

# DEPOSIT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



# 2024 -2025



[www.depositcsd.org](http://www.depositcsd.org)



171 Second Street  
Deposit, NY. 13754  
Phone: 607-467-2197

# BLUEPRINT FOR EXCELLENCE

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Dear Members of the Deposit School Community,

It has never been more important to be focused, aligned and intentional in our work. We are very excited to share the results of our collaborative efforts to develop plans that will help us to continue growing and improving as we always strive for excellence.

Our “Blueprint for Excellence” is the result of planning sessions that were held with our Board of Education, Leadership Team, staff, parents, and community members. We worked with feedback gathered from the community this spring as we developed a plan that will help us continue to grow and achieve as we strive for excellence in all that we do.

This plan will be the backbone for our work. It will serve as a roadmap in our efforts to connect with each child and family while enhancing our connections as a school and a community. We’re in this together and look forward to being your teammate in our continued effort to be a model school of excellence.

Thank you for your feedback and support. Your collaboration and teamwork make all the difference in the lives of children and the success of the district.

Sincerely,

Denise Cook  
Superintendent

Dean Price  
President, Board of Education



# PROCESS INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

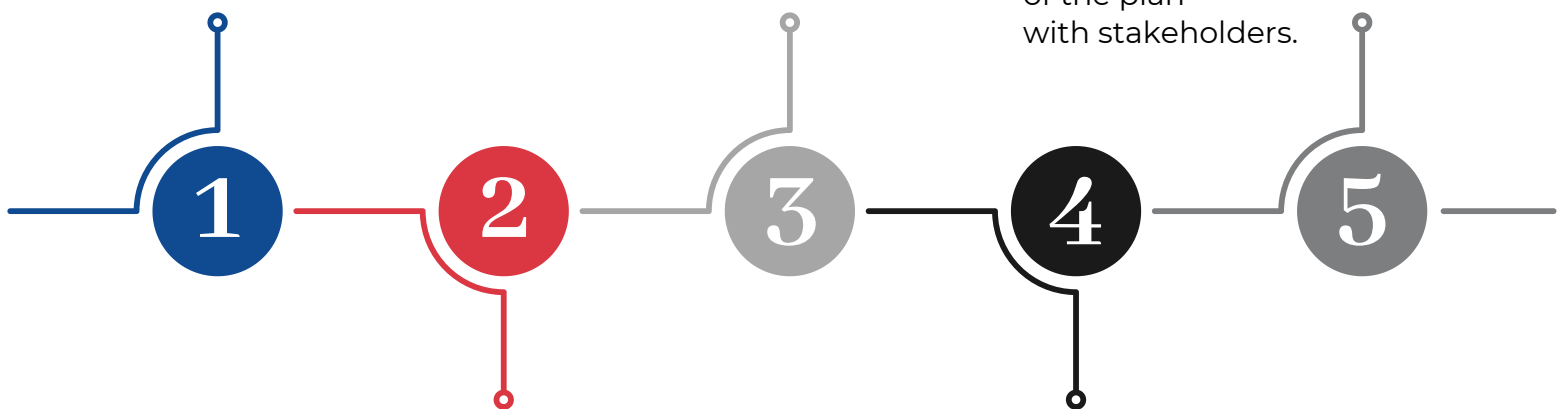
## Blueprint Planning is intended to:

- Involve all members of the school community and reflect their shared perspectives.
- Allow stakeholder representatives to review community feedback to clearly define the district's mission, vision and core values.
- Engage a team in defining the priorities of the district and suggesting action steps to accomplish objectives.
- Facilitate action planning focused on identifying who, when and how the work will get done.
- Provide the district with a road map that is transparent, accountable, and focused.
- Enable the district's efforts to innovate, allocate resources and continuously grow in a coordinated, thoughtful, and aligned manner.
- Be an iterative, evolving, and ongoing process that builds from one year to the next while reflecting emerging needs and changing demands.

**June 2024:** Community Feedback Gathered

**July 2024:** Community Team Assembled, Mission/Vision/Core Values Reviewed, Priority Areas Developed, Strategies Suggested.

**Fall 2024:** Revisions and review completed by the Leadership Team. Communication to the community and implementation of the plan with stakeholders.



