

Lower Township Elementary School District

Superintendent's Report

September

24

2025



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Back to School

First Week



Memorial



Mitnick



Maud Abrams



Sandman

Back to School Night

Parent/Guardian Participation Percentage

Mitnick - 64%

Maud Abrams - 80%

Sandman - 70%

02

October In-Service

Friday, October 10, 2025

PreK

- *Social Emotional Lessons*: Presented by Jessica Bryan & Jennifer Boyle
- *Occupational Therapy (OT) Activities for the Classroom*: Presented by Kelsey Wilson
- *Social Emotional Learning (SEL): Challenging Behaviors*: Presented by Christian Bellisimo

Friday, October 10, 2025

The vast majority of K–6 staff will participate in a full-day county-wide district in-service at Cape May County Special Services. Sessions are designed to strengthen instructional practices, collaboration, and student support across grade levels. Teachers and specialists will engage in workshops focused on:

- *Integrating AI into lesson design to increase efficiency and student engagement.*
- *Effective co-teaching strategies with dedicated time for collaborative lesson planning.*
- *Specialized professional development for nurses, CST, guidance, speech, and special area staff, including DOE updates, assistive technology, and subject-specific applications of AI.*

03

NJSLA (Adaptive)

What is It?

The New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA) have been updated for the 2025–2026 school year. The most significant change is that the assessment is now computer-adaptive, meaning the test automatically adjusts the difficulty of questions based on student responses. This adaptive design allows for a more accurate measure of student performance in Language Arts & Mathematics while minimizing time spent on items that are too easy or too difficult.

Why in the Fall?

The New Jersey Department of Education requires all districts to administer a fall field test this year to ensure the adaptive platform functions effectively and provides reliable results.

When is it & Who?

October 27–30, 2025

Grades 3 – 6

04

100 Day Plan Update

31 – 60 Days

Initial Assessment

- **Student Achievement & Instruction**
- **Staffing & Professional Development**
 - **Buildings & Grounds**
- **Family & Community Engagement**
 - **Finance & Resources**

Next Steps:

Gather additional input from staff, families, and community stakeholders through surveys and conversation.

Analyze student performance data in greater depth (state assessments, benchmarks, local measures).

Collaborating with department heads and supervisors to improve areas identified needing improvement.

Developed specific, measurable Board and District Goals aligned to identified needs.

Communication

- All calls using Finalsite
- Quarterly Sandman Consolidated News Network (SCNN) broadcasts
 - Community event attendance
- Superintendent Reports posted on district website
 - Facebook
- “Town Hall” podcasts beginning November 2025

Administration Evaluation

- › Evaluation through observation
- › Developing formal district administrator evaluation processes
- › Attending conferences, workshops and trainings addressing district administrator evaluation & professional growth

05

Connecting with the Community

Connecting with the Community

Cape May County Superintendent Roundtable
August 25, 2025

Met with Mayor Sippel
August 26, 2025

Lower Township Educational Foundation Meeting
September 4, 2025

Met with Lower Township Education Association
September 8, 2025

Lower Township Healthy Youth Coalition Meeting
September 17, 2025

Met with Lower Township Recreation Director, Mitch Plenn
September 19, 2025

Thank You!

PLEASE CONNECT WITH US:

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Van Cathcart

**Superintendent
Lower Township Elementary School District**

