

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NJ
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 24, 2026**

FOR ACTION

RESOLUTION 5027

SUBJECT: DISTRICT GOALS FOR THE 2026–2027 SCHOOL YEAR

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Education approve the following District Goals for the 2026–2027 school year as presented, and as augmented by the document of subgoals, measurable outcomes, and mid-year targets that have been created by the District:

- 1. Goal I: Connected Learning Framework** – The South Orange & Maplewood School District establishes a coherent instructional system designed to ensure every student learns, belongs, and thrives toward their "Portrait of a Graduate" goals. This framework unifies six research-based foundations—Universal Design for Learning (UDL), Culturally Responsive Teaching, John Hattie's Visible Learning, Bill Daggett's Rigor/Relevance/Resilience, NJTSS/MTSS, and Ross Greene's Collaborative & Proactive Solutions (CPS)—into everyday classroom practices like Claim-Evidence-Reasoning, Academic Discourse, and Strong Tier 1 Instruction. Supported by adaptive digital tools like IXL and iReady to target individual growth, and guided by administrative alignment, equity-focused goals, and non-evaluative Instructional Rounds, the district continuously refines system-wide practices to accelerate learning and remove barriers to opportunity.
- 2. Goal II: Learning-Ready Facilities & Infrastructure** – SOMSD is committed to modernizing infrastructure and developing Learning-Ready Facilities while maintaining strict alignment with New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJ QSAC) standards. By upgrading core building systems, enhancing health and safety protocols, and creating flexible, tech-rich learning environments, the district ensures physical spaces actively support modern instructional needs. This dual focus guarantees fully compliant, safe, and sustainable facilities that foster student achievement, fulfill state operational requirements, and provide equitable, high-quality learning environments across all schools.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NJ
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

- 3. Goal III: Student Wellness** – SOMSD is prioritizing student mental health and well-being by building a comprehensive network of support through strong community partnerships. By collaborating with local mental health providers, community organizations, and families, the district is expanding access to school-based counseling, preventative wellness programs, and wraparound mental health services. This holistic approach fosters inclusive, supportive school environments that de-stigmatize mental health, address student needs proactively, and ensure every learner has the emotional resilience and resources required for academic and personal success.