

Curriculum and Instructional Improvement



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CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

This is an unprecedented time in education with school districts dealing with a series of federal and state mandates, including new requirements for teacher evaluation, the implementation of the Common Core State Standards, and a new system of standardized testing anticipated for the spring 2015. Within this new educational context, Weston Public Schools has remained steadfast in its mission to inspire students to take on the challenges of a global society. Having a rich set of curricular experiences already in place, the district seeks to continually improve its programs and services by creating an environment that supports teacher creativity and innovation, resulting in high levels of student engagement in the classroom.

The Academic Innovation and Measurement (AIM) initiative, currently in its fourth year of implementation, provides the framework for Weston to achieve this mission. All students in grades K-12 experience AIM in their classrooms through units and assessments that place greater emphasis on deep understanding and application of learning. The district's formal partnership with Teachers College, Columbia University has concluded, and the work on AIM is being facilitated by our administrators, curriculum instructional leaders, and teachers.

There are several new initiatives planned for the 2014-15 school year supported by the proposed budget. The district is planning to reintroduce Spanish in kindergarten and first grade with an improved program designed to promote proficiency through more frequent class meetings. In music, this budget seeks to extend the orchestra program to fourth grade, thus strengthening Weston's instrumental program and bringing it into alignment with schools in the region. In addition, there will be a systemic approach to improving and assessing writing instruction throughout the district through the use of electronic writing portfolios.

The curriculum and instruction cost center also supports the continuous improvement of the K-12 instructional program with resources for curriculum development. Among the priorities for curriculum development for 2014-15 include continued work on the K-12 math, K-12 English language arts, and 6-12 social studies curricula. There are allocations in this budget for the purchase of math and social studies textbooks and resources, as well as a math program evaluation conducted by the Tri-State Consortium. We will also begin work on renewing the K-12 health, guidance, music, and visual arts programs. Furthermore, resources have been allocated to support the development of a K-12 computer science continuum and for the implementation of the third and final phase of the Project Lead the Way, pre-engineering program at Weston Middle School.

Finally, next year's focus for sustaining an exemplary professional development program consist of continued training on AIM, Common Core State Standards, and the integration of digital learning tool. The district will continue to offer teaching and learning institutes during the summer months to support these needs. This summer's sessions will include institutes on the Readers/Writers Workshop model, implementing electronic writing portfolios, and technology integration.

**CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTIONAL IMPROVEMENT
STAFFING**

<u>2013-2014 Actual</u>		<u>2014-2015 Projected</u>	
<u>Staff</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Change</u>
CERTIFIED STAFF			
Administration			
1.00	Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction	1.00	0.00
District Curriculum & Instructional Leaders			
<i>Kindergarten through Grade 5:</i>			
1.00	Language Arts & Social Studies	1.00	0.00
1.00	Math & Science	1.00	0.00
<i>Grades 6 through 12:</i>			
0.50	Language Arts	0.50	0.00
0.50	Social Studies	0.50	0.00
0.50	Math	0.50	0.00
0.50	Science	0.50	0.00
<i>Kindergarten through Grade 12</i>			
0.40	Art & Music	0.40	0.00
0.40	World Language	0.40	0.00
0.40	Health & Physical Education	0.40	0.00
0.00	Performing Arts	0.20	0.20
5.20	Total District C & I Leaders	5.40	0.20
<u>6.20</u>	TOTAL CERTIFIED STAFF	<u>6.40</u>	<u>0.20</u>
NON-CERTIFIED STAFF			
Clerical			
1.00	Administrative Assistant	1.00	0.00
<u>1.00</u>	TOTAL NON-CERTIFIED STAFF	<u>1.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
7.20	TOTAL STAFF	7.40	0.20

**CURRICULUM
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Weston Public Schools, Weston, CT

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2014	2015	Differ. to
	Expended	Expended	Expended	Budget	Expected	Requested	Expected

