2026-27 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
DESERT HILLS MIDDLE

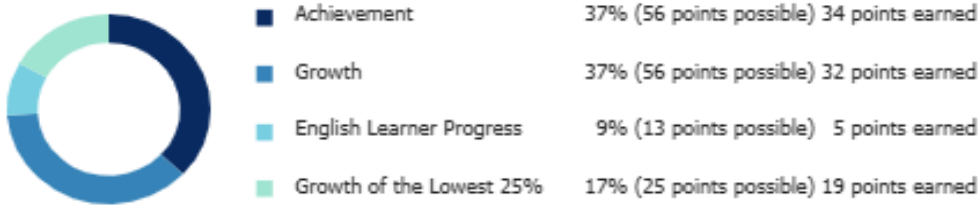
(TSSA, TSI, TITLE 1, SLT)

ENSURING HIGH LEVELS OF LEARNING FOR EVERY STUDENT

90 *Was your school's total points on the most recent report card.*

https://utahschoolgrades.schools.utah.gov

92 *is the minimum score your school will need to demonstrate a 1% increase.*
(This number is based on a maximum score of 150 points)



Based on your school report card's overall score, which area would make the most sense to prioritize in order to demonstrate a 1% increase?

Answer: DHMS showed "Commendable" proficiency in each tested subject, but Math remained our lowest area at 56.1%; therefore, Math will be our focus for the 2026-27 school year.

Step 1: Determine your current level of performance. Look at your most recent, relevant assessment data.

FOCUS AREA 1: STUDENT LEARNING

How are you currently assessing your progress in this area?

Data Review Meetings are held 1x each month for Math, Science, and Language Arts professional learning teams. Our Math team meets regularly with our district math coordinator for planning and training. The Math team is also piloting a new Math program during the 2025-26 school year.	
As part of our continued efforts to improve our department interventions, we have assigned Homeroom students to our Honors Math teacher who are in her Honors Math class. Other Math teachers may refer their students to the Honors Math teacher's Homeroom, where they can get peer to peer tutoring during Homeroom time.	
At DHMS, we offer free Math tutoring on Tuesdays and Thursdays for an hour after school. Two of our Math teachers facilitate the tutoring and it is advertised in teacher's classrooms and via emails to parents.	
DHMS continues to hold Intervention meetings every Monday during the last hour of the day. Those involved are our Intervention Specialist, Principal, Assistant Principal, Counselors, and SPED team lead.	
PLC team specific intervention days each week.	
Monthly data review meetings with the principal for Math, Science, and Language Arts teams.	
Quarterly CSIP reviews for Math, Science, and Language Arts involving the principal, assistant principal, data coach, and learning coach.	
State RISE and ASPIRE assessment presentation conducted by the DHMS data coach during the 1st quarter.	
Continued Performance Matters training for all faculty.	
2025-26 RISE/ASPIRE test data reviewed by principal and presented to each PLC team during final CSIP review in May; team plans are discussed for how they will use the data to effectively drive/change instruction for the 2026-27 school year.	

Subgroup	Percentage	Based on your data, what will you do to increase student learning in these subgroups?
Students identified as economically disadvantaged	ELA: 45.6/Math: 38.4/Science: 52.3	Economically disadvantaged students increased in proficiency in two of the three tested areas. ELA increased by 4.3%; Science increased by 6.6%; and Math dropped by 3.4%. We will continue to hold monthly data review meetings, but also do several trainings on using data from CFA's more effectively. Math teachers, specifically, will attend a training prior to school starting in August 2026, that teaches effective instructional strategies for teaching a wide range of subgroups. Where we can, we will use funds to decrease class sizes in Math, Science, and ELA classes by providing extra periods for teachers in those content areas.
Students with disabilities	ELA: 17.6/Math: 18.7/Science: 22.7	Our students with disability subgroup decreased in proficiency in each area. There was a slight .8% drop in ELA; Math decreased by 1.3%; and Science dropped 5.5%. We will maintain our co-teaching model of inclusion at DHMS and continue to offer Math Lab and Literacy Skills courses for students with disabilities. On professional development days, our licensed special education teachers will provide extra training for our paraprofessional.
Students identified as English learners	ELA: 33.3/Math: 21.2/Science: 43.8	ELL students excelled in the 2024-25 school year with the measures we put in place. After being placed on a "watch list" for TSI designation, our ELL students improved significantly in each area. ELA proficiency improved by almost 20%; Math proficiency increased by 6%; and Science proficiency shot up by nearly 26%! The ELL group is no longer on the "watch list". We have made a change in ESL teachers to ensure higher possibilities of success with our ELL students. The new teacher can speak Spanish fluently, so we will no longer need to use funding for a Spanish language para.
Students in major racial and ethnic groups	Varying range of proficiency from 25 - 63.6%, but overall improvement shown.	At DHMS, students of major racial and ethnic groups varied in success. Hispanic and Asian groups increased in proficiency in most areas, but Native American, African American, and Pacific Islanders decreased in most areas. Those subgroups make up such a small percentage of our student population, so it's hard to gauge instruction and analyze data when sometimes as few as 2 or 3 students test. However, we will continue to assign paras to critical Math, Science, and ELA classes to offer extra support for our major racial and ethnic subgroups.

