



Woodbury City Public School District

2011 Periodic Update of the Strategic Plan: Personalizing Education

Approved by the Woodbury City Board of Education on:
March 23, 2011

BELIEFS

We believe that . . .

- Each individual has inherent worth.
- Every individual desires to succeed.
- All people can learn.
- Individuals are responsible for the choices they make.
- Each person bears responsibility to work toward the common good of the community.
- The family is the primary influence in the development of the child.
- Shared moral values are essential for the well being of the individual and the community.
- The strength of the community is directly related to the strength of its schools
- Diversity increases the opportunity for mutual respect and personal growth.
- High expectations and hard work drive individuals and organizations toward excellence.
- The education of the entire population is fundamental to the survival of democracy.
- Education is a responsibility shared by students, families, school and community.
- Education expands opportunities throughout life.

PARAMETERS

All decisions will be based strictly on what is best for students.

- We will always operate safe schools conducive to learning.
- We will not tolerate behavior that demeans the self-worth or dignity of any individual or group.
- No new program or service will be accepted unless it is consistent with the strategic plan, benefits clearly exceed cost, and provisions are made for staff development and program evaluation.
- No existing program or service will be retained unless it continues to have an optimum contribution towards the mission and benefits continue to justify the cost.
- Site-based decisions will always be consistent with the strategic plan.
- We will continuously improve communication between our staff, families, and community.
- We will hire and retain the best individuals available for the Woodbury community.
- We will identify and appropriately respond to ineffective performance by administrators, teachers, support staff and students.

MISSION

Building upon our history, diversity and beliefs, the mission of the Woodbury Public Schools,

a leader in personalizing education,

is to ensure each child becomes a responsible citizen who excels in his or her endeavors and meets life's challenges with courage, confidence and pride;

this is accomplished by utilizing proven instructional strategies and innovative methods by highly skilled and dedicated individuals in partnership with families, our city and the global community.

OBJECTIVES

- By 2013, each student will be proficient on state and local assessments and at least 50% of our students in each ethnic, gender and socioeconomic sub-group will achieve at the advanced proficiency level.
- At every level (PreK-5, 6-8, and 9-12), every student will create, implement and be accountable for a meaningful, personalized learning plan tailored to his or her interests and aspirations including post-secondary plans for high school students. (+)
- All students will develop and consistently demonstrate the character traits of a responsible citizen.

(+) – modified from the original plan approved in June 2008

STRATEGIES

- i. We will effectively utilize multiple sources of assessment data to improve instruction, close the achievement gap, and increase academic performance.
- ii. We will identify, model, reinforce and measure character traits of responsible citizenship that are important to the Woodbury community.
- iii. We will develop appropriate interventions at each level to address the social and emotional issues that compromise personal growth and interfere with the educational process.
- iv. We will develop a system to help each child create, implement and be accountable for his or her own meaningful personalized student learning plan.
- v. We will cultivate partnerships among our families, the local and global communities, and the schools to support educational achievement and enhance community perception.

SPECIFIC RESULTS

Strategy I

We will effectively utilize multiple sources of assessment data to improve instruction, close the achievement gap, and increase academic performance.

1. Expand implementation of AVID program to include grades 4-8 and 12.
2. Enhance the utilization of a data tracking methodology in order to improve teaching and learning.
3. Provide professional development to teachers in Pre-K through 12 in order to implement best teaching practices and learning strategies that utilize differentiated instruction to respond to diverse learners.
4. Create a staffed, age-appropriate Homework Completion Program that offers the same opportunity as the Jr.-Sr. High School's Workplace Program to students at each of the elementary schools in order to reach 100% homework completion. (+)
5. Implement a new/transfer student assessment process that determines the student's academic level in order to provide immediate appropriate instruction.
6. Redesign the IRSC process to provide immediate, regular support (both formal and informal) when students begin falling behind academically or indicate lack of motivation.
7. Improve student attendance through a system of rewards/recognition.
8. Create a program of studies in which all eighth grade students (except special education students whose individual educational plans specifically state otherwise) take Algebra I.
9. Establish an all-day pre-k to include serving all 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds when funding for this initiative can be acquired through a combination of increased revenue, grants and/or tuition. (+)
10. Design and improve enrichment and remedial opportunities to be offered during the summer recess session.

