

Cedar Grove Public Schools

District Goals & Action Plan 26-27 School Year

Updated 10/13/26



Welcome Back!

2026 - 2027 School Year

- **Acknowledgements - A lot to Celebrate!**
 - John, Maintenance, & Custodial Staff
 - QSAC Results! - Designated High Performing School District
 - Celebrate - U.S. News Report - National Ranking Jumps 2800 Spots!
 - Professionalism
- **Referendum**
 - Newsletter & Postcards
 - Back to School Nights

Grade 11 ELA & Math Spring 2026 NJGPA-A

ELA Passing Rates	
State	76%
County	70%
CGHS	93%
Math Passing Rates	
State	61%
County	57%
CGHS	75%

NJSLA-A ELA: 2026 Baseline Data

Grade	2026 CG	26 CG vs State	26 CG vs County
3	70	+22	+24
4	72	+26	+27
5	65	+13	+15
6	64	+13	+15
7	65	+9	+11
8	56	+3	+6
9	70	+19	+20

Note: Scores represent percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations by grade level.

NJSLA-A Math: 2026 Baseline Data

Grade	2026 CG	26 CG vs State	26 CG vs County
3	74	+25	+27
4	73	+26	+28
5	67	+22	+22
6	62	+22	+24
7	55	+17	+20
8	38	+15	+19
9	70	+19	+20
Alg. I	55	+15	+16
Geometry	73	+22	+16

Cedar Grove NJSA Science: Grades 5, 8, 11

Grade	2024 CG	2025 CG	2024 State	2025 State	2026 CG	2026 State	24 CG vs State	25 CG vs State	26 CG vs State
5	24	30	27	27	32	27	-3	+3	+5
8	18	15	18	19	12	19	0	-4	-7
11	11	20	30	28	21	28	-19	-8	-8

Note: Scores represent percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations by grade level.

District Goal #1: Student Growth & Academic Achievement

From Fall 2024 through Spring 2027, Cedar Grove School District will optimize universal screening protocols toward the consistent implementation of [Multi-Tiered Systems of Support \(MTSS\)](#), invest in new curricular resources with ongoing job embedded professional development, and launch departmentalization in 3rd and 4th grade toward improved outcomes and academic achievement across all grade levels.

Activities related to this goal will include:

- Launch implementation of Amplify curricular resources K-2, Mystery Writing 3-5.
- Implement a 6 day schedule with 3rd and 4th grade departmentalization at both End schools.
- Continue planning for expanded special services at MMS for the 27-28 school year.
- Continue to provide professional development related to appropriate and effective use of AI resources.
- Transform faculty meeting time into ongoing professional development activities.
- Continue job embedded math instruction professional development partnership.
- Focus MTSS professional development on progress monitoring and probes to guide and inform Tier II instruction through Linkit! & Renaissance.
- Continue professional development for co-teaching with a new partner, All In.
- Expand CGHS Science Department participation in local roundtables and provide MMS Science team ongoing PD.
- Implement updated high school grading expectations across all departments.
- Launch a new Business Class for 6th thru 8th grade.
- Launch “low-tech” committee with focus on K-4 to make recommendations for reducing screen time.
- Launch an elementary report card committee to align report cards with new curricular resources.

District Goal #2: Communication & Public Relations

During the 26-27 school year, Cedar Grove Public Schools will maintain positive community relations relying on existing communication systems to provide timely and accurate information through new communication platforms and by publishing three community wide newsletters. Furthermore, there will be a specific focus on providing the community with detailed and timely updates related to any referendum projects that receive support from the community based on the results from the September 15th election.

Activities related to this goal will include:

- Develop plan and timeline to consider the launch of Cedar Grove Hall of Fame for athletics.
- Host community forums to provide updates about referendum projects
- Continue to publish three community newsletters.
- Adjust both elementary concert schedules to run over multiple days to accommodate space shortages at both End schools.
- Develop internal plans for ongoing website maintenance and updates.
- Host SEPAC “lunch & learn” sessions.
- School based weekly communication

District Goal #3: Finance, Facilities, & Security

During the 26-27 school year, Cedar Grove Public Schools will strategically allocate resources aligned with district goals while building financial reserves within the operating budget for annual investments in school improvement projects. Furthermore, ongoing training will be provided aligned with security initiatives. Project timelines will be created for referendum projects supported by the community and new platforms implemented at the Board office to ensure best in class hiring practices and customer service provided for all stakeholders.

Activities related to this goal will include:

- Improve internal controls related to human resource management to ensure best in class hiring practices and customer service provided for all stakeholders.
- Continue to invest in local maintenance projects funded by the operating budget.
- Negotiate new labor contracts for all bargaining units.
- Design structured activities during back to school night events to inform the community about the referendum vote on September 15th.
- Partner with local officials to update reunification plans.
- Create a strategic 27-28 SY budget.
- Implement new start time for End schools toward improved efficiency for overall school operations.
- Develop permanent, inspiring solution for CGHS signage on front lawn
- Increase coordination between local athletic and recreational teams and facility and field use.