**July 2024:** Draft Mission/Vision/Core Values developed by the Board of Education and Leadership Team.

**August 2024:** Action plans developed that specifically identify what will be done to meet the objectives of each priority area and who will be responsible for leading the work

# WHO WE ARE

At Deposit, our shared core purpose, aspirations and expectations are clear:

## OUR MISSION

Providing each student with exceptional learning opportunities that prepare them for a successful future.

## OUR VISION

Inspiring each student to develop a passion for learning and a commitment to make a better world for themselves and their community.

## OUR CORE VALUES

We believe that we can achieve our vision and accomplish our mission if, in all of our work, we will strive to model our core values. We believe in:

- **Innovation** – Finding new and creative ways to achieve our goals
- **Collaboration** – Working with our stakeholders to create a supportive educational community where every individual contributes to the collective success of our district
- **Equity/Diversity** – Affording dignity, respect, and equitable opportunities for each student
- **Well-Rounded Learning Experiences** – Offering high quality academic and life opportunities that support students on their chosen pathway
- **Health and Safety** – Providing a safe, healthy, and secure learning environment
- **Character** – Leading with integrity and accountability; Inspiring others to act responsibly, respectfully, and compassionately



## OUR DISTRICT

The Deposit Central School District caters to a rural community, prioritizing both academic excellence and the holistic development of its students. It includes an elementary school and a middle-senior high school, serving students from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Known for its small class sizes, the district provides personalized attention and fosters a nurturing educational environment. With a strong emphasis on community engagement and a variety of extracurricular activities, the district is dedicated to preparing students for lifelong success.

## OUR COMMUNITY

The community surrounding the Deposit Central School District is a charming rural area in upstate New York, characterized by its close-knit and supportive residents. Known for its strong sense of tradition and community pride, the area offers a peaceful lifestyle amidst beautiful natural surroundings. Outdoor activities such as hiking, fishing, and exploring local parks are popular among residents. The community regularly comes together for local events and festivals, fostering a spirit of unity and camaraderie.

## OUR LEADERSHIP

### Board of Education

Dean Price, President  
John Lanner, Vice President  
Dawn Faulkner  
Julie Martin  
Stacey Axtell

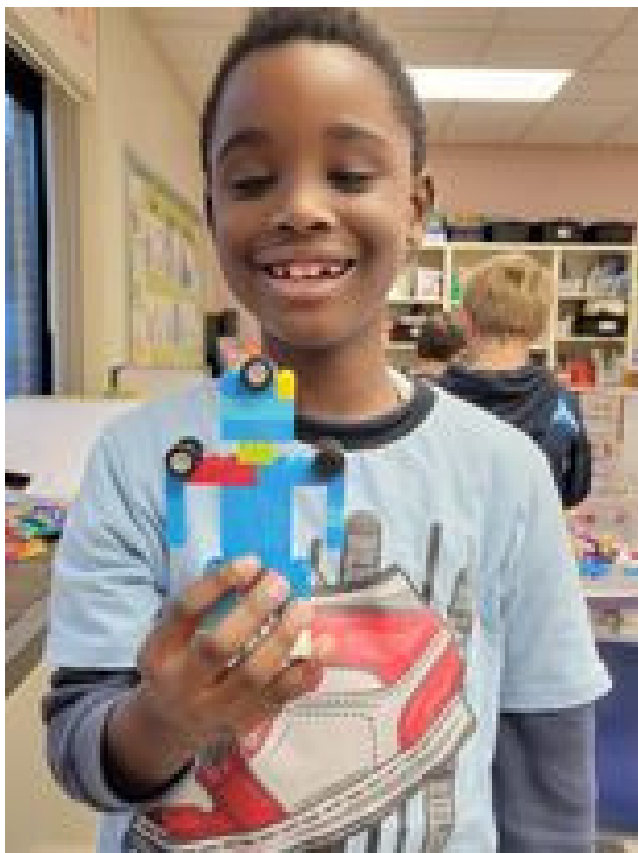
### Administration

Denise Cook, Superintendent  
Hal Pettersen,  
Middle School Principal  
Karen Armbrust,  
High School Principal  
Lauri McCoy,  
Elementary Principal  
Ciara Bouhouris,  
Interim Director of Special  
Education  
Matt Mastropietro,  
Director of Operations &  
Athletics



# OUR PLAN

The Deposit Central School District's Blueprint for Excellence is a comprehensive plan focused on providing exceptional learning opportunities to prepare students for successful futures. The mission statement emphasizes this commitment by promising each student an exceptional education that equips them for future success. The vision statement extends this promise, aiming to inspire students to develop a passion for learning and a commitment to improving their world. Core values such as innovation, collaboration, equity/diversity, well-rounded learning experiences, health and safety, and character underpin the district's efforts, ensuring that all initiatives are aligned with these guiding principles.



