

School Opening Report

September 21, 2017

Standard 1, Indicator I-E Standard II, Indicator II-C
Standard III, Indicator III-C Standard IV, Indicator IV-A



Superintendent's Leadership Team

Susan O'Neil, Deputy Superintendent

Brian Allen, Chief Finance and Operations Officer

Jennifer Boulais, Chief Human Resources Officer

Helen Friel, Clerk of the School Committee/Assistant to the
Superintendent

Kristina Rearick, Chief Research and Accountability Officer

District Leadership Team

Mary Meade-Montaque, Secondary Manager for Instruction and School Leadership

Marie Morse, Elementary Manager for Instruction and School Leadership

Kay Seale, Manager of Special Education and Intervention Services

Magdalena Gantias, Manager of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development

Bertha-Elena Rojas, Manager of English Language Learners

Maura Mahoney, Manager of Social Emotional Learning

Sarah Kyriazis, Manager of Instructional Technology and Digital Learning

New Building Principals

Shannon Conley, Lincoln Street School

Craig Dottin, Vernon Hill School

Fjodor Dukaj, Clark Street School

Ellen Moynihan, West Tatnuck School

Maureen Power, Lake View School

Kareem Tatum, Forest Grove Middle School

Christina Troiano, Norrback School

Kelly Williamson, Roosevelt School

New Assignments for Principals

Karrie Allen, Goddard School of Science and Technology

Ellen Kelley, Elm Park Community School

Debbie Mitchell, Quinsigamond School



New Assistant Principals

Kendra Cox, Lincoln Street School

Sarah Hebert, Roosevelt School

Becky Lemoine, Norrback School

Abdi Lidonde, Clark Street School

Christine McSherry, Worcester Arts Magnet School

Megan Milonopoulos, North High School

Margaret Murphy, Vernon Hill School

Christine Sawyer, Chandler Elementary

John Staley, Doherty High School

Stephanie Stockwell, North High School

New Assignments for Assistant Principals

Martha Dewar, Lincoln Street School

Sam FanFan, Quinsigamond School

Carenza Jackson, Forest Grove Middle School

Sara Ross, Elm Park Community School



Schools with New Leadership

Vernon Hill - Craig Dottin and Margaret Murphy

Roosevelt - Kelly Williamson and Sara Hebert

Norrback - Christina Troiano and Becky Lemoine

Lincoln Street - Shannon Conley and Kendra Cox

