

# Family and Community Academy of Worcester (FCA)

## Report of the Superintendent

October 2, 2014

Worcester Public Schools  
Worcester, MA

Superintendent Evaluation Rubric  
Standard III  
Indicators: IIIA, IIIB, IIIC, IIID  
Standard IV  
Indicators: IVA, IVC





## History of the FCA

- Partnership initiated several years ago between several community organizations engaged in parent and family education.
- Community organizations developed “Family Academy” oriented events and programs, which had increased success in reaching and engaging families.
- “Family Academy” events became branded both in the community and at schools.





## The FCA Partnership

### ➤ Original Partners:

- ❖ Black Legacy
- ❖ Citywide Parent Planning and Advisory Council
- ❖ Latino Education Institute
- ❖ Pernet Family Services
- ❖ Worcester Community Connections Coalition
- ❖ Worcester Education Collaborative

### ➤ WPS joined partnership efforts in 2013





## Purpose of the FCA

- The Family & Community Academy of Worcester is a partnership between several community organizations and the Worcester Public Schools.
- The purpose of the FCA is to support parents/guardians and other caregivers in developing the skills and confidence for lifelong learning and active engagement in the development of the whole child.





## FCA's Theory of Action

- We believe that parents/guardians so engaged will be able to make very real differences in the lives of their own children and in the quality of teaching and learning for students across our community.
- If we successfully support parents/guardians in becoming meaningfully engaged in the education of their children, then we will see sustained gains in student educational and life outcomes.






## Goals of the FCA

- Build more connections and stronger relationships among parents/guardians, school, and community providers.
- Assist and support parents/guardians and other caregivers to positively impact educational outcomes for children by building their skills, knowledge and confidence.
- Empower parents/guardians to effectively advocate for themselves and their children at school and in the community.





# Certificate Program

## ➤ **Advocacy**

Parents/guardians build capacity to advocate for their children and family in school and in the community.

## ➤ **Learning Tool**

Parents/guardians learn skills to support individual student achievement in school and beyond.


## ➤ **Parenting and Children's Developmental Milestones**

Parents/guardians develop parenting skills and understanding to child development to build stronger families.

## ➤ **Culture & Community**

Parents/guardians build community by celebrating diversity and learning about the various cultures in our city.





## Certificate Program

- The FCA will offer “Academy Credits” for participation in FCA courses and workshops.
- Participants who meet the requirements of workshop will receive a FCA certificate and attend a FCA graduation ceremony.





## Two Certificate Programs

### ➤ **Family & Community Academy Core Certificate:**

- ❖ This certificate recognizes participation in a breadth of programs. Participants must accumulate **15 credits** across at least two FCA Focus Areas.

### ➤ **Family & Community Academy Leadership:**

- ❖ This certificate is offered to participants who accumulate at least **25 credits** across the four FCA Focus Areas: at least 5 credits in each category, and an additional 5 in an area of interest.





## Short-Term Outcomes

- Development of FCA's Course Catalog to inform parents and the community about FCA's events and courses and certificate programs.
- Webpage development through WPS web site's Community link.
- Partnership's informed needs assessment of parents and community target needs.





## Long-Term Outcomes

- Support parents and families through strengths based programs.
- Develop innovative joint programs with broader and higher impact to maximize and diversify supplemental support services for students, parents and families.
- Promote Worcester's businesses and organizations support and involvement in "whole child" focused programming to support our students, families and community at large.