



Superintendent Update September 10, 2026



Vision

What we intend to create

Inspire dreams,

build integrity,

instill hope

*in our students, our staff, our families
and our communities.*



Mission

Purpose of our work

***Partner** with students, families and communities*

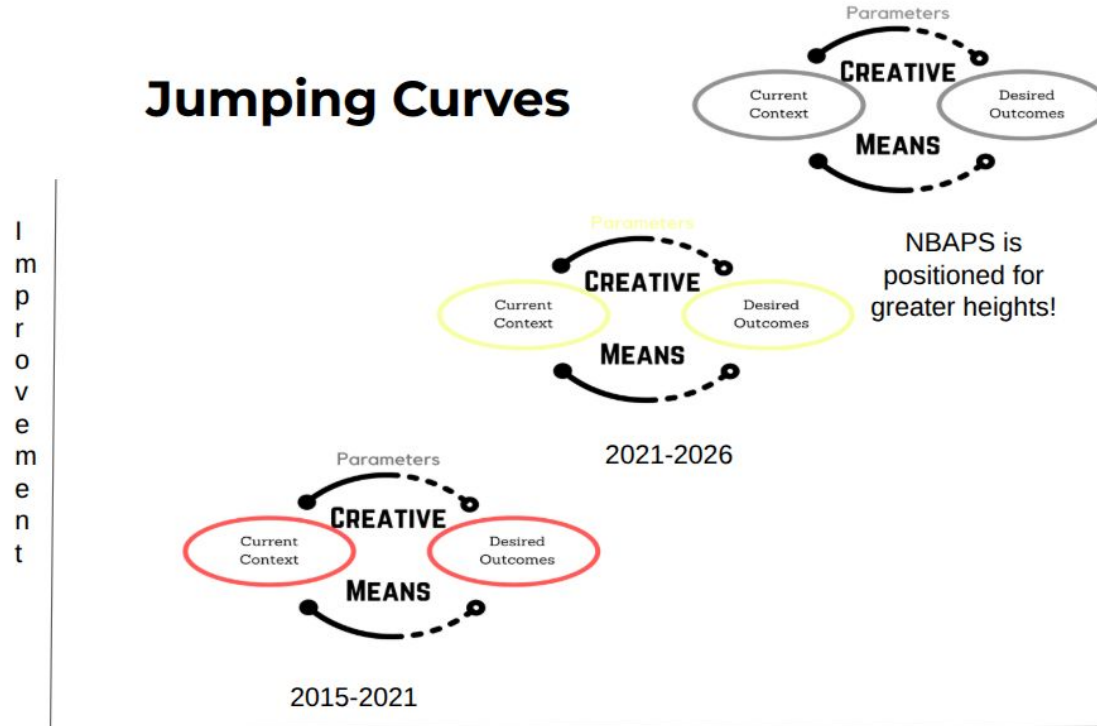
*to challenge all students to achieve their **greatest potential***

and become informed and engaged citizens.

Progress by Design



Jumping Curves



STRATEGIC PRIORITY ONE: Prepare all learners for success in school and in life by committing to the success of every student



Strong Start to the School Year

- Welcome Days, orientations, and the first days of school helped students and families build strong relationships, routines, and confidence.
- Across our schools, staff are focused on creating a positive start grounded in belonging, engagement, and high expectations.
- At the high school, staff are focused on attendance, engagement, high expectations, and helping students stay curious as they explore opportunities and make intentional choices about their learning and future.
- Site presentations will be featured at the September 24 and October 22 Board Work Sessions.



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Workforce Development Month

- **Every Viking Story is unique:** Students are discovering different opportunities, interests, and pathways as they shape what comes next.
- **Chamber of Commerce Meeting:** Opportunity to share Tori's Viking Story and highlight how students are connecting learning with their future.
- **Economic Development Authority Meeting:** Three additional Viking Stories will showcase students exploring work-based learning, skilled trades, college courses, and career pathways.
- **National Stage:** September 20–21, I will share North Branch's workforce development ecosystem at the AASA Superintendent Symposium in Washington, D.C.

***STRATEGIC PRIORITY TWO: Ensure mutual accountability
for measurable progress toward shared goals***



Safe Routes to School

- Continued focus on dismissal traffic patterns, particularly parent pick-up congestion and its impact on the bus corral.
- Annette Fairbanks, Taylor Swanson, and Erica Bjerketvedt are partnering to identify both immediate improvements and longer-term solutions.
- Conversations with City leaders are exploring an opportunity to extend Maple Street to Hemingway, requiring coordination among NBAPS, the nearby housing development, and the City.
- This could allow NBAPS to make complementary parking lot and traffic-flow improvements to create safer, more efficient transportation for next fall.
- The work reflects the importance of City–School District partnership as our community grows and we plan together for infrastructure, transportation, and student safety.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY THREE: Mobilize community engagement

Civic Partnerships: I continue to represent NBAPS in community conversations and advocate for the important role NBAPS plays in the future of North Branch. This week, I provided input into the City's Comprehensive Plan, encouraging a shift from responding to growth toward anticipating and preparing for opportunity. My recommendations emphasized maintaining development-ready infrastructure, strengthening partnerships, and proactively building the workforce capacity needed to attract and support future investment.

I also recommended strengthening the Plan's connection between education and economic development by explicitly identifying NBAPS, employers, postsecondary institutions, and workforce organizations as partners in building the Viking Bridge from education to employment. Additional recommendations included addressing barriers such as transportation, childcare, and access to education and training. Our goal is to ensure students and residents have meaningful career and education choices shaped by opportunity and civic partnership, while positioning North Branch to be ready for opportunities that may not yet be visible today.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY FOUR: Commit resources to district priorities



Enrollment Growth Continues

- We are starting the 2026–27 school year with **2,677 students**
 - **26 above projection**
 - **62 more than last year.**
- Even more encouraging, our existing grade-level cohorts grew by a **net 72 students** as they moved from one grade to the next.
- Growth is occurring **across multiple grade levels**, with only one cohort showing a slight decline.
- Overall, this is a **positive enrollment picture** and an encouraging sign of continued stabilization and growth.

