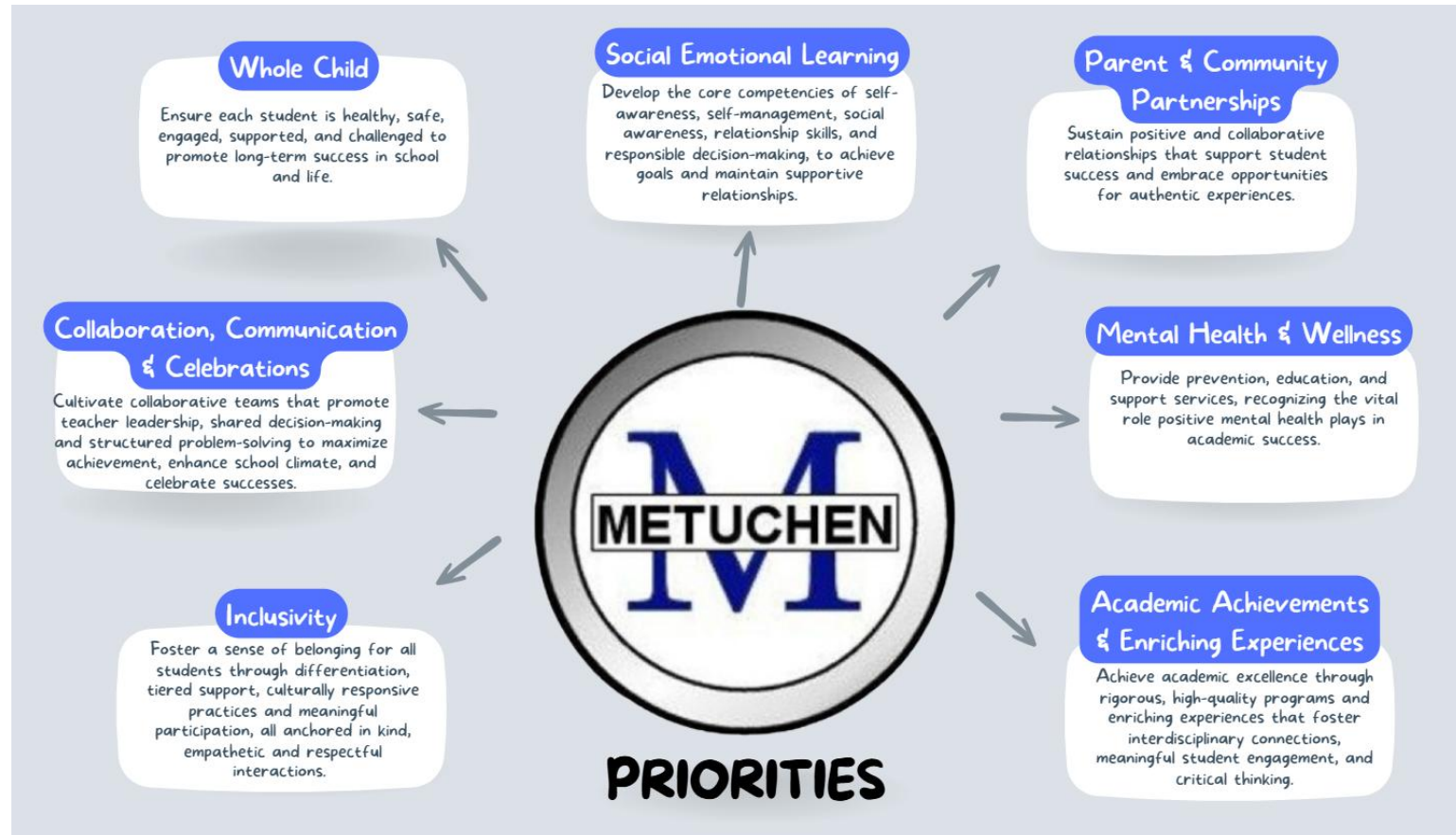


Metuchen Public Schools
Curious. Courageous. Connected.
District Goals 2026-2027



District Priorities



Metuchen Public Schools

Curious. Courageous. Connected.

Goal 1: Our Minds Matter

Academic excellence, critical thinking, STEM,
and assessment.

Goal 2: Building Forward

Leveraging facilities, organizational change, and
innovative learning environments.

Goal 3: Response-Ability

Student well-being, responsible technology use,
engagement, and citizenship.

