



Creating a Strategic Plan for the Denville Township School District

Mission Statement

To educate and empower all students to excel.

November 28, 2022: Session 2 of 3 - Developing a Vision for the Denville Township School District in the Next Five Years

On November 28, 2022 Denville Township School District administration, staff, board members, students, parents, and community members came together to continue the strategic planning process. This second meeting's topic focused on creating a shared vision for the Denville Township School District in the next five years.

The meeting began with welcoming remarks from Michael Andersen, Board President. Facilitator Charlene Peterson, from New Jersey School Boards Association, provided an overview of the steps taken at the November 14th meeting and the small group tasks for tonight's meeting.

To stimulate the visioning process, participants watched a video that made them think about the future that we are preparing our students for and what skills are needed for future success. We envisioned the calendar pages moving forward to the year 2028. The Denville Township School District is being honored for its outstanding work in advancing student achievement. You are asked to give a speech to the state's top educators. What warranted such high recognition – what programs / services / curriculum / student outcomes / best practices / facilities would we expect to see in the district that are succeeding?

Participants then gathered in 10 blended stakeholder groups to brainstorm their visions of how the district achieved this remarkable success. The groups were asked to identify up to their top 10 visionary ideas for the district's success in the year 2028, and to give their speech a title. Outcomes of the small groups were shared with all meeting participants.

Denville Township School District Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes

Small Group Work – Key Visions in the Year 2028 and Speech Titles

Table 1 - “The Whole District – the Whole Child. Global Perspective – Well-Rounded, Global Citizens of the World”

1.Proactively planned, fiscally responsible, understood	6.Finding opportunities to diversify programs, while fostering dialogue among students
2.Spacing conducive to a broad range of learners (whole group or small class)	7.Critical thinking, risk-taking, problem solving, and debate permeating all aspects of the curriculum
3.Creatively maximizing time – core content with student interest; community-based instruction and involvement	8.Student leadership
4.Use and expand technological learning with innovative, culturally responsive themes	9.Strong bridge between schools
5.Balance between academic, social, and emotional learning	

Table 2 – “An Education that Build Resilience, Grit, and Flexibility”

1.An inclusive environment where all students thrive	6.Civic engagement
2.Integrated, authentic learning experiences	7.Resiliency
3.Differentiated opportunities to excel	8.Kitchen/cafeteria, auditorium, dynamic space
4.Culturally immersive experiences	9.Later start times
5.Community learning opportunities	

Table 3 – “Denville, the BEST School District”

1.Take the necessary steps to continue small class sizes.	5. Develop resources to have students be/feel self-motivated
2.Continued support of teachers/retain teachers	6.Have children be part of sustainability efforts in the schools
3.Strong community involvement	7.Tailored instruction to support diverse learners

Denville Township School District Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes

4.Streamline/enhance communication	
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Table 4 – “Expansion and Reorganization”

1.Reorganization of students across the district for equality across the district (K-5)	5.Facilities/technology infrastructure modernization
2.Universal PreK	6.Investing in a Green infrastructure
3.Small class sizes across the district by providing adequate facilities	7.Create a cohesive district-wide (PreK-8) SEL program
4. Dedicated block/period in the schedule for band/chorus during academic day (grades 3-8)	8.Adapt to the ever-changing security needs

Table 5 – “Opportunities to Innovate”

1. Maintaining small class sizes	5.Mastery enrichment program based on learning styles and interests
2.Integrated STEM program	6.Increased collaboration and articulation between schools and districts
3.Physical and emotional safety	7.Clear pathways to special programs and high school level courses
4.Encourage innovation and risk taking	8.Global pen pal program

Table 6 – “Cultivating a Community of Empathetic, Empowered Leaders”

1.Differentiating options exposing <u>all</u> learners to the arts	4.Maintain class size and physical space to allow for diverse learning options
2.Involving students in civic and community-based learning K-8	5.Infuse leadership opportunities to grow towards self-empowerment
3.Defined progression of social-emotional learning K-8	6.Offer more opportunities for families to be involved in learning process

Table 7 – “Student Empowerment”

1.Community mindset	6.Academic competitions
2.Unified school district	7.Student driven
3.Streamlined communication	8.Security practice...
4.Student-teacher ratio is small	9.Individualized academic support
5.Events - related arts, community, PTA	

Denville Township School District Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes

Table 8 – “Beyond the Classroom Walls: Empowering Students to Find & Pursue their Passions”

1.Real-world application and financial literacy	6.Space to learn and small class sizes
2.Cultivating curiosity and passion	7.Building and curriculum is child-centered
3.Strong SEL & empowerment & decision making	8.Student voice and representation
4.Resilient, perseverance, grit	9.Variety of curricular options and effective curriculum
5. Community and parent support and involvement	10.Learning outside of classroom: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Options • Virtual • Guest speakers

Table 9 – “What Made Us!”

1.Building expansion to include the growth	6.Partnerships with local area businesses for learning various 21 st Century skills
2. Preschool/Kindergarten Learning Center “CPELC”	7.Denville Professional Development Academy – expansion throughout the county – state.
3.Innovation of the Arts within the Curriculum	8.Meeting needs of all students by providing differentiated instruction to accommodate <u>all</u> learning styles.
4.Internal and external support for students/staff with trauma, SEL (more in-school 1/250)	9.State-of-the-art technology
5.Partnerships with local area schools – development of student leadership, etc.	

Table 10 – “Denville – a Proactive District”

1.Flexible learning space <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open rooms/labs • Outdoor classrooms 	6.Student choice of more options (electives)
2.Maintain small class sizes – reasonable student-teacher ratios	7.Proactive SEL approach - prevention

Denville Township School District Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes

3. Two teachers or a teacher and aide per class – partner with local colleges to attract student teachers	8. Life skills – citizenship, financial literacy
4. Maintain cutting-edge technology	9. Partnership with community and police
5. Introduce robotics (hands-on) in K-8	

The third strategic planning session is scheduled for: Monday, December 12 at 7:30 pm.

On December 12th the work of the small groups will be to develop the roadmap on how the district is going to get from where it is now to where the group identified it would like the district to be five years from now. The data from the November 14th and 28th meetings will be sorted into 4-5 goal areas based on the identification of common threads within that data.

The roadmap is the writing of an overarching goal statement and accompanying objectives to support that goal statement using the sorted input from the earlier meetings.