

UTILIZATION STUDY

Community Advisory
Committee Meeting

July 28, 2025



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Education Consultants

Committee Meeting Schedule

Date	Topic	Location
Monday, June 30	Overview & Enrollment	CNS High School
Monday, July 28	Instructional Program	NSEEP (Main St. School)
Monday, August 25	Facilities/Brainstorming	NS Junior High School
Monday, September 15	Transportation & Staffing (Part I)	Gillette Road Middle School
Tuesday, October 21	Staffing (Part II) & Exploration of Future Facilities Options	KWS Bear Road Elementary School
Monday, November 10	Finances & Exploration of Future Facilities Options	Cicero Elementary School
Monday, December 8*	Review Draft Report	District Office

Building Tour: 5:30 p.m.
Meeting: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Location: Building Library

*No tour



Critical Question for our Committee

How can the North Syracuse Central School District strategically restructure its staffing, facilities, and grade-level configurations to optimize educational outcomes and emotional well-being for all students, while addressing declining enrollment, reduced state aid, and future growth opportunities like the Micron project?



Meeting Takeaways

- The purpose of the study is to answer the question

“How can the North Syracuse Central School District strategically restructure its staffing, facilities, and grade-level configurations to optimize educational outcomes and emotional well-being for all students, while addressing declining enrollment, reduced state aid, and future growth opportunities like the Micron project?”

- The study process will be open to ensure transparency for everyone
- The Community Advisory Committee will assist the consultants throughout the process, but the final recommendations for the district’s consideration will be the consultants’.
- Consultants’ recommendations are not binding

Meeting Takeaways

- K-12 enrollment declined by 9.4% and is projected to continue to decline
- Live births relatively stable in past 10 years. Wide variation in last 4 years of actual data→Monitor
- Enrollment in each elementary building declined except for Bear Road
- Enrollment in all middle and secondary buildings declined
- Micron development is an 'X' factor
- **District enrollment projections should be updated routinely**

Bright Spots and Boulders



Purpose and Tone

- Goal is to surface what is and isn't working: when we think about the critical question, where should we be focusing our efforts?
- Mindset of this activity is “forward momentum”--how do we capture what's going well and build on that?
- Bright Spots
 - What's working? What do we love about this district? What do we want to see continued?
- Boulders
 - What are some areas where we think improvements can be made? What are obstacles to improvement?

Activity Overview: Bright Spots and Boulders

- Independently: make a list of your bright spots and boulders.
 - Each bright spot or boulder should go on its own post-it note.
- Decide which area of the study your bright spot or boulder belongs to and transfer the Post-its to that particular chart paper.
- Gallery Walk to “upvote” others’ ideas
 - I think this too! ✓
 - ? What does this mean?
 - This is REALLY important! ★
 - I disagree! ✖
- Split into groups to review the ideas on chart paper and report out.



General Demographics & Achievement



District Level Indicators

Demographic Data

(data.nysed.gov)

Race	2013-2014 %	2023-2024 %
<i>Black</i>	4	5
<i>Hispanic, Latino</i>	3	6
<i>Asian, NH, OPI</i>	2	6
<i>White</i>	86	76
<i>Multiracial</i>	4	7
<i>American Indian, AN</i>	1	1

Demographic	2013-2014 %	2023-2024 %
English Language Learners	1	2
Chronic Absenteeism K-6	--	18.8
Chronic Absenteeism 7-12	--	25.5
Students with Disabilities	13	18
Economically Disadvantaged	34	46
Homeless	--	2

Chronic Absenteeism: Students missing 10% or more of enrolled school days

Economically disadvantaged: Students qualifying for FRPL or in a family that receives economic assistance

Students with Disabilities: Only counts IEPs, not Section 504 plans

NYS Accountability Status

- NYS provides every district in the state with an accountability designation
 - Local Support and Improvement = Green Light
 - Targeted Support and Improvement = Yellow Light
 - Comprehensive Support and Improvement = Red Light
 - The district's designation is based on the individual schools' designations
 - One building with a Yellow/Red light = whole district has a Yellow/Red designation
- North Syracuse CSD is a Targeted Support and Improvement District
 - All schools except Roxboro Road Elementary are Local Support and Improvement
 - Roxboro Road Elementary is Targeted Support and Improvement
 - Specifically, Multiracial students aren't making the same gains as their peers

