

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
2019-2020
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. We will continue with a number of initiatives that have improved safety including: district safety meetings; internal and external cameras; availability of schools for police training; and building safety reviews. For 2019-2020 we will focus on the following:

- Review and update the Crisis Communication Plan resulting in an online and hard copy handbook for district and school safety teams.
- Review and update procedures related to our reunification plan resulting in written plans for each building.
- Conduct a “tabletop” exercise that results in the hypothetical testing of our safety plans and identifies strengths and areas of focus for our team.
- Purchase and place protective bollards at identified locations at each school.
- Explore “ALICE” training for students and staff resulting in a decision to move forward or not with this form of training.

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

In 2018-2019 we focused on staff awareness and fluency around social emotional learning constructs and techniques. In 2019-2020 we will continue to develop staff knowledge and skill in this area, but will now turn our attention to students as well. The ultimate goal is to graduate students having mastered skills in emotional intelligence.

- Teachers will implement two of the RULER Anchor Tools, “Charter” and “Mood Meter”, in their classrooms.
- Teachers will learn about the RULER Anchor Tools “Meta-Moment” and “Blue Print”.
- Review and update the Scientifically Research Based Instruction (SRBI) plan around student behavior needs resulting in a clear set of practices and procedures for working with students at all levels.
- Update our three-year SEL plan to identify student and staff outcomes, professional development needs, and assessment strategies.

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.

- A thoughtful common instructional framework is identified and chosen areas are implemented with fidelity throughout the K-12 system thus increasing instructional capacity of our teaching staff.

- Review and update the Scientifically Research Based Instruction (SRBI) plan around student academic needs resulting in a clear set of practices and procedures for working with students at all levels.
- 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. Professional development needs will be identified by the Principals and Director of Curriculum and Instruction to ensure proper training is provided to staff.
- Continue *Instructional Rounds* so that members of the District Data Team (DDT), as well as classroom teachers, may examine instructional strategies identified in our district and school improvement plan 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.

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.

- Develop a “Portrait of the Graduate” for the Plymouth Public Schools resulting in a set of high level skills and attributes that our community expects all students to develop as they move through our school system and ultimately graduate.
- Develop a Capstone Process and Product for all high school students beginning with the class of 2023 resulting in 1) a clear and focused document for students and parents 2) the identification of potential programmatic changes/updates and resulting budgetary needs.
- Develop and implement a curriculum cycle that is well articulated and manageable. The process will be highlighted through the curriculum updates in math during the 2019-2020 school year.

Secondary Goals

- The facility study that is already underway will be completed by the New England School Development Council (NESDEC). The results of the demographic portion of the study have already been presented to the BOE. The BOE will have an opportunity to review and discuss the findings of the study. The public will be provided multiple opportunities to review the information as well and share their opinions on the different options. The BOE is then responsible for identifying possible next steps including timelines.
- The Plymouth Town Hall and Plymouth Board of Education will be using the same software package (Infinite Visions) to manage human resources and financial information. The Plymouth BOE will work to make a smooth transition to the new software package by July 1, 2020.

- Terryville High School has been engaged in an accreditation review through our accrediting body, New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). THS will host a review team from NEASC that will result in commendations and recommendations, but more importantly provide our continuing accreditation. The goal is to have a meaningful visit with the NEASC team that results in valuable feedback and continued accreditation.
- Our Pre-K programs have been involved in the process to earn National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) certifications for our half-day and full-day Pre-K programs in our Early Learning Center at Plymouth Center School. Our goal is to earn this certification by the end of 2019-2020.