

District Goals 2021-2022 Mid-Year Progress Report



Board of Education Meeting
February 22, 2022

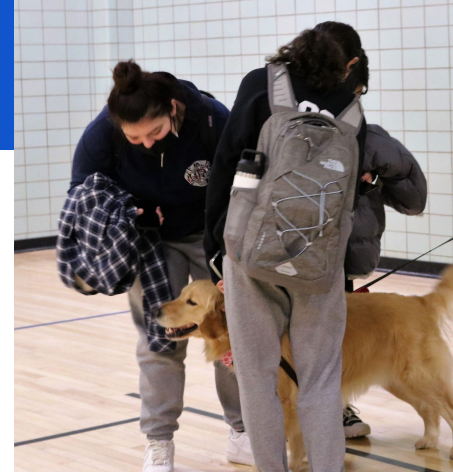
District Goal #1 - Safe Return:
Provide a safe return to in-person learning
with a focus on student and staff wellness,
health and safety, and educational continuity.



District Goal #1 - Safe Return

Student Wellness

- Student Assistance Counselor (SAC) joins WHS counseling team.
- Administrators and staff attend professional development sessions. Topics include:
 - *Taking a Mental Health Pulse: Student Mental Health and Academic Re-Acclimation* 1/10/22 (Guidance staff & CST)
 - *Creating a Safe Learning Environment for all Students on the Sexual Spectrum* 12/10/21 (Guidance staff & CST)
 - *Having Hope: Suicide Prevention for Schools* 12/2/21 (Guidance staff & CST)
 - School-based Mental Health Webinar Series - Session 2: *Needs Assessment and Resource Mapping* 11/18/21 (Dr. Michael Weissman & Maureen Mazzaresse)
 - School-based Mental Health Webinar Series - Session 1: *Developing a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Framework* 10/29/21 (Dr. Michael Weissman & Maureen Mazzaresse)



District Goal #1 - Safe Return

Staff Wellness

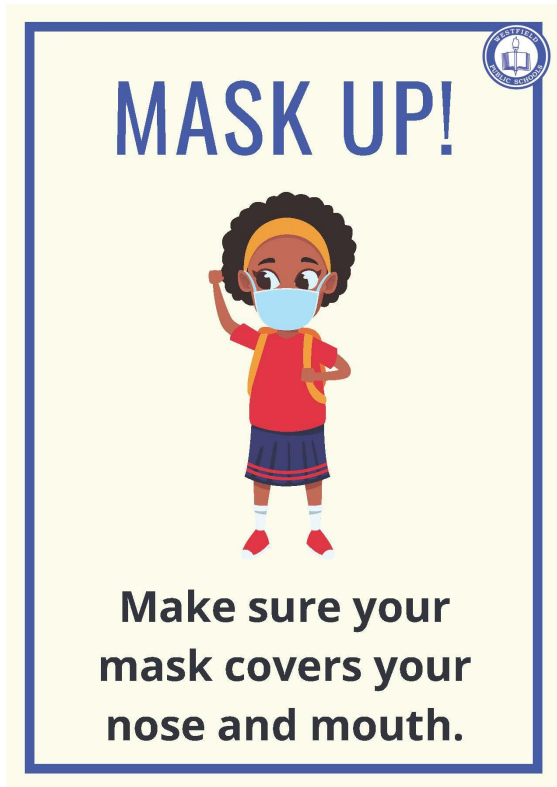


- Promote the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for practical, solution-focused resources to help reduce stress, strengthen relationships, increase productivity and improve overall quality of life.
- PD Session: *Helping Teachers Understand and Manage the Effects of Stress in the Classroom* (Feb 9)
- Building and department level activities/professional development to aid in development of coping/relaxation strategies

