PENN CAMBRIA SD

201 6th St

Comprehensive Plan | 2023 - 2026

Updated August 2023

Steering Committee

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LEA Profile

Penn Cambria School District serves a rural area encompassing 108 square miles along the ridges of east central Cambria County. The district is conveniently located 15 miles west of Altoona, with immediate access to the Route 22, 219 and I-99 corridors. The resident population of 15,228 reside within our 13 municipalities and boroughs, and nine unincorporated villages (Source: NCES – March 2022). 41% of students qualify for free or reduced-price meals through the school lunch program and March 2022 NCES data shows 12.2% of families in the district live below the federal poverty level.

Penn Cambria School District is part of the Southern Alleghenies workforce investment area. Cambria County currently has a 6.3% unemployment rate (Source: PA Workforce Statistics December 2021).

Community resources within the district boundaries include limited public transportation provided by CamTran of Cambria County. Faith-based organizations such as the Dorothy Day Center and St. Vincent DePaul Society provide assistance for families in need. There are also general practice physicians, day care and pre-school providers, three public libraries, a senior center, and volunteer fire services.

Current student enrollment is 1585, and enrollment is projected to decline slightly in the future. The district employs 146 professional staff, inclusive of instructional specialists, administrators, and itinerant staff. Approximately 56% of teachers have earned Master's Degrees. Our five buildings are organized into a Pre-Primary School for our Pre-K and Kindergarten programs, a Primary School for grades 1 and 2, an Intermediate School for grades 3 and 4, a Middle School for grades 5 through 8, and a High School for grades 9 through 12. Each building contains a library media center as well as the technology infrastructure and computer facilities to supplement the curriculum, instruction, and assessment needs of faculty and students.

The Penn Cambria School District has a cohort graduation rate of 91.7% (Source: 2022 Future Ready PA Index).

Our high school students are encouraged to challenge themselves with weighted honors level classes and 12 Dual Enrollment classes throughout the high school experience. The industrious student can graduate with 18 or more college credits on their transcript. 36% of our students attend half-day programming at Admiral Peary Area Vocational-Technical School where they can take advantage of opportunities to prepare for industry certification in technical and/or trade skills leading to

employment or further education through trade school after graduation. All students are strongly encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities through athletics, the arts, and community service groups throughout their High School careers.

Opportunities for higher education abound. Located within the boundaries of the school district are Mt. Aloysius College and St. Francis University. In addition, within one-hour travel time are Penn Highlands Community College, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, and Penn State University.

Mission and Vision

Mission

The Penn Cambria School District will prepare productive citizens in a safe and positive environment that promotes excellence in academics, career skills, the arts and athletics.

Vision

Penn Cambria School District shall deliver a high quality education so that our students may be prepared to meet the challenges of the future.

Educational Value Statements

Students

The Penn Cambria School District collectively values: * The principle that all students can learn in a healthy and safe environment. * A commitment to honesty, integrity, respect, and diversity. * Accountability for all. * A continuous learning ethic.

Staff

The Penn Cambria School District collectively values: * Effective teaching of a rigorous and relevant curriculum. * Professional development. * Accountability for all. * A continuous learning ethic.

Administration

The Penn Cambria School District collectively values: * Quality leadership that will foster a culture of teaching and learning. * Artful use of infrastructure that requires the strategic alignment and utilization of faculty, staff, facilities, time, technology, and fiscal resources. * Accountability for all. * A continuous learning ethic.

Parents

The Penn Cambria School District collectively values: * The educational support of family and community. * Accountability for all. * A continuous learning ethic.

Community

The Penn Cambria School District collectively values: * The educational support of family and community. * Accountability for all. * A continuous learning ethic.

Other (Optional)

The Penn Cambria School District collectively values: * The use of technology to enhance teaching and learning.

Goal Setting

Priority: If we provide a safe and supportive school environment, student attendance and engagement will be positively impacted which will result in increased student learning.