Building-Specific Demographics and Achievement

Elementary Buildings

2023-2024 Elementary School Data

(data.nysed.gov)

Demographic (%)	Allen Rd.	Cicero Elem	KWS Bear Rd.	Lakeshore Elem	Roxboro Elem	Smith Rd.
American Indian, AN	0	1	0	1	1	0
Black	5	2	5	4	7	4
Latino	6	5	3	4	8	5
Asian, NH, OPI	4	8	5	2	10	8
White	75	80	77	85	64	75
Multiracial	10	4	11	5	9	7
Students with Disabilities	21	27	24	25	27	32
Economically Disadvantaged	42	32	50	40	73	53
English Language Learners	--	5	--	--	6	6
Homeless	--	1	2	2	5	1

2023-2024 Elementary School Data

(data.nysed.gov)

Indicator (%)	Allen Rd.	Cicero Elem	KWS Bear Rd.	Lakeshore Rd.	Roxboro Elem	Smith Rd.
Chronic Absenteeism 2023-2024 (%)	13.4	10.1	17.2	15.3	27	19.3
Chronic Absenteeism 2018-2019 (%)	8	10.1	9.6	10.5	17	11.7
Expenditures per pupil 2023-2024 (\$)	\$25,455	\$23,591	\$23,356	\$23,717	\$25,725	\$24,375
Total Students	325	522	529	432	430	564

NYS Assessment Results: ELA

% of students scoring at levels 3 and 4 (proficient)

2023-2024								
	Allen Rd.	Cicero Elem	KWS Bear Rd.	Lakeshore Rd.	Roxboro Elem	Smith Rd.	Districtwide	NYS
Grade 3	36	50	31	30	19	32	33	43
Grade 4	27	32	35	27	21	24	28	47
Grades 3-4	31	41	33	29	20	28	30	44
2018-2019								
	Allen Rd.	Cicero Elem	KWS Bear Rd.	Lakeshore Rd.	Roxboro Elem	Smith Rd.	Districtwide	NYS
Grade 3	49	58	52	49	28	58	49	52
Grade 4	47	43	36	38	33	35	38	48
Grades 3-4	48	51	44	43	30	45	43	50

NYS Assessment Results: Math

% of students scoring at levels 3 and 4 (proficient)

2023-2024								
	Allen Rd.	Cicero Elem	KWS Bear Rd.	Lakeshore Rd.	Roxboro Elem	Smith Rd.	Districtwide	NYS
Grade 3	39	61	39	48	19	36	41	54
Grade 4	37	52	64	54	35	38	47	58
Grades 3-4	38	57	52	51	26	37	44	56
2018-2019								
	Allen Rd.	Cicero Elem	KWS Bear Rd.	Lakeshore Rd.	Roxboro Elem	Smith Rd.	Districtwide	NYS
Grade 3	50	58	35	46	25	37	43	55
Grade 4	47	57	42	35	34	29	40	50
Grades 3-4	48	58	39	40	29	33	41	53

Elementary School Class Sizes 2024-2025

NSEA Contract Language includes a provision on class size. It's Article 9.1:

K-6: Average of 25 students, Maximum of 30 students

Building	Average
Allen Rd.	18
KWS Bear	19
Cicero	21
Lakeshore Rd.	19
Roxboro Rd.	21
Smith Rd.	20
Totals/ Average	19.8

Elementary Daily Schedules

Elementary School Day Breakdown 2024-2025						
	Allen Road	KWS Bear Road	Cicero Elem	Lakeshore Road	Roxboro Road	Smith Road
Start Time	9:20	9:15	9:30	9:30	9:20	9:30
End Time	3:15	3:15	3:15	3:15	3:20	3:15
Total Minutes	355	360	345	345	360	345
Lunch Minutes	30	30	30	30	30	30
Recess Minutes	20	20	20	20	20	20
Specials Minutes	40	40	40	40	40	40
“Instructional Time”	265	270	255	255	270	255

Elementary Specials

40 minute periods at every building	
Art	Once per week
Library Media	Once per week
Music	Once per week
Physical Education	Twice per week
Additional Music	
Band	Grade 4 at all buildings
Orchestra	Grade 4 at all buildings
Chorus	Grades 3, 4 at all buildings

Elementary Instructional Expectations

Content	Time Expectation
ELA: K-3	120 minutes
ELA: Grade 4	90 minutes
Math	60 minutes
Heggerty: Phonics	10 - 15 minutes at K-2
Tier 3 Support	30 minutes for Grades 1-4
WINN	30 minutes

