

# **Cumberland Public Schools Strategic Planning**

Building a Shared Vision  
for Improvement

Spring 2008





**“Strategic planning matters . . .”**

# Strategic Planning

- District strategic plans are not just good practice...they are required in state and federal law.
- RI General Law Chapter 16-7.1, The Rhode Island Student Initiative, requires that: **“every school district... shall develop a district strategic plan”** [which shall] **“be based on high academic standards for student performance consistent with the statewide standards and benchmarks.”**

# *Successful Strategic Planning*

- Leads to action
- Builds a shared vision
- Is an inclusive, participatory process
- Is based on quality data
- Requires openness to questioning the status quo
- Accepts accountability to the community

# District Strategic Plan: A Tool to Lead & Support Improvement

- Sets the district's policy framework and direction in mission, vision, and objective/goal statements
- Describes the district's strategies for improvement through action plans
- Specifies the human, fiscal, and other resources the district will make available to a school's improvement efforts

# Mission Statement

A broad statement that expresses the district's purpose, its specific function, identifies who it serves, and explains how the district is unique

# Vision Statement

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Describes the district's mission in a way that makes the outcomes clear and gives a "stretch" to the plan

# Goals/Objectives

Express in measurable terms  
(time, money, quality, quantity)  
the results the organization will achieve  
as it fulfills its mission

# Parameters

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Management policies or self-imposed limits that eliminate the need for continuously making the same decision

# Types of Strategic Action Plans

## **District-Focused Action Plans**

- Identifies steps to build an important capacity in the district, such as curriculum, instruction, assessment or professional development

## **School-Focused Action Plans**

- Supports schools that have high levels of need, particularly student need

## **Central Office Focused Action Plans**

- Addresses central office priorities when administration identifies a gap in its capacity that it needs to fill

# Focus Areas for Action Plans

## Strategies:

- Leading the Focus on Learning and Achievement
- Ensuring the Equity of Fiscal and Human Resources
- Guiding the Selection of Curriculum
- Recruiting Highly Qualified Staff
- Using Information for Planning and Accountability
- Engaging Families and Community
- Supporting Safe and Supportive Environment