Elm Park - Ellen Kelley and Sara Ross

Clark Street - Fjodor Dukaj and Abdi Lidonde

**The Worcester Public Schools welcomed
249 new employees.**

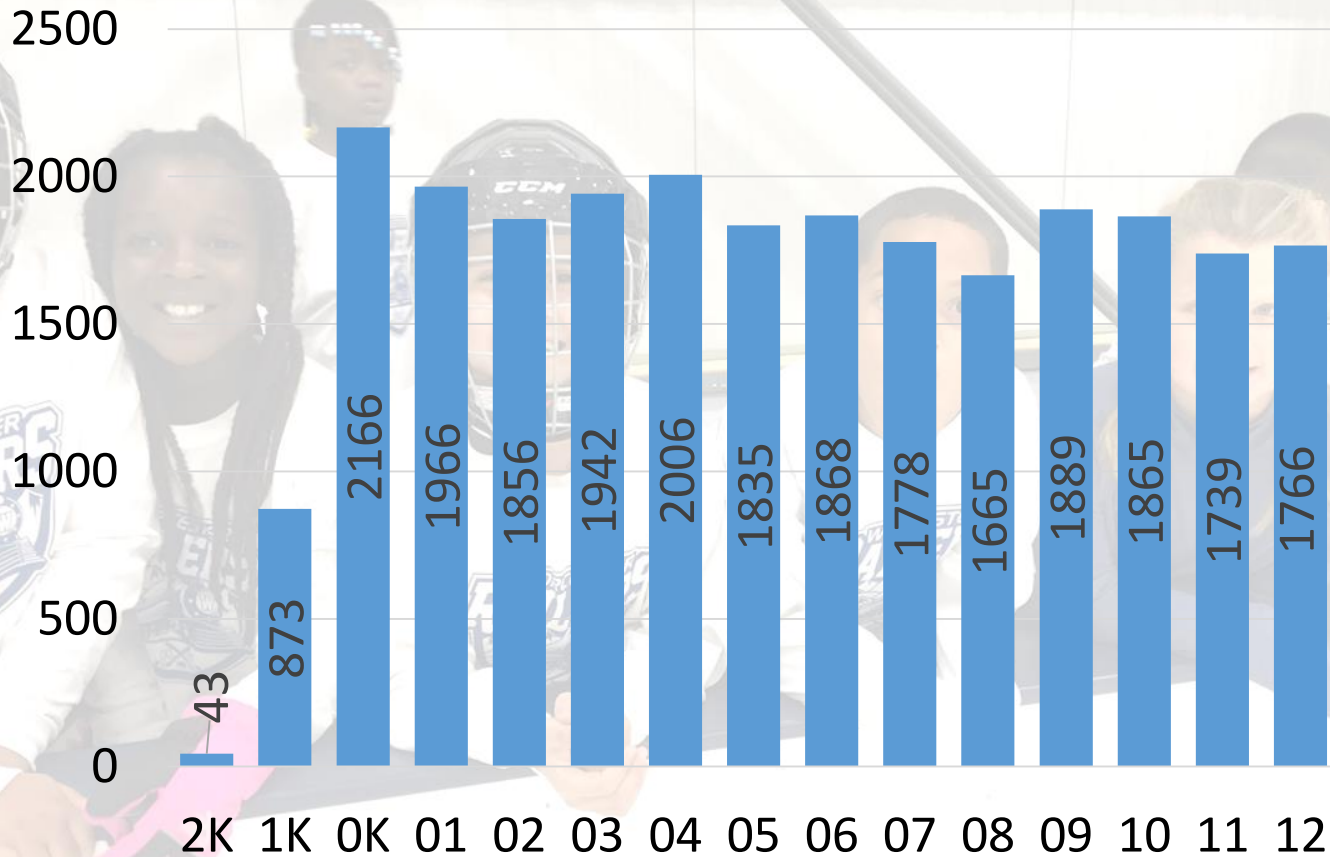
Schools in Worcester have 200 new teachers

(some new teachers were previously employed as IA's or long term substitutes)

**In addition, 104 current employees transferred to new
assignments**

Human Resources & Payroll

2017-2018 Enrollment



Current Enrollment
25,257

➤ Overall K-12 Enrollment continues to be level

Elementary Class Size

FY18 = Total Elementary Classrooms = 593

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6
<23	41	66	73	57	52	34	54
23-26	31	20	15	25	22	29	22
27-30	15	3	0	4	12	13	3
>30	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Total	88	89	88	87	86	76	79

Assignment of Kindergarten Instructional Assistants (KIA)

- **This week:** Every school has 1 KIA.
- Additional KIA's were assigned by class size and building resources with consideration for additional tutor support as needed.

Currently a 13.5 to 1 Student to Adult Ratio
in Kindergarten Classrooms with Teachers and Instructional Assistants

Assignment of Elementary Literacy Tutors

- 2016 –2017: 51 Elementary Tutors (39 Literacy Tutors and 12 SES Intervention)
- 2017 – 2018: 10 Literacy Tutor positions converted to teacher positions
- Changing work week from 19.5 to 15 hours and work year October 2 to May 25 = 36 Literacy Tutors available

**Elementary: 21.3 to 1 (Classroom Teachers only)
20 to 1 with tutors**

English Language Learners

EPL Level 1	EPL Level 2	EPL Level 3	EPL Level 4	EPL Level 5	Total EPL	No EPL
1135	1219	2312	1804	104	6574	1671

- 19 ESL teachers hired
- Kindergarten children assessed in their building after school opens rather than at PIC registration
- Elementary materials purchased and dispersed after August training
- Elementary and secondary World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) materials dispersed in preparation for this year's professional development
- Worcester Institute for Parent Leadership in Education (WIPLE) to be extended to 3 new schools
- WPS translated documents data base now available to staff as a resource
- Phone line interpretation now available for all schools to access as needed.

