

## PARAMETERS

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### We will always . . .

- base decisions on learning needs of students.
- provide a strong academic program.
- provide children with the opportunity to participate in programs which challenge their abilities and creativity.
- expect exceptional performance by staff.
- support and recognize staff who take on exceptional challenges and who institute innovative programs.
- recruit candidates reflecting ethnic and cultural diversity.
- hire only the most qualified candidates.
- practice participative decision-making at all levels.
- use multiple measures to evaluate student performance.
- seek cultural diversity in all aspects of curriculum.
- provide a process of curriculum development that is flexible, ongoing, and innovative.
- seek and encourage innovative changes and creative alternatives.
- evaluate curricula and programs for their effectiveness.

### We will never . . .

- eliminate programs essential to our mission.
- condone prejudice or tolerate bigotry or unlawful discrimination.
- rely only on standardized tests.

## OBJECTIVES:

### Students & Academic Program

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1. We will provide programs, services, and opportunities to meet the diverse learning needs of every student.
2. We will maintain rigorous district-wide academic standards and set clear, high expectations for students in all instructional programs.
3. We will identify and incorporate teaching and learning practices that value effort as well as aptitude, provide fair and credible evaluations, and recognize accomplishments.
4. We will expect students to take responsibility for their own learning and behavior while demonstrating respect for the rights and property of others.
5. We will promote student acquisition and application of core knowledge and the development of critical thinking skills across the curriculum at all grade levels.
6. We will foster and support curriculum designs that interrelate multiple academic disciplines where natural and appropriate.
7. We will provide appropriate and proven technological resources to teachers and students to promote excellence.
8. We will infuse the use of technology into the instructional program, where natural and appropriate, at all grade levels and in every academic discipline/course.
9. We will explore and implement flexible methods of organizing time, facilities, curriculum, and personnel in order to achieve district goals and objectives.
10. We will develop and implement site objectives based on assessment of student learning needs.

## OBJECTIVES:

### Professional Development

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1. We will promote instructional excellence by providing a comprehensive staff development program based on the learning needs of students and the professional needs of teachers.
2. We will foster, support and share teacher initiatives that enhance educational experiences for students.
3. We will aggressively recruit, employ, and support a highly qualified diverse staff from a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds.
4. We will provide appropriate training for teachers and other district staff to support the broad-based technology plan.

## OBJECTIVES:

### Community Outreach

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1. We will encourage broad representation of our communities on district committees.
2. We will continue to provide a comprehensive public information program for staff, parents, and the community.
3. We will continue to provide information and guidance to families who need support to foster student success.
4. We will continue the development of a Community School program that offers academic and enrichment activities for students of all ages.
5. We will develop ongoing relationships with business, industry, colleges and universities, community agencies, other educational entities, and community members to enhance educational opportunities for our students.
6. We will seek grants and other funding from sources outside the district to support instructional and professional initiatives.

## District Goals 2007-2008

### Goal #1

#### Meet or exceed No Child Left Behind benchmarks.

- Create Summer Challenge Math Academy for Middle School.
- Continue to implement START Program and increase parent participation.
- Implement tutorial support in high school: Revise AYP Program and create Study Island opportunities.
- Create additional opportunities for improving seventh and eighth graders' writing skills by implementing info-tech writing lab in Middle School.

### Goal #2

#### Continue upgrade of technology and facilities infrastructure in our district.

- Review current elementary school technology capacity and make recommendations for improving network infrastructure and expanding wireless capabilities in all elementary schools. The plan will be implemented summer of 2008.
- At high school, create plan to implement for 2009-10 expansion of wireless capabilities and upgrades to improve network speed access and facilitate troubleshooting. Work to be completed summer 2009.
- Create short-term and long-term plans for adequate space in middle schools; implement short-term plan.
- Complete installation of artificial turf fields and track replacement per April 2007 bond referendum.

### Goal #3

#### Update measures for emergency preparedness and school security.

- Institute cardkey access for staff in all buildings.
- Conduct and evaluate off-site evacuation drills for SPFHS, Park and Terrill Middle Schools.
- Create off-site evacuation plans for all elementary schools and complete table-top assessments with law enforcement personnel.
- Increase parent/guardian participation in district email notification system.

*2007-08 District Goals, Board Approved 11/29/07*

## LONG-RANGE PLAN 2003-2008

and

## DISTRICT GOALS 2007-2008

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### ...Seeking Excellence Together

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#### MISSION

The Mission of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District is to educate every student to become a confident and caring life-long learner who can communicate and contribute positively to the rapidly changing world. The district, in cooperation with the community, will provide an academic environment which values excellence, initiative, and diversity.

## BELIEFS

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### We believe . . .

- academic achievement is our primary focus.
- each child is valued and deserves respect.
- each child has vast potential which should not be limited.
- high academic expectations promote high academic achievement.
- the education of our children is the shared responsibility of the schools and the students themselves together with families and the community.
- learning is a life-long process.
- children need time to be children.
- learning is an active process.
- diversity is a strength.
- proficiency in the use of technology is vital to our students' success.
- people function best in a safe, supportive environment.
- educational excellence is an investment in the future.

## DISTRICT GOALS

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**EXCELLENCE:** to promote the maximum performance and achievement of every student and staff member

**INITIATIVE:** to support change that will improve or enhance the instructional program and better prepare our students to meet the challenges of the future

**DIVERSITY:** to recognize and address issues of diversity among our students, staff, and community