Outcome Category	Measurable Goal Statement	Measurable Goal Nickname		Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3							
School climate and culture	Penn Cambria School District will provide a safe and supportive school environment as measured by improvements in school safety data and PA School Climate survey results with a goal of all neutral/favorable scores as measured by the PA School Climate Survey and a decrease in safety related incidents in our school buildings.		Safe and Supportive Schools	Improvements in at least one domain score for both staff and students on the PA School Climate survey.	No unfavorable climate condition areas noted in the PA School Climate survey and improvements noted in school safety data.	Penn Cambria School District will provide a safe and supportive school environment as measured by improvements in school safety data and PA School Climate survey results with a goal of all neutral/favorable scores as measured by the PA School Climate Survey and a decrease in safety related incidents in our school buildings.							
Regular Attendance	Penn Cambria School District will promote regular attendance (attending at least 90% of school days each year) with a goal of 94% of students regularly attending each year.		attendance (attending at least 90% of school days each year) with a goal of 94% of students regularly		attendance (attending at least 90% of school day each year) with a goal of 94% of students regula		r) with a goal of 94% of students regularly students with regular attendance by 10%. students with regular attendance by 15%.		students with regular	Penn Cambria School District will promote regular attendance (attending at least 90% of school days each year) with a goal of 949 of students regularly attending each year.			
	attending each year.			Priority: If we continue to refine our classroom instructional practices and our use of systematic interventions, then our overall student achievement will increase.									
		m instruction	nal practices and our	use of systematic interve	entions, then our ove	rall student achievement will							
			nal practices and our e Goal Nickname	use of systematic interve Target Year 1	entions, then our ove Target Year 2	rall student achievement will Target Year 3							

productive citizens.	productive citizens.										
Outcome Category	Measurable Measurable Goal Statement Goal Nickname		Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Target Year 3						
Rigorous Courses of Study Section	Penn Cambria School District will review and update written curriculum as needed to ensure students are participating in a rigorous and relevant curriculum across all classrooms.	Written Curriculum	Revise science curriculum K-12	Review and updated other core subject curriculum areas as needed	Penn Cambria School District will review and update written curriculum as needed to ensure students are participating in a rigorous and relevant curriculum across all classrooms.						

Action Plan

Action Plan for: Safe and Supportive Schools										
Measurable Goals			Antici	pated Output	Monitoring/Evaluation (People, Frequency, and Method)					
Safe and Supportive Schools				schedules - threat assessment docu safety improvements - mental healt		Annual Safe Schools r School Climate Surve		ent reports- PA		
Action Step	Anticipated Start Date	Anticip Compl Date		Lead Person/Position	Material/Resource Needed	ces/Supports	PD Step?	Com Step?		
Improve physical safety measures in buildings by first completing an updated building assessment and then taking steps to improve physical safety as noted.	03/20/2023	06/30/2	026	Superintendent/Safety Coordinator	Updated physical safety assessments for each building		No	No		
Ongoing implementation of the Threat Assessment process, including required CSTAG training for team members and general awareness training for all staff.	07/03/2023	06/30/2	026	Superintendent/Safety Coordinator	CSTAG training for team members and Vector + in-person training for others 55 content)		Yes	No		
Face-to-Face annual training for school staff focused on emergency training drills, and the emergency operations plan (Act 55)	07/03/2023	06/30/2	026	Superintendent/Safety Coordinator Building Principals lead trainers	Building Principals guidelines		Yes	No		
A minimum of two hours of annual training for school staff focused on school safety and security topics such as: situational awareness, trauma-informed approaches, behavioral health awareness, suicide and bullying prevention and substance use awareness (Act 55)	07/03/2023	06/30/2	026	Assistant to the Superintendent	Act 55 training materials - Vector training subscription - time allocated for staff completion		Yes			
Provide social and emotional learning for students through Second Step (K-8) and programs such as Start with Hello in grades 9-12.	07/03/2023	06/30/2	026	Assistant to the Superintendent and Building Principals	Second Step material based SEL program) - materials	•	No	No		
Provide mental health supports and services (Tier 2/3) for student in need	07/03/2023	06/30/2	026	Assistant to the Superintendent and established SAP teams	School-based counsel health service suppor	-	No	No		

either within schools or through outside			
referrals.			

