

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Plymouth Public Schools is to Challenge, Inspire, and Prepare all students for success in an ever-changing and complex world.

Board of Education Goals

1. **Students will demonstrate a mastery of core subject matter and apply their essential learning and critical thinking skills to achieve academic excellence.**
2. **Students will demonstrate mastery of all essential skills, needed to participate successfully in the 21st century global economy.**
3. **Students will exhibit healthy life choices (wellness).**
4. **Students will use technology as a tool to research, organize, evaluate and communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, for a variety of purposes.**
5. **Students will demonstrate social responsibility by providing for the needs of the greater community and by developing civic literacy.**
6. **Students will be able to understand, negotiate and balance diverse views and beliefs in order to reach workable solutions.**
7. **Students will demonstrate the ability to manage goals and time, work independently, and be self-directed learners.**

**Plymouth Public Schools
2017-2018
District Goals**

Primary Goals

Goal #1 - School Safety (BOE Goals 3,4,6)

Increase the safety of students, staff and community members physically, emotionally and electronically by layering additional best practices into our current system.

- Ensure that the the procedures around the new Charles Street entrance to ETJMS are well articulated and communicated to all constituents. Furthermore, provide assistance to the administrative team at ETJMS to ensure that the new entrance is properly used by parents, staff, community members.
- Representation and active participation in regional safety meetings that include safety personnel from districts around the state. Discussions around best practices at these meetings will be brought back to our district and decisions will be made regarding next steps as appropriate.
- Three to four quarterly district safety meetings involving safety personnel (police, fire, etc.) and school personnel (Superintendent, Director of Facilities, Administrators) will occur during the 2017-2018 school allowing for tabletop simulations, training and discussion. These meetings will provide an opportunity to prepare for a host of challenging and complex situations from active shooters to major weather catastrophes.
- The police department will be granted access to participate in active shooter drills in any and all schools during non-school hours providing a better training experience for members of our local police department.
- Review and update our data safety protocols to ensure that both written and electronic data are as safe as possible. Examples include heightened password safety, records protection and destruction, monitoring students use of district technology in addition to following HIPPA and FERPA.
- Goal #2 below will significantly contribute to the social and emotional safety of students and staff.

Goal #2 - Social Emotional Learning (BOE Goals 2, 3, 5, 6, 7)

A focus on increasing staff awareness and fluency around social emotional learning constructs and techniques will be a major emphasis during the 2017-2018 school year and years to come.

- Identify a useful framework to guide our work on Social Emotional Learning
- Provide multiple opportunities for professional development for members of the administrative team early in the process.
- Provide multiple professional development opportunities to staff on SEL.

- Develop a three-year plan with a committee of staff that provides the opportunity to further embed SEL into our system.
- Identify preliminary indicators to measure staff and student growth in SEL.

Goal #3 - Developing Instructional Expertise (BOE Goals 1, 2, 3, 6, 7)

Instructional capacity is a critical element of the teaching and learning process. Certified staff shall constantly strive to improve on their instructional practices through individual and group strategies. Research consistently shows that the quality of the teacher has the greatest impact on student learning, therefore, as we increase instructional capacity our students will benefit most.

- Update the District Improvement Plan so that it reflects the most current data and integrates any major new district goal (e.g. SEL).
- Ensure that each principal develops an updated School Improvement Plan (SIP) that is directly aligned with the District Improvement Plan (DIP) and identifies specific strategies that will lead to greater student achievement over time.
- Streamline the District Data Team (DDT) process to four meetings per year with an emphasis on analyzing formative and summative assessment data directly connected to the Board of Education goals and District Improvement Plan goals. Quantitative and qualitative data analysis will help refine the instructional and curricular strategies employed across the district and will identify additional professional development needs for the current and future year.
- Institute *Instructional Rounds*¹ so that members of the DDT, as well as classroom teachers, may explicitly define our next level of work by engaging in a safe process that allows our team to observe the interactions within the instructional core (teacher, student, content). These non-evaluative observations (Rounds) will provide valuable feedback to the principal and members of the school, related to a topic of their choosing. There will be four meeting days committed for participation in *Instructional Rounds* during the 2017-2018 school year.
- Continue the work of ensuring that Individualized Education Programs are fully compliant and that student goals are data driven and measurable.
- Multiple professional development opportunities will be provided to staff by the district and outside agencies/individuals as appropriate. These professional development opportunities will be focused on district initiatives (e.g. Reader's Workshop, SEL, Foundations, School Climate, Instructional Rounds, etc.).
- Customized reports will be developed by our tech team and utilized to reduce the time needed to gather and record data manually.

Goal #4 - Updating and Enhancing Curriculum (BOE Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

Curriculum is the “what” we teach our students. Curriculum needs constant updating given changes in the “real-world”, revised standards from the State Department of Education, and making sure that our curriculum makes sense and is aligned. Given the small number of staff available to work on curriculum we must prioritize our work each year.

- Provide professional learning opportunities around our online curriculum platform (Atlas) to identified staff. Use this platform to begin electronically capturing our curriculum. This will provide our teachers with greater access to curriculum and capture their ideas regarding adaptations, best practices, and future ideas.
- Update Science curriculum K-3, 6, and 9 to meet the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).
- Update Social Studies curriculum K-5
- Implement and support Readers Workshop in grade 6.
- Implement and support Advanced Placement English in grade 11.
- Review the need for additional courses.

Secondary Goals

- Completion of three-year goal to update all Board of Education policies. This will include the adoption of the 4000, 5000, 6000, and 7000 series.
- Successful first year for our new, grant funded, Smart Start Pre-K through communication of the opportunity to parents, beginning the process for NAEYC accreditation, and fully supporting the needs of the PCS staff.
- Completion of a feasibility study if resources permit, in order to gain a long-term view of the use of our facilities. This will allow for greater clarity around planning and allow ample opportunities for community awareness and feedback.
- Continue communication process with school and local community through the use of SchoolMessenger, Plymouth Connection, Facebook and district website.
- Strengthen partnerships with local community organizations and departments. The school system will continue to be a strong and supportive member of the community. Our work with the Rotary Club of Terryville, Lions Club, Zukowski Family Foundation, United Way, Local Prevention Council and Emergency Services have benefitted the Town of Plymouth and our students in valuable ways. We will look for additional partnerships as well.
- Through our School to Career program, we will work to identify business partners for each school, partners who will work to support the overall mission of the school in some way.