

Westford Public Schools

Vision Statements

June 13, 2007

The Vision Statements provided below describe the desired state of the Westford Public Schools in the next 5 to 8 years. The Visions are an expression of possibility, yet based enough in reality to be plausible. The purpose is to inspire those involved and interested individuals to help the Vision become a reality. The Visions provide the basis from which the district determines priorities and establishes targets for performance.

1. Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

As a vibrant community of learners, the Westford Public Schools are excited by new ideas, and motivated to explore, question, think, and create, both individually and collaboratively. For each student, effort is recognized, unique skills and talents are fostered, and excellence is a common goal.

A rigorous core curriculum provides the educational foundation from which students pursue additional interests to extend and enrich their unique aptitudes. The curriculum is integrated and inter-disciplinary to ensure that students develop practical and critical thinking skills for navigating globally in the 21st century. A comprehensive curriculum review cycle ensures that the curriculum is evaluated and renewed, and supports the district's vision and goals.

Instruction occurs in flexible and collaborative environments, for both teachers and students, where academic and experiential opportunities are plentiful, both within and beyond the classroom. Research-based instructional approaches and best practices are shared, implemented, and evaluated as an approach to continuous improvement.

Developmentally appropriate approaches to assessment are used to better understand and evaluate teaching effectiveness, curriculum, professional development, and to ensure the progress of each student over his/her entire school career. The district uses projects, portfolios, presentations, and other interactive approaches, as fuller measures of potential and progress, to complement and augment test scores.

2. Personnel and Professional Development

The Westford Public Schools recruit and retain professional, creative, and dynamic faculty and staff, in a collegial environment, dedicated to the success of each student.

Westford faculty and staff embrace continuous growth and challenges; they regard each other as resources, participate in mentoring and peer evaluation, and share best practices on a regular basis. They are supported by innovative and continual opportunities for professional and personal development; these include collaborations with educational and business partners for academic and experiential learning. These professional development experiences enhance staff contributions as leaders in the local community and the world beyond.

3. Communications and Community Relations

The Westford Public Schools reach out to all of Westford to ensure that the schools are an open, inviting resource for the entire community. The district uses various forms of media to generate an optimum level of communication with all members of the community.

The Westford Public Schools value their cooperative working relationships with municipal officials and committees, and appreciate the support and benefits they receive from various school support groups and the community at-large.

The schools also initiate and participate in sustained partnerships with various groups including alumni, businesses, community organizations, educational institutions, government, and media, as well as individuals.

4. Student Services

The Westford Public Schools understand that the growth and development of the “whole child” is enhanced when the emotional well-being and safety of each individual student is a focus. Support within and outside of the classroom is offered through an integrated and seamless array of services including health services, peer tutoring, peer mediation, special education classes, alternative programming, guidance and mental health counseling, and co-curricular and enrichment activities. Faculty expertise is shared district-wide to further ensure success across grades and schools. Each student is supported by a strong connection with at least one adult within the schools.

As a district, special attention is paid to promoting stress reduction. The physical and mental health, of both students and staff, is balanced with their intellectual and personal growth, and meeting educational standards. Programmatic and scheduling decisions are made to ensure that students and staff have opportunities for relaxation and reflection, outdoor activities, healthy eating, and physical exercise.

The Westford Public Schools partner with parents to facilitate grade level transitions. All student services are regularly evaluated and continually improved. A decrease in absenteeism, an increase in student achievement, and productive community connections for all students are some indicators of the success of these essential services.

5. School Management and Leadership

The Westford Public School District is a forward-thinking, learning community, exercising leadership in meeting the needs and challenges of education in the 21st century.

The schools work closely with local government and Westford residents to ensure consistent and sustained municipal funding for the schools, as well as with the larger community for creative use of private, non-profit, and foundation resources. In addition, the schools and their supporters participate in an active advocacy coalition in efforts to influence the state and federal government to fund legislative mandates, loosen restrictions, control costs, and enact other initiatives that support the success of the Westford School System.

The schools work diligently to ensure facilities are up-to-date, well-maintained, and capable of supporting the district's vision and goals. Services and resources are equitable from school to school, and shared as necessary. The Westford Schools collaborate with other area schools, including vocational-technical schools, on innovative ways to regionalize service delivery when appropriate.

The Westford Public Schools are continually evaluating the possibility of reconfiguring the grade structure of the district to ensure that educational and building capacity needs are being met. The structure of the school day and annual calendar are also regularly evaluated to ensure they support the district's needs. The Westford Schools are committed to a flexible and responsive structure.