

**NEWTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STRATEGIC PLAN
2016 - 2021**



Submitted by
Jean M. Evans Davila, Assistant Superintendent
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Approved by Newtown Board of Education
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Acknowledgements

Newtown Public Schools wishes to thank the members of the Long-term Planning Committee for their dedication and participation in conducting a protocol-based review of the 2012 Strategic Plan, gathering information from stakeholders in the district and the community, and drafting the Strategic Plan for 2016 - 2021 in alignment with the district's vision for providing the best opportunities for students to become well-educated graduates of Newtown Public Schools.

Long-term Planning Committee Facilitator: Jean M. Evans Davila, Assistant Superintendent		
Phil Bierle	Reed Intermediate School	Band Teacher Aspiring Administrator
Melissa Beylouni	Head O' Meadow Elementary School	Parent PTA President
Laura Brennan	Hawley Elementary School and Reed Intermediate School	Parent
Carol Danenberg	Head O' Meadow Elementary School	Lead Teacher
Jean Evans Davila	Central Office	Assistant Superintendent
Mike Jones	Newtown Middle School	Language Arts Teacher Aspiring Administrator
Dana Manning	Newtown High School	Assistant Principal
Tim Napolitano	Sandy Hook Elementary School	Assistant Principal
Keri Snowden	Hawley Elementary School	Lead Teacher
John Sullivan	Middle Gate Elementary School	Lead Teacher

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Mission

The mission of the Newtown Public Schools, a partnership of students, families, educators and community, is to **INSPIRE EACH STUDENT TO EXCEL** in attaining and applying the knowledge, skills and attributes that lead to personal success while becoming a contributing member of a dynamic global community. We accomplish this by creating an unparalleled learning environment characterized by

- High expectations
- Quality instruction
- Continuous improvement
- Civic responsibility

Beliefs

We believe that. . .

- Each individual is unique and has value.
- Everyone can and will learn well.
- It takes effort and persistence to achieve one's full potential.
- High expectations inspire higher levels of performance.
- Honesty, integrity, respect, and open communication build trust.
- Quality education expands the opportunities for individuals and is vital to the success of the entire community.
- Educating children is a shared responsibility of the entire community.
- Family is a critical influence in each individual's development.
- Understanding all forms of diversity is essential for sustaining a democratic society.
- All individuals are responsible for their behavior and choices.
- Educated and involved citizens are essential for sustaining a democratic society.
- Everyone has the responsibility to contribute to the greater good of the community.
- Continuous improvement requires the courage to change.

Objective I: Each student will develop and consistently demonstrate college, career, and global readiness skills in

- problem-solving,
- critical and creative thinking,
- collaboration, and
- written and verbal communication.

Strategy 1: We will develop and implement a rigorous academic curriculum and ensure that all staff use effective instructional tools, best practices, assessment data and intervention resources to improve academic standing and inspire students to excel.

K-12 Action Plan:

1. Foster the skills and knowledge to ensure students develop agile and innovative thinking to generate solutions and respond to authentic global situations and challenges.
2. Provide a broader and more comprehensive range of academic, technical, visual and performing arts opportunities to encourage, excite and ignite student achievement.
3. Utilize collaboration, differentiated instruction, and personalized learning as fundamental means of providing appropriate extensions, interventions, and enrichment for students.
4. Provide ongoing opportunities for teacher collaboration in which assessment data and the review of student work informs instruction.
5. Ensure vertical alignment within K-12 concept-based curriculum and horizontal consistency of instructional practices in all disciplines.
6. Use the Scientific Research-based Intervention (SRBI) model to monitor intervention effectiveness and improve student performance over time.
7. Establish a network of academic, business, and community professionals to develop students' skills required for success in school, work, and life.

Strategy 2: Expand the multiple pathways that afford opportunities for personalized learning.

K-12 Action Plan:

1. Strengthen and expand district science, technology, engineering, and mathematics offerings.
2. Continue to build a cohesive K-8 World Languages program that prepares students for success in language learning opportunities at the high school level.
3. Expand opportunities for experiential learning, such as internships and community service.
4. Establish external partnerships with organizations to provide further content enrichment opportunities for students and staff.

Objective II: Each student will develop and demonstrate necessary character attributes for personal well-being and to become contributing members of the local and global communities. These attributes include

- social emotional wellness,
- positive behaviors,
- respect for diversity, and
- responsible digital citizenship.

Strategy: We will develop and implement a rigorous social curriculum and ensure that all staff use effective instructional tools, best practices, assessment data and intervention resources to promote and model social emotional wellness and positive behaviors

K-12 Action Plan:

1. Develop a consistent plan for implementation of existing social-emotional curriculum and resource to leverage effectiveness.
2. Raise awareness and improve accountability for social emotional wellness practices at every level including a structure to identify and support students.
3. Utilize school-wide resources and staff to promote positive behaviors at every level.
4. Ensure vertical alignment and horizontal consistency of the behavioral practices developed by the District Safe Schools Climate Committee.
5. Use the Scientific Research-based Intervention (SRBI) model to monitor the effectiveness of social-emotional interventions and the improvement of student behaviors over time.
6. Promote an appreciation of diverse cultures, people, and perspectives.
7. Provide tools and resources to ensure responsible digital citizenship within the school community.

Objective III: Each student will set and achieve personally challenging goals and demonstrate their learning through multiple modes in addition to formative and summative assessments of learning.

Strategy: We will provide students with the opportunity to be co-collaborators in their learning through means that include

- personalized goal setting,
- collaborative partnerships,
- conferencing,
- multiple modes to demonstrate success, and
- celebrations of student learning.

K-12 Action Plan:

1. Continue to support school counselors in the implementation and development of Student Success Plans (SSP) in grades 5-12.
2. Begin a process to identify specific elements of SSPs that are developmentally appropriate for students in grades K-4 (i.e., goal-setting) and create a model that reviews and celebrates student accomplishments.
3. Provide opportunities for students to demonstrate learning through multiple modes that encourage students to develop and capitalize on their talents and interests.