

Woodsdale School:

School Improvement Plan

2020-2021

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WES School Council Members

Chairperson/Principal:	Jonathan Hawes
Staff Representative:	Angela Dailey (Year 1) Jessica Sullivan (Year 1)
Community Representative:	Rachel Collins
Parent Representative:	Bea Krason (Year 1) Erin O'Brien (Year 1)
School Committee Representative:	Jaclyn Abrams

Mission Statement

The mission of the Abington Public Schools is to provide all students with relevant, challenging educational experiences to prepare them to be engaged, responsible citizens and members of the global community.

District Guiding Beliefs:

We believe in:

- ❖ making decisions in the best interests of students.
- ❖ supporting all students in achieving success.
- ❖ fostering the physical, intellectual, technological, social, emotional, and artistic development of our students.
- ❖ creating a safe, tolerant, supportive, organized, and equitable learning environment.
- ❖ providing challenging educational experiences that build character.
- ❖ developing self-discipline and personal responsibility.
- ❖ promoting creativity, problem solving, effective communication, and critical thinking skills.
- ❖ cultivating the educational partnership among home, school, and community.
- ❖ nurturing a culture of collaboration, collegiality, and mutual respect.
- ❖ encouraging staff initiative and innovation.
- ❖ implementing professional development that is essential for effective instruction and improved student learning.
- ❖ reviewing and updating curriculum, instruction, and assessment in a regular cycle.
- ❖ recognizing that effective and appropriate technology is essential for teaching and learning.
- ❖ inspiring all students to become life-long learners.

District Goals and Objectives:

Teaching and Learning

1 To improve student performance through curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

- 1.1 Provide rigorous and relevant curriculum and instruction in an optimal learning environment.
- 1.2 Analyze student performance data from a variety of sources to make informed decisions.
- 1.3 Commit time and resources for meaningful collaboration and high quality professional development.

Technology

2 To maximize opportunities provided by technology to transform teaching and learning.

- 2.1 Provide all staff and students access to current hardware and software, achieving one to one computing ratio.
- 2.2 Develop technology literacy curriculum for all students.
- 2.3 Continue to provide professional development in instructional technology.
- 2.4 Provide appropriate instructional technology support.
- 2.5 Commit to a regular plan to evaluate, consider, and acquire emerging technology.

Finance and District Operations

3 To obtain and responsibly manage equitable, predictable, and sustainable funding for educational programs, facilities, and operations.

- 3.1 Collaborate with the community, local, state, and federal officials to obtain sustainable and predictable financial support.
- 3.2 Provide transparency and encourage community participation in the budgetary process.
- 3.3 Plan and secure funding through traditional and alternative sources, in order to provide state-of-the-art facilities, infrastructure, technology, and other capital projects.
- 3.4 Provide relevant professional development in the area of technology to maximize data management and business continuity.

Facilities

4 To provide state-of-the-art facilities.

- 4.1 Secure the necessary votes to support the renovation, expansion, and /or construction of school facilities.
- 4.2 Present required Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) applications and have them accepted and funded.
- 4.3 Begin work on MSBA and town funded projects as soon as possible.
- 4.4 Continue to avail ourselves of alternative funding sources for maintenance and upgrades to school facilities.

Community Support

5 To generate strong community support for the school district.

- 5.1 Create and implement a plan to effectively communicate the achievements of the students and staff of the Abington Public Schools.
- 5.2 Increase family and community participation in the educational process and the life of the schools.
- 5.3 Broaden our students' awareness of their responsibility to participate in their community.
- 5.4 Build strong community support for education through the approval of the annual budget and special budget requests at town meeting.

Summary of 2019-2020 Goals:

Goal # 1: Implement practices to challenge, support, and celebrate the achievement of students and staff

- Balanced literacy development has needed improvement, specifically in the area of professional development and training for next-steps. Currently in year 3 of implementation, we are in need of deeper professional development, increased exposure to workshop practice, curriculum alignment, and access to appropriate texts/reading resources
- Met our goal 2-year goal of developing a culture of reading through reading-related events (March Madness, author visits, staff book-talks via videos).
- MCAS performance represents the progress we've made targeting High Needs students, students in need of intervention, and practices that support learners in ELA & Mathematics. Great gains were made within both All Students and High Needs subgroups. A continued focus on the areas of writing, measurement, and operations with fractions is necessary.
- Technology integration took a step forward. Technology tutor and district-wide tech integrationist partnered with classrooms teachers to increase Canvas utilization, collaborative projects, and matching a teacher's vision for a project with appropriate technology applications

Goal # 2: Create opportunities for increased community connections

- Woodsdale Focus Group has provided us meaningful insight and changes in practices, meeting our intended goal. However, interest in this initiative is low, will seek a new opportunity for parent/community feedback.
- Established parent education efforts, such as information sessions for SPED, School-to-Home supports within newsletter, assessments (including MCAS). Will continue within the next plan.
- Effective communication with the community is in place, through various means of outreach.

Goal # 3: Provide a healthy and safe learning environment through effective leadership and operations

- Provided meaningful enrichment programs (Science, Social Studies, Reading), will continue to utilize PTO support for enrichment funding
- Implemented ALICE emergency response protocols & provided student and staff training throughout the year (reverse evacuation, barricade, school-wide evacuation)
- Implemented formal PBIS system, daily recognition of students exhibiting citizenship and other character initiatives. This recognition includes family outreach (phone calls, emails, prizes), posting accolades on school social media, and recognition at monthly All-School Meetings
- Addressed physical space needs (classroom utilization, security) and beautification (new parking lot, new signage, playground initiative underway).

