

36. Authorization to Make Payments to Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools - Accreditation (\$340,000)

Action Item - 36

Title: Authorization to Make Payments to Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools - Accreditation (\$340,000)

Board of Education Meeting Date: 6/26/2025

Action Under Consideration:

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education authorize The School District of Philadelphia, through the Superintendent or his designee, to execute and perform a contract, subject to funding, as follows:

With:

Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools

Purpose:

Payment of annual membership dues and fees

Start date: 7/1/2025

End Date: 6/30/2029

Compensation not to exceed:

\$340,000

Location:

Academy at Palumbo; Arts Academy at Rush; Bartram High School; Benjamin Franklin High School; Bodine High School; Building 21; Central High School; Constitution High School; Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) High School; Crossroads Accelerated Academy; Crossroads at Hunting Park; Dobbins Career and Technical Education High School; Edison High School; Fels High School; Frankford High School; Franklin Learning Center (FLC); Furness High School; Girard Academic Music Program (GAMP); High School of Engineering and Science - Carver; High School of The Future; Hill-Freedman World Academy; Kensington Health Sciences Academy; Kensington High School; Kensington High School for Creative and Performing Arts (Kensington CAPA); Martin Luther King High School; Lankenau High School; Lincoln High School; Mastbaum Area Vocational Technical High School; Masterman High School; Motivation High School; Northeast High School; Overbrook High School; Parkway Center City Middle College High School; Parkway Northwest High School; Parkway West High School; Penn Treaty High School; Pennypack House School; Philadelphia High Schools for Girls; Philadelphia Military Academy; Philadelphia Juvenile Justice Services Center; Philadelphia Learning Academy North, Philadelphia Learning Academy West, Philadelphia Virtual Academy; Randolph High School; Robeson High School for Human Services; Roxborough High School; Saul High School; Sayre High School; Science Leadership Academy; Science Leadership

Academy at Beeber; Strawberry Mansion High School; South Philadelphia High School; Swenson Arts and Technology High School; The Linc; The U School; The Workshop School, Vaux High School Big Picture; George Washington High School; West Philadelphia High School; Widener Memorial School

The school list is subject to change contingent on school and principal readiness.

Renewal Option:

N/A

Description:

Why is this contract needed?

The Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools (Middle States) is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a worldwide leader in accreditation and school improvement. For over 125 years, Middle States has helped school leaders establish and reach their goals, develop strategic plans, promote staff development, and advance student achievement. With more than 2,900 accredited schools and school systems in 34 states and nearly 100 countries, Middle States supports our schools with improving education for the 21st-century learner.

The payment of annual membership dues and fees is a requirement of all schools that are accredited and candidate status for the Middle States Association.

How will the success of this contract be measured?

Success is measured by schools maintaining their accreditation status with Middle States and the annual completion of their Middle States Plan for Growth and Improvement progress monitoring tool.

If this is the continuation of a contract, how has success been measured in the past, and what specific information do we have to show that it was successful?

The specific information to demonstrate success is the completion of the accreditation high school 3rd-year report to the Middle States Association maintaining “good standing” as an accreditation high school and each school's completed Middle States Plan for Growth and Improvement progress monitoring tool.

When applicable, is this an evidence-based strategy? If so, what evidence exists to support this approach?

Research shows accreditation helps schools to meet certain standards regarding safety, resources, and infrastructure. The accreditation process requires schools to engage in a rigorous self study using qualitative and quantitative data to identify areas in need of improvement and root causes of performance gaps. This information is then used to create a holistic action plan that promotes college and career readiness, welcoming and supportive schools, enriching and well rounded

school experiences, and partnership with families. These key components are explicitly cited in the Goals and Guardrails.

When applicable, was a larger community of District community members and/or stakeholders involved in this selection process? If so, what groups and how?

The Middle States District Planning Team supports the accredited schools with high school grade levels. The Middle States District Planning Team meets throughout the school year to identify strategic areas of supports for schools to maintain successful accreditation status.

Which Goal and/or Guardrail does this Action Item support?

Has this investment been discussed during a progress monitoring session?

Which session?

High School College & Career: Every student graduates ready for college and careers.

Goal 4a, 4b, 4c Leading Indicators 4.1, 4.2

Goal 5 Leading Indicators 5.1, 5.2

Guardrail 1, Indicators 1.1, 1.2

Guardrail 2, Indicators 2.1, 2.2

Guardrail 3, Indicators 3.1, 3.2

Guardrail 4, Indicators 4.1 (a, b, c)

Does this Action Item support a specific strategy/intervention identified in the Strategic Plan?

