



Coatesville Area School District

Inspiring. Educating. Advancing.

3030 C.G. Zinn Rd. Thorndale, PA 19372 | casdschools.org | 610-466-2400

November 13, 2022

Dear Coatesville Area School District,

Two significant initiatives are underway this school year: the District's Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee and our Master Facilities Plan Task Force. More than 100 staff, parents, and community members are meeting to set the direction for the District's future.

We are very encouraged by the energy these groups have created, and are looking forward to sharing the progress they will make throughout the school year.

Please take a moment to look at the two documents in this note that provide an overview of the work of these groups. We'll communicate opportunities for input as we move forward.

Thank you for your support for our schools, students, and staff!

Sincerely,

Richard F. Dunlap, Jr., Ed. D.
Interim Superintendent
Coatesville Area School District

Interim Superintendent: Richard F. Dunlap Jr., Ed. D.

COATESVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Comprehensive Plan - 2020/21 - 2023



MISSION

The Mission of the Coatesville Area School District, rich in diversity and committed to excellence, is to create innovative educational experiences to ensure all students will become responsible, contributing global citizens.

VISION

The Vision of the Coatesville Area School District, a leader in the educational community, views each student's academic and personal growth as an investment in the future. Graduates will be empowered to make choices that ensure positive contributions to society.

OUR PROCESS

A committee of 33 stakeholders, including parents, teachers, administrators, community members, and School Board members came together over a period of several months to review District data, analyze the District's strengths and challenges, and develop a plan with four goal areas. They established the parameters of creating a plan built on transparency, collaboration, honesty, and constructive feedback. The committee will meet quarterly to review progress on the plan and will provide annual updates.



STEP 1

Develop a plan for the process



STEP 2

Seek input from the community



STEP 3

Analyze district data and information



STEP 4

Establish District priorities based on data



STEP 5

Develop draft Comprehensive Plan



STEP 6

Board reviewed and approved plan



STEP 7

Measure, evaluate and monitor progress



District Strengths:

- Rigorous High School Course Offerings
- Transition Support from High School Graduation to Post-Secondary Plans
- Four-year cohort graduation
- Select schools have met Improvement Targets or Growth Targets in tested subject areas (2018- 2019 data)

District Challenges:

- K-12 unified core curriculum and instruction
- Continuum of supports available to students as part of the general education curriculum
- Special education programs
- Supports and services for English Learners
- Finances
- Facilities

The 2020-21 school year has been one of comprehensive analysis. This plan uses CASD’s strengths to develop action plans to address areas of need.

Four primary goals will guide the District’s work.

Student Achievement Goal:

Coatesville Area School District will implement a coordinated curriculum in English Language Arts and Math that is aligned to state standards (including a coordinated K-12 STEM plan), as well as a continuum of evidence-based special education and MTSS supports throughout the district by June 2023.

Finance Goal:

By June 2023, Coatesville Area School District will implement a balanced budget each year that plans for increases in the fund balances for long-term fiscal stability. The budget has to provide instructional supports for students.

Facilities Goal:

Implement a multi-year facilities maintenance plan for providing modern educational spaces for student learning and supporting fiscally responsible, proactive maintenance of district buildings.

School Climate and Culture Goal:

Create a positive and equitable climate in schools, and address the needs of historically under-performing groups by conducting and implementing recommendations from an equity quality review, as well as implementing a Positive Behavior Support plan. Implement a communications plan, and athletics and activities strategic plan by June 2023.





COATESVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Coatesville Facilities At A Crossroads

Master Facilities Plan Task Force

October 2022 – May 2023

More than 60 staff, parents, and community members are considering the following data:

The Coatesville Area School District is at a financial and facilities crossroads. For decades the District has faced financial challenges, including a lack of a robust commercial tax base, charter costs, and socioeconomic challenges. Despite this, the District is strong and has a robust plan.

The District's proactive improvement strategy is working:

- ✓ We are making significant academic improvements and gains including new standards-based curriculum and a multi-tiered system of supports.
- ✓ We've developed a thorough plan to foster positive climate and culture.
- ✓ We've reduced expensive out-of-district special education placements by building excellent programs within the district.
- ✓ We're working proactively to return students from charter schools (450+ students have returned since 2020).
- ✓ We are making wise financial choices as we work to stabilize our finances.



The District's facilities are aging and facing numerous challenges, despite a significant preventative maintenance plan.

- The District has been slowly making changes, but has delayed a long-term proactive strategy.
- Some buildings are under-utilized, while others are in poor operating condition and in dire need of renovations.
- We want to offer educational spaces that are most conducive to learning and provide the best use of resources.
- There are financial advantages to better utilizing our facilities.
- Every school district must go through the process of evaluating its facilities.



Experienced School Facilities Use and Architectural Firms have studied the District and developed multiple plans, all of which include some form of school closure, renovations, cost savings, and stronger facilities use.



The Master Facilities Plan Task Force will determine which options would be most advantageous for the School District and make a recommendation to the School Board.

- ➔ The District is strong and resilient, and our community possesses tremendous pride.
- ➔ Students are beginning to return from charter schools, and the future is bright.
- ➔ As a District, we have an opportunity to *refresh, rebuild, and revitalize*.

What will this cost our taxpayers?

Each of the 3 facilities options will eventually require an average tax increase of about \$3.50 to \$4.25 per month, about the cost of a coffee and bagel.

The District will provide updates from the Master Facilities Plan Task Force throughout the school year, and will gather community input in the coming months.