District Goal #1: (Student Growth & Achievement) From Fall 2024 through Spring 2027, Cedar Grove School District will optimize universal screening protocols toward the consistent implementation of [Multi-Tiered Systems of Support \(MTSS\)](#), invest in new curricular resources with ongoing job embedded professional development, and launch departmentalization in 3rd and 4th grade toward improved outcomes and academic achievement across all grade levels

Drivers (Focus Areas)	Tasks / Actions (To Do)	Person/s Responsible	Metric/Outcome (What's Done)	Timeline / Updates
Launch implementation of Amplify curricular resources K-2, Mystery Writing 3-5.	- Schedule Amplify professional development to include observing classrooms and coaching. - Implement 10 min cursive writing lessons 3 times per week. - 3-5 Mystery Writing implement with common writing rubrics	Superintendent Elementary Director and Principals Teachers	- Continue positive trends in growth and achievement across grades 3-5 on NJSLA ELA outcomes. - Use 25-26 SY NJSLA-A scores to reset benchmark for future goal setting.	Ongoing
Implement a 6 day schedule with 3rd and 4th grade departmentalization at North End and South End.	- Implement new start and end time for both End schools toward improved efficiency for overall school operations. - Create coded day schedule to be shared with all staff and families - Implement signage to easily track which day it is with guidance for days missed.	Superintendent Elementary Principals Teachers	- Continue positive trends in growth and achievement across grades 3-5 on NJSLA math and ELA outcomes. - Use 25-26 SY NJSLA-A scores to reset benchmark for future goal setting.	Fall, 2026
Continue implementation of new MTSS protocols with clearly defined resources dedicated to Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III interventions.	- Focus MTSS professional development on progress monitoring and probes to guide and inform Tier II instruction through Linkit! & Renaissance. Data - Assess Sept data in Oct to inform grouping and Tier strategies with focus on Tier II probe resources for tailored progress monitoring.	Superintendent Elementary Director Elementary Principals Elementary Teachers	- Continue positive trend of effective and appropriate referrals for special services at the elementary levels. - Conduct monthly data meetings to review progress monitoring data through Linkit! Intervention Manager.	Ongoing

Drivers (Focus Areas)	Tasks / Actions (To Do)	Person/s Responsible	Metric/Outcome (What's Done)	Timeline / Updates
Transform faculty meeting time into ongoing professional development activities	- School leaders develop year-long plan with specific activities and objectives aligned with district goals. - Coordinate activities with needed ongoing data analysis and other key personnel. - Department driven action plans created at CGHS and MMS aligned with district goals.	Superintendent Principals Teachers	- Teachers able to articulate purpose of planned time and connection with ongoing priorities. - Evidence of alignment with instructional practices and ongoing curriculum implementation.	Oct, 2026
Continue job embedded professional development to support full implementation of co-teaching models at MMS and CGHS with new partner All In.	- All In provides job ongoing job embedded professional development and best in class resources to support co-planning with specific strategies. - Focus All In professional development series on grades 5th and 6th yo prepare for increased ICR services for the 27-28 SY.	Superintendent Directors School Leaders MMS and CGHS Teachers	- Observations evidence consistent implementation of co-teaching strategies. - Achieve greater levels of Least Restrictive Environments for students with special needs.	Ongoing
Launch committee “low tech” and report card committees at elementary levels.	- Identify elementary teacher K-2, 3-4 to participate in providing feedback to inform new guidelines for screen time and new language for elementary report cards	Superintendent Elementary Director Elementary Principal Elementary Teachers	- Committee launched in September - New guidance and report card language developed by Jan 2027 to inform budget planning process. .	Feb, 2027
Continue AI professional development series to support middle and high school teachers with appropriate and effective use of AI.	- Schedule series of professional development AI workshops. - Train teachers on district policy for AI use in classroom. - Provided Leadership Team ongoing training and exposure to Snorkel resource.	Superintendent Secondary Director & CGHS Administration MMS Principal MMS & CGHS Teachers	- Evidence of effective AI use to enhance and expand curriculum and learning experiences in MMS and CGHS classrooms - AI district goal developed for the 27-28 SY.	May, 2027
Launch new Business cycle classes at MMS and accelerated 7th and 8th grade ELA pathway.	- Purchase new books for accelerated pathway - Complete curriculum writing for new courses with Board adoption.	Superintendent Directors and MMS Leadership Teachers	- Improved NJSLA-A ELA achievement results in MMS and CGHS grades.	Oct, 2026