1.7 Identify, audit, and improve school climate programs.

2.8 Create a database of all District partnerships, their alignment to the strategic plan, and impact.

3.13 Expand 9th Grade On-Track (Success Networks) to reduce dropouts and increase four year graduation rates

4.1 Establish instructional leadership teams (Principal, Assistant Principal, Climate Manager, Literacy and Math School-Based Teacher Leaders, and Special Education Compliance Monitor) at every school and provide them with training and resources.

Related resolution(s)/action item(s)

April 25, 2024; No. 28

June 29, 2023; No. 93

October 20, 2022; No. 12

August 19, 2021; No. 31

August 20, 2020; No. 23

September 9, 2019; No. 31

December 13, 2018; No. 37

September 14, 2017; B-12

Funding Source(s)

FY25-26 Operating

FY26-27 Operating
FY27-28 Operating
FY28-29 Operating

Office Originating Request:
School Performance

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Funding Source(s)

FY25-26 Operating

FY26-27 Operating
FY27-28 Operating
FY28-29 Operating

Office Originating Request:
School Performance

41 WSA Surveys 42 Self-Study Standards 43 Plan for Growth and

83 Plan for Continuous Improvement

While each standard requires are required to address criteria for effective planning for improving student performance and the school's capacity to produce the desired performance.

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District Contact Information for Middle States Accreditation

Office of Academic Services
Office of Postsecondary Readiness

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Director of Special Projects
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Middle States Accreditation

1. Mission, Vision, and Core Values
2. Governance and Management
3. Academic Quality
4. Student Learning and Development
5. Financial Resources
6. Institutional Effectiveness

The Middle States Association Commission on Secondary and Elementary Schools provides the standards and criteria for accreditation of the middle school and elementary schools. The standards are designed to ensure that schools are providing a high quality education for all students. The standards are based on the following principles: 1. All students should have access to a high quality education. 2. All students should be prepared for college and career. 3. All students should be prepared for citizenship. 4. All students should be prepared for life. The standards are based on the following principles: 1. All students should have access to a high quality education. 2. All students should be prepared for college and career. 3. All students should be prepared for citizenship. 4. All students should be prepared for life.

★ Goals & Standards Alignment ★

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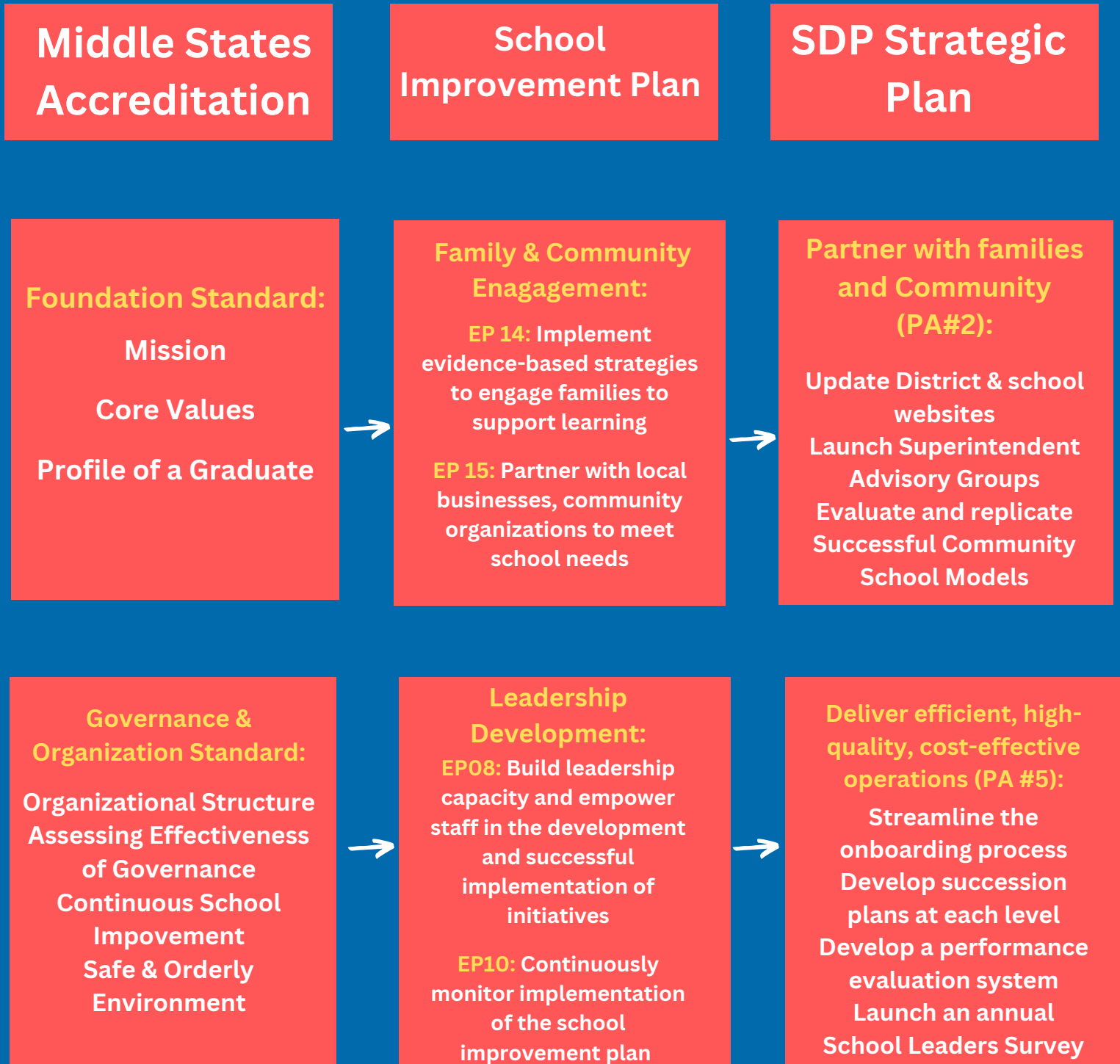
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Middle States Accreditation & The School District of Philadelphia Alignment

