Creating a Strategic Plan for the Plumsted Township School District {Meeting 2}

Mission Statement

The Plumsted Township School District shall inspire all students to realize their personal potential. A rich and challenging learning environment, in partnership with the community, will develop critical thinkers, lifelong learners and productive citizens in an emerging global society.

Session 2
Portrait of a Learner and Initiatives for the Plumsted Township School District

On October 27, 2026, staff, administrators, parents/guardians, students, community members, and board members, twenty-three (23) participants in total, gathered for the second Strategic Planning meeting for the Plumsted Township School District.

The focus of this session was to develop a Portrait of a Learner and identify initiatives that will help shape the future of the district. The evening began with a welcome from Superintendent Mr. David M. Ytreboe. This was followed by an overview of the strategic planning process and the evening's activities, presented by Ms. Michelle Kennedy from the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA).

Participants reviewed the consensus-building process used throughout strategic planning and watched a video designed to spark reflection on the evolving future of education and the skills students will need to thrive in an ever-changing world.

The small-group activity focused on creating a Portrait of a Learner and identifying initiatives for the future of the district. The four (4) groups brainstormed to identify the core skills they believe should be the hallmark of every student who walks across the graduation stage and that would prepare them for the future of their choosing. Each group was asked to reach consensus on one or two "Essential" core skills, create a list of reasons "why" students may not currently possess the desired attribute, and develop initiatives that, when implemented, would help students acquire those attributes.

Each group reported its outcomes to the larger group. Participants then identified common themes that emerged across the small-group discussions and ultimately developed four (4) broad strategic planning goal areas.

The following summary captures the group's work. As shared during the session, all outcomes are posted on the district website to ensure transparency and keep stakeholders informed throughout the strategic planning process.

Small Group Work – Portrait of a Learner, Initiatives, and identified Goal Areas:

Table 1:

"Essential" Core Skill(s):
Communication
Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Skills
"Why" List:
Lack of conversational skills
Disagree appropriately/Advocate appropriately
Personal Technology use
Increased Anxiety
Initiatives List:
SEL in the classrooms
Dedicated Social Workers
Celebrate the good and gritty
Raise the bar for students to strive
Small group team building

Table 2:

"Essential" Core Skill(s):
Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Skills
Self-Direction and Accountability
"Why" List:
Missing Curriculum Supplements
AI/Online Presence
High Structure of Class Periods
Lacking shared accountability on behavior norms
Overcrowded classes
Initiatives List:
Create Roadmap for tech advancement
Develop opportunities to write behavioral norms

Table 3:

"Essential" Core Skill(s):
Communication
Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Skills
"Why" List:
Staff and students knowing how to use AI efficiently and effectively
Workplace efficiency
Strengthen reading and writing – need more intentional interventions and resources.
Missing real life scenarios and curriculum for group activities and problem solving
Initiatives List:
Technology upgrades to better support teaching and learning
Apply for Grants
Look into fundraising opportunities
Increase opportunities for organizational skills, project and time management, presentations and public speaking

Table 4:

"Essential" Core Skill(s):
Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Skills – Through curriculum development – consistency, delivery, implement
"Why" List:
Lifelong organizational skills
Proficiency in grade level standards
Critically thinking beyond H.S.
Initiatives List:
Vertical articulation
Consistent expectations/PD (behaviorally)
Focus on speaking/listening standards
Finding ways to support STEAM across grade levels (PD/funding)

Four goal areas emerged from the common themes identified by the group at large.

1. Communication
2. Technology
3. School Culture and Climate
4. Student Engagement

The third strategic planning session is scheduled for:

Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 6:00 pm
Plumsted Township School District,
117 Evergreen Road, New Egypt, NJ 08533

Meeting 3 is scheduled for 1.5 hours. Meetings start and end promptly.

Thank you to everyone who contributed their time, insights, and expertise during the first and second Strategic Planning meetings. Your participation is greatly appreciated!

At our next meeting on November 17th, participants will revisit the outcomes of Meetings 1 and 2 and begin shaping the district's strategic roadmap by using the four (4) goal areas identified in Meeting 2.

The task will be to develop an overarching goal statement for each goal area, along with 3–5 supporting objectives that help bring that goal to life.

Participants will have the opportunity to self-select a goal area they're most interested in contributing to.

Please join us. Bring a friend! Everyone is welcome! We look forward to seeing you!

Thank you!