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS

Program/Service	Description	Location	Rationale
ACADEMIC [ACT] CENTER FOR TRANSITION GRADES [K-5]	<p>The ACT program provides a comprehensive therapeutic and educational milieu for students with disabilities whose educational program requires intensive wraparound SEL services within school, community and at home.</p>	CMSEC – 14 New Bond Street	<p>New district Public Day School pending DESE Licensure This move has created a optimal learning environment with enhance technology for our students.</p>
AUTISM SAIL CLASSROOM Anticipated Relocation from Vernon Hill: EARLY CHILDHOOD EVALUATION & ASSESSMENT CENTER	<p>Increase number of students diagnosed with Autism required an additional elementary classroom to meet the education and social emotional needs of our autism students.</p> <p>Child Find Mandated Requirement – Assessment & Evaluation Center</p>	Nelson Place	<p>Student’s Individual Educational Programs due to Autism disability required placement in a highly specialized SAIL classroom. Through the Child Find requirement the district must complete a comprehensive evaluation of all children who may have a suspected disability on/before the age of 3</p>
SPECIAL EDUCATION CLINICIANS	<p>District has prioritized the hiring of (16) Clinicians whose primary responsibilities are to provide clinical services to students placed in Elementary, Middle and High School Structured Therapeutic Programs (STEP) classrooms.</p>	System-wide responsibilities as these Clinician positions were formerly CMSEC	<p>Framework of SEL to enhance program delivery options to include clinical services for students with significant behavioral and social emotional needs</p>

Special Education Placements

Analysis of Inclusion Efforts

Services & Placement	2014	2015	2016	2017
Full Inclusion	2692	2687	2635	2647
Partial Inclusion	1009	956	968	940
Substantially Separate	1195	1111	1024	975
Other CMSEC & OOD	481	515	525	492
Total # SWD	5387	5269	5152	5054

Special Education Initiatives & Collaboration

- Child study, ELL and Special Education Taskforce
- Re-entry and hospitalization protocols
- Professional development training:
 - Moodle Training SPED 101
 - Behavior interventions and supports
 - UDL Cast & specialized instruction
- Technology (Teachtown) & Goalbook
- Assessment and evaluation protocols
- Behavioral supports & therapeutic interventions

Research and Accountability

- Public MCAS results not yet available
- Preliminary data from both tests has been used by school and district staff to:
 - Inform scheduling of student supports and services for the 2017-18 school year
 - Identify patterns of strengths and weaknesses in instructional areas
 - Encourage professional reflection about instructional practices, inform planning of professional development and to set priorities within schools and across the district

Research and Accountability

Final MCAS results to be released to the public on October 24th, including:

- DESE Accountability and Assistance levels
 - School percentiles;
 - School commendation designations
- Preliminary results for 2017 for Grades 3-8 do not include scores (standard setting took place in late August).
- Because of the absence of data, preliminary accountability data cannot be reported at this time (schools would be identifiable given the small number with available information)

Student Technology

- District is completing an Erate funding \$1.3 million project to install building wide wireless at the remaining 18 schools in the district. When this project is complete this school year, all of our schools will have building-wide wireless coverage
- Opened the new Nelson Place school with over 200 laptops, 200 iPads, and an interactive projector in every classroom
- Implemented a new IT ticket system that allows schools to submit and track trouble tickets
- Completed a fiber network that provides 10Gbps connections to all of our schools
- Received over \$1.5 million in Erate funds for internet, wide area network, and phone services

Supporting Curriculum

- Expanded student access to 23 Advanced Placement Courses
- Implementation of Focus workshops for AP teachers by the liaisons
- Launch Of Atlas, an online curriculum platform, for all staff to use as a curriculum platform
- Provide PSAT for all grade 9, 10 & 11 students in October, 2017 and School-wide SAT Day in April, 2018 and use of Khan Academy to support students' results
- Support of Dual Enrollment Programs with local colleges

