



Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Please share more about how you will use these goals?

Our school system exists to provide students with an education, to give students the tools and experiences they need to reach their fullest potential. We need a uniform way to understand if that is happening. Our goals describe three clear things we want our students to know and be able to do. These are three clear indicators that our schools are doing their job. These goals are a 5-year plan for what should be happening in the school district. They will allow the Board to hold the superintendent accountable, and they will allow the public to hold the Board accountable.

2. I don't understand what guardrails are. Can you explain this again?

How we achieve our goals matters. The guardrails are four non-negotiable conditions that the District must ensure are in place for all students and schools as it works to meet its goals. We also believe that our goals cannot be met without ensuring these guardrails exist. For instance, we have heard time and time again how critical a well-rounded educational experience is to a student's success and have included this as a guardrail. Additionally, we know that our schools cannot be places of learning without also being safe places for students and teachers.

3. What is the timeline for learning more about this new board direction and work?

The Board will hold public sessions in the Fall to discuss the goals and guardrails in detail. The Board will meet with communities throughout the City and will then formally adopt the goals and guardrails in December. The Board will begin monitoring the District's progress toward meeting the goals and guardrails in December.

4. How will more information on the goals and guardrails be shared?

The Board will use its website to house information on the goals and guardrails and its progress toward the adoption of its goals and guardrails. The Board will also make regular updates on this progress at its meetings and will share out this information on its social media platforms.

5. How do the Board's goals and guardrails relate to the goals in the District's Action Plan?

The Board sets the vision and direction for the school district through its Board goals and guardrails. The District must then create a strategic plan for meeting those goals and will be accountable for achieving them.

6. How do charter schools fit into these goals and guardrails?

Charter schools have their own governing boards who establish the specific goals for each individual charter school. However, as the authorizer of Philadelphia charter schools, the Board believes that these goals and guardrails express the conditions and outcomes that must be present in every school, District or charter operated, in order to educate its students. The Board will bring this lens to its work authorizing charter schools and cares that all public schools are appropriately serving Philadelphia students.

7. I have some thoughts I would like to share on this. How do I get in touch with you?

Please email schoolboard@philasd.org or call us at (215) 400-4010.