

A banner image showing a classical building facade with columns and a pediment, overlaid with the text "HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT" in a serif font.

HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

2022-2023 Mid Year Updates

February 6, 2023

Overview

1. Updates Strategic Plan Goals
2. High School Graduation Proposed Policy Change
3. Updates Full Day Preschool Fall 2023

Strategic Plan Goal 1

The district will ensure that curriculum and instruction support the “whole” child (i.e. the academic, social, emotional, and mental wellness of every student).

1. Play-based learning
2. Conscious discipline
3. Mental health plan
4. Revamp in school suspensions
5. Later school start times

Strategic Plan Goal 1

- Play-Based Learning - Irving
 - Teachers received professional development, course access, and coaching
 - Parent workshop
 - Strengths: Teaching staff is nurturing and have supportive relationships with students. Daily routine are implemented with structure, consistency and predictability.
 - Growth: Maximize play-based interactions with students to facilitate SEL development.

Strategic Plan Goal 1

- Conscious Discipline - Irving & Bartle
 - Irving (Year 2)
 - Whole School & Playground expectations were re-written with responsive and CD language.
 - Whole School Meeting are now “school family” meetings.
 - All staff are in second virtual training with Conscious Discipline coach.
 - Bartle (Year 1)
 - Staff is currently completing 10 sessions of training during PLC time.

Strategic Plan Goal 1

- District-wide Mental Health Plan
 - Expansion of Teen Center to Tween Center
 - Hired interns with ARP ESSER funds
 - Created 3-tier system of support
 - Tier 1 - classroom
 - Tier 2- group
 - Tier 3 - individual
 - One more year of funding from DCF
 - Exploring ways to bring mental health program fully into operational budget

Strategic Plan Goal 1

- Revamp MS, Bartle and Irving In-School Suspension Programs
 - Irving: Therapeutic Model
 - i. Safe Space, Five Steps of Self Regulation, Four Breathing Exercises, Feeling Buddies, and Conflict Resolution Time Machine
 - Bartle: R.I.S.E
 - i. Students engage in academic, prosocial and reflective activities. Goal setting and restorative practices to repair harm.
 - Middle School: R.I.S.E
 - i. Spend morning with counselors in Teen Center
 - ii. Spend afternoon focusing on academic work and restorative practices and/or circles.

Strategic Plan Goal 1

- Research and recommend later start time for students in grades 6-12.
 - Change adopted January 23, 2023



Strategic Plan Goal 2

The district will ensure the inclusion and support of students of all abilities, races, cultures, religions, belief systems, sexual orientations, genders/gender identities, and socio-economic backgrounds.

1. Power standards
2. Math 6+ implementation
3. AP/Honors Accessibility
4. Tiered interventions for discipline

Strategic Plan Goal 2

- Teachers will select and use power standards in student friendly language (scoring reform) - Grades 6-12
 - Science: Focusing on 2-3 science and engineering practices.
 - i. PD in February for 6-12 grade teachers with Dataspire
 - ii. HS portfolio - teachers have chosen graphing as focus area
 - Math: Working on selecting an area of focus
 - English: Standards have been agreed upon
 - All other departments: Receiving professional development on new standards.

Strategic Plan Goal 2

- Monitor implementation of MS Math 6+ class to ensure students are being exposed to high level curricula and differentiated instruction - Middle School
 - Math teachers meet regularly to prepare purposeful instruction towards articulated Math 7 standards.
 - Tracking progress and implementation of higher level standards.
 - Ongoing communication with parents by teachers and Ms. Sacca.
 - Implementing Complex Tasks and intentional Math 7 enrichment.

Strategic Plan Goal 2

- Implement the AP/Honors Accessibility cohort program during the summer and school year for students that are taking higher level classes for first time - High School
 - Implemented summer cohort for incoming 9th graders. The current high school cohort program canceled due to only one participant signed up.
 - Support to students during school year (coaching, tutoring and monitoring)
 - Continue the program and adjust as needed
 - i. Dig deeper into student interests /goals
 - ii. Personalized class options

Strategic Plan Goal 2

- Develop and implement tiered interventions and proactive strategies for discipline - Grades K-12
 - Irving
 - i. Responsive Classroom & Conscious Discipline
 - Bartle
 - i. Drafts of Tiered System of Behavioral Supports
 - 1. Tier 1 - Classroom
 - 2. Tier 2 - Teachers/Behavioral/SEL/Mental Health
 - 3. Tier 3 - SSST Support Needed
 - Middle School
 - i. Tiered code of conduct
 - ii. Intervention and Referral Services - Tiered system of support
 - iii. Ongoing professional development - classroom management and de-escalation techniques

Strategic Plan Goal 2

- Develop and implement tiered interventions and proactive strategies for discipline - Grades K-12
 - High School
 - i. Integrated restorative practices into detention by trained teacher Ms. Paxton (Previously a missing component of the program).
 - ii. Student Assistance Counselor providing support to students.
 - iii. Partnering with NJPSA for training for Trauma Centered Engagement - another level of intervention
 - District-Wide
 - i. Small-scale formative evaluation on restorative practices is currently being conducted.

Strategic Plan Goal 3

The district will ensure implementation of more consistent and effective approaches to differentiated instruction (content, process, and products).