District Goal #1 - Safe Return

Health and Safety

- Visual confirmation of COVID mitigation measures being implemented.
- Regular reminders to students, staff, and families
- Daily decision-making regarding COVID-positive cases, COVID-like symptoms, and close contacts
- Confirmation that regular cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting protocols are being implemented
- Completed ventilation projects in multipurpose rooms and nurses offices



District Goal #1 - Safe Return



Educational Continuity



- Students return to full-day, in-person instruction in September
- State and local assessments used to determine student learning needs
- Start Strong results shared at 2/8 BOE Meeting
- Comparable learning experiences for all students through use of Google Classroom
- Remote instructional supports provided to students in isolation or quarantine

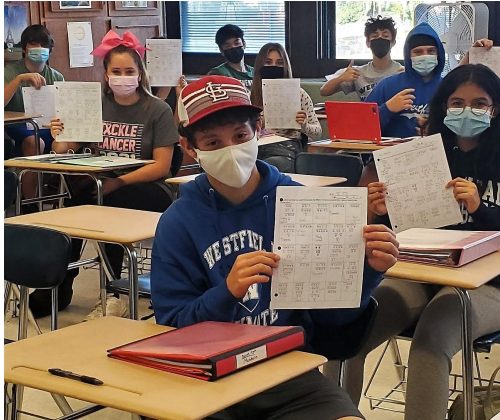
District Goal #1

Next Steps

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- Continue to review, refine, and implement measures that will keep our schools safe and open for in person learning
 - Establish community relationships with local mental health providers.
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District Goal #2 - Student Achievement:

Support student growth and academic achievement through a focus on the continuous review and refinement of curricula and professional development.



District Goal #2 - Student Achievement

Curriculum

- Revise Health & PE Curriculum
 - Staff introduced to new legislation and standards
 - Resources collected, experts consulted
 - Timelines set for professional development and completing revisions
 - [NJDOE Grade Level Concepts & Core Ideas](#)
 - [NJSLS-Aligned Curriculum Resources & Lesson Plans](#)



District Goal #2 - Student Achievement

Revise the Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Curriculum

There are three Comprehensive Health and Physical Education standards:

Standard 2.1: Personal and Mental Health

Personal Growth & Development

Pregnancy & Parenting

Emotional Health

Social & Sexual Health

Community Health Services & Support

Standard 2.2: Physical Wellness

Movement Skills & Concepts

Physical Fitness

Lifelong Fitness

Nutrition

Standard 2.3: Safety

Personal Safety

Health Conditions, Diseases & Medicines

Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drugs

Dependency, Substances Disorder & Treatment

Although we encourage families to have their student participate in these essential health topics, we want to remind parents/guardians that they do have the option of excluding their child from any portion of sexuality education instruction if it is in conflict with conscience, moral, or religious beliefs.

District Goal #2 - Student Achievement

New Jersey Student Learning Standards



NJSLS Home Content Areas

Home / New Jersey Student Learning Standards / Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Educational Resources

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Educational Resources

The New Jersey Department of Education is deeply committed to ensuring that schools are safe, welcoming and inclusive environments for all students regardless of race or ethnicity, sexual and gender identities, mental and physical abilities and religious beliefs. The New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) are designed to support the development of curricula that highlight the contributions and experiences of individuals with diverse abilities, cultures, identities and perspectives.

This website provides a wide range of resources that can be used to develop curricula, facilitate professional learning and engage community stakeholders in conversations on incorporating diversity and inclusion throughout the kindergarten through twelfth grade learning environment. The featured lessons, activities and resources were selected to support educators in implementing the new legislative requirements of the 2019 History and Contributions of Individuals with Disabilities and LGBT (N.J.S.A. 18A:25-8.3(a)), Diversity and Inclusion statutes (N.J.S.A. 18A:25-4.3(a)). For more clarity on the requirements and differences between these two laws, please visit the [Equity Assured Questions](#).

All students deserve equitable access ([N.J.A.C. 6A:27](#)) to a high-quality education that is inclusive and reflective of the rich diversity of our state. This can be achieved through consideration of diverse histories, experiences and perspectives that promote the dignity and respect of all individuals.

