



Creating a Strategic Plan for the Netcong School District

Mission Statement

Netcong, a tradition to nurture, inspire, empower, and achieve by all, for all.

Session 2 of 3 - Developing a Vision for the Netcong School District in the Next Five Years

On April 23, 2021 Netcong School District administration, staff, board members, parents, and community members came together to continue the strategic planning process. The second meeting's topic focused on creating a shared vision for the Netcong School District in the next five years.

The meeting began with welcoming remark from Bernadette Dalesandro, Board President. Facilitator Charlene Peterson, from New Jersey School Boards Association, provided an overview of the steps taken at the April 22 meeting and the tasks for tonight's meeting.

To begin the visioning process, participants watched a video that made them think about the future that we are preparing our students for and what skills are needed for future success. We then envisioned the calendar pages moving forward to the year 2026. The Netcong School District is being honored for its outstanding work in advancing student achievement. You are asked to give a speech to the state's top educators. What warranted such high recognition – what programs / services / curriculum / student outcomes / best practices / facilities would we expect to see in the district that are succeeding?

Participants then gathered in three blended stakeholder groups to brainstorm their visions of how the district achieved this remarkable success. The groups were asked to identify their top 10 visionary ideas for student success in the year 2026 and to give their speech a title.

Netcong School District Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes

Outcomes of the small groups were shared with all meeting participants and will be shared on the district’s website. The session concluded with the identification of three broad goal areas to be used as the basis for the writing of goal statements at the next meeting.

Group 1 Speech Title: *The School of Tomorrow.*

Group 1 Key Visions - 2026	Group 1 Key Visions – 2026:
Completed facilities upgrade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Middle school wing ● State-of-the-art STEM lab ● Tech lab with co-sourcing partnerships for specific technologies ● Robotics lab ● Fitness center for staff and students ● Dedicated ELL classrooms 	Curriculum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 21st Century learning standards and NJSLS infused into all curricular areas ● Entrepreneurial program ● Continuing traditional arts enhancement and development of the digital arts
Early Childhood development wing – Preschool through 1 st grade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vertical articulation ● Annex for before/after care – in collaboration with Morris County Vo Tech – 2 ½ year-old program 	Security <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Upgraded school security to include two Class 3 officers
Entire Building Retrofit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Standby power ● Air conditioning ● Complete electrical upgrade ● Bandwidth upgrades ● Preparedness for next generation technology ● Upgrade Cloud technology 	Staffing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Add another guidance counselor, social worker, early childhood play therapist ● Add 2 RTI interventionists ● Additional maintenance ● Additional ELL teacher
Grounds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New parking ● Turf fields with track ● New playground for preschool ● Ropes course ● Outdoor circuit course 	Community Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School grounds become a community athletic hub ● ELL adult education

Group 2 Speech Title: *Preparing Students for a Future of Possibilities*

Group 2 Key Visions - 2026	Group 2 Key Visions - 2026
Providing an inspiring, engaging, and welcoming learning facility	State-of-the-art technology interface
Students are prepared socially to present and think creatively.	Top-rated continuing professional development and support in curriculum integration

Netcong School District Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes

Full inter-disciplinary instruction	Social and cultural awareness and racial equity
Creative thinking and instruction to create paradigms – opportunities for students and educators to explore their potential	School as the “hub” of the community
Incorporation of project-based learning, career exploration, and integrated community experience.	Standards-based learning

Group 3 Speech Title: *Preparing and Engaging Students of the Future*

Group 3 Key Visions - 2026	Group 3 Key Visions - 2026
Open students up to more opportunities like done in the past (e.g. Science, arts, workshop, home economics)	Middle school field trips to not be limited
Community outreach	Specials (art and music) have improved and on the right track
Comparison to Stanhope/Byram	Passion project electives
More specialists to give all students an equal chance	Support/funding to clubs (Drama)
Funding for classrooms for more hands-on activities (e.g. virtual reality goggles, technology)	ESL classes for parents/families
Look at what high school offers and bring it to the middle school.	Two people for ESL/translating and Spanish class
Development of building – nurse suite, middle school wing, multipurpose room	Transition for kids and parents from 5 th grade to 6 th grade (i.e. orientation)
Makers space classroom	Middle school back-to-school night having parents follow student’s schedule
Robotics Club, STEM/STEAM programs	Grow Special Education program
Middle school run like other middle schools (making own schedule, block-type schedule, electives offered daily, resource rooms for science/social studies)	More opportunities for clubs and sports

Identification of Goal Areas:

In considering common threads between the work of the three groups in Meetings 1 and 2, the group identified the following three goal areas:

- Student Development and Instruction
- Finance and Future-Ready Facilities
- Service, Community, and Cultural Responsiveness

Netcong School District Strategic Planning Meeting #2 Outcomes

Technology is considered to be a component of all goal areas.

The third strategic planning session is scheduled for: Friday, April 30th from 6:30 – 8:00 pm to write overarching goal statements for each of the three goal areas identified above with accompanying objectives that identify major areas to be accomplished within the goal statement. Thank you to all who participated and we hope you will join us again at the April 30th meeting.