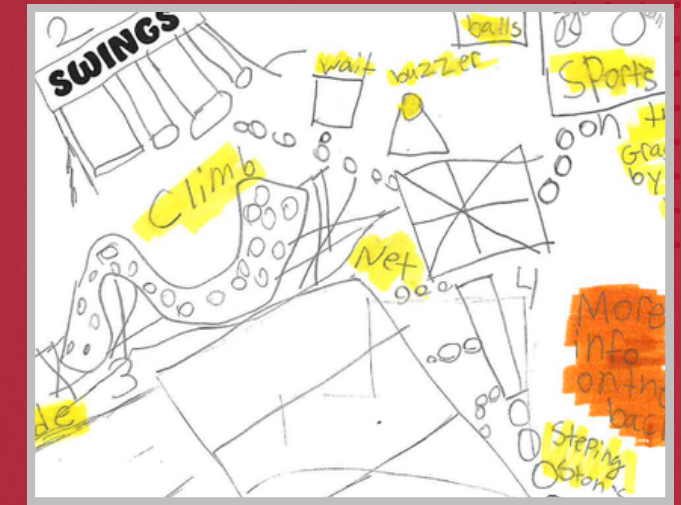
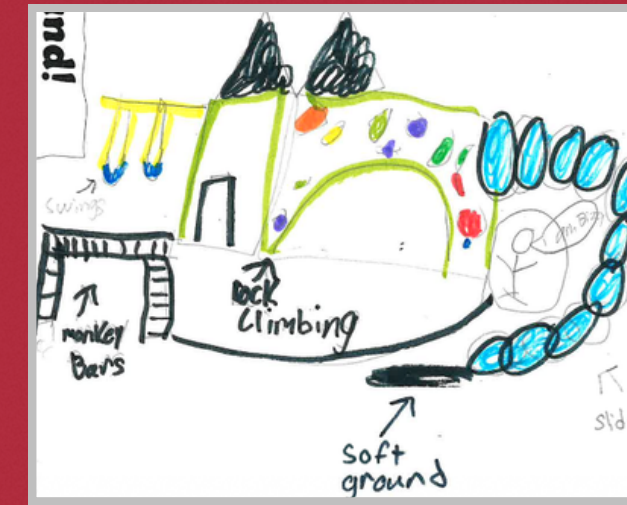
Approved Phase I Work - Summer 2026

- **Primrose Elementary School:**
 - Kindergarten playground
- **Somers Intermediate School:**
 - New playground
 - Updated flooring in 3rd grade classrooms and common areas
 - Paving of top and middle parking lots
- **Somers Middle School:**
 - New digital sign
 - HVAC system in gymnasium
 - Fire alarm upgrades
- **Somers High School:**
 - Track resurfacing
 - Lighting upgrades on Turf 1 & 2
 - Paving ~70% of the parking lot
 - Fire alarm upgrades



FISCAL STEWARDSHIP

Form committees to gather stakeholder feedback on project components



Top Feedback From Stakeholders:

- Long-term durability
- Playgrounds:
 - Access and inclusion important in a playground setting
- SIS Art Room:
 - Importance of an aesthetically pleasing and safe space.

District Stakeholders:

- Students
- Families
- Faculty
- Staff
- Administration
- Board of Education





Provide regular capital project status updates to the Board of Education

► Timeline Updates

- Phase I work will begin as soon as the school year concludes on June 26, 2026
- Phase II planning is underway. We plan to submit to NYSED for approval this summer with work beginning in Summer 2027
- The timeline on the District website will be updated as applicable

► Additional Summer 2026 Priorities

- Ensure summer programming in the SCSD isn't impacted
- Access to facilities maintained
- Update timeline on an ongoing basis

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES

SCSD will cultivate a community of professional learners.

01

Expand K-12 opportunities for curricular and instructional alignment through collaborative teams.

02

Align grading practices 6-12 through the consistent implementation of the MYP framework, including criterion-based assessment.

03

Refine the curriculum review process.



