

Richardton-Taylor Public School District #34 Strategic Plan

2025



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Introduction

Richardton-Taylor Public School District #34 aims to provide a well-rounded education that sets our students up for success and ensures the best outcomes for ALL. This strategic plan focuses on Foundational Practices, Goals, and Strategies that will develop critical student attributes and skills that are needed in today's world. A monitoring system is included to ensure that all students who graduate from Richardton-Taylor are LIFE READY.

Foundational Practices

Foundational Practices are the basis for the education we provide for all students. We engage in these practices with fidelity to inspire and offer a high-level educational experience for each student. The following are considered foundational to our work to achieve our desired outcomes.

- **Relationships** - Student relationships and engagement focus on the interactions and connections established between students, educators, peers, and the learning environment. They emphasize building positive, supportive relationships to enhance student motivation, participation, and overall academic and personal development.
- **Curriculum** – Well-Rounded curricula and programs refer to an educational approach offering student diverse subjects, activities, and opportunities. They aim to provide a comprehensive and balanced education that covers various academic, social, emotional, and physical aspects to nurture students holistically.
- **Data** – Data-informed instruction involves using student data and assessments to inform and guide teaching practices. Educators analyze student performance data to identify strengths, weaknesses, and individual learning needs, allowing for tailored instruction and targeted interventions to improve student outcomes.

Our Mission Statement

Richardton-Taylor Schools empowers students with knowledge, skills, and character to thrive – we EXPECT SUCCESS.

Our Vision Statement

At Richardton-Taylor Public Schools, we cultivate a culture where students are inspired to learn, grow, and lead. We ensure every student is prepared for success in school, career, and life through innovation, strong community partnerships, and high expectations.

Our Core Values

At Richardton-Taylor Public Schools, we believe success is built on positive relationships, strong character, and a commitment to lifelong learning. We empower students with critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and financial literacy skills, preparing them to be engaged citizens who problem solve with confidence and integrity. We create a culture where every student is prepared to thrive in an ever-changing world through high expectations and meaningful connections.

These values shape our culture, drive our decisions, and ensure that we uphold our mission.

1. **Positive Relationships** – We believe strong, respectful, and supportive relationships are the foundation of learning and personal growth. We foster a school culture where students, staff, families, and the community work together to inspire success.
2. **Social-Emotional Intelligence** – We support students in developing self-awareness, resilience, and empathy; equipping them with the emotional skills needed to navigate challenges and build meaningful connections.
3. **Effective Communication** – We empower students to express themselves clearly, listen actively, and engage in meaningful dialogue, ensuring they can collaborate and lead in an interconnected world.
4. **Critical Thinking & Problem Solving** – We challenge students to think critically, analyze information, and approach problems with confidence and creativity to develop solutions that drive progress.
5. **Collaboration & Teamwork** – We instill the value of working effectively with others, respecting diverse perspectives, and contributing to shared goals through productive and positive interactions.
6. **Financial Literacy** – We prepare students with the knowledge and skills to make informed financial decisions, fostering responsible and independent lifelong habits.
7. **Civic Engagement & Responsibility** – We inspire students to be active, informed citizens who contribute positively to their communities and demonstrate integrity, responsibility, and respect.
8. **Commitment to Excellence** – We set high expectations for ourselves and our students, striving for continuous improvement, lifelong learning, and success in all aspects of life.

These core values serve as the guiding principles for our district, ensuring that every student graduates prepared for the future, with the knowledge, skills, and character needed to thrive in an ever-changing world.

Portrait of a Graduate

At Richardton-Taylor Public Schools, our mission is clear: **Empowering students with knowledge, skills, and character to thrive.** This mission reflects our belief that education must go beyond academics – it must prepare student to lead meaningful lives and make a positive impact in the world. At Richardton-Taylor, we EXPECT SUCCESS, and our Portrait of a Graduate defines what the success looks like.

This Portrait serves as a shared vision for the essential qualities every student should develop by the time they graduate. It represents the collective input of our staff, families, community members, and students, outlining the attributes needed to thrive in college, career, military, and life.