Action Plan for: Reduce Chronic Absence										
Measurable Goals			Anticip	ated Output		Monitoring/Eval Method)	uation (People	e, Frequency, and		
Attendance				ng artifacts - attendance data a	nalysis - training logs	Student attendance effectiveness of this		o monitor the		
Action Step	Anticipated Start Date	Anticip Comple Date		Lead Person/Position	Material/Resources/Supports Needed		PD Step?	Com Step?		
Refine communication and messaging with families regarding importance of attendance.	07/03/2023	06/30/20	026	Assistant to the Superintendent and Building Principals	00	lessaging resources from Attendance /orks and PA Evidence Center		Yes		
Use the attendance improvement process to identify barriers to regular attendance and offer supports/services to help address them as appropriate.	07/03/2023	06/30/20	026	26 Building Principals and Improvement processor School Counselors service referral info		•	No	No		
Monitor attendance data and recognize good or improved attendance.	07/03/2023	06/30/20	026	26 Building Principals Attendance data -pos good/improved atter			No	No		
Training for staff focused on best practices in engaging students and practical strategies for improving attendance.	07/03/2023	06/30/20	026	Assistant to the Superintendent	Resources from PA Ev Attendance Works	idence Center and	Yes	No		

Action Plan for: Relevant and Rigorous Curriculum											
Measurable Goals			Anticip	pated Output	ated Output Monit			Ionitoring/Evaluation (People, Frequency, and Method)			
Written Curriculum Revised written curriculum, updated graduation requirem revised career benchmark activities					duation requirements,	Written curriculum map The goal of this action pl foundation that prepare	an is to ensure student				
Action Step	Anticipated Start Date	Anticip Comple Date		Lead Person/Position	Material/Resource	s/Supports Needed	PD Step?	Com Step?			
Update science curriculum K-12 to align with new PA Integrated Science Standards and to integrate STEM concepts.	07/03/2023	07/30/20)25	Assistant to the Superintendent	PA Integrated Science Standards - Time for curriculum writing and revision		Yes	No			
Review high school course curriculum and graduation requirements to ensure students are college and career ready.	07/03/2023	07/30/20)25	Assistant to the Superintendent and High School Principal	College and career skill information obtained through collaboration with higher education and PA Workforce Development Association		No	Yes			
Review and refresh curriculum related to career standard benchmarks to ensure it is meeting current needs.	07/01/2024	06/30/20)26	Assistant to the Superintendent	Career and workforce information from variety of resources and employers		No	No			
Ongoing review and updating of established written curriculum across grade levels and content areas.	07/03/2023	06/30/20	026	Assistant to the Superintendent	PA Standards, PDE SAS r educator review, writing	,	Yes	No			

Action Plan for: Measurable Student Achievement										
Measurable Goals			Anticip	pated Output		Monitoring/Evalu Method)	ation (People, I	Frequency, and		
Student Achievement				ystone data, PVAAS data, SAT data, ben SS data, progress monitoring data, inte	Plan progress will be m (i.e. assessment and gr	0	ident learning data			
Action Step	Anticipated Start Date	Anticip Comple Date		Lead Person/Position	Material/Resources/Supports Needed		PD Step?	Com Step?		
Continuous refinement of classroom instructional practices, including ongoing professional development	07/03/2023	06/30/20	026	Building Principals and Assistant to the Superintendent	PA Evidence Center - V Clearinghouse- ASCD -		Yes	No		
Systematic academic 07/03/2023 06/30/2026 Elementary				Elementary Principal - Director of Special Education	Intervention materials progress monitoring to Math and DIBELS		No	No		