Elementary Instructional Expectations

Science and Social Studies						
	Allen Rd	Cicero Elem	KWS Bear Rd.	Lakeshore Rd.	Roxboro Rd.	Smith Rd.
Kindergarten	30	In 1st and 3rd grade, combined with ELA	50	SCIENCE /SOCIAL STUDIES 2x Weekly Each (K) 30 min (Gr 1-4) 40mins	Science 2x Weekly (40)	30
1st Grade	30		30		Science 4x Weekly (30)	30
2nd Grade	15		20		20	30
3rd Grade	15		40		20	30
4th Grade	25		40		Science 2x Weekly (50)	30

Middle School Buildings

2023-2024 Middle School Data

(data.nysed.gov)

Demographic (%)	Roxboro Rd. Middle	Gillette Rd. Middle
American Indian, AN	1	1
Black	8	4
Latino	7	5
Asian, NH, OPI	6	5
White	68	79
Multiracial	10	6
Students with Disabilities	17	14
Economically Disadvantaged	60	39
English Language Learners	4	2
Homeless	2	1

Indicator (%)	Roxboro Rd. Middle	Gillette Rd. Middle
Chronic Absenteeism 2023-2024 (%)	27	16
Chronic Absenteeism 2018-2019 (%)	18	8
Expenditures per pupil 2023-2024 (\$)	\$26,249	\$23,288
Total Students	705	1,025

Roxboro Rd. Middle School

- Allen Rd. Elementary
- Roxboro Rd. Elementary

Gillette Rd. Middle School

- Cicero Elementary
- Lakeshore Rd. Elementary

Bear Rd. Elementary & Smith Rd. Elementary: Split

NYS Assessment Results: ELA

% of students scoring at levels 3 and 4 (proficient)

2023-2024				
	RRMS	GRMS	Districtwide	NYS
Grade 5	22	46	36	44
Grade 6	30	48	4361	44
Grade 7	24	45	36	50
Grades 5-7	25	46	37	46
2018-2019				
	RRMS	GRMS	Districtwide	NYS
Grade 5	17	34	27	38
Grade 6	30	59	46	47
Grade 7	25	42	36	40
Grades 5-7	24	44	36	41

NYS Assessment Results: Math

% of students scoring at levels 3 and 4 (proficient)

2023-2024				
	RRMS	GRMS	Districtwide	NYS
Grade 5	21	54	40	49
Grade 6	58	68	64	51
Grade 7	56	62	62	57
Grades 5-7	45	51	51	54
2018-2019				
	RRMS	GRMS	Districtwide	NYS
Grade 5	12	40	29	46
Grade 6	42	68	56	47
Grade 7	37	62	52	43
Grades 5-7	30	56	45	46

NSJHS & CNS HS

NS Junior High School

	2023-2024	2018-2019
FRPL	46%	38%
Average Class Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ELA: 21• Math: 21• Science: 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ELA: 24• Math: 22• Science: 20
Student Attendance Rate	93%	94%
Chronic Absenteeism Rate	22%	17%
Student Suspension Rate	11%	10%
ELA Proficiency Rate (Grade 8)	48%	37%
Math Proficiency Rate (Grade 8)	54%	46%

CNS High School

	2023-2024	2018-2019
FRPL	33%	29%
Average Class Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ELA III: 22• Algebra I: 17• Geometry: 19• Biology: 21• Chemistry: 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ELA III: 21• Algebra I: 14• Geometry: 17• Biology: 21• Chemistry: 21
Student Attendance Rate	92%	93%
Chronic Absenteeism Rate	27%	21%
Student Suspension Rate	6%	8%

4-year Graduation Rate (2024 data; 2020 cohort)

	North Syracuse CSD	New York State
Graduation Rate %	86	86
Regents Advanced Diploma %	51	33
Regents Diploma %	34	51
Local Diploma %	1	2
Dropout %	5	5

PreK Information

Programming Overview

- NSCSD offers PreK to all 4 year-olds and some 3 year-olds through a mix of programs.
 - UPK is funded by NYSED under Education Law §3602-e(10)
 - Designed for all 4-year-olds residing in the district
 - 286 Full-Day Seats
 - 215 Half-Day Seats
 - Total Funding: \$2.47 million
 - 10% of funding, by law, must go to Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)
 - Most students are “typically developing” and do not receive special education services