What tier 1 changes might help those subgroups and your school's level of performance?

Due to most of those subgroups being in our "lowest 25%" category, we will be scheduling our district Professional Learning team next August to help train faculty on using Performance Matters to identify the "lowest 25%" students, collect and disaggregate data on the "lowest 25%", and learn effective strategies for instructing students within the "lowest 25%" group. We will also continue our PLC team Data Review meetings each month to review data, encourage collaborative conversations about using data to improve instruction and increase student learning, and develop plans to meet school and district proficiency goals.

What additional interventions might help those subgroups?

DHMS will continue to provide 6 sections of Math Enhancement for student identified using the AimsWebPlus assessment tool. DHMS will also continue our free after school Math tutoring program, and at the request of the DHMS Community Council, we will also begin free after school tutoring for Science and Language Arts. All tutoring is facilitated by a DHMS teacher in each respective content area. We will also continue to provide 3 sections of Math Lab to help students with IEP's in both 8th and 9th grade. DHMS will continue it's co-teaching model of inclusion in Math and ELA for students with IEP's and continue with our Achieve 3000 Literacy Skills class to help our struggling readers.

FOCUS AREA 2: SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

How are you formatively assessing your progress in this area?

Our DHMS motto is Respect, Responsibility, Integrity, and Excellence. We work hard to ensure students feel safe and that positive reinforcement for living up to that motto is practiced by all school staff. Data for Focus Area 2 is collected through the SHARP survey, our SEL program (School of Life and School Pulse), the Thor's Hammer Award (weekly award recognizing students with zero tardies, zero unexcused absences, grades must be C's or higher, and zero disciplinary issues), HOPE squad, Shield Club, and Heroes of the Week (run by counselors). PLC Team Lead meetings are conducted monthly, in which team leads report to the principal on how effectively their team is supporting our two student-centered goals: Goal #3 - Students will uplift others through kind words and actions; and Goal #4 - Students will experience positive interactions with teachers and peers.

List and link your school's data sources here:

Description	Link
DHMS Analytics and Insights from PowerSchool	https://washk12.hoonuit.com/Dashboard/dashboard/13392?filtersetId=27fdb6bb-7a9d-4a6e-bd04-f9f5d0ab3c06
Most recent SHARP survey data	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kIF9OxjXLuEO7A38UnddI4Z_juCXN_Gx/view?usp=share_link
Students of the Month	https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1CKgZSjlYrot2X-3D-U71ojalrQxQTT_-4s3YZRG_ZNw/edit?usp=sharing
Faculty and Staff of the Month	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSengYYMmVYcnxwkvRmY0tw1rzrSEsw3mCE2u-63zkier--tHQ/viewform?usp=sharing&ouid=110194006427587842431
SEL program (School of Life and School Pulse)	
Thor's Hammer Award	https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_Jg7ehmgBbr_ywEvVBxWbX1IBiERn5dsR2ROLCKaGxM/edit?usp=sharing
Shield Club (PBIS)	
Heroes of the Week	https://forms.gle/VLBZhqcY8YaUvBEv6
HOPE squad/HOPE week	https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/15t9-eCh-ag0u4ARnLBaFh5rKjRII1U05eS2Q8Aj9B_w/edit?usp=sharing

FOCUS AREA 3: LEADERSHIP, CULTURE, COACHING, COLLABORATION & PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

How are you formatively assessing your progress in this area?