Sample Activities and Lessons



Sample activities, lesson plans and units for K-12 educators

Culturally Responsive Practices



General and content specific articles and resources designed to encourage safe, welcoming and inclusive environments for all students

Evaluating Instructional Materials



Guidance documents to assist the creation, evaluation and selection of diversity, equity and inclusion instructional resources

Frequently Asked Questions



Common questions and answers regarding diversity, equity and inclusion related legislation

Videos and Webinars



Videos and webinars that focus on different aspects of diversity, equity and inclusive education

NJ Commissions and Agencies



NJ Commissions and Agencies that work to promote a more equitable future for all New Jerseyans

Curriculum

- Prepare for implementation of new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion requirements in September 2022
 - Curriculum Audit Subcommittee of DEI Committee compiling a list of where DEI standards are being met
 - NJDOE releases [DEI Educational Resources](#)

District Goal #2 - Student Achievement



Professional Development

- Professional Development provided in September & October 2021 and at department and grade-level meetings to develop strategies for assessing and addressing gaps in student learning
- Tools developed and implemented and students identified for academic intervention services

District Goal #2 - Student Achievement


Professional Development

- Responsive Classroom is a student-centered, social and emotional learning approach to teaching and discipline.
- Phase 1: 50% of K-5 teachers were trained in-person in July/August 2021 by Responsive Classroom consultants. These trained teachers turnkeyed the "Morning Meeting" elements of the Responsive Classroom approach.





District Goal #2

- Responsive Classroom - Phase 2:
Plan for the remaining 50% of K-5
teachers to receive summer training
in-person by Responsive Classroom
consultants in 2022
 - Analyze audit of DEI standards for
any gaps
 - Continue to follow timelines set for
professional development and
completing revisions to revised Health
and PE Curriculum
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Next Steps

District Goal #3 - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI):

Develop a framework to promote DEI in the areas of professional development, recruitment, selection and retention of diverse candidates, curriculum and curricular materials, community engagement and school-wide programming.



District Goal #3 - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

MISSION

The Westfield Public School District, in partnership with families and the community, educates all students to reach their highest potential as productive, well-balanced and responsible citizens who respect individual differences and diversity in an ever changing world.



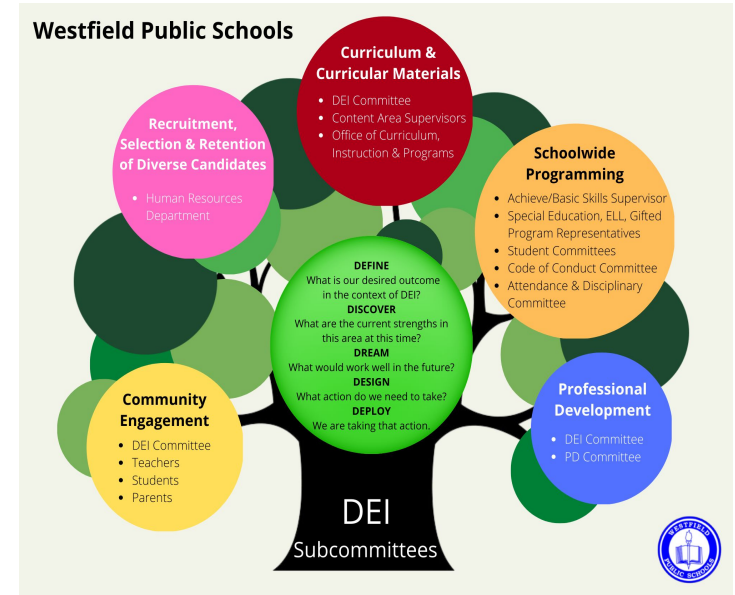
Develop a Framework

- Steering Committee formed last fall & meets monthly
- Framework & Guiding Principles based on Mission Statement
- Advisory Committee made up of community stakeholders met in January to review framework
- Hanover Research will conduct equity audit