The district's priorities and goals are clearly defined, with Priority 1 focusing on Academic Excellence. The goal is to create a positive learning environment that emphasizes academics, life skill development, and personal growth. Focus areas include instructional approaches that cater to diverse learning styles, life skill development programs that prepare students for real-world challenges, and a supportive learning environment that fosters academic and personal growth. By prioritizing these areas, the district aims to ensure that every student receives a high-quality education tailored to their individual needs and aspirations.

Priority 2 centers on The Student and Family Experience, aiming to enhance connectedness within the district and the broader community. This involves improving communication channels, increasing family and parent involvement, and expanding opportunities and activities that engage students and families alike.

Priority 3 addresses Operations, with a goal to develop, refine, and communicate protocols for efficient district operations. This includes focus areas such as transportation, facilities management, and human resources, ensuring that the district runs smoothly and effectively.

Through these priorities and goals, the Deposit Central School District aims to create a nurturing, inclusive, and well-organized educational environment that supports the success and well-being of its students and community.

# PRIORITY AREAS

Based on community feedback and initial planning by the Board of Education and Leadership Team, the following areas were identified as priorities to be focused on in order to fulfill the mission of the district. Goals have been developed for each area.



**Academic Excellence**



**The Student and Family Experience**



**Operations**



## PRIORITY AREA GOALS

<b>Academic Excellence</b>	<b>Goal:</b> We will create a positive learning environment for all students that emphasizes academics, life skill development, and personal growth.
<b>The Student and Family Experience</b>	<b>Goal:</b> We will improve connectedness within the District and the community.
<b>Operations</b>	<b>Goal:</b> We will develop, refine, and communicate protocols for District operations.



# ACTION PLANS

## Priority 1: Academic Excellence

**Goal: We will create a positive learning environment for all students that emphasizes academics, life skill development, and personal growth.**

Action Steps:	Person/People Responsible	Timeframe
<b>Focus Area: Instructional Approaches</b>		
Review current enrichment program practices and develop program enhancements/updates in order to incorporate more (basic) academic skills.	Enrichment teachers, principals, Coordinator of Extended Learning	2024-2025
Develop clear expectations regarding student engagement including active learning in classroom environment. (hands-on, project-based)	Principals, Instructional Specialist	Fall 2024
Create and utilize MS/HS RtI Program.	Teachers, Teacher Leaders, Principals	2024-2025
<b>Focus Area: Life Skill Development</b>		
Complete MS/HS course audit to identify where life skills instruction is incorporated into current lessons.	Teachers, Counselors	2024-2025
Continue to build our CTE programs: focus on education field; Research culinary and auto mechanics for potential programs.	Coordinator of Credit Opportunities, Principals	2024-2025
Complete action research for “Leader in Me” program at elementary level.	Principal, Teachers	2024-2025

# ACTION PLANS

## Priority 1: Academic Excellence

**Goal: We will create a positive learning environment for all students that emphasizes academics, life skill development, and personal growth.**

Action Steps:	Person/People Responsible	Timeframe
<b>Focus Area: Learning Environment</b>		
Continue to upgrade all classrooms to meet needs of today, including upgraded technology and supplies.	Director of Operations, Committee, ArchitectsPrincipals, Teachers, Tech Specialists (in budgeting process)	2024-2026 Referendum in December 2024 Budget Process 2025
Prioritize air conditioning in all classrooms and learning areas for comfort and safety of all students and staff.	Director of Operations, Committee, Architects	2024-2026
Work to create and implement district-wide plans for student behavior, including bullying, cell phone usage, respect for self and others, etc.	Code of Conduct Committee, Admin.,Entire Staff	Spring/Fall 2024
Send representative to Technology Showcase to identify trends/upgrades for staff.	Teacher Leader,Admin.	Fall 2024

