



Curriculum and Instructional Improvement



Dr. Kenneth Craw
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

24 School Road
Weston, CT 06883

Telephone: 203-221-6555
Fax: 203-221-1253

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Weston Public Schools continue to build on a long history of academic excellence with two impressive accomplishments related to college preparation and success. As reported in our annual statistical report presented to the Board of Education in November 2018, 98 percent of the Weston High School Class of 2013 graduated from college in four years or less, while an additional one percent graduated within five years. This result is more than twice the national average. In addition, Weston continued to increase the percentage of students taking AP exams, while maintaining the percentage earning scores of three or higher. Consequently, Weston High School was recognized as part of a select group of districts on the 9th Annual AP District Honor Roll for significant gains in student access and success. These achievements demonstrate the benefits of providing all students with highly supportive and challenging learning environments. (We were similarly recognized last year for the 8th Annual AP District Honor Roll.)

The Connecticut State Department of Education has adopted new graduation requirements beginning with the Class of 2023, which will increase the number of credits required for students to graduate from Weston High School. Students will need to obtain at least 25 credits, (one more than previously required), with specific requirements in the humanities, STEM, arts, world language, health and physical education. For Weston, the legislation affects two areas in particular: Health requirements have been raised from 0.5 credit to 1.0 credit, which requires additional staffing to be included in this budget. In addition, there is a new requirement for students to complete a master-based assessment as one of their credit requirements. There will be a multi-year impact on the budget as a result of this mandate.

The district continually updates the K-12 curriculum and strives to promote creativity and innovation in the classroom. The science program has been a major area of focus in response to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). We have updated the K-8 scope and sequence and the course progression at WHS. The amount of time devoted for science at the elementary level has been increased due to new content expectations. Our teachers have embraced these changes and are trying new approaches to teaching science in the classrooms. For 2019-20, teachers in grades three and four will need new science kits in order to facilitate their units of study and to complete the elementary roll out. The kits include essential student and teacher resources for delivering the program.

At the high school level, the district established a Science Research Program complete with its own laboratory housed in the WHS science wing. The inaugural class has been engaged in researching a variety of topics and will be sharing their findings with experts in the field at state-level competitions. This budget, along with additional support from the Weston Education Foundation, continues to support the growth of this program.

The proposed curriculum budget also provides for the addition of several courses at both WHS and WMS. Several full-year AP courses have been added to the program of studies. AP Music Theory and Computer Science Principles extend our music and computer science pathways, while the AP Government class has been expanded into a full-year course in order for students to delve deeper into the content. At WMS, we are pleased to increase the amount of time devoted

to art during the practical and fine arts block by adding an additional trimester of this offering in both seventh and eighth grades.

Growing our literacy program at the K-5 level continues to be a top priority. There are consulting funds allocated to partner with Teachers College, Columbia University at both HES and WIS to support teacher professional development efforts. In terms of assessment, the district is in year two of phasing out the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) in favor of the Fountas and Pinnell assessment system, which will provide teachers with more detailed information regarding a student's reading progress. Following this year's implementation at WIS, training and support will be provided to HES teachers through the CILs as we prepare for the 2019-20 school year.

In summary, the district's priority of maintaining its academic excellence guides the allocation of resources to enhance the educational program, which includes funding for professional learning, curriculum development, textbooks, and instructional coaching.

Curriculum
Weston Public Schools, Weston, CT

<u>2018-2019 Actual</u>				<u>2019-2020 Projected</u>			
<u>Operating</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Operating</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>	
<u>Budget</u>	<u>Sources</u>	<u>FTE</u>		<u>Budget</u>	<u>Sources</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Change</u>
<u>FTE</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>FTE</u>		<u>FTE</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>FTE</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	Music	0.40	0.00	0.40	0.00
0.30	0.00	0.30	Visual Arts	0.30	0.00	0.30	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
6.50	0.00	6.50		6.50	0.00	6.50	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	1.00
7.50	0.00	7.50		7.50	0.00	7.50	0.00