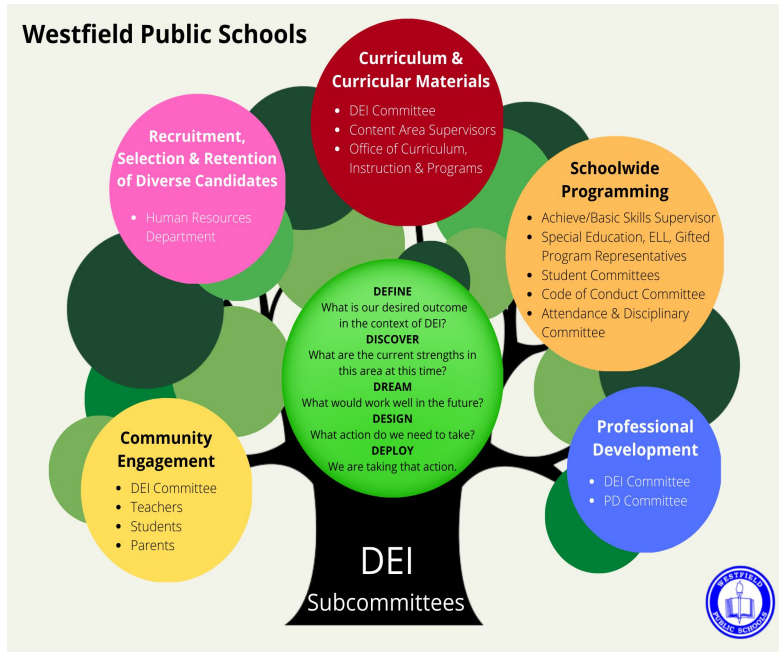
District Goal #3 - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Subcommittee Work

- Curriculum:
 - DEI Audit
 - Holocaust & Genocide
 - Contributions of LGBTQ+ & Disabled Communities
 - Amistad Commission
 - Asian / Pacific Islanders History
- Recruitment:
 - District membership in CJ Pride
 - Administrators attend College Job Fairs with diverse populations
- Professional Development:
 - Staff trained in areas identified in DEI framework



District Goal #3 - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion





Subcommittee Work

- **Schoolwide Programming:**
 - Schoolwide & District Assemblies
 - Academic & Support Programs
- **Community Engagement:**
 - Planning virtual information sessions on DEI / curricular topics

District Goal #3

Next Steps

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- Distribute DEI Equity Survey to community
 - Analyze survey results
 - Analyze DEI Curriculum Subcommittee audit results
 - Continue DEI professional development
 - Utilize communication survey feedback for best methods to share DEI initiatives and community engagement opportunities
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The NEWS Letter

A monthly e-newsletter from the Westfield Public Schools

December 2021

Superintendent's Corner

Each December, as my holiday message, I share with the school community a homework assignment which reflects on the past year and looks forward to the new year. Looking back at my whirlwind four months in Westfield and to what I hope for the future, I respectfully request that everyone pause and consider this year's ...

Holiday Recess Homework Assignment

- **REMEMBER** to find time to focus on your health and the well-being of those around you.
- **CHERISH** each moment spent with your loved ones and find time to laugh... a lot! It's easy to get caught up in the challenges - past and future - but there are plenty of good memories to cherish.
- **RESPECT** those around you by exhibiting care, concern, and consideration for their needs and feelings.

On behalf of the Board of Education and all the administrators of the Westfield Public School District, we want to wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season.

Thank you for your unwavering support of our students.

With gratitude and hope for 2022,

Dr. G.



District Goal #4 - Communications:

Provide clear, concise,
and consistent
messaging regarding
district-wide goals
and initiatives.