Professional Development Action Steps

Evidence-based Strategy	Action Steps
Safe and Supportive Schools	 Ongoing implementation of the Threat Assessment process, including required CSTAG training for team members and general awareness training for all staff. Face-to-Face annual training for school staff focused on emergency training drills, and the emergency operations plan (Act 55) A minimum of two hours of annual training for school staff focused on school safety and security topics such as: situational awareness, trauma-informed approaches, behavioral health awareness, suicide and bullying prevention and substance use awareness (Act 55)
Reduce Chronic Absence	Training for staff focused on best practices in engaging students and practical strategies for improving attendance.
Relevant and Rigorous Curriculum	 Update science curriculum K-12 to align with new PA Integrated Science Standards and to integrate STEM concepts. Ongoing review and updating of established written curriculum across grade levels and content areas.
Measurable Student Achievement	Continuous refinement of classroom instructional practices, including ongoing professional development

Professional Development Activities

Threat Assessment Training									
Action Step	Audience	ence Topics to be Included		ce of ng	Lead Person/Position	Anticipated Timeline Start Date		Anticipated Timeline Completion Date	
 Ongoing implementation of the Threat Assessment process, including required CSTAG training for team members and general awareness training for all staff. 	All staff	Identification or recognition of student behaviors that may indicate a threat, how to report, and role of threat assessment teams (Act 55)	and role of reports of		School Safety Coordinator - 07/03/20 Assistant to the Superintendent		23	06/30/2026	
Learning Formats									
Type of Activities	of Activities Frequency				vation and Practice Fram this Plan	ework Require		p Meets the ments of State d Trainings	
Other	Annu	al			: Demonstrating Knowledge of Showing Professionalism	Students			

Emergency Training Drills									
Action Step	Audience	Topics to be Included		Evidence of Lead Learning Person/Position		Anticipated Timeline Start Date		Anticipated Timeline Completion Date	
 Face-to-Face annual training for school staff focused on emergency training drills, and the emergency operations plan (Act 55) 	All staff	disaster, active shooter, hostage situation, and		role rticipant es	Building Principals - School Safety Coordinator	07/03/2023		06/30/2026	
Learning Formats									
Type of Activities Fre		Juency		Observation and Practice Framewo Met in this Plan		mework	This Step Meets the Requirements of State Required Trainings		
Inservice day	Annu	al		• 4f:	Showing Professionalism				

Trauma Skilled Schools								
Action Step	Audience	Topics to be Included	Evidence Learning	of	Lead Person/Position	Anticip Timelin Date		Anticipated Timeline Completion Date
 A minimum of two hours of annual training for school staff focused on school safety and security topics such as: situational awareness, trauma-informed approaches, behavioral health awareness, suicide and bullying prevention and substance use awareness (Act 55) 	All school staff	Trauma Skilled Schools model- trauma informed plan - development of resiliency factors	implementa trauma skille practices - si	ed schools	Assistant to the Superintendent and Trauma CAT team along with building principals and SAP teams	07/03/20)22	06/30/2026
Learning Formats								
Type of Activities	Frec	Frequency			tion and Practice Framewor an	Require		ep Meets the ements of State ed Trainings
F		tial training from National Dropout evention Center and follow up microcourses m IU8 + Annual building action planning and low up sessions		 1b: Demonstrating Knowledge of Studer 2b: Establishing a Culture for Learning 4e: Growing and Developing Profession 				I-hour of Trauma- Care Training for All

Suicide Awareness and Prevention									
Action Step	Audience		Topics to be Included	Evide of Learn		Lead Person/Position	Anticip Timelin Date		Anticipated Timeline Completion Date
 A minimum of two hours of annual training for school staff focused on school safety and security topics such as: situational awareness, trauma-informed approaches, behavioral health awareness, suicide and bullying prevention and substance use awareness (Act 55) 	All school st (required fo professiona in buildings grades 6-12	or I educators serving	Act 71 outlines topics to be included such as risk factors, warning signs and resources for educators and school staff	Survey	S	Assistant to the Superintendent/District Suicide Prevention Coordinator	07/03/20	023	06/30/2026
Learning Formats									
Type of Activities		Frequency		Observation and Practice Framev Met in this Plan		Require		ep Meets the ements of State ed Trainings	
Other		A minimum	of four hours every five year	s	• 1	Lb: Demonstrating Knowledge of S	Students		