K-12 COLLABORATIVE TEAMS

▶ **Executive Functioning**

K-12 guiding committee of teachers committed to the expansion of professional learning and student supports

▶ **MTSS**

Collaborative efforts of administration, MTSS coordinators, and interventionists to further align best practices k-12

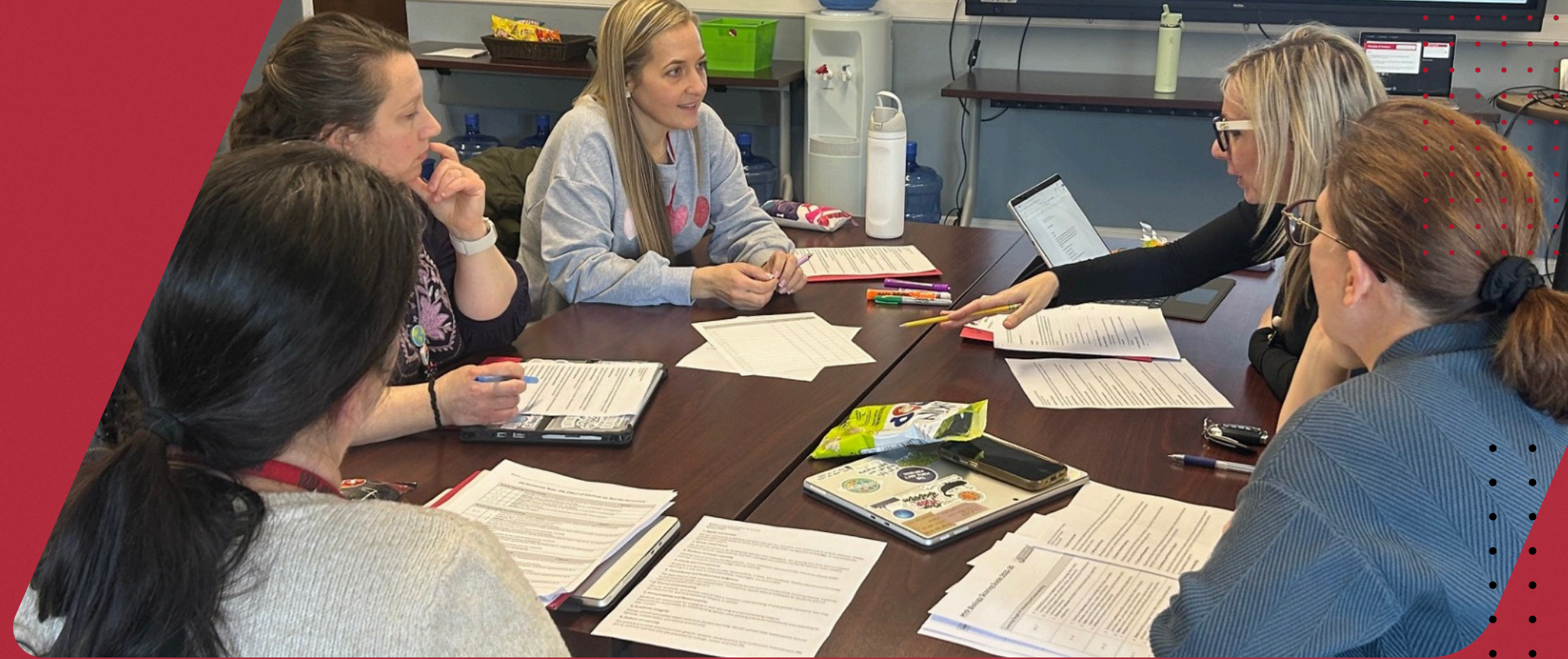
▶ **Vertical Alignment Meetings**

K-12 opportunities for subject areas to focus resources and professional learning on key topics of inquiry



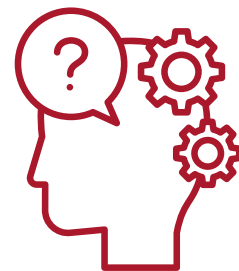
PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES

ALIGNING 6-12 PRACTICES



Collaborative PLC Days

- 6-12 team meetings
- Teacher-led workshops:
 - AI
 - ATL skills
 - Co-teaching
 - Differentiation
 - Feedback & Writing



