

The Worcester Public Schools has only 3 Professional Development Days for the entire school year, two in August before opening and one in October. These days focus on Standard I: Curriculum, Planning and Assessment and Standard II: Teaching all Students of the Educator Evaluation System. August is orientation to the year and expectations with many compliance requirements. The October date is extremely important to schools, teachers, and leaders as it is a day designed to support and develop skills needed to expand capacity to best implement the on-going efforts at both the district level and the school level.

Family and Community Engagement (Standard III. of the Educator Evaluation System) is designed to bring to light the importance of continual communication between schools and home. W.P.S. teachers are expected and required to take deliberate steps and document their efforts to meet this standard. To meet this professional obligation to discuss student progress and expectations with parents, our schools engage families throughout the school year in a variety of ways such as conferences, workshops, and e-mail, using both informal and formal methods. This is in addition to general community building events that serve a different format for family and community engagement through programs, events, performances, and displays.

Teaching and learning (Standards I and II) and Family -Community Engagement (Standard III) are both important. The district will explore additional and alternative ways to schedule parent conferences outside of the Professional Development days by convening principals to discuss and identify potential ways to ensure annual k-3 parent-teacher conferences. This will be discussed before closing in June 2019.