



Brookfield Public Schools

State of the District-May 2022



Dear Brookfield Community,

As we enter the final stretch of the 2021-2022 school year, I want to provide all of you with a big picture overview of the State of the District. I have framed this narrative into three specific sections; *Where We Were*, *Where We Are* and *Where We Are Going*. While this is not intended to be a detailed review of each and every program or activity, I hope you find this overview informative. The accomplishments articulated herein are due to the support of the Brookfield citizens, dedicated students, families, faculty, staff, administrators, elected officials, and our Board of Education!

Kindest regards,
Dr. John W. Barile
Superintendent of Schools

Brookfield Public Schools
100 Pocono Road
Brookfield, CT 06804
(203) 775-7700
www.brookfieldps.org



Brookfield High School
45 Long Meadow Hill Road
Brookfield, CT 06804
(203) 775-7725

Where We Were:

In late 2019, prior to the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the District had experienced a rise in its total school [Connecticut Accountability Index](#). Brookfield advanced from a 14th place ranking in 2018 to the top tier in 2019, when compared to the other [20 comparable towns in District Reference Group B \(DRG B\)](#). Our District ranked 22nd out of the total 200 school districts on the 2019 CT Report Card. Furthermore, for the past four years, [Brookfield High School was recognized by US News and World Reports](#) as one of the top high schools in the country.



Building and maintaining a top rated school system has included strategic focus areas—curriculum development, instructional practices & professional learning, enhancement of our technology infrastructures, social-emotional learning PreK-12, and securing financial support for the construction of Candlewood Lake Elementary School. In addition, we have worked hard to establish financial & regulatory control of both the budget and school facilities capital projects. See more about our new school at candlewood-lakeschool.brookfieldps.org/



The pandemic, while extremely disruptive and challenging, served as a catalyst for instructional innovation in our District. The demands for learning during unprecedented times forced our staff and students, along with families, to learn how to effectively employ remote technology so as to best continue the education of our students. Many of the platforms, devices and approaches we initiated during the window of hybrid and remote instruction are now commonplace today as effective and engaging practices throughout our schools.



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Where We Are:

The pandemic may have slowed us down, but it did not stop us from building upon the past several years of curriculum & instruction work that has led to enhanced student learning. The professional learning that our faculty has taken part in has enhanced their capacity and skills necessary to implement our local standards aligned curriculum, instruction, and assessment at all grade levels. Students are developing and applying skills articulated in the strategic vision adopted by our Board of Education — the *Portrait of a Graduate* and vision for the *self-navigating learner*. New courses at Brookfield High School in STEM and Humanities, along with the plan for a culminating senior experience are all well underway, all of which support the *Portrait of the Graduate* goals by including—real-world, relevant context that affords all students the opportunity to apply their new learning and skills as articulated in our *Portrait of a Graduate*.

- R**ecognizing emotions in self and others
- U**nderstanding the causes and consequences of emotions
- L**abeling emotions accurately
- E**xpressing emotions appropriately
- R**egulating emotions effectively

Recently we engaged, in the first of its kind initiative, with the Connecticut Center for School Safety & Crisis Preparation to enhance our school crisis plans and security response protocols. This work is being conducted in collaboration with our local police and fire departments, as well as the Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS). Our District work will



serve as a model for emergency preparedness for school districts across the state.

coaching model, and thus far, feedback is impressive as teachers report continued learning.

Additionally, our efforts have been instrumental in developing the capacity of faculty to integrate and leverage digital tools into curriculum and instruction to engage our learners. Our technology department has updated infrastructure by doubling the bandwidth of our schools to provide for the increased device usage and reliability of service. We continue to invest in new presentation stations in our classrooms. Once Candlewood Lake Elementary School is completed, every District classroom will be equipped with a presentation station to enhance interactive instruction and student engagement.

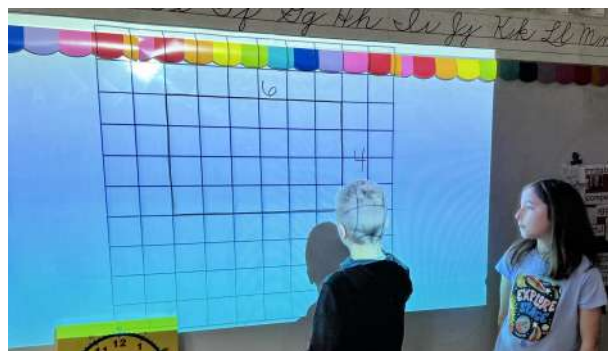
We have rolled out Social & Emotional tools and programming for our students and staff in the form of Yale's RULER approach. We also have provided training in trauma informed instruction and communication competence to support enhanced family engagement.