The District's strategic plan, individual school improvement plans, and the Middle States Accreditation process prioritize student and staff safety, establish deep partnerships with the community, and focus resources on proven, research-based strategies to improve student achievement. This document identifies how each plan's primary components are aligned and complementary in its execution of these shared goals.



Schools assess themselves based on key concepts with specific indicators for achieving each MSA Standard. The MSA Standards, Key Concepts, and Indicators directly align with the District's *Accelerate Philly* Strategic Plan and each school's School Improvement Plan.



*PA: Priority Area
*EP: Essential Practice

**Student Well-Being
Standard:**

Safe & Secure
Environment
Health & Wellness
Student Activities &
Experiences
School Climate



Climate:

EP11: Promote and
sustain a positive
school environment

EP12: Implement an
evidence-based system
of school-wide positive
behavior interventions
and supports



**Improve Safety &
Well-being (PA #1):**

Establish a facilities master
plan
Improve management of
environmental conditions
Replace analog security
cameras
Expand the Safe Path
Program
Identify, audit, and improve
school climate programs

Resources Standard:

Finances
Facilities
Technology
Transportation
Food Service



**Leadership
Development:**

EP09: Organize
programmatic,
human, and fiscal
capital resources
aligned with the
school improvement
plan and needs of the
school community



**Deliver efficient, high-
quality, cost-effective
operations (PA #5):**

Extend the operating
budget development
timeline
Provide the staffing,
resources, and training to
meet school cleanliness
standards

**Teaching & Learning
Standard:**

Educational Programs
Variety of Instructional
Methods
Assessment
Support Services
Professional
Development



Instruction:

EP01: Align curriculum,
assessments, and
instruction to the PA
Standards

EP02: Use systemic,
collaborative planning
processes to ensure
instruction is coordinated,
aligned, and evidence-
based