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION - EXISTING

<u>OBJECT BUDGET SUMMARY</u>							
I. Salaries							
Administrators*	168,667	148,605	174,000	174,000	177,480	177,480	0
Teacher Leaders	448,674	459,913	489,255	494,464	444,804	499,674	54,870
Substitute Teachers	27,479	40,865	32,697	28,000	28,000	28,000	0
Stipends/Curriculum Work	108,538	119,221	164,182	123,868	115,847	128,564	12,717
TOTAL CERTIFIED	753,358	768,604	860,134	820,332	766,131	833,718	67,587
Clerical*	57,783	57,942	64,302	59,032	58,282	58,282	
TOTAL NON-CERTIFIED	57,783	57,942	64,302	59,032	58,282	58,282	
TOTAL SALARIES	811,141	826,546	924,436	879,364	824,413	892,000	67,587
II. Non-Salary Objects							
Professional Ed. Services	31,799	31,720	33,124	32,500	56,524	52,000	-4,524
Professional Tech. Services	98,982	129,993	122,513	104,100	138,351	131,100	-7,251
Training	39,945	43,475	43,941	49,270	49,270	49,270	0
Reimbursable Expenses	5,015	4,672	5,373	5,500	5,500	5,500	0
Materials	762	79	694	5,825	5,825	5,825	0
Dues & Fees	7,034	7,250	18,165	19,569	22,119	25,349	3,230
TOTAL NON-SALARY	183,537	217,189	223,810	216,764	277,589	269,044	-8,545
TOTAL BUDGET	994,678	1,043,735	1,148,246	1,096,128	1,102,002	1,161,044	59,042
% Over FY 2014 Budget		5.92%		% Over FY 2014 Expected		5.36%	

PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT - NEW

<u>OBJECT BUDGET SUMMARY</u>							
Non-Salary Objects							
Professional Tech. Services	0	0	100,000	0	0	0	0
Professional Development	0	0	0	6,800	6,800	3,400	-3,400
Materials	32,612	0	4,415	10,465	16,377	2,900	-13,477
Software	0	0	0	35,000	21,000	0	-21,000
Books	88,499	65,839	18,709	91,500	78,588	73,745	-4,843
Equipment	49,238	60,938	1,442	9,708	3,608	12,320	8,712
TOTAL NON-SALARY	170,349	126,777	124,566	153,473	126,373	92,365	-34,008
TOTAL BUDGET	1,165,027	1,170,512	1,272,812	1,249,601	1,228,375	1,253,409	25,034
% Over FY 2014 Budget		0.30%		% Over FY 2014 Expected		2.04%	

**Note: The Assistant Superintendent of Schools and the Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent of Schools are not represented by a collective bargaining group. See the note on page 98.*

**CURRICULUM
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Comparison of FY 2014 Expected to Budget & Comparison of FY 2015 Requested to FY 2014 Budget

	<u>FY 2014</u>			<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>Differ. to</u>
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Expected</u>	<u>Budget</u>			
<i>CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION - EXISTING</i>						
Non-Salary Objects						
Professional Ed. Services	32,500	56,524	24,024	32,500	52,000	19,500
Professional Tech. Services	104,100	138,351	34,251	104,100	131,100	27,000
Training	49,270	49,270	0	49,270	49,270	0
Reimbursable Expenses	5,500	5,500	0	5,500	5,500	0
Materials	5,825	5,825	0	5,825	5,825	0
Dues & Fees	19,569	22,119	2,550	19,569	25,349	5,780
<i>PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT - NEW</i>						
Non-Salary Objects						
Professional Development	6,800	6,800	0	6,800	3,400	-3,400
Materials	10,465	16,377	5,912	10,465	2,900	-7,565
Software	35,000	21,000	-14,000	35,000	7,500	-27,500
Books	91,500	78,588	-12,912	91,500	73,745	-17,755
Equipment	9,708	3,608	-6,100	9,708	12,320	2,612
TOTAL NON-SALARY	<u>370,237</u>	<u>403,962</u>	<u>33,725</u>	<u>370,237</u>	<u>368,909</u>	<u>-1,328</u>
Percent Change			9.11%			-0.36%



**CURRICULUM
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Key Budget Facts

<u>Enrollment</u>	
Projected 2014-15	2,436
Change - 10/1/13	(12)

<u>% CAPT Scores</u>	
<u>At Goal</u>	
Reading	77.7
Writing	90.5
Math	87.9
Science	81.5

<u>Staffing</u>	
Certified F.T.E.	6.20
Non-Certified F.T.E.	1.00
Total	7.20

Why Did the Budget Change?