Whisconier Middle School
17 West Whisconier Road
Brookfield, CT 06804
(203) 775-7710

How are you feeling?										
Lost	Worried	Frustrated	Shocked	Scared	Energized	Thrilled	Ecstatic	Euphoric	Exhilarated	
Disgusted	Confused	Relieved	Worried	Amused	Positive	Connected	Joyful	Enthusiastic	Elated	
Happy	Engaged	Angry	Stressed	Excited	Glad	Inspired	Happy	Motivated	Excited	
Furious	Anxious	Agitated	Unsure	Defeated	Amused	Focused	Cheerful	Proud	Surprised	
Disgusted	Scared	Tranquil	Relaxed	Unsettled	Satisfied	Pleased	Hopeful	Optimistic	Lively	
Apprehensive	Awakened	Guilt	Deflated	Complacent	Easy-going	Safe	Chilled	Respected	Blessed	
Sullen	Grim	Disheartened	Discouraged	Bored	Relaxed	Secure	Content	Thankful	Fulfilled	
Exhausted	Fatigued	Sad	Miserable	Pessimistic	Thoughtful	Composed	Calm	Grateful	Tranquil	
Alienated	Depressed	Disappointed	Tired	Confused	Mellow	Peaceful	Balanced	At Ease	Collected	
Despair	Uncontrollable	Anguished	Hopeless	Lonely	Loose	Sleepy	Restful	Comfy	Serene	

We have utilized some of our Federal ARP/ESSER funding to launch our long standing goal for job-embedded professional learning in the form of instructional coaches. For the 2021-2022 school year we launched our



Where We Are Going

The District will continue to make strides in the integration of technology through the investment in infrastructure, digital learning platforms, and one-to-one devices. We will continue to expand our current one-to-one device program to include Grades K -7. In the interest of student & staff safety, we are working with Sandy Hook Promise to initiate a 24-7 anonymous threat reporting system. Furthermore, we are working to improve cybersecurity and network reliability by implementing proactive measures for users and our organizational platforms.



To address student needs, we are providing additional support which includes both academic and social-emotional intervention. We have utilized ARP/ESSER funding for instructional coaches, summer school, social workers, and tutors for support

as we remain laser-focused on targeted investments which are aligned with our students' needs.

Specifically, the Board has adopted a budget for next year that includes the following:

- Center School - Adding para educators in each Kindergarten classroom
- Center School - Increasing Art and Music teachers to ensure our students have opportunities with the arts and to prepare for the transition to Candlewood Lake Elementary School.
- Huckleberry Hill - Adding a Math Interventionist
- Huckleberry Hill - Adding a Bilingual teacher to support native Spanish speakers
- PreK-8 schools - Increasing time for secretaries to support the administration so as to engage with families during the summer months
- Whisconier Middle School—Begin to upgrade presentation and digital integration technology
- Brookfield High School - Adding new courses in World Language, Business and Humanities



Center Elementary School
8 Obtuse Hill Road
Brookfield, CT 06804
(203) 775-7650



For more information about the budget view the [Board of Education 2022-2023 Budget Flyer](#) or our District website: [2022-2023 Board of Education Budget](#)

Strategic Planning

In the coming months, we are launching an update to the District strategic plan to expand upon the bright future of the Brookfield Public Schools. We will leverage our past success to create future promise.



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[Candlewood Lake Elementary School](#)

In closing, we are thrilled to begin the phased-in move from Huckleberry Hill to Candlewood Lake in December of 2022, and anticipate full occupancy of the new school by August of 2023 which will include all students from Center School and Huckleberry. We will be discussing the leadership structure for Candlewood Lake Elementary in the coming weeks. With CLES construction and its move-in plans thoughtfully articulated, it is also time to initiate a building conditions study for both Whisconier Middle School and Brookfield High School to ensure optimal school facilities for all of our students PreK-12. For more information and to view our live streaming construction cameras visit: candlewoodlakeschool.brookfieldps.org/. For your convenience, please view a previous presentation of renderings, floor and grounds plans, etc. of what Brookfield's new school will look like [CLES Finish Review Presentation](#).



Huckleberry Hill
Elementary School
100 Candlewood Lake Road
Brookfield, CT 06804



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