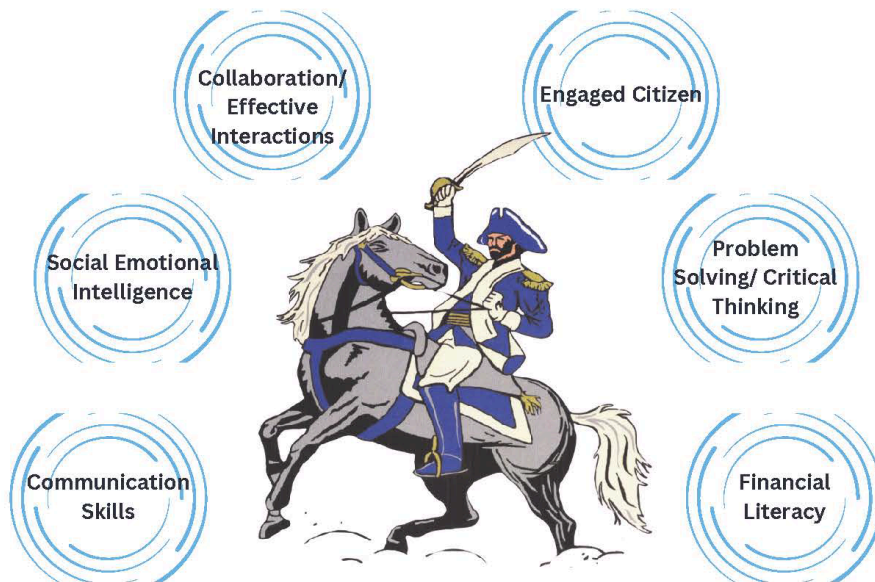
Our Portrait of a Graduate includes:

- **Social Emotional Intelligence:** Demonstrating self-awareness, empathy, resilience, and the ability to build positive relationships.
- **Communication Skills:** Expressing ideas clearly and listening with intent across a variety of platforms and audiences.
- **Problem Solving:** Approaching challenges with creativity, perseverance, and strategic thinking.
- **Critical Thinking:** Evaluating information thoughtfully to make informed, ethical decisions.
- **Financial Literacy:** Understanding and managing personal finances to make sound life choices.
- **Collaboration-Effective Interactions:** Working respectfully and effectively with others to achieve shared goals.
- **Engaged Citizen:** Participating actively and responsibly in civic life, contributing to the well-being of the community and the world.

Through these competencies, we empower students not only with the tools to succeed today, but with the mindset and character to thrive tomorrow. The Portrait of a Graduate is both a promise and a standard – a reflection of our commitment to excellence and our belief in every student’s potential.

Portrait of a Graduate Graphic

Portrait of a Graduate



Social Emotional Intelligence

1. Self-Awareness – Recognizing and understanding one's own emotions.
2. Self-Regulation – Managing emotions, impulses, and adapting to change.
3. Social Awareness – Understanding others' emotions and perspectives.
4. Relationship Skills – Communicating, resolving conflicts, and building connections

Communication Skills

1. Clarity – Expressing thoughts clearly and effectively.
2. Active Listening – Paying attention and responding thoughtfully.
3. Respect – Communicating with kindness and understanding.
4. Confidence – Speaking with assurance and purpose.

Problem Solving/Critical Thinking

1. Analysis – Breaking down problems to understand them.
2. Creativity – Thinking of new and effective solutions.
3. Decision-Making – Weighing options and making smart choices.
4. Persistence – Staying focused and overcoming challenges.

Financial Literacy

1. Budgeting – Managing money by tracking income and expenses.
2. Saving – Setting aside money for future needs and goals.
3. Smart Spending – Making thoughtful choices to avoid debt.
4. Investing – Understanding how to grow money wisely.

Collaboration/Effective Interactions

1. Teamwork – Working together to achieve a common goal.
2. Respect – Valuing different perspectives and ideas.
3. Trust – Relying on and supporting one another.
4. Flexibility – Adapting to new ideas and challenges.

Engaged Citizen

1. Responsibility – Taking ownership of actions and decisions.
2. Community Involvement – Participating in local events and helping others.
3. Respect for Others – Valuing diverse perspectives and treating people with kindness.
4. Informed Decision-Making – Staying aware of current events and making thoughtful choices.

Strategic Anchors and Priorities

At Richardton-Taylor Public Schools, our commitment to empowering students with knowledge, skills and character to thrive begins with thoughtful planning and collaboration. As part of our strategic process, our team engaged in honest reflection and gathered feedback from across our community to identify what matters most for our students' success.

Through this work, we developed our strategic anchors and priorities – the foundation that will guide our decisions, actions, and continuous growth. These anchors reflect our shared vision, align with our mission, and keep us focused on what will have the greatest impact on student learning and achievement.

With clear direction and a collective commitment to excellence, we EXPECT SUCCESS for every student, every day.