1. Authentic or Performance Assessments
2. S.O.A.R
3. Professional development for language-based racism (ELA)

Strategic Plan Goal 3

- Research and develop assessment opportunities that emphasize transfer of skills, problem-solving, creativity, citizenship, and critical thinking - K-12
 - Elementary & Middle School Math: Complex Tasks
 - Elementary & Middle School Science: Phenomenon-Based Learning
 - High School Science: Claim-Evidence-Reasoning Model focus on data analysis and graphing skills
 - High School Math: Project-based learning (ex: new Stats class experimental data collection and research)

Strategic Plan Goal 3

- Research and develop assessment opportunities that emphasize transfer of skills, problem-solving, creativity, citizenship, and critical thinking - K-12
 - Irving
 - i. Phonics screener replaces Fountas and Pinnell assessment
 - ii. Citizenship projects - pet food collection
 - iii. Monthly lessons on problem-solving with counselor
 - Teen Center
 - i. Implementing two surveys that measure resilience (ages 5-9 and ages 10-18)

Strategic Plan Goal 3

- Research, develop and pilot S.O.A.R at the high school, which is a class that provides flexible and personalized learning pathways for students.
 - Alpha Aviation drone pilot licenses
 - i. First day of instruction January 30, 2023
 - ii. 6 students registered for semester 2 course
 - iii. Potential for paid internships over the summer

Strategic Plan Goal 3

- Provide professional development to teachers interested in researching the impact of language-based racism (ELA) - Grades K-5
 - Adjust goal: Literacy Accessibility
 - i. Broader goal
 - ii. Inclusive of affirming different languages
 - iii. Strengthening instruction in foundational skills
 - 1. Dedicated time for Foundations which includes decodable books instead of leveled readers
 - 2. Exposure to different level texts
 - 3. Working with teachers to shift classroom libraries to categories, themes, authors, or topics.

**High School Credits for
Graduation:
Proposal for Changing
Credit Requirement**

H.P.H.S. Graduation Requirements currently

135 Credits that meet all state guidelines of 120 credits

- 32.5 credits in our 135 are Elective
- [18 Schools in the county have a lower credit requirement](#)
 - Eight are at 120
- We have eliminated elective options since the 90's -
Automotive, Carpentry, Video production, Food and Consumer Science, Fashion Design, Baking
- Less options & economic stresses have increased our dropout rate
- We should reduce our graduation requirement to 120 credits and add a Civic Readiness and Community Service component with an hour requirements to ensure our students are ready for engaging in society productively.

Service Learning

Service is already a OWL expectation for our mission of Spirit

- Service Day tradition prior to Thanksgiving
- Already an Extra or Co-Curricular requirement - National Honor Society, Environmental Club, DECA, HPMUNC, Global Awareness Group, Student Congress, Asian Culture Club, African American Culture Club, GLOW
- Lots of Community Service opportunities in Highland Park
 - School Based needs
 - Parks & Recreation
 - Zone 6
 - Aging adults and citizens with disabilities
 - Food Pantry

Next Steps

- BOE accepts recommendation to lower graduation credit requirements beginning with the Class of 2026 or 2027 and revised policy
- Revise Program Planning Guide and notify students and parents
- Develop criteria of how students can meet service requirements.
 - [Dunellen](#) and [Robbinsville](#) have existing requirements of 25 - 30 hours
- Phase in service hour requirements slowly for existing class of 2025 and 2026

HPBOE Policy Revision

- **Policy 5460 High School Graduation**
 - **Currently reads:** A graduating student must have earned a minimum of 135 credits (four-year high school: no fewer than one hundred twenty credits) in courses designed to meet all of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards ...
 - Proposed change would be to reduce this to the NJ state minimum of 120

Policy 5460 Revision Impacts

- **Benefits:**

- Students in senior year may be able to leave early for employment.
- Students can repeat courses if needed more easily during the school schedule.
- Students not required to take electives they are not interested in.

- **Concerns:**

- Students may need to be enrolled in multiple study halls
- Elective courses will have reduced enrollments

A banner image showing a classical building facade with columns and a pediment, overlaid with the text "HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT" in a white serif font.

HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Full Day Preschool Updates

Research

- Begin full day preschool starting 2023-2024 school year
- Participated in many meetings with NJDOE and other districts to gather information
- Investigated local child care facilities
 - Only one potential partnership
 - Only offer 2 classrooms
 - Requirements that would have to be met and waivers for space needed to be submitted to NJDOE for approval

Research

- Beginning a feasibility study to identify potential areas at Irving and/or Bartle to add additional classroom space.
- Quote for 2 modular classrooms on pavement outside of Irving to free up 2 classrooms for preschool

Proposed Plan: Fall 2023

- Plan is to start slow with a one year plan and see how it goes
- Recommend the 2 modular classrooms for a total of 4 classrooms for fall
- Anticipate having space for 60 students (approximately the same number of students serving now)
 - Not including ABA, Preschool disabled or early intervention students.
 - Combination of 3 and 4 year olds

Proposed Plan: Fall 2023

Enrollment Criteria:

1. Currently enrolled 3 year olds
2. Students eligible for Free and Reduced Meal Program
3. Registered and on the waitlist and not eligible for the Free and Reduced Meal Program

Registration Information:

- Application Coming Soon
- Full campaign and communication
- February 22, 2023 at 6pm parent information meeting at Irving (Translator in attendance)
- March registration

Questions

- Strategic Plan Goals
- HS Graduation Credits - Propose Change
- Full Day Preschool - Fall 2023 Proposed Plan