

Summary of Evidence
June 18, 2015

Professional Practice

Goal: By September 2015, the superintendent will study, research and attend professional development opportunities with a focus on public communication resulting in a 20% increase in the number of positive media reports about the Worcester Public Schools

- Professional Development:
 - Broad Center Forum – January 2015
 - MASS – Winter & Spring Conferences – 2015
 - Urban Superintendent’s Network – 2014-2015
- Positive Media Reports
 - Science Fair – EcoTarium
 - Arts Festival
 - Celebration of Writing
 - CPPAC Parent Expo
 - Press Release – Apple Connect-Ed Initiative
 - Hands On Learning for UMass Medical Students
 - Worcester Tech: Setting the Standard
 - Program Gives Young Students Hands-On Medical Experience
 - Sense of Culture at South High School
 - Worcester Superintendent to Unveil Plan for Specialized High School Academy
 - Worcester Superintendent to Outline Plan for “New Advanced Learners” High School
 - Worcester Panel Advances Plan for New Nelson Place School
 - Burncoat Singers Join Kenny Rogers for Holiday Show at Mohegan Sun
 - Worcester CEO Donates Funds for iPads at Belmont Street School
 - A Recipe for Style: Student Project Brings Fashion Confidence to All
 - Interview with Taimi Padre of Claremont Academy re: Raytheon Award
 - Let’s Go Program Brings Worcester Middle-Schoolers Beyond the Classroom
 - Worcester Schools Get \$165K to Slash High Suspension Rates
 - North High School Students Embark on a Mission
 - Worcester Public Schools Wins Meritorious Budget Award
 - Here’s How You Can Help Andy’s Attic, A WPS Charity Run by Teachers and Students
 - Region’s First Recovery High School is Planned for Worcester
 - 3rd Annual Anti-Bullying Conference: A Community Collaboration
 - Two Worcester East Middle Teachers Chosen for NASA Program
 - Union Hill School Turnaround Touted as Success Story
 - Worcester on the Move Promotes Healthy Living for Students
 - Decline in absenteeism rate in the district
 - Launched Quadrant Newsletter
 - Launched Superintendent’s Newsletter

Student Learning

Goal: Worcester Public Schools will achieve a 2% reduction in the proficiency gap in English Language Arts as evidenced by 2015 CPI Ratings.

- Initiatives to support narrowing the proficiency gap in ELA:
 - Continue work with Curriculum Renewal Cycle
 - Continue to refine all discipline areas Scope and Sequence
 - Developed Year at a Glance documents and Course Syllabi
 - Continue to develop Curriculum Model Units
 - Model Literacy Project: Grades 2, 3, and 4
 - Foundations Implementation – Expanded to 29 elementary schools
 - Piloted Self-Regulated Strategy Development (SRSD) for writing in 4 elementary schools
 - Course Pathways Alignment and Enhancement: Mass Core
 - ESL Secondary Pathways: Sheltered Language and Content
 - AVID Implementation at the elementary level – Expanded to grades 5 and 6
 - Implementation of the District Literacy Plan
 - Professional Development Institute – grades 4, 5, 6
 - Professional Development Institute – grades K, 1, 2, 3, 9, 10 (refresher)
 - RETELL: SEI Endorsement – Completed 3 year cohort cycle

Goal: Worcester Public Schools will achieve a 2.7% reduction in the proficiency gap in Mathematics as evidenced by 2015 CPI Ratings.

- Initiatives to support narrowing the proficiency gap in Mathematics:
 - Elementary Math Pilot – Implemented District-Wide
 - Go Math! Professional development for all elementary level teachers
 - Continue to develop Curriculum Model Units
 - Developed Common Assessments for grades 6, 7, and 8
 - Course Pathways Alignment and Enhancement: Mass Core
 - ESL Secondary Pathways: Sheltered Language and Content
 - AVID Implementation at the elementary level – Expanded to grades 5 and 6
 - Teachers in grades 1, 2, 6 received specific professional development in Engineering
 - Professional Development Institute – grades 4, 5, 6
 - Professional Development Institute – grades K, 1, 2, 3, 9, 10 (refresher)
 - RETELL: SEI Endorsement – Completed 3 year cohort cycle

District Improvement

Goal: By July 2015, the superintendent will review and revise, as appropriate, the Worcester Public Schools Comprehensive Accountability System to ensure alignment with current district improvement targets and practices.