Bullying Awareness and Prevention								
Action Step	Audience	Topics to be Included	Evider Learni		Lead Person/Position	Anticipated Timeline Start Date		Anticipated Timeline Completion Date
 A minimum of two hours of annual training for school staff focused on school safety and security topics such as: situational awareness, trauma-informed approaches, behavioral health awareness, suicide and bullying prevention and substance use awareness (Act 55) 	All school staff	Bullying Awareness and Prevention -local bullying policies and procedures	Surveys Respons bullying	se to	Building Principals - Assistant to the Superintendent	07/03/20	23	06/30/2026
Learning Formats						•		
Type of Activities	Freq	Juency			rvation and Practice ework Met in this Plan		Require	p Meets the ments of State d Trainings
Other	Ongo	ing			a: Creating an Environment c nd Rapport	f Respect		

Situational Awareness							
Action Step	Audience	Topics to be Included	Eviden Learnir	Lead Person/Position	Anticipa Timeline Date		Anticipated Timeline Completion Date
 A minimum of two hours of annual training for school staff focused on school safety and security topics such as: situational awareness, trauma-informed approaches, behavioral health awareness, suicide and bullying prevention and substance use awareness (Act 55) 	All staff	Situational awareness, response and connection to emergency operations plan	Surveys	School Safety Coordinator	07/03/202	23	06/30/2026
Learning Formats							
Type of Activities	Frec	Juency		 rvation and Practice ework Met in this Pl		Require	o Meets the ments of State d Trainings
Workshop(s)	Ongo	ing - Offered on rotating bas	is				

Behavioral / Mental Health Topics					 			
Action Step	Audier	nce	Topics to be Included	Evide of Learn	Lead Person/Position	Anticip Timelin Date	ated ie Start	Anticipated Timeline Completion Date
 A minimum of two hours of annual training for school staff focused on school safety and security topics such as: situational awareness, trauma-informed approaches, behavioral health awareness, suicide and bullying prevention and substance use awareness (Act 55) 	School Staff- Professional Staff		Behavioral and mental health specific topics such as depression, anxiety, strategies for self-care, responding to behavioral or mental health concerns, social-emotional learning strategies, etc.	Particiț survey:	Assistant to the Superintendent	07/03/2023		06/30/2026
Learning Formats				I				
Type of Activities		Frequ	ency		 rvation and Practice ework Met in this P		Require	p Meets the ments of State d Trainings
Workshop(s)		Ongoing		b: Demonstrating Know	ledge of			

Substance Use Awareness								
Action Step	Audience	Topics to be Included	Evidence Learning		Lead Person/Position	Anticipated Timeline Start Date		Anticipated Timeline Completion Date
 A minimum of two hours of annual training for school staff focused on school safety and security topics such as: situational awareness, trauma-informed approaches, behavioral health awareness, suicide and bullying prevention and substance use awareness (Act 55) 	Secondary school staff		Participan surveys	nt	SAP teams 07/03/20		23	06/30/2026
Learning Formats								
Type of Activities	Fre	equency			vation and Practice work Met in this Pl		Require	o Meets the ments of State d Trainings
Workshop(s)	On	going						