6-10 MYP Framework

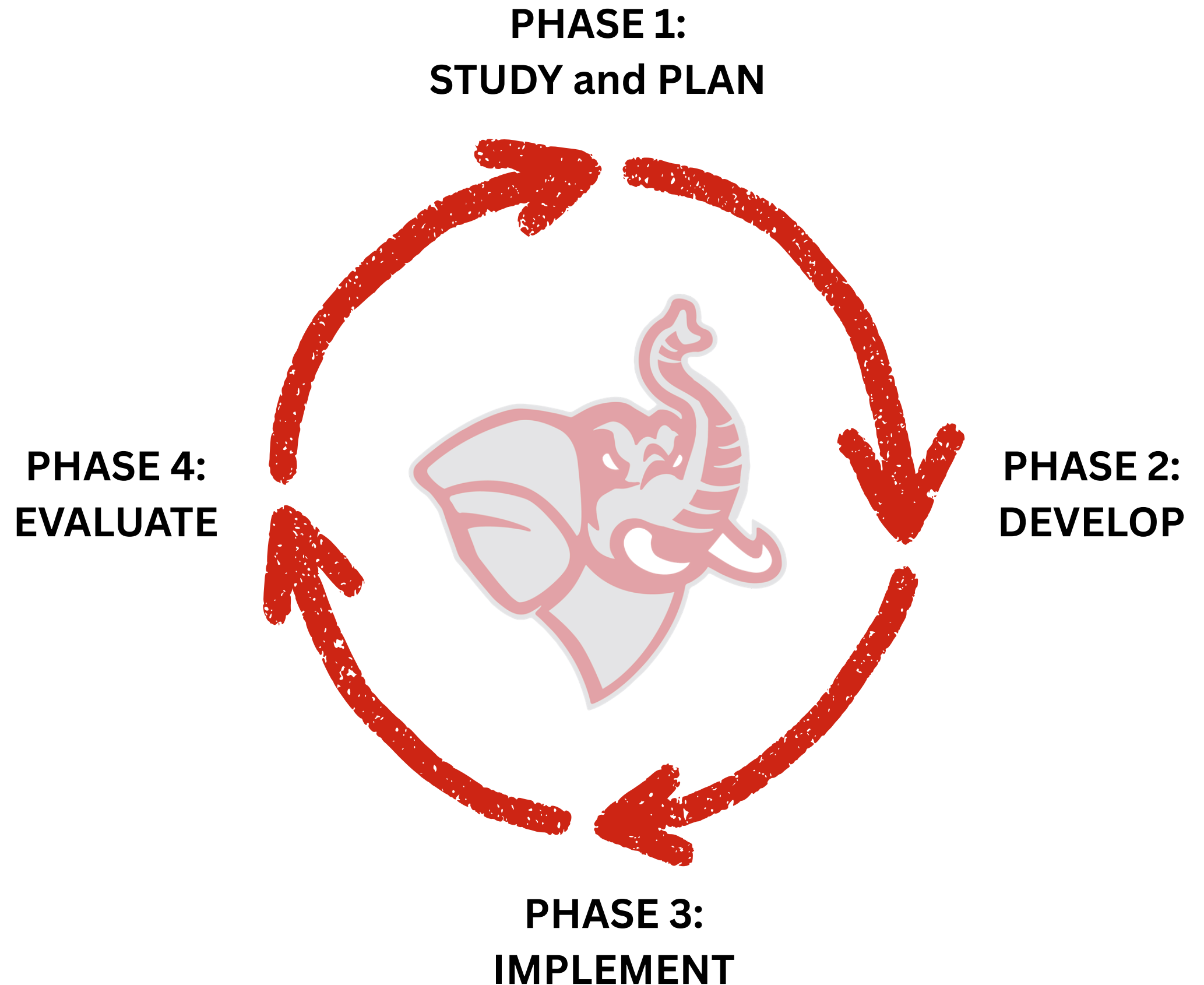
- SMS/SHS partnership
- Vertical alignment
- Common areas of professional inquiry



Assessment & Grading

- SMS & SHS in-service study groups
- 6-12 Guiding Coalition for Grading
- Shared expectations
- Rubrics based on skill objectives and criteria

6 -YEAR REVIEW CYCLE FOR CORE SUBJECT AREAS



THANK YOU!



SOMERS
Central School District
Forward in Excellence