- Systems of support to ensure alignment with district improvement practices:
 - Enhanced the WPS Compass – Added Leadership Expectations
 - K-12 Arts Magnet Evaluation Completed
 - Alternative Education Evaluation Completed
 - Alignment and Enhancement of CTE/CVTE Pathways – Diesel Automotive Technology
 - College Courses Dual Enrollment Opportunities
 - Development of the Mass Model Curriculum – Guidance Counselors
 - Graduation Improvement Teams
 - Presented Trends Graduation Drop-Out Rates – ROS – 02-05-15
 - Middle and High School Transition Teams
 - Continued College Connections Mapping
 - Standards-based Curriculum Development – Grade 9
 - District Literacy Plan Implementation
 - Developed the High Quality Professional Learning Framework
 - Professional Development Institutes
 - Early Childhood and Care Initiative – Birth to Grade 3 Alignment
 - MassEdco Partnership – Parent Teen Support Services
 - PARCC Implementation in 24 Schools
 - District Determined Measures Planning and Development
 - Multi-Tiered System of Supports Planning and Development
 - Universal Design for Learning Training for Coaches (year-long)
 - Universal Design for Learning Training for school leaders and support staff
 - Professional Learning Communities (PLC) Institute for Middle Schools
 - Piloted Electronic Elementary Report Card in 8 schools
 - Implementation of New Student Discipline Regulations, ROS – 4-30-15
 - Approval of Exit Assurance Plan for Chandler Elementary
 - Innovation Schools Success and Renewal Process, ROS – 05-07-15
 - Enhanced Partnership with School Based Health Clinics to include full-time Behavioral Health Clinical Support
 - Developed ELL Coalition at North High School
 - Launched the Family and Community Academy
 - Initiated School-Wide AVID practices at Burncoat High School and Sullivan Middle School
 - Provided PSAT Exams to all grade 10 and 11 students
 - Awarded the Health Foundation's Synergy Grant – Worcester HEARS
 - Awarded the Science Middle School Grant Initiative
 - Awarded the AbbVie/Heart of America Library Make-over at Burncoat Middle School
 - Introduced the Claremont Academy Innovation Plan – ROS – 05-21-15

- Invitation of Flagg Street School, Francis J. McGrath Elementary, Grafton Street School, and Jacob Hiatt Magnet into MSBA Accelerated Repair Program
- Held ground breaking ceremony for Nelson Place Replacement Project
- South High Community School – Progress on Initial Study with MSBA on Renovation or Replacement Project
- Completed successful transition of in-house energy management
- Submitted \$5.1 million in E-Rate projects to improve network infrastructure, increase internet speed, and expand wireless access at all locations
- Accepted donation of third mobile summer feeding vehicle through Worcester County Food Bank and The Stop and Shop Family Foundation
- Hired and implemented Chef/Lead Trainer position based Claremont/Woodland
- Elm Park Community School – Turnaround Plan Approved/School Redesign Grant Awarded

Goal: By June 2015, the Worcester Public Schools attendance rate will improve 1% from 95% to 96% as targeted in our RTTT Wraparound goals

- Systems of support targeting student attendance:
 - Truancy Forum
 - Revised Attendance Policy
 - ESSIP, Fresh Start
 - Expanded Asthma Pilot Initiative
 - Completed the Diabetes Pilot Initiative
 - Expanded the Partnership with WCCC – Liaison to work on primary grade attendance in selected schools

Other

Goal: By December 2014, the superintendent will provide a proposal to the School Committee and Community for a 2015-16 school year pilot for a specialized high school program/academy focusing on the liberal arts. The proposal will include program of studies, admission criteria, admission process, recruitment and enrollment plan and timelines, and budget including facility, staffing and technology needs.

- Steps Accomplished:
 - Researched models and practices of Exam and IB Schools
 - Researched blended models
 - Met with external providers
 - Researched criteria for admission
 - Proposed timeline to School Committee to approve Pilot Academy
 - Investigated space capacity at Doherty High School
 - Explored state regulations for establishing new innovation schools/academies for relevance to the Pilot Innovation Academy
 - Budget recommendations included in the City of Worcester FY16 budget