**Accelerate Academic
Achievement (PA #3):**

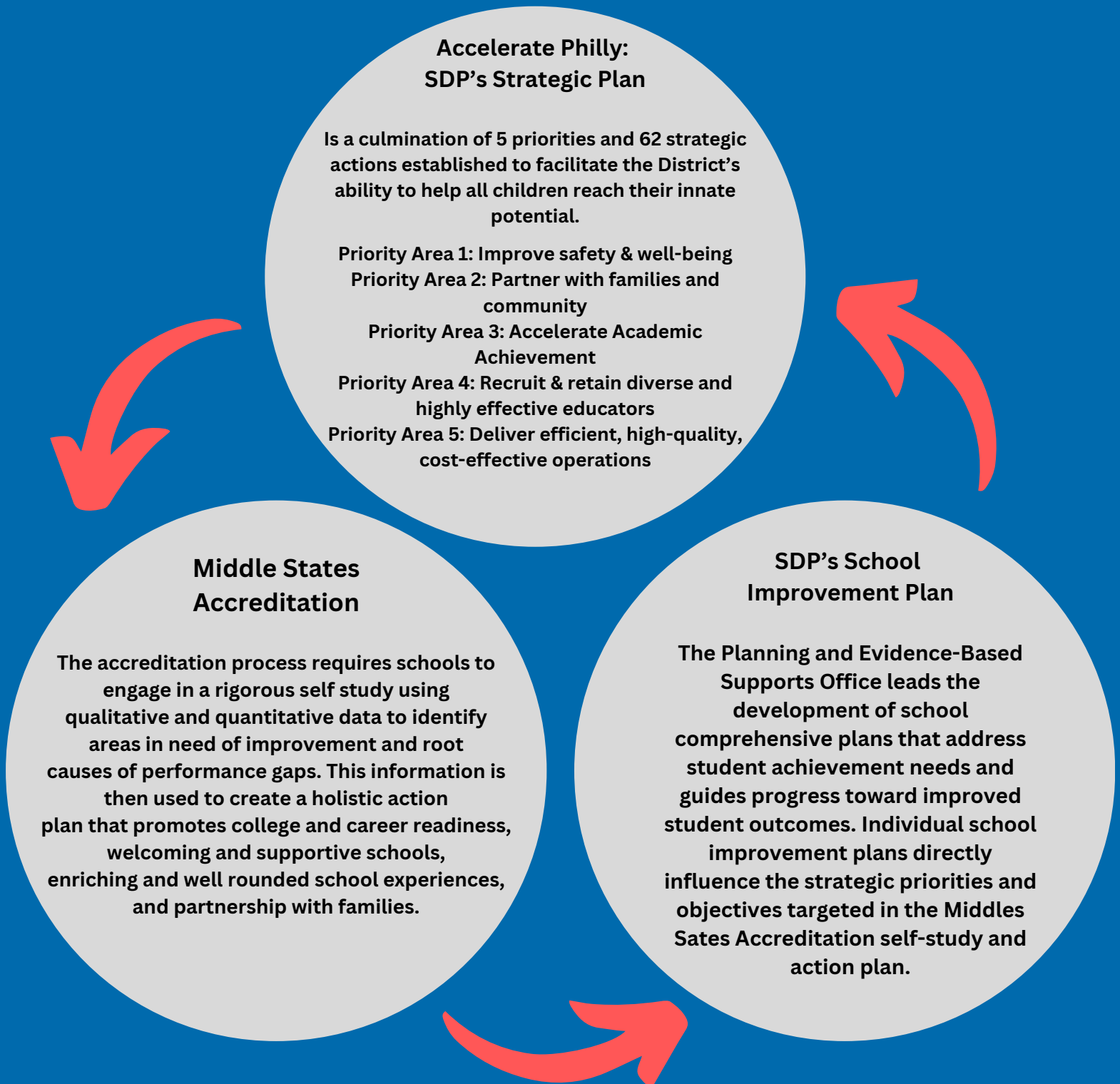
Inventory and improve
access to high quality Pre-
K programs
Purchase and implement
standards aligned core
instructional resources for
math, English, and science
Audit & Improve
compliance with IEPs

For further information
please contact:

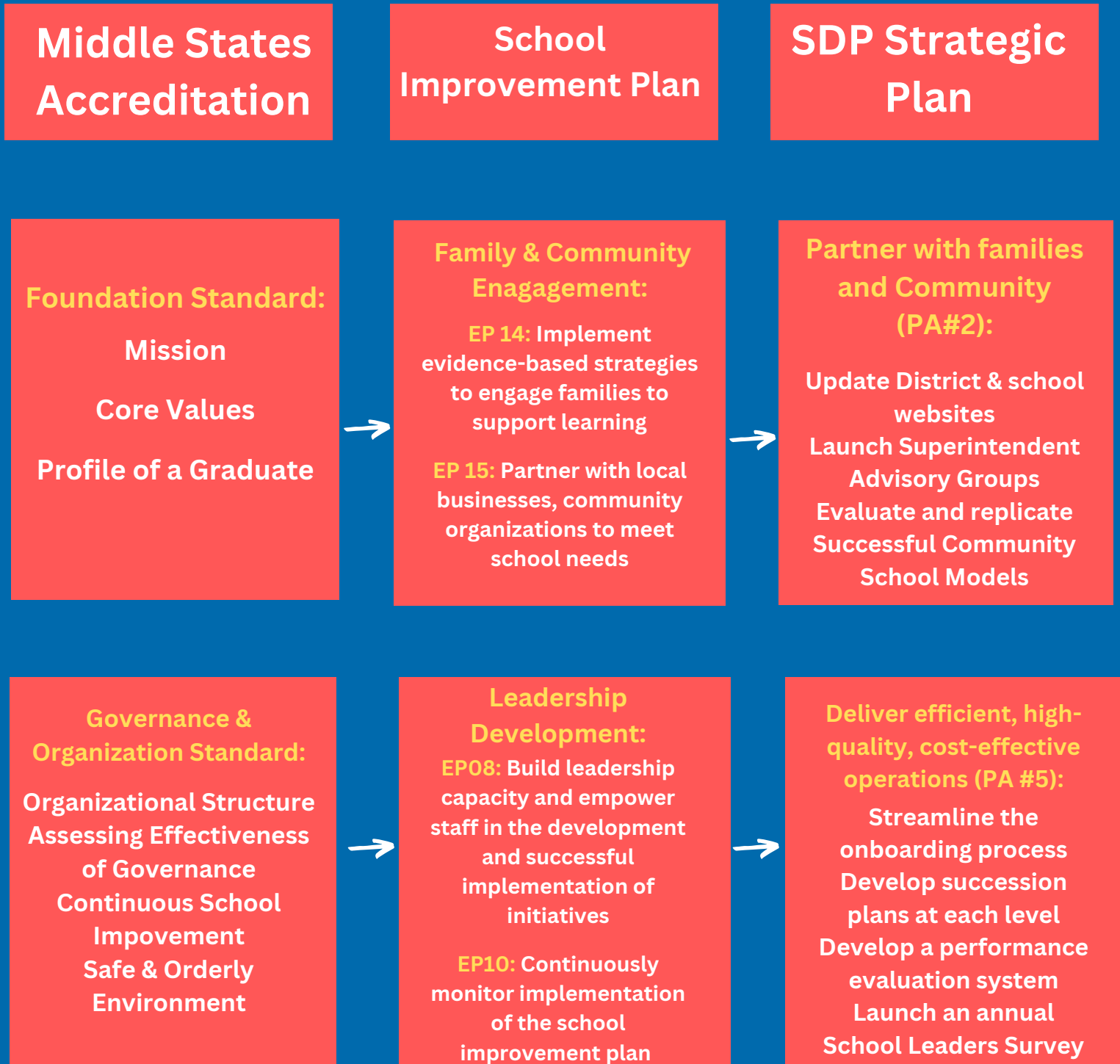
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**Student Well-Being
Standard:**

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Health & Wellness
Student Activities &
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School Climate



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EP11: Promote and
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school environment

EP12: Implement an
evidence-based system
of school-wide positive
behavior interventions
and supports



**Improve Safety &
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Establish a facilities master
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Improve management of
environmental conditions
Replace analog security
cameras
Expand the Safe Path
Program
Identify, audit, and improve
school climate programs

Resources Standard:

Finances
Facilities
Technology
Transportation
Food Service



**Leadership
Development:**

EP09: Organize
programmatic,
human, and fiscal
capital resources
aligned with the
school improvement
plan and needs of the
school community



**Deliver efficient, high-
quality, cost-effective
operations (PA #5):**

Extend the operating
budget development
timeline
Provide the staffing,
resources, and training to
meet school cleanliness
standards

**Teaching & Learning
Standard:**

Educational Programs
Variety of Instructional
Methods
Assessment
Support Services
Professional
Development



Instruction:

EP01: Align curriculum,
assessments, and
instruction to the PA
Standards

EP02: Use systemic,
collaborative planning
processes to ensure
instruction is coordinated,
aligned, and evidence-
based



**Accelerate Academic
Achievement (PA #3):**

Inventory and improve
access to high quality Pre-
K programs
Purchase and implement
standards aligned core
instructional resources for
math, English, and science
Audit & Improve
compliance with IEPs

For further information
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