Our DHMS Leadership Team, which includes all PLC Team Leads, Learning Coach, Data Coach, Head Custodian, all secretaries, counselors, SRO, assistant principal, and principal, meet on the final day of school to revisit the current school goals, and determine what changes need to be made for the coming school year. Each goal is monitored throughout the school year and are discussed in monthly PLC Team Lead meetings. DHMS maintains a strong PLC culture with teams meeting on Friday afternoons for 1 - 2 hours. Teams identify Essential Standards and Learning Targets, create CFA's, share and discuss data, identify students for intervention, plan interventions, and discuss strategies to keep students actively engaged. Team Leads enter data into the WCSD CSIP for the Learning Coach and principal to review. PLC team CSIP reviews occur at the end of each quarter, but are separate than the monthly PLC data review meetings. The DHMS Intervention Team meets every Monday afternoon to discuss and plan interventions for students who are struggling and need to transition from Tier 2 team interventions to schoolwide Tier 3 interventions. The DHMS Leadership team meets each Wednesday to discuss and plan important school events for the upcoming weeks and address any student concerns. Community Council meetings are held in accordance with the USBE Community Council guidelines and Community Council information is frequently updated on the school website. For professional development throughout the school year, DHMS conducts two Learning Walks and faculty are presented information and trained on five "Professional Learning" Fridays. The DHMS culture of caring is defined by the strong PBIS program and other recognition programs we have in place.

List and link your school's data sources here:

Description	Link
Leadership Team meetings every Wednesday	
Shared school goals created with input from staff, teachers, counselors, and administrators.	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1D_98kj-tCf-CMe_a_cwYU2M6kPcWFSsC/view?usp=sharing
WCSD Digital CSIP	Digital CSIP
Data Review Meetings (monthly)	https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tdulow5Xp47TAD3xkJ2qDQbi9-uEHyp5KUSRvWSQ9gA/edit?usp=sharing
Weekly PLC Collaboration	https://docs.google.com/document/d/1peigt5HNTQ7E7yn3mfUgoN1g2RZANud1/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=106856107705126312083&rtpof=true&sd=true
Intervention Team meetings each Monday during 4th period.	https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PJVkSoU81nBzCFpYzDOfIZMJ2mtT8pjwNM4mtw7TR64/edit?usp=sharing
Student intervention data in all content areas	https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fuPiYKD9QcuMGUOm-SuDpevKbw02xiyK3SDZ4wfQffI/edit?usp=sharing
Leaning Walks	https://docs.google.com/document/d/1o8VjENOdld2s_6pP0DNN24B8XMkfO4QoleiAUqFe3rw/edit?usp=sharing
PLC Team Lead meetings	https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uOkQzCcuLAZ1Y1EGvMc066kGCNFnAz8AooaTtwENWLw/edit?usp=sharing

Step 2: Outline your school's specific, measurable goals for the year.

Step 3: Define specific actions your school must make and how you will measure their success.

Step 4: Define the funding source and estimated expenditures.

2026-27 BUDGET SUMMARIES

STATE LANDS TRUST FUNDING ESTIMATES

Carryover from 2025-26		$7,379.50
Distribution for 2026-27	+	$161,604.26
Total Available Funds		$168,983.76
Estimated Expenditures	-	$168,983.77
Net Amount		$0.00

Is carryover from 2025-26 expected to exceed 10% of the school's 2025-26 distribution? Yes [ ] No [X]

TSSA FUNDING ESTIMATES

Carryover from 2025-26		$22,325.17
Distribution for 2026-27	+	$236,805.61
Total Available Funds		$259,130.78
Estimated Expenditures	-	$259,130.78
Net Amount		$0.00

Is carryover from 2025-26 expected to exceed 10% of the school's 2025-26 distribution? Yes [ ] No [X]

ALIGNING GOALS WITH 2026-27 BUDGET

PEERS GOAL #1	Students at DHMS will continue to show improvement in Student Growth Percentage by 1% at the end of the 2026-27 school year.
FOCUS AREA	**1. STUDENT LEARNING**
ACADEMIC AREA (*required for goals supported by SLT funds*)	**ENGLISH / LANGUAGE ARTS**
ACADEMIC AREA (*required for goals supported by SLT funds*)	**SCIENCE**
ACADEMIC AREA (*required for goals supported by SLT funds*)	**MATHEMATICS**

