

2024-2025

ANNUAL SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT REPORT

DORSET COLLEGIATE



School's Vision: Dorset Collegiate will provide a positive, supportive, educational atmosphere where each student will experience success. Students will be independent, take responsibility for their learning, and exercise positive leadership. Teachers will facilitate, monitor, and evaluate learning processes and outcomes. A team approach will provide for the participation of all partners.

School's Mission: Dorset Collegiate is dedicated to meeting the educational needs of all students for lifelong learning by fostering a positive, mutually-respectful environment and by utilizing all available resources and talents.

Strategic Issue: A focus on enhancing school climate to provide more opportunities for students to become more engaged in both their learning and school life.

How did you know this was a Strategic Issue/Objective? What evidence did you have?

Evidence used to identify strategic issue:

This strategic issue was identified after a detailed analysis of school development survey data, staff observations, in-house school climate student survey results, and school achievement data during the development of Dorset Collegiate's 2024-2025 School Development Action Plan. Internal and external data were thoroughly reviewed and teachers met to collate and analyze the data.

School Development Student Survey Results (2023-2024)

In the following sections, student responses to questions were predominantly negative.

- School Belonging 17.6% Responded positively
- School Climate 15.1% Responded positively
- School Engagement 12.8% Responded positively

In-house School Climate Student Survey

What is something that we can do to improve your experience at school?

"Bring back clubs"

"More hands-on activities"

"Increasing the amount of Spirit Activities/Events"

"Fix the CDLI Room"

"More places to chill"

"Make it a home-like place"

What is something your staff does that make you feel connected to them?

"Have a conversation"

"Get to know their students more personally"

What are some things that happen in your classroom that help you to enjoy learning?

“Nice environment”

“Doing hands-on projects and assignments”

Year end Summary of Progress. What evidence do you have to support this progress?

Progress

This year, we made some solid progress in our efforts to improve school climate and student engagement. We focused on creating a more inclusive, welcoming, and enriching experience for students. That included things like more community involvement through school-hosted meals, special events, and volunteer opportunities, as well as developing new student spaces like the lounge and outdoor areas. While we didn’t quite get the digital signage off the ground due to some time and tech constraints, we’ve put the pieces in place to make that happen next year. On the instructional side, we’ve seen more hands-on and varied learning happening through Thinking Classrooms, extra supports in class, and some really creative, project-based work across different subjects.

Impact

All of these efforts have made a noticeable difference. Students seem more connected to school life—whether that’s through community events, learning experiences that are more hands-on, or just having spaces where they feel comfortable and included. The changes we made in the classroom have given students more ways to engage with the material in ways that suit them, and that’s showing up in their motivation and their ownership of learning. We’ve also seen stronger connections forming between students, staff, and the wider community, which is helping build a more positive and supportive school culture overall.

Evidence

We’ve seen this progress show up in lots of different ways:

- **Student Engagement & Learning:**

Students have been showing up and getting involved—in events, in the classroom, and in how they’re approaching their work. Focus groups and teacher check-ins tell us that students are enjoying more project-based learning and feeling more

motivated overall.

- **Instructional Practices:**

- *English classes* incorporated technology like Minecraft Education and movie-making software, and offered choice in how students show their learning—through podcasts, portfolios, and presentations.
- *Math classes* leaned into Thinking Classrooms to encourage collaboration and critical thinking.
- *Technology classes* were hands-on with 3D printers, green screens, and digital platforms.
- *Phys. Ed.* gave students more say in what they do and made great use of outdoor spaces.
- *Our IRT team* focused on wellness and relationship-building and emphasized organization (IEPs), communication (families), support (assessments), and flexibility (alternate programming).
- *Social Studies* connected Junior High students with local history and culture, and Senior High focused on critical thinking and real-world learning, including a student vote.

- **School Development Student Survey Results about Learning (2024–2025):**

- Grit: 45.7% (+16.6%)
- Learning Strategies: 28.7% (+0.8%)
- Rigorous Expectations: 52.1% (+6.7%)
- Self-Efficacy: 27.7% (+9.1%)

- **Student Spaces:**

The new spaces we created are being used consistently and respectfully. Students are taking care of the building, and damage to school property has been almost nonexistent—another great sign that they value what we’ve created for them.

- **Community Involvement:**

This was our best year yet for volunteers, and it hasn’t gone unnoticed. Both staff and students have commented on how positive that’s been for our school culture. Sharing successes online has also helped shift public perception—people are taking note of the great things happening at Dorset Collegiate.

- **Behavior & Culture:**

Teachers have noticed stronger student interactions, and our Review 360 data shows that monthly discipline incidents have gone down since the start of the year.

- **Other School Development Survey Results (2024–2025):**

- *Staff:* 63.6% responded positively in school climate—up 49.3% from last year.
- *Families:* 64.7% responded positively in school climate—up 25.4%.
- *Students:* Noted increases in Teacher-Student Connections (+5.6%) and Safety (+16.6%).

- **Some Mixed Results:**

One thing to note—despite all this, we did see a drop in student survey responses around School Climate (-8.7%) and School Belonging (-5.9%). That doesn’t quite line up with the informal feedback we’ve gotten or what we’re seeing day-to-day. We’re cautiously optimistic that those numbers were impacted by some outside factors, because everything else we’re seeing points to a school environment that’s more positive, inclusive, and responsive to student needs.

Next Steps:

The following actions have been identified to help us accomplish our goal of enhancing school climate to provide more opportunities for students to become more engaged in both their learning and school life:

- Staff (including our Leadership Team) will continue to gather evidence related to student learning and teacher practice.
- There will be continued time and investment into utilizing the equipment in our MakerSpace area and our technology in each of our instructional spaces, and optimize our digital signage to showcase deep learning, projects-based classroom work.
- Staff will look for additional ways to have our Life Skills cohort and a revamped student council give back to the school and community. (cooking, supper club, coffee club)
- Staff will collaborate more regarding instructional practice and assessment.
- Staff will more regularly share new initiatives and best practices, such as during our Professional Learning Days and during regular staff meetings.
- Staff will continue to work with IRTs to create and update Class Learning Profiles (Targeted supports) to ensure that all students are receiving appropriate support and that all staff are knowledgeable about the needs of our students.
- Staff will network with other teachers/schools/PLC groups to exchange ideas for application based practices.
- Staff will continue to pursue the implementation of community-led clubs for students.
- Staff will continue to explore the benefits of using educational athletics to create a positive school climate and call on the leadership opportunities for our students.

We hope to continue to examine, collate, and analyze any new available data (ex. staff observations, school development surveys, student focus groups, and school achievement data) to help us continue to use evidence based decision-making to further enhance our school climate and provide more opportunities for students to become more engaged in both their learning and school life.