District Goal #4 - Communications

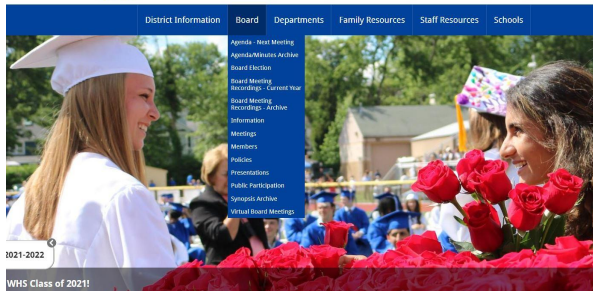
Westfield Public Schools
A Tradition of Excellence



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 31, 2022
Contact: Mary Ann McGann at mmcgann@westfieldnj12.org or (908) 789-4463

Holocaust Survivor Speaks to Edison Intermediate Students

Eva Saffer Wiener was 10 months old when she and her parents boarded the M.S. St. Louis, a German transatlantic liner docked in Hamburg and bound for Cuba. It was May 1939 and the Saffers were among more than 900 Jewish passengers desperate to get out of Nazi Germany.



Inventory Existing Methods

- Spreadsheet created of existing district/school communication vehicles, including frequency of communication & primary audience
 - Website
 - Social Media
 - *The NEWS Letter*
 - Email (School & District)
 - Press Releases
 - Video Stories
 - Board Meetings
 - PTO Newsletters
 - Emergency Alert Notifications
 - Community Outreach (i.e. Golden Pass, Blue Devil Bulletin for WHS Alum)



District Goal #4 - Communications

Survey School Community

- Family/Community Survey distributed via:
 - Email
 - *The NEWS Letter* (January)
 - District social media & website
 - Community (Town, YMCA, Library)
 - PTO newsletters
- Surveys for students & staff to be included in February issue of *The NEWS Letter* & distributed appropriately



District Goal #4 - Communications

Preliminary Survey Results

- 186 respondents
 - 92% Parent/Guardian
 - 8% Community Member
- 83% access Internet via handheld device; 17% via computer/laptop
- *The NEWS Letter* received compliments, along with ideas for future topics.
 - 99 respondents find Superintendent emails & *The NEWS Letter* effective.
 - 50 say both are outstanding.
- Majority say the website is effective in providing information but many find it cumbersome, challenging, and antiquated.
- Majority of respondents have a personal Facebook account, with Instagram a close second. 62 respondents have a personal Twitter account.
 - Many respondents find the District FB effective with a slightly larger number reporting they don't use it to stay connected with District happenings.
 - A large majority of survey respondents say they do not access the District Twitter feed; however, we have 2,700+ Twitter followers, a number that grows by 10-25 each month.

District Goal #4 - Communications

Preliminary Survey Results, continued

- Overwhelming majority report being very satisfied with emergency alert notifications.

Board Meetings

- A majority (86 respondents) do not attend Board meetings in person.
 - Among those who do, 42 find the meetings effective, 5 say they are outstanding, 25 feel improvements are necessary, 12 find them ineffective, and 16 reported being unaware of in-person meetings as a method to stay informed.
- 36% of respondents do not use our new Board meeting livestream, but those who do find it effective (29%), in need of improvement (16%), outstanding (6%), or ineffective (5%). 8% were unaware of the livestream option.
- 34% of respondents find the Board meeting Synopsis effective, while 40% either were unaware of it or do not use it to stay connected to the District. 14% feel Synopsis needs improvement while an equal number (6%) find it either outstanding or ineffective.

District Goal #4 - Communications

Track analytics to determine and identify opportunities to improve engagement



1,528 Facebook followers, up 145 since September

- Top Posts include: WHS All-State vocalists, WHS Marching Band 2nd Place in State, Wilson SpaceX alum, Dr. G's Opening Day, Gr 5 Franklin Band, Hi's Eye coverage of Girls Soccer
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