11. Offer a Summer Bridge to Technological Application to enable students to develop a variety of computer application skills and strengthen on-line research capabilities. (*)
12. Add additional mobile computers or computer labs to schools. (*)
13. Continue to equip classrooms with innovative technology to improve instruction. (*)
14. Continue and expand the use of Benchmark Assessments. (*)
15. Continue the practice of Curriculum Mapping. (*)

(+) – modified from the original plan approved in June 2008
(*) – newly added at the time of the 2010 periodic update

SPECIFIC RESULTS

Strategy II

We will identify, model, reinforce, and measure character traits of responsible citizenship that are important to the Woodbury community.

1. Integrate Responsive Classroom throughout grades Pre-K – 5.
2. Integrate Developmental Design throughout grades 6 – 8.
3. Establish a required service learning program at the High School.
4. Adopt the Challenge Day program and establish an opportunity for all freshman students to participate. (*)
5. Participate in the federal “Let’s Move” program. (*)
6. Celebrate the character traits embedded within the district’s character education programs. (*)
7. Use assessments to measure character traits. (*)

(*) – newly added at the time of the 2010 periodic update

SPECIFIC RESULTS

Strategy III

We will develop appropriate interventions, at each level, to address the social and emotional issues that compromise personal growth and interfere with the educational process.

1. Provide immediate and appropriate interventions to meet the social and emotional needs of our students.
2. Establish a parent training program from *The Incredible Years* in grades PreK-2 for families with identified needs. (+)
3. Improve consistent implementation of discipline codes across the school district and within each school.
4. Provide all staff, including support staff, instructional assistants, aides, and substitutes training on discipline procedures and ongoing support for behavioral interventions.
5. Coordinate an adult (staff member) to student mentoring program in grades K-12.
6. Utilize high school upperclassmen to mentor elementary students.

(+) – modified from the original plan approved in June 2008

SPECIFIC RESULTS

Strategy IV

We will develop a system to help each child create, implement and be accountable for his or her own meaningful personalized student learning plan.

1. Offer Option II programs to Senior High School students that are consistent with New Jersey State Core Curriculum Content Standards.
2. Establish a mechanism for goal-centered, student-led conferences at the elementary level.
3. Implement the AVID Elementary program for grades 4 and 5.
4. Instruct students about the goal setting process and establish age appropriate resources in all schools to support students with their goals.
5. Create a program at the Woodbury Senior High School that would connect faculty members with students for the purpose of providing support and goal setting in relation to each student's own Personalized Student Learning Plan (PSLP). (+)

(+) – modified from the original plan approved in June 2008

SPECIFIC RESULTS

Strategy V

We will cultivate partnerships among our families, the local and global communities and the schools to support educational achievement and enhance community perception.

1. Re-establish at the Jr.-Sr. High School, and create at each of the elementary schools, a Principal's Advisory Committee to provide information to and receive input from parents, students, and faculty on school programs, policies and goals.
2. Require parent participation in district-wide teacher conferences in order to enhance individual student achievement.
3. Expand parental involvement and attendance at school events.
4. Create partnerships between Woodbury School District and the local/regional businesses and professional communities, in order to foster greater interactions between students and the community.
5. Establish a student exchange program with a high school in a foreign country to provide an international learning opportunity for our students.
6. Improve family access to information on academic and extracurricular programs and activities, existing school policy and policy changes, and individual student goals and achievement.
7. Enhance public perception of Woodbury School through a relationship with the media, specifically local newspapers.
8. Create a district-wide Family Resource Center to provide a "one-stop-shop" in order to facilitate greater family involvement with our schools and support student achievement.