Purpose: This applied doctoral project’s purpose was to determine what was needed to implement universal design for learning (UDL) in the Port Jefferson School District, specifically determining district strengths and weaknesses. Data were collected with researcher-created surveys given to administrators, faculty members, and members of the parent organizations and the district’s nonprofit organization. The surveys were based on CAST’s eight essential elements for successfully implementing UDL (Center for Applied Special Technology, n.d.a, n.d;b; Rose & Meyer, 2003).

Important findings: The participants’ perceptions of the district’s abilities illustrated some competency in four areas: technology infrastructure, digital content resources, administrative support, and community involvement. The action plans focused on the areas of immediate concern: creative funding, administrative support, redefining educators’ roles, teacher training, collaborative curriculum planning, and community involvement, followed by the remaining areas.

Action plan: The district must concentrate on all eight areas for successful UDL implementation; however, the implementation process should incorporate research recommendations and take place over a 3-year period. The researcher presents two budget scenarios and objectives for each element.

Recommendations: If improvements in student learning and student achievement are district priorities, the district must decide: What is the cost of student learning and increased
achievement? Proactively investing in creative funding, administrative support, positive public relations, collaboration, staff development, and technology are vital to successful UDL implementation and the overall health of the district.