Strategic Goals

At Richardton-Taylor Public Schools, our strategic goals were developed through a focused process, guided by key strategic anchors that reflect our district's core priorities. These anchors helped ensure that our goals promote consistency, strengthen teaching and learning, increase student achievement, and support sustainable growth.

Each goal is designed to keep our work aligned with our mission of empowering students with the knowledge, skills, and character to thrive. With a clear and united direction, we are committed to continuous improvement and high expectations for every student.

Priority Area: District Cohesion & Consistency

Richardton-Taylor Public Schools is committed to creating a unified direction for teaching, learning, and communication across the district. By **June 2025**, the district will complete a long-term strategic plan with measurable outcomes to be implemented the following academic year. By **August 2025, 100% of schools** will adopt at least one unified instructional practice aligned with this plan.

To achieve these goals, the district will:

- Conduct district-wide meetings to gather input and foster alignment.
- Implement a shared digital platform to streamline access to curriculum and instructional resources.
- Establish Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) for ongoing staff collaboration.

Progress will be measured by:

- The number of district-wide meetings conducted.
- The percentage of schools implementing unified instructional practices.

Priority Area: Teacher Collaboration & Professional Growth

To strengthen instructional quality and professional learning, Richardton-Taylor Public Schools will increase teacher collaboration and growth opportunities. By the end of the **2025–2026 school year**, the district will increase teacher participation in cross-grade collaboration by **30%**, and by **December 2025**, all educators will complete at least one professional development session per semester.

Key strategies include:

- Developing teacher-led learning communities to share best practices.
- Creating a mentorship program pairing veteran teachers with new educators.

Progress will be measured by:

- The percentage of teachers participating in collaboration activities.
 - The number of professional development sessions attended per teacher.
-

Priority Area: Student Achievement in Math & ELA

Richardton-Taylor Public Schools will strengthen academic achievement in math and English Language Arts (ELA) through evidence-based practices and targeted support. By **May 2027**, the district will increase math proficiency scores by **10%**, and improve ELA scores by **5% annually** by **May 2026**, as measured by district and standardized assessments.

To support these goals, the district will:

- Provide targeted tutoring and intervention programs for struggling students.
- Implement differentiated instruction techniques to meet diverse learning needs.

Progress will be measured by:

- Annual improvements in standardized test scores.
 - The number of students receiving targeted interventions.
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Priority Area: Building Student Engagement

To increase student investment in learning, Richardton-Taylor Public Schools will expand project-based and real-world learning experiences. By the end of the **2026–2027 school year**, student participation in project-based learning will increase by **25%**, and CTE course enrollment will expand by **15%** by **2027**.

Key strategies include:

- Developing partnerships with local businesses for real-world learning opportunities.
- Introducing student-led projects aligned with industry standards.

Progress will be measured by:

- Enrollment numbers in project-based learning courses.
 - The number of business partnerships established for student engagement.
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Priority Area: Strong Relationships & High Expectations

Richardton-Taylor Public Schools will prioritize strong relationships and a culture of high expectations across the district. By **June 2025**, the district will conduct quarterly student and

staff relationship-building activities, and by the **start of the 2025–2026 school year**, implement SEL (Social-Emotional Learning) programs in **100% of classrooms**.

To meet these goals, the district will:

- Organize community engagement events to strengthen school-family connections.
- Provide professional development on effective SEL implementation for teachers.

Progress will be measured by:

- The number of relationship-building events conducted per year.
 - The percentage of classrooms implementing SEL programs.
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Priority Area: Stability & Focused Growth

Richardton-Taylor Public Schools will ensure focused, sustainable growth by establishing clear goals and consistent practices. By **August 2025**, the district will develop a **district-wide data dashboard** to track student growth, ensuring **100% of schools** utilize it. By **2027**, the district will reduce initiative turnover by **50%** through structured planning and evaluation.

To achieve this, the district will:

- Implement a district-wide data collection and analysis system.
- Establish an initiative review process to assess program effectiveness before adoption.

Progress will be measured by:

- Completion and utilization of the district-wide data dashboard.
- Percentage reduction in initiative turnover.

Closing Statement

The Richardton-Taylor Strategic Plan represents our shared vision, values, and commitment to every student's success. Grounded in purpose and guided by clear priorities, this plan will lead our district forward – with unity, focus, and high expectations. Together, we will empower students to thrive today and into the future.

Now, we invite our staff, families, and community to join us in bringing this vision to live. Through collaboration, consistency, and high expectations, we can achieve lasting impact – together, we EXPECT SUCCESS.