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTIONAL IMPROVEMENT

<u>Object Description</u>	<u>Reasons For Budget Changes</u>	<u>Differ. to Expected</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Administrator	Non-represented staff salary increase TBD		
Teacher Leaders	Contractual general wage increase	2,296	
	Contractual step increase	9,959	
	Add .20 FTE K-12 curr. and instruct. for the performing arts	15,000	
	Anticipate return of staff on leave of absence during FY 2014	<u>27,615</u>	
		54,870	12.34%
Substitute Teachers	No change	0	0.00%
Stipends/Summer	Contractual general wage increase	910	
	Increase curriculum writing salaries to support initiatives	7,151	
	Anticipate return of staff on leaves of absence during FY 2014	<u>4,656</u>	
		12,717	10.98%
Clerical	Non-represented staff salary increase TBD		
Prof. Ed. Services	The Federal Government requires local school districts to provide Adult Education programs for their residents to receive a high school diploma. Historically, Weston contracts with the Westport Public Schools for these services. The associated cost increased significantly this year, from \$30,433 in FY 2013 to \$51,724 in FY 2014. Consequently, the administration will review Adult Education programs in other area school districts to determine if a more cost effective alternative exists. However, the FY 2015 is based on continuing the mandated programs with the Westport Public Schools. However, as of July 1, 2014 the district will no longer pay tuition to the Westport Public Schools for non-mandated enrichment classes.	-4,524	-8.00%
Prof. Tech. Services	See details below - based on program needs	-7,251	-5.24%
Training	Based on program needs, see details below	0	0.00%
Reimbursable Exp.	No change	0	0.00%
Materials	No change	0	0.00%
Dues & Fees	Reclassified CES Leadership Program cost from District Administration to Curriculum & Instruction	2,550	
	Anticipated increase in cost of existing memberships	<u>680</u>	
		3,230	

**CURRICULUM
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SELECT ACCOUNT DETAILS

Teacher Leaders, Stipends & Curriculum Work:

Curriculum & Instruction Leaders:	
Salaries	499,674
Stipends	73,564
Curriculum Development Priority Areas:	55,000
K, 1 Spanish	
K-3 Math	
Grades 6, 9, 10 Social Studies	
Grades 9, 10 English	
Music & Visual Arts	
Institutes for Writing, Literacy and Digital Learning	
Substitute Teachers	28,000
<u>Total Teacher Leaders & Curriculum Develop.</u>	<u>656,238</u>

Professional Technical Services:

In-Service Days

Math in Focus – Lesson Study K-8	13,000
Common Core*	18,500
Digital Learning	10,000
Performance Assessments	10,000
Smarter Balanced Assessment Alignment*	7,000

Consulting Services

Math in Focus-Grade 5	5,000
Writing Portfolio Initiative	4,500
AIM Consultation	5,000
Teacher and Administrator Evaluation*	10,000
Literacy Instruction-Readers Writers Workshop	18,000

Testing & Evaluation

Northwest Evaluation Association Map Testing	20,000
OLSAT& Naglieri Grades 2 - 5	7,100
Writing Portfolio Scoring - External Validation	3,000

<u>Total Professional Technical Services</u>	<u>131,100</u>
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*Note: Cost associated with State-mandated requirements.

Training

Hurlbutt Elementary School	1,275
Weston Intermediate School	1,025
Weston Middle School	5,900
Weston High School	7,170
Special Education	8,000
Pupil Personnel Services	2,500
Nurses	900
Technology	5,500
District Wide Initiatives	6,000
District Administration	6,000
Business Office	2,500
Facilities (includes Energy Ed.)	2,500

<u>Total Training</u>	<u>49,270</u>
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Dues & Fees:

Tri-State Consortium	7,240
Tri-State PADI	3,500
Tri-State Math Visitation	7,140
CES - Leadership Program	2,550
Educational Leader 21	3,000
ASCD	1,385
Marshall Memo	400
Phi Delta Kappa	95
Education Week	39

<u>Total Dues & Fees</u>	<u>25,349</u>
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CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTIONAL IMPROVEMENT

New and/or Multi-Year Initiatives

Training:

Project Lead the Way	3,400
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Materials:

Grades 5, 8 Math In-Focus	2,900
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Books:

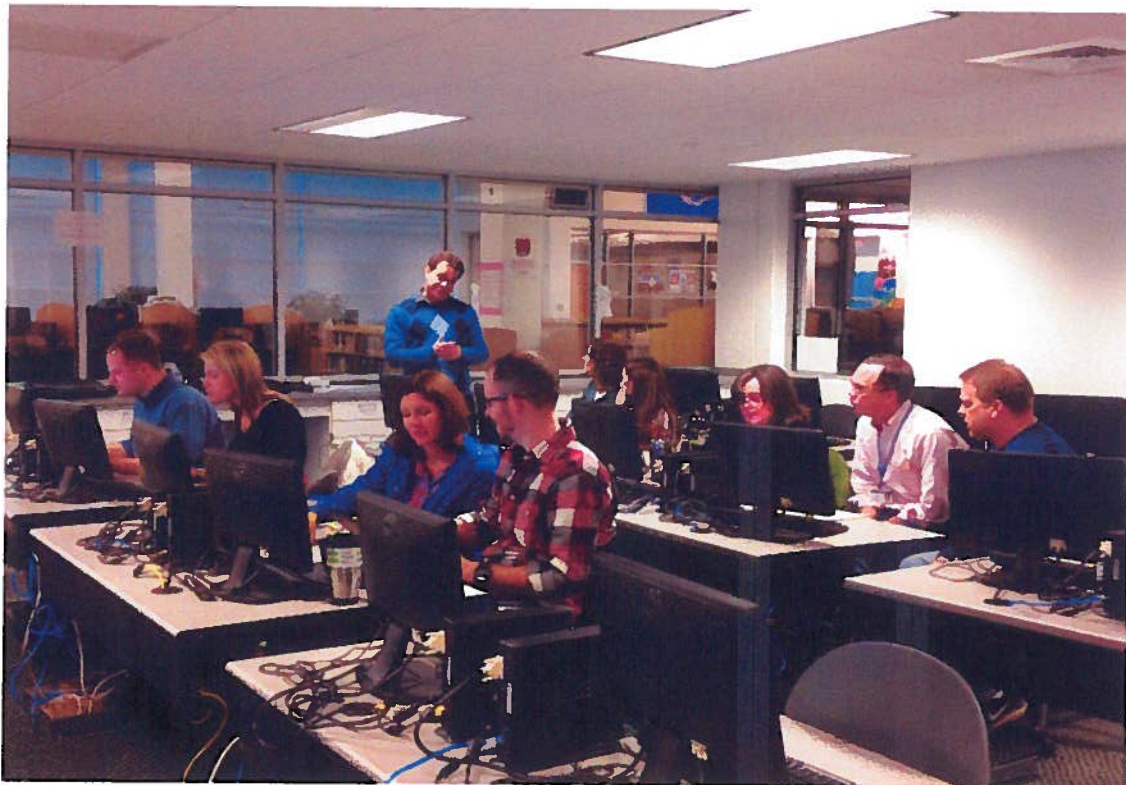
Grades 5 & 8 Math in Focus	24,300
Middle and High School Geometry	22,440
Grade 6 Social Studies	19,000
Spanish	6,545
Advanced Placement French	<u>1,460</u>
	<u>73,745</u>

Equipment:

Project Lead the Way - High School - 8 Vex Kits	12,320
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Total New and/or Multi-Year Initiatives	92,365
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WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Curriculum Renewal Cycle

Years 1 and 2
Research and Development

- *Align curriculum with frameworks and standards*
- *Review literature, research, best practices*
- *Develop units*
- *Identify materials and resources*
- *Determine PD needs*
- *Year 2 PD preparation*
 - *Data driven*
 - *Research proven practices*
 - *New technology*
 - *Student needs*

Year 3
Implementation

Put curriculum into practice

Ongoing Professional Development

Year 4
Monitoring

How are we doing?

Is it in place?

Year 5
Evaluation

Assess success +/-

WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Curriculum Revision Plan

Revision Year 2012	Revision Year 2013	Revision Year 2014	Revision Year 2015
K-12 Math & Business	K-5 Social Studies	6-12 Social Studies 6-12 English K-12 Visual Arts/Music	K-5 Language Arts K-12 Physical Ed. & Health K-12 Guidance K-12 World Language

Revision Year 2016	Revision Year 2017	Revision Year 2018	Revision Year 2019
K-12 Math & Business			
K-5 Social Studies			
6-12 Social Studies 6-12 English K-12 Visual Arts/Music			
K-5 Language Arts 6-12 Physical Ed. & Health K-12 Guidance K-12 World Language			
K-12 Science & PLTW 3-8 Project Challenge			

Each curriculum area has a two-year timeframe for revision. Implementation may vary, according to needs, schedule, and budget. In the case of an extensive K-12 revision, an area may require more than a two year sequence.

WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Curriculum Renewal Resource Requirement Schedule

2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
Science (K-12) Phase One		Science (K-12) Phase Two
Mathematics (K-12) Phase One	Mathematics (K-12) Phase Two	Mathematics (K-12) Phase Three
	Social Studies (K-12) Phase One	Social Studies (K-12) Phase Two
	Language Arts (K-12) Phase One	Language Arts (K-12) Phase Two