Engagement and Attendance								
Action Step	Audience	Topics to be Included	Eviden Learnir		Lead Person/Position	Anticipa Timelin Date		Anticipated Timeline Completion Date
 Training for staff focused on best practices in engaging students and practical strategies for improving attendance. 	Professional staff K-12	Strategies to promote school engagement and best practices related to practical strategies for educators to promote the importance of attendance	Survey - related t strategie	0	Building Principals - Assistant to the Superintendent	07/03/20	23	06/30/2026
Learning Formats								
Type of Activities	Freq	uency			ation and Practice Fram this Plan	ework	Require	o Meets the ments of State d Trainings
Workshop(s)	Two t	o three one-hour sessions		and • 2b:	Creating an Environment of R d Rapport Establishing a Culture for Lea Communicating with Families	rning		

Curriculum Writing / Revision									
Action Step	Audien	ice Topi	pics to be Included	Eviden Learni		Lead Person/Position	Anticipa Timeline Date		Anticipated Timeline Completion Date
 Update science curriculum K-12 to align with new PA Integrated Science Standards and to integrate STEM concepts. Ongoing review and updating of established written curriculum across grade levels and content areas. 	Professio Staff	alignr guara	ciples of backwards design - PA standard nment - development of viable and ranteed curriculum - content knowledge elopment -assessment	Written curriculu docume		Assistant to the Superintendent	07/03/202	23	06/30/2026
Learning Formats									
Type of Activities	F	Frequency	у			vation and Practice work Met in this Pla	n	Requirer	Meets the nents of State I Trainings
Collaborative curriculum development	C	Ongoing			Co • 10	a: Demonstrating Knowled ontent and Pedagogy :: Setting Instructional Out : Designing Student Asses	tcomes		

Effective Instructional Strateg	gies and P	Practices						
Action Step Audience		ce Topics to be Included	Evidenc Learnin		Lead Person/Position	Anticipated Timeline Start Date		Anticipated Timeline Completion Date
 Continuous refinement of classroom instructional practices, including ongoing professional development 	Profession staff	nal Evidence based instructional strategies - response to data - valid and reliable assessments - appropriate use of resources - strategies to monitor student learning - strategies for reteaching and teaching diverse learners	Classroom observations - participant surveys		Assistant to the Superintendent - Building Principals	07/03/2023		06/30/2026
Learning Formats								
Type of Activities	F	requency			ration and Practice Fran this Plan	nework	Require	p Meets the ments of State d Trainings
Other	0	Ingoing using a variety of formats		Co	: Demonstrating Knowledge on the second s		Teaching Inclusive S	Diverse Learners in Settings
				 3b: Tec 3c: 	: Communicating with Studer : Using Questioning and Discu chniques Engaging Students in Learnin : Using Assessment in Instruc	ussion ng		
					Demonstrating Flexibility an sponsiveness	d		

Communications Action Steps

Evidence-based Strategy	Act	tion Steps
Reduce Chronic Absence	•	Refine communication and messaging with families regarding importance of attendance.
Relevant and Rigorous Curriculum	•	Review high school course curriculum and graduation requirements to ensure students are college and career ready.

Communications Activities

Attendance Messaging											
Action Step	Audience	Topics to be Included	Type of Communication	Anticipated Timeline Start Date	Anticipated Timeline Completion Date						
 Refine communication and messaging with families regarding importance of attendance. 	K-12 families	Importance of school attendance - ways to address barriers to attendance - promoting good or improved attendance	Building Principals	07/01/2024	06/30/2026						
Communications											
Type of Communication			Frequency								
Newsletter			Monthly or quarterly								
Letter			Quarterly								
Posting on district website			Ongoing								

Life-Ready Skills											
Action Step	Audience	Topics to be Included	Type of Communication	Anticipated Timeline Start Date	Anticipated Timeline Completion Date						
 Review high school course curriculum and graduation requirements to ensure students are college and career ready. 	High School families	Life ready skills included in PCHS curriculum - current career trends - college information - graduation requirements	High School Principal and Assistant to the Superintendent	07/01/2024	06/30/2026						
Communications											
Type of Communication			Frequency								
Newsletter		Quarterly									
Posting on district website			Ongoing								
Presentation			Annually at open house or freshman orientation								