NSCSD UPK Community-Based Organizations

	Sections	Total Students
Learn as You Grow--Cicero	4	84
Learn as You Grow--North Syracuse	5	105
Northminster Early Childhood Center	2	32
YMCA at Roxboro Road Elementary	2	36
TOTAL	13	257

Programming Overview

- Special Class in an Integrated Setting classrooms are funded by NYSED and Onondaga County
 - Integrate special education 3- and 4-year old students with “typically-developing” peers
 - Accepts both district and non-district residents
 - Designed to support inclusive learning environments and early intervention services
 - OT, PT, Speech, nursing support
 - Full- and half-day programs
 - 14 classrooms all located at NSEEP at Main St. Elementary
 - Of the 313 students, 108 are students with disabilities

Discussion

What initial thoughts do you have about the instructional programming at North Syracuse CSD?

Demographic, Facility and Grade Level Study

Ross Haber and Associates, LLC

February 2024

- Declining enrollment
- Increase in number of available instructional spaces
- Expanded student support services
- Available instructional space in each building?
- Even with Micron effect, 'unlikely that student enrollment will increase to 2023-24 levels much less 2018-19 enrollment'
- Consider grade level organizational options
- Concern over concentrations of economically disadvantaged caused by north/south distribution using Route 481 as dividing line. Using east/west distribution with I-81 as dividing line creates more equitable distribution.

Demographic, Facility and Grade Level Study

Ross Haber and Associates, LLC

February 2024

OPTION 1

- Six K-4 Elementary Schools
- Two 5-8 Middle Schools (Roxboro Road MS, NS Junior High)
- One Grade 9 School (Gillette Road)
- District Office to Gillette Road
- Grades 10-12 at CNS
- NSEEP to Jerome Melvin Admin Building
- Main Street building closes

Demographic, Facility and Grade Level Study

Ross Haber and Associates, LLC

February 2024

OPTION 2

- Six K-4 Elementary Schools
- One 5-6 Middle School (Roxboro Road MS)
- One 7-8 Junior High School (NS Junior High)
- One Grade 9 School (Gillette Road)
- District Office to Gillette Road
- Grades 10-12 at CNS
- NSEEP to Jerome Melvin Admin Building
- Main Street building closes

Demographic, Facility and Grade Level Study

Ross Haber and Associates, LLC

February 2024

OPTION 3

- Six K-5 Elementary Schools
- Three 6-8 Middle Schools (Roxboro Road MS, Gillette Road MS, NS Junior High)
- District Office to NS Junior High
- Grades 9-12 at CNS
- NSEEP to Jerome Melvin Admin Building
- Main Street building closes

Demographic, Facility and Grade Level Study

Ross Haber and Associates, LLC

February 2024

OPTION 4

- Six K-5 Elementary Schools
- Two 6-8 Middle Schools (Gillette, Roxboro Road MS)
- Two 9-12 High Schools (NS Junior High, CNS)

(Middle and High Schools would share same attendance zones using east/west distribution. Roxboro feeds HS West, Gillette feeds HS East. For interscholastic activities, act as one school. Each HS could be themed.)

- District Office to NS Junior High
- NSEEP to Jerome Melvin Admin Building
- Main Street building closes

Demographic, Facility and Grade Level Study

February 2024

- Pros & Cons to each
- All options -> Main Street Building closes. NSEEP moves to Melvin Administrative Building.
- Will include in further committee discussions
- NOT limiting committee work to these options

Meeting Takeaways

- ★ North Syracuse CSD is growing increasingly more diverse across the district as a whole. There are some buildings that have higher levels of poverty, non-white students, and students with other needs (homeless, ELLs) than others.
- ★ North Syracuse CSD is performing near or below statewide averages in almost all measurable academic program categories.
 - Achievement gaps are most noticeable at Roxboro Elementary and Roxboro Middle Schools.
- ★ Students are still recovering from the academic impact of COVID and remote schooling. Changing norms around technology use also have an impact on students' academic achievement.
- ★ Chronic absenteeism is an indicator to keep an eye on. While not *all* chronically absent students struggle, many do.
- ★ Prekindergarten has an important role in the NSCSD and uses a lot of space.
- ★ The previous study completed by Ross Haber and Associates provides a “discussion starter” for our committee’s work.

Utilization Study