Supporting Curriculum

- Continued Support of School-Wide AVID Programs in 8 elementary schools starting in grade 4, and 8 secondary schools
- Purchased New K-6 Mathematics curriculum support program – Envision
- Purchased New Grade 7 Science Textbooks meet the needs of new Science standards
- Purchased new Algebra , geometry & Algebra II Books
- Focused collaboration with Liaisons for targeted school visits and support in grade level meetings and Professional Learning Communities
- Expanded participation in MCAC day for all secondary schools

Professional Learning

- Professional Learning Workshops- ongoing workshops for all staff to support perpetual learning at all levels, focused on content and practice
- Collaboration Leadership with Peter Dewitt-Superintendent's Leadership Institute
- Purchased Collaborative Leadership by Peter Dewitt for all district leaders
- Continue Self-Regulated Strategy Development (SRSD) training in the Burncoat Quadrant Pre-K through Grade 9
- Continuous training for all guidance and related staff on Naviance & Individual Learning Plans

Professional Learning

- Student Centered Coaching - Professional Learning for Focused Instructional Coaches in elementary and secondary levels
- Receive approval from DESE to offer SEI Endorsement for core content teachers
- Continue to provide CPR and Non-Violent Crisis Prevention Trainings
- Continue Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

Social Emotional Learning

- Youth Mobile Crisis Intervention to support high risk students is available system-wide
- Partnerships to make school-based mental health services available to students and families are under review
- Assessment and stabilization Program has been reorganized and expanded as the Assessment & Stabilization Program (ASP), at Goddard Elementary School(k-5) and Harlow Street for grades 6-8.
- Continue to Implement the Worcester HEARS Synergy Grant funded by the Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts
- Continue the development of the district's Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Framework through district personnel, parents, and community partners

Nursing Services

- **Add (2) FTE Nurses**
- Clinical care coordination work group will include Special Education & Nursing to analyze contractual nursing services to develop a strategic plan to provide these services at a cost savings to district
- Proposal to hire WPS CNA graduates instead of contractual services
- Total nursing positions = 56 FTE's
- Sustainability of two full time nursing supervisors



FREE breakfast and lunch for ALL students



*salad production at
North High School*

- **Implemented Community Eligibility for a 3rd Year**
 - eliminating the need for income meal applications
 - enabling all student to have access to all school meals at no cost
- **Breakfast in the Classroom**
 - as part of the school day in 22 elementary schools, over 400 classrooms
 - all schools eligible under Community Eligibility
- **Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant**
 - awarded to 14 elementary schools meeting eligibility criteria
 - providing fresh fruit and vegetable snacks in the classroom
- **Farm to School**
 - purchasing preferences given to locally sourced produce for school meals
 - emphasis on minimal processing while marketing school meals with taste, color, and texture

Child Nutrition

Culinary Initiatives 2017

*-serving over 30,000 meals throughout 60 sites each day
with an **emphasis** on
seasonal ingredients fresh preparation program expansion*

- **Conversion** of over 5500 frozen plated meals to fresh menu system produced locally within Worcester Public Schools
- **Initiated** Student Menu Cohorts to develop and implement culturally relatable menus and recipes

➤ **Programming Features:**

Worcester Business Journal June 20, 2017

As the feds change nutrition standards, local schools up their game

<http://www.wbjournal.com/article/20170620/HEALTH02/170629992>



*new Nelson Place
preparation on site*



*Asian Noodles
with Chicken and Edamame*



*Fresh Sandwich production for
fresh menu system*

Summer Meal Expansion 2017

extended serving days
starting immediately after close to start of new school year
further decreasing nutrition gaps associated with summer recess:
end of June, July, and August, some sites on Saturday's



➤ Refrigerated Mobile Feeding Program

- increased the number of sites from 20 to 24
- partnerships: DCR Pools, Worcester Public Libraries, Worcester Recreation, YMCA of Central Mass, REC Farmers Markets, South Worcester Neighborhood Center

➤ WPS Academic Summer Programs

- serving over an additional 40,000 meals



*Turkey & Mozzarella Salads
with Whole Grain Zucchini Greek Yogurt Muffin
(local and seasonal)*

