

The Next Three Years



Newark
Public
Schools

STRATEGIC PLANNING, 2016-19

Newark Public Schools (NPS) is actively engaging the community in developing a three-year strategic plan that will strengthen our public schools so that all children are prepared for college, work and life. Our overarching goal is to ensure every child who lives in Newark has access to a free, high-quality public education.

This strategic plan will both help improve student learning and pave the way for the school district's successful transition to local control. The community can use the plan to hold NPS leadership accountable for steady progress. And, after the transition, new leadership will be able to hit the ground running with a set of priorities that have been carefully thought through and embraced by the community.

Our Key Values

- We are committed to providing an excellent educational experience for Newark children and their families.
- We are focused on bringing local control back to Newark in a deliberate, thoughtful and sustainable way.
- We will engage and be transparent with all of our families and community partners.
- We will focus on progress and improvement by taking stock of where we are currently and where we should be going in the future.

Our Process

The planning process began in December 2015 and will extend into Summer 2016.

December 2015–April 2016

This phase focused on gathering input from community members and key stakeholders as we shape our priorities to improve academics and operations. This included a “step-back” meeting with the school board, a series of six community meetings, and a series of small group and one-on-one interviews with educators, parents, policymakers, business and civic leaders, students, and others committed to ensuring that every Newark child has access to schools that offer opportunity, equity and choice. We also administered a Family and Community Survey.

In addition, we consulted closely with the Newark School Board, Mayor’s Office, City Council and other local elected officials. And we are working closely with the Newark Educational Success Board and the New Jersey Department of Education to ensure that these efforts help advance us toward our goals for local control.

This phase culminated with publication of a draft set of Goals and Priorities, which helped shape our 2016-17 budget, and set the stage for the development of the more detailed plan. Copies of the full report and two-page summary are available at www.nps.k12.nj.us/strategic-plan.

April–August 2016

Based on additional input and analyses, we are working closely with principals, teachers, parents, and leaders from business, higher education, and the community to flesh out the goals and priorities with additional details, action steps and timelines. A May focus group with students provided valuable input.

We will share a draft of this plan with a review committee and gather feedback from these and other critical partners before presenting a final plan to the public later this summer.

Our Community Partners

A number of community-based organizations took the lead in organizing the ward meetings:

Community-based organization	Ward
La Casa de Don Pedro	North
Strong Healthy Communities Initiative	South
Ironbound Community Corp ICC	East
Newark Fairmont Promise Neighborhood and Urban League of Essex County	West
United Way of Essex & West Hudson	Central

For more details: www.nps.k12.nj.us/strategic-plan.