How will you measure whether this action step had a positive impact on student learning? *(This must be tied to your goal.)*		**Action Steps / Expenditure Description**	**Expenditure Category**	**Funding Source**	**Estimated Cost**
RISE and ASPIRE Data	1	Pay certified staff salaries and purchase additional periods for teachers to minimize class sizes.	Salaries & Benefits	TSSA SLT	$197,400.55 $168,983.77
	2	Paraprofessional assistance to support our goal.	Salaries & Benefits	TSSA	$5,061.73
	3	Purchase educational software to support Math and Language Arts	Software	TSSA	$8,000.00
RISE and ASPIRE Data/Quarterly Failing Grade Reports	4	Stipends for Math (2 teachers), Science, and Language Arts tutoring; Stipends for PLC Team Leads for the extra duties and responsibilities they do.	Salaries & Benefits	TSSA	$11,668.50
RISE and ASPIRE Data	5	Fund substitutes for certified staff	Salaries & Benefits	TSSA	$2,000.00
Faculty Survey Data	6	Purchase new chromebooks to replaced damaged/aging devices.	Technology Related Supplies	TSSA	$20,000.00
					$413,114.55

Does this goal include a Digital Citizenship or Safety Principles component? Yes [ ] No [X]

Has SLT (Trust Lands) been designated as a funding source for this goal? Yes [X] No [ ]

PEERS GOAL #2	DHMS students will continue learning and practicing our school motto of Respect, Integrity, Responsibility, and Excellence. All students will have a student representative (HOPE Squad member) and at least one adult mentor who they trust and can communicate with (typically their Homeroom teacher, but also may include counselors and administration).
FOCUS AREA	**2. SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**
ACADEMIC AREA (*required for goals supported by SLT funds*)	**ENGLISH / LANGUAGE ARTS**
ACADEMIC AREA (*required for goals supported by SLT funds*)	**SCIENCE**
ACADEMIC AREA (*required for goals supported by SLT funds*)	**MATHEMATICS**

How will you measure whether this action step had a positive impact on student learning? *(This must be tied to your goal.)*		**Action Steps / Expenditure Description**	**Expenditure Category**	**Funding Source**	**Estimated Cost**
Student/Parent surveys; PLC team reports; SHARP survey data; Team Raw and PEP data.	1	Schoolwide PBIS program; HOPE squad activities for student support.	Supplies	TSSA	$15,000.00
					$15,000.00

Does this goal include a Digital Citizenship or Safety Principles component? Yes [ ] No [X]

Has SLT (Trust Lands) been designated as a funding source for this goal? Yes [ ] No [X]

PEERS GOAL #3	The Leadership team at Desert Hills Middle School will meet weekly to discuss and plan for the needs of all stakeholders. The DHMS Learning Coach and Data Coach will continue to provide mentorship and data related to EYE teachers and PLC teams. PLC teams will follow the yearly Professional Learning and Collaboration Calendar and meet as a PLC team on all collaboration Fridays with discussion and planning directed by the principal.
FOCUS AREA	**3. LEADERSHIP, CULTURE, COACHING, COLLABORATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
ACADEMIC AREA (*required for goals supported by SLT funds*)	**ENGLISH / LANGUAGE ARTS**
ACADEMIC AREA (*required for goals supported by SLT funds*)	**SCIENCE**
ACADEMIC AREA (*required for goals supported by SLT funds*)	**MATHEMATICS**

How will you measure whether this action step had a positive impact on student learning? *(This must be tied to your goal.)*		**Action Steps / Expenditure Description**	**Expenditure Category**	**Funding Source**	**Estimated Cost**
Teacher observation and evaluation data; Parent and student survey data.	1	DHMS Leadership Team will meet each Wednesday to discuss and plan school calendar events and address any school-related concerns.			No Cost
Observable and measurable data from PLC Team Lead meetings.	2	PLC team leads will meet with school principal, assistant principal, Learning Coach, and Data Coach on the final Friday of the month at 11:50am. Team leads will report on team progress in accordance to school goals and the PLC process. Any team concerns will be addressed during the meeting.			No Cost
					$0.00

Does this goal include a Digital Citizenship or Safety Principles component? Yes [ ] No [x]

Has SLT (Trust Lands) been designated as a funding source for this goal? Yes [ ] No [x]

If additional funds are available for TSSA, how will the school spend the funds to implement the goals in this plan?

Any additional funds will be used to purchase new Chromebooks.

Provide an explanation of how your school will publicize its plan.

DHMS will publicize our plan in the March 2026 Community Council Meeting. Once the plan is approved by the council, school board, and state, the plan will be available for the public to view on our school website. The 2026-27 school year plan will also be presented during our opening session of Back-to-School Night in August of 2026.