➤ Programming Features

Worcester schools' summer food service program continues to expand

Worcester Telegram and Gazette June 23, 2017

<http://www.telegram.com/news/20170623/worcester-schools-summer-food-service-program-continues-to-expand>

Why Some Kids May Be Happy To Start School: Free Lunch

WGBH August 25, 2017

<http://news.wgbh.org/2017/08/25/local-news/why-some-kids-may-be-happy-start-school-free-lunch>

Grant Resources

57 Grants Awarded last year totaling **\$37.9** million

28 Competitive Grants

20 Continuation Grants

9 Allocation Grants

Transportation

Transporting **12,320** students daily

*Covering more than 10,000 miles per day
and 1.8 million miles per school year*

96 Large School Buses

135 Special Education Buses and Out of District
Vehicles*

* Approximate number, fluctuates based on student placements

MSBA Accelerated Repair Projects (Substantially Complete)

Grafton Street

- Replacement of windows, doors, and boilers
- ADA upgrades

Jacob Hiatt

- Replacement of windows & doors
- Side plaza area & entrance

Flagg

- Replacement of windows & doors

McGrath

- Replacement of windows & doors



Facilities Improvements

Flagg Street School (Window Replacement Project)



Current MSBA Accelerated Repair Projects

- **Belmont Street Elementary**
 - Replacement of windows & doors
 - Bathroom renovation
 - Lift installation
- **Chandler Elementary**
 - Replacement of windows & doors
 - Bathroom renovation
 - Boiler replacements
- **Gerald Creamer Center**
 - Replacement of windows, doors, and boiler
 - Bathroom renovation
 - Lift installation
- **Wawecus Elementary**
 - Replacement of windows & doors
 - Bathroom renovation



Belmont Street School (Window Replacement Project)



Belmont Street School (Window Replacement Project)



Nelson Place School (Completion of New Building)



Nelson Place School (Completion of New Building)



Other Projects:

- **Columbus Park:** Painted rooms in Basement
- **Doherty High:** Installed new security system
- **Goddard:** Painted the Cafeteria
- **Roosevelt:** Removed rugs & installed VCT flooring in the Main Office & adjacent rear corridor
- **Worcester Technical High (Building A):** Replaced A/C Compressor
- Environmental projects **throughout the district**

Facilities Improvements

Various In-House Projects:

- **Burncoat Preparatory:** Divided Room 8 into two separate classrooms for added space
- **Claremont/Woodland Academies:** Renovated first floor Kiva into a Computer Lab
- **Harlow:** Installed new camera system & intercom system
- **Lincoln:** Built two new rooms in Basement (expected completion date mid-October) for added space

Facilities Improvements

Various In-House Projects (cont.):

- **Sullivan Middle:** Painted walls & installed new flooring in two ground-level classrooms
- **Worcester East Middle:** Converted a classroom to an Art Room (including new flooring & paint)
- Installed A/C units as needed at: **Flagg & Grafton**
- Installed washers & dryers at: **Belmont, Grafton, Union Hill, and Worcester East Middle**
- Removed old hot water tank & replaced with new unit at **Commerce Bank Field at Foley Stadium**, and installed new units at **Burncoat High (ROTC Area)** and **Burncoat Middle (Boiler Room)**

Various In-House Projects (cont.):

- Replaced exterior lighting with LEDs at: **Clark, Doherty High, Forest Grove, Jacob Hiatt, Lincoln, Norrback, and Rice Square**
- Conducted building & fire alarm inspections **district-wide**
- Managed school, building, and departmental moves **throughout the city**
- **All schools completed annual summer deep cleaning.**

Community Support

On-going generous support of community and business partners for backpack & school supplies donations, as well as the donation of equipment and furniture.

Upcoming Events

- AVID College Fair – October 14, 2017
- Worcester Railers School Game Day – November 14, 2017
- High School MCAC Days- November 29-December 8, 2017
- Districtwide SAT Day – April 18, 2018
- Special Education Evening of Celebration - May 16, 2018