# ACTION PLANS

## Priority 2: The Student and Family Experience

**Goal: We will improve connectedness within the District and the community.**

Action Steps:	Person/People Responsible	Timeframe
<b>Focus Area: Communication</b>		
Investigate the development school app (elementary, middle, high, athletics).	Director of Services/Superintendent	Fall 2024
Survey interest/offer enrichment for student newspaper/newsletter.	Coordinator of Extended Learning Opportunities	2024-2025
Use District platforms to communicate information about academic programs and academic achievements (not just fun/social).	Teachers, Admin.	Fall 2024, Ongoing
Distribute District newsletters to local establishments such as The Historical Society and The Senior Center to reach people who do not use technology (community members).	District Office	Quarterly 2024-2025
<b>Focus Area: Family/Parent Involvement</b>		
Encourage the use of broader terms when communicating with guardians, i.e. "Families".	All Staff	2024-2025 and Ongoing
Increase exposure to culturally diverse student backgrounds, i.e. providing information to families, hosting a cultural evening for families.	Director of Special Services/ENL Teacher/Language Teachers	Spring 2025

# ACTION PLANS

## Priority 2: The Student and Family Experience

**Goal: We will improve connectedness within the District and the community.**

Action Steps:	Person/People Responsible	Timeframe
<b>Focus Area: Opportunities/Activities</b>		
Continue to build our CTE programs and partnerships with local businesses/organizations.	Coordinator of Credit Opportunities, principals	2024-2025
Research/develop a sustainable tutoring program.	Coordinator of Extended Learning Opportunities/Coordinator of Credit Opportunities	Spring 2025



# ACTION PLANS

## Priority Area 3: Operations

**Goal: We will develop, refine, and communicate protocols for District operations.**

Action Steps:	Person/People Responsible	Timeframe
<b>Focus Area: Transportation</b>		
Focus on staffing and recruitment. Communicate recruitment strategies and highlight positive benefits of transportation jobs.	Superintendent/Director of Transportation	Fall 2024 and Ongoing
Research creative employee incentive plans.	Superintendent/Director of Transportation	Fall 2024 and Ongoing
<b>Focus Area: Facilities</b>		
Improve input from all stakeholders: Complete a survey of District needs.	Director of Operations	Fall 2024
Look for alternative funding sources/grants.	Grant Writers	Ongoing
Coordinate, review, and improve supervision protocols and safety operations.	Director of Operations, Safety Committee, Superintendent	Fall and Spring 2024/2025
<b>Focus Area: Human Resources</b>		
Recruit and retain highly qualified personnel.	Administration	Ongoing
Build relationships and understanding amongst staff.	Administration	Monthly Activity/March 2025 Superintendent's Day

# OUR NEXT STEPS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Timeframe	Activity	Who
<b>Summer-Fall 2024</b>	Blueprint Plan Presented to the Community and Adopted by the BOE	Superintendent, BOE
	Blueprint Plan “unpacked” and then shared with the faculty and staff.	Superintendent
	Blueprint Plan unpacked with smaller groups.	Directors & Principal
<b>2024-2025 Quarterly</b>	Blueprint Updates provided to the BOE, Community and Staff	Superintendent and Administrators
<b>February 2025</b>	Blueprint Updates provided to the BOE, Community and Staff <b>Budget Recommendations Provided</b>	Superintendent and Administrators
<b>July 2025</b>	Blueprint Planning Day Held Plan Updated for 25-26	Superintendent Administrators Staff
<b>Spring 2026</b>	Blueprint Refresh Conducted	BOE Superintendent Administrators Staff Community Members
<b>Spring 2027</b>	Blueprint Phase 2 Developed	BOE Superintendent Administrators Staff Community Members



## 2024-25 Blueprint Team

Denise Cook	Kim Campo
Stacey Axtell	Dean Price
Hal Pettersen	Jenifer Johnson
Becky Hochuli	John Lanner
Karen Armbrust	Erica Wilson
Michele Shirkey	Dawn Faulkner
Lauri McCoy	Darby DeGraw
Jennifer Valentine	Julie Martin
Ciara Bouhouris	Melissa Davis
Shane Lester	Sarah Evans
Matt Mastropietro	

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