



Curriculum and Instructional Improvement



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CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Weston Public Schools has a compelling direction for every member of our educational community to be successfully learning, working, and contributing as global citizens. Digital learning is integral to this vision. It is a tool to fuel innovation in the classroom and engage students in deep, meaningful learning experiences. Priorities have been established in this budget to support the continuation of the one-to-one initiative in our schools and provide the necessary professional development to support teachers.

Another top priority in Weston is balancing educational excellence with healthy learning. Recently, teams of educators from two of our schools have received training through the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence, which has resulted in subsequent training with their respective school faculties. There are funds allocated in the proposed budget to continue to raise awareness with staff and provide them with training about the role emotions play in the lives of our students and their learning.

With these initiatives, the district is committed to self-identifying indicators of success and measuring achievement of those outcomes in order to gauge progress in achieving our goals. This entails establishing a system for collecting and analyzing data to allow teachers and administrators to easily access information to guide improvement. The technology cost center includes resources to support a data warehouse to inform the system on areas of strength and areas in need of growth.

The curriculum and instruction cost center includes staffing for the curriculum instructional leader (CIL) program that is essential for achieving district goals. CIL's are responsible for planning professional development, leading curriculum renewal, providing instructional coaching, and other related duties. The current CIL model has served the district well for the past 10 years. Major accomplishments include the development of a K-12 standards-based curriculum for all subject areas and implementation of an exemplary professional development. As with any program, it is important to examine it periodically to continually improve the delivery of services. In this context, a comprehensive review of the CIL model is currently underway for the 2016-17 school year. The study will culminate in a report to Weston's Board of Education in May 2016 to highlight strengths of the model, as well as to outline recommendations for improvement.

Necessary resources to support the delivery of the curriculum include the replacement of aging textbooks. Through the years, there has been a thoughtful approach in Weston to planning for the purchase of new textbooks in order to minimize the impact on any one budget year. Many new editions offer an electronic version in conjunction with the hard copy, which have the added benefit of being periodically updated by publishers with new content. However, textbook companies do not offer significant cost savings for purchasing electronic textbooks in lieu of hard copies. In fact, publishers have placed a six-year expiration date on electronic textbooks, which may result in additional costs to districts that do not renew their textbooks as frequently. With this in mind, Weston will continue to thoughtfully plan for the purchase of new resources and seek opportunities to control textbook costs.

In summary, district priorities guide the allocation of resources to enhance the educational program, which includes funding for professional and curriculum development, textbooks, and instructional coaching.

Curriculum
Weston Public Schools, Weston, CT

<u>2016-2017 Actual</u>			<u>2017-2018 Projected</u>				
<u>Operating</u> <u>Budget</u> <u>FTE</u>	<u>Other</u> <u>Sources</u> <u>FTE</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>FTE</u>		<u>Operating</u> <u>Budget</u> <u>FTE</u>	<u>Other</u> <u>Sources</u> <u>FTE</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>FTE</u>	<u>Change</u>
Certified Staff							
1.00	0.00	1.00	Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
<i>Kindergarten through Grade 5:</i>							
1.00	0.00	1.00	Language Arts & Social Studies	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
1.00	0.00	1.00	Math & Science	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
<i>Grades 6 through 12:</i>							
0.50	0.00	0.50	Language Arts	0.50	0.00	0.50	0.00
0.50	0.00	0.50	Social Studies	0.50	0.00	0.50	0.00
0.50	0.00	0.50	Math	0.50	0.00	0.50	0.00
0.50	0.00	0.50	Science	0.50	0.00	0.50	0.00
<i>Kindergarten through Grade 12:</i>							
0.40	0.00	0.40	Performing Arts	0.40	0.00	0.40	0.00
0.20	0.00	0.20	Visual Arts	0.20	0.00	0.20	0.00
0.40	0.00	0.40	World Language	0.40	0.00	0.40	0.00
0.40	0.00	0.40	Health & Physical Education	0.40	0.00	0.40	0.00
6.40	0.00	6.40		6.40	0.00	6.40	0.00
Non Certified Staff							
1.00	0.00	1.00	Administrative Assistant to Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
1.00	0.00	1.00		1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
7.40	0.00	7.40		7.40	0.00	7.40	0.00