Woodsdale School Improvement Plan

All goals/action steps, although specific to the Woodsdale School, are consistent with the vision, mission, goals, and objectives of Abington Public School District's Vision 2020 Strategic Plan. This plan identifies the following goals as primary areas of focus for the 2020-2021 school year:

Goal # 1	Implement practices to challenge students, support student needs and further technology utilization
Goal # 2	Create opportunities for increased community connections
Goal # 3	Provide a healthy and safe learning environment through effective leadership and operations

Woodsdale School Improvement Goal #1

To implement practices to challenge students, support student needs and further technology utilization

Activity and/or Professional Development	Person(s) Responsible	Indicator of Accomplishment	Expected Completion Date
1. Support, evaluate, and implement the balanced-literacy approach to English Language Arts.	Principal, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TLA model for workshop instruction implemented • Realigned scope & sequence, formalized conferencing progressions, investigate formal writing program • Provide training and coaching for staff to continue to build toolkits (strategies, conferencing, writing, phonics, etc) 	Ongoing
2. Provide training and resources to develop a repertoire for online/flipped learning.	Principal, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Technology Integrationist, Technology Tutor, Educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educators revise or establish Canvas courses to provide a base for synchronous & asynchronous learning • Administration supervises and provides feedback related to online learning • Student/parent training begins in Sept • Professional development & team collaboration takes place • Consistent expectations (staff & students) are developed and revisited 	Ongoing
3. Examine statewide testing performance and develop action plan to target High Needs population	Principal, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Educators, SPED Team Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule & hold data meetings (October) • Develop goals to address High Needs performance • Identify students falling within the High Needs subgroup and track individual academic progress throughout the school year (October) • Monitoring student performance for MCAS tutoring program (Spring) 	Ongoing
4. Promote the effective integration and use of technology in classrooms, lessons, and other applications.	Principal, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Technology staff, Educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology needs assessed with staff and Dir. of Technology • Continued utilization of technology integrationist by classroom teachers • Students creating and collaborating using Office365 products as well as Canvas 	Ongoing

<p>5. Develop updates to scheduling of academics and alignment of ELA scope & sequence</p>	<p>Principal, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Educators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimized schedule to best allow for interventions & coaching (ELA & Mathematics blocks) • Revisit and realign scope & sequence for ELA, allow for flexibility, develop 6 week units to allot time for writing • Supervision of workshop & conferencing structure 	<p>November 2020</p>
<p>6. Support standards-based report card update for both professionals and parents/community</p>	<p>Principal, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Educators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gradebooks structured to support standards-based grading • Support and professional development within the areas of standards-based grading and trend-based performance grading • Develop companion overview for standards-based report card • Educate parents and community 	<p>November 2020</p>

Woodsdale School Improvement Goal #2

To create opportunities for increased community connections

Activity and/or Professional Development	Person(s) Responsible	Indicator of Accomplishment	Expected Completion Date
1. Utilize community connections for participation, support, and input	Principal, Educators, School Resource Officer, community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish (via School Council) opportunities for parent feedback (similar to past year's Focus Groups) • Provide parent education regarding standards-based report cards, MCAS overview for Gr 3 parents, etc. • Continue to survey parents regarding homework, distance learning needs, climate, etc 	February 2021
2. Effectively communicate with the community through electronic means.	Principal, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update website & social media regularly • Information published is translated appropriately • Online extensions of each classroom in place (via Canvas, Remind, or Facebook), expectation of weekly communication established • Sources such as Constant Contact, newsletters, notices, and social media are used to promote Woodsdale School happenings 	Ongoing
3. Encourage community partnerships that benefit the Woodsdale school community.	Principal, Educators, community members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host Woodsdale parents & community for Welcome to Woodsdale picnic in August • Representation at Curriculum Night (Sept/Oct) • Host information sessions such as School-to-Home Supports (homework, online resources, math/reading support), SPED services & SST/IST, Bullying, MCAS • Alternative methods for engagement are explored (Facebook Live, dial-ins, broadcast/podcasts, etc) • Newcomer packets are developed for families entering Woodsdale School (including Abington Recreation resources, sports sign-ups, social media resources, FAQs etc.) 	Ongoing

Woodsdale School Improvement Goal #3

To provide a healthy and safe learning environment through effective leadership and operations

Activity and/or Professional Development	Person(s) Responsible	Indicator of Accomplishment	Expected Completion Date
1. Continue to utilize & develop Woodsdale OWL Award program for student recognition	Principal, Educators, PTO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spread positive messages of citizenship, social responsibility, and respect through Morning Meetings/ All-School Meetings • Daily recognition by staff, with follow-up/outreach extended to families (phone calls, social media posts, recognition school-wide) 	Ongoing
2. Develop the social-emotional tool kit of staff and students alike	Principal, Educators, School Psychologist, School Psych Intern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheduling speakers & assemblies, providing parent information • Utilize Morning Meeting and Second Step within classrooms school-wide • Provide formal education opportunities for School Psychologist & classroom teachers 	Ongoing
3. Work with the DPW, Facilities Manager, and Custodial Staff to attend to safety and aesthetics.	Principal, DPW, Custodial staff, Educators, community, PTO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish timeline for Woodsdale School playground fundraising, installation, and ribbon-cutting ceremony (November) • Host Spring and Fall cleanups for beautification purposed (planting flowers, grass seeding, mulch, etc) • Recess equipment refurbished and replenished • Front-entry monitoring and security addressed • Replace/Refurbish letterboard sign 	June 2021