Goal 4: Community Connections

Belonging, collaboration, student voice, and
partnerships.

Goal 1

Our Minds Matter

Cultivate intellectually curious, resilient, and critical thinkers by expanding access to rigorous, interdisciplinary learning experiences that strengthen problem-solving, scientific inquiry, mathematical reasoning, and responsible information analysis while ensuring equitable, standards-aligned assessment practices.

Action Items:

1. Increase student access to STEM content and problem-solving strategies through:
 - a. Use of Building Thinking Classroom strategies in mathematics, grades 3-12
 - b. Daily science instruction, grades 3-5
 - c. Interdisciplinary STEM Lab course, grades 3-5
 - d. Instructional practices based on OpenSciEd curricular resources, grades 6-8
 - e. Interdisciplinary STEM projects across grades 9-12
2. Implement revised elementary standards-based report cards and collaboratively explore the use of a grading floor in secondary settings.
3. Identify and implement content-aligned critical thinking strategies that address modern barriers, including AI literacy and information literacy.

Goal 2

Building Forward

Leverage new learning environments, grade-level configurations, and community partnerships to create engaging, innovative, and equitable educational experiences that maximize instructional opportunities and strengthen connections between schools and the community.

Action Items:

1. Use renovated and new learning spaces for innovative programming and showcase to wider community
2. Implement the districtwide grade realignment and reflect on the shared decisions around instructional minutes, scheduling, departmentalization, advisories, and related arts.
3. Explore solar power through authentic data analysis, research, and project-based learning connected to district facilities.

Goal 3

Response-Ability

Develop responsible, engaged, and ethical learners by promoting healthy technology habits, meaningful human interaction, responsible AI use, active civic participation, and learning practices that strengthen attention, communication, and long-term academic success.

Action Items

1. Conduct screen-time audits and increase awareness of healthy technology use while promoting human engagement.
2. Promote ethical and responsible use of AI and update the district AI implementation plan.
3. Strengthen hand-to-mind learning through:
 - a. Printing instruction (K-2)
 - b. Cursive writing (3-5)
 - c. Note-taking and study strategies (6-12)
 - d. Demonstrations of learning through handwriting, labs, blue books, and physical texts.
4. Expand opportunities for civic responsibility connected to classrooms, schools, and local communities.
5. Promote physical presence, attention, and engagement during learning.

Goal 4

Community Connections

Strengthen relationships among students, staff, families, and the broader community by fostering collaboration, empowering student voice, supporting successful transitions, and creating inclusive learning environments where shared leadership contributes to improved student outcomes.

Action Items

1. Strengthen existing and/or create new collaborative teams within schools.
2. Support transitions across new grade configurations.
3. Expand opportunities for student voice, leadership, choice, and interest-based learning.
4. Strengthen collaborative decision-making focused on improving student outcomes.

Domain	Total Mean Scores ⓘ 2025-2026 Admin1			
	Students 3-5 347	Students 6-12 667	Staff 204	Parents/Caregivers 380
Academic Culture and Classroom Practices	2.93	2.79	2.92	3.15
Behavioral Expectations	3.00	2.90	3.01	3.00
Negative Student Interpersonal Behaviors ⚠	2.36	2.84	2.47	2.68
Prosocial Student Interpersonal Behaviors	2.85	2.85	2.90	3.04
Sense of Physical Safety	3.40	3.23	3.02	3.23
Student Voice and Involvement	2.79	2.88	3.22	3.07
Supportive Staff-Student Relationships	3.18	3.11	3.29	3.14
Supports for Student Social and Emotional Learning	3.15	2.94	3.02	3.04
Family Support and Engagement			3.14	3.12
Student Sense of Belonging	3.27	3.07		
Collegial Support			3.12	
Leadership Support			2.87	
Organizational Resources and Supports			2.87	

How will we measure our progress in 2026-2027?

5	Did it well	with significant evidence of impact at student level
4	Did it well	and some evidence of impact at student level
3	Good progress	but not completed or limited evidence of student impact
2	Some progress	that was minimal or not at the student level
1	Didn't do it	or circumstances prevented us from doing it

District Goals & Alignment to ASCD's Whole Child Tenets Curious. Courageous. Connected.

Goal #	Healthy	Safe	Engaged	Supported	Challenged	Sustainability
1						
2						
3						
4						
Score for each tenet →						

District Goals & Alignment to School Quality Review Indicators

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[illegible]