Drivers (Focus Areas)	Tasks / Actions (To Do)	Person/s Responsible	Metric/Outcome (What's Done)	Timeline / Updates
Continue implementation of Linkit! Data meetings three times during the 26-27 SY.	- Incorporate into year long faculty meeting professional development plans. - Plan for vertical articulation of data analysis.	Superintendent Directors School Leaders Teachers	- Continue positive trends in growth and achievement across grades 3-9 on NJSLA-A ELA and Math outcomes. - Use 25-26 SY NJSLA-A scores to reset benchmark for future goal setting.	Feb, 2027
Continue planning for expanded special services at MMS for the 27-28 SY with transition of specialized student population from NE to MMS.	- Conduct “lunch & learns” to engage families about the transition process to MMS from NE placements. - Purchase needed supplies and resources for new classroom space at MMS. - Identify appropriate staffing model for new services at MMS and continued services at NE.	Superintendent Directors MMS Administration North End Leadership	- Students and families successfully transition to MMS in Sept 2027 with little to no anxiety or concern - Students continue to receive services in district placement.	May, 2027
Continue job embedded professional development for continued improved math instruction.	- Continue partnership with Dr. Milou to provided job embedded coaching on implementation for math curriculum resources and vertical instruction strategies.	Superintendent Elementary Director Elementary & MSS Administration Elementary & MMS Teachers	- Continue positive trends in growth and achievement across grades 3-9 on NJSLA-A Math outcomes. - Use 25-26 SY NJSLA-A scores to reset benchmark for future goal setting.	Ongoing
Expand CGHS Science Department participation in local roundtables and provide MMS Science team ongoing tailored professional development throughout the 26-27 SY.	- Calendar dates and times for high school level roundtables. - Plan for department debrief after each experience with recommendations for curriculum areas of improvement. - Coordinate plan for MMS PD series.	Superintendent CGHS and MMS Administration Directors School Leaders Teachers	- Improved student outcomes in areas of science results as measured by NJSLA-S, AP scores, and final exams.	August, 2027

District Goal #2: (Communication & Public Relations) During the 26-27 school year, Cedar Grove Public Schools will maintain positive community relations relying on existing communication systems to provide timely and accurate information through new communication platforms and by publishing three community wide newsletters. Furthermore, there will be a specific focus on providing the community with detailed and timely updates related to any referendum projects that receive support from the community based on the results from the September 15th election.

Drivers (Focus Areas)	Tasks / Actions (To Do)	Person/s Responsible	Metric/Outcome (What's Done)	Timeline / Updates
Align school based weekly communications with increased social media presence toward greater consistency and further develop Alumni Spotlight content and overall district brand.	- Develop permanent, inspiring solution for CGHS front lawn signage. - Coordinate line of internal responsibility for Alumni Spotlight ongoing development.	Superintendent Principals CTO	- Leadership team increase use of push notifications to share information with the community. - Increased presence on social media platforms. - New Alumni on Spotlight.	Jan., 2026
Publish three community newsletters with distinct theme for each publication.	- Create timeline to focus on key highlights during the school year. - Coordinate visits to gather information to inform each publication.	Superintendent Leadership Team	- Unique theme for each newsletter. - Publish 3 community wide newsletters.	May, 2027
Develop plan and timeline to consider the launch of Cedar Grove Hall of Fame for athletics.	- Calendar initial services of meetings to gather community feedback. - Establish date for ceremony - Develop criteria and goals - Establish committee	Superintendent Secondary Director & CGHS Principal Athletic Director Guidance Department	- Planning for Cedar Grove Hall of Fame launched. - Committee established - First class inducted.	Spring, 2027
Host community forums with focus on updating the community about referendum projects and ongoing timelines.	- Calendar school based events. - Share timelines and expected completion dates with community. - Coordinate activities with architect firm.	Superintendent Leadership Team	- High turnout of voters for the March 2026 referendum vote to evidence high level of community engagement.	Spring, 2027
Host SEPAC “lunch & learn” sessions.	- Dates are calendared - Agendas created with feedback from families.	Superintendent Director Special Services	- Maintain health relationships and open line of communication with families	Ongoing

District Goal #3: (Facilities, Finance, & Security) During the 26-27 school year, Cedar Grove Public Schools will strategically allocate resources aligned with district goals while building financial reserves within the operating budget for annual investments in school improvement projects. Furthermore, ongoing training will be provided aligned with security initiatives. Project timelines will be created for referendum projects supported by the community and new platforms implemented at the Board office to ensure best in class hiring practices and customer service provided for all stakeholders.

Drivers (Focus Areas)	Tasks (To Do)	Person/s Responsible	Metric/Outcome (What's Done)	Timeline
Improve internal controls related to human resource management and payroll services to ensure best in class hiring practices and customer service provided for all stakeholders.	- Implement Systems 3000 Accounting platform to include payroll services. - Expand Frontline application use in area of personnel and human resources management. - Eliminate CSI and Jotforms platforms.	Superintendent School Business Administrator Leadership Team	- Internal and external stakeholders experience improved response times for all inquiries. - Stakeholders report high levels of satisfaction with overall district customer service.	March 2027
Negotiate new labor contracts for all divisions.	- Launch negotiations committee - Prepare proposals - Agree on meeting schedules.	Board Committee Superintendent SBA	- New labor contracts ratified.	June, 2027
Develop strategic 27-28 SY budget protecting essential services and new investments with fiscally conservative approach toward tax impact.	- Analysis department and resources ratios to identify areas to apply “right-sizing” strategies.	Superintendent SBA Leadership Team	- Board adopts strategic 27-28 SY budget aligned with district goals and priorities.	May, 2027
Increase coordination between local athletic and recreational teams and facility and field use.	- Establish central office facility use calendar and formal process for facility use requests for approval.	Superintendent SBA Leadership Team	- Reduction in overtime expense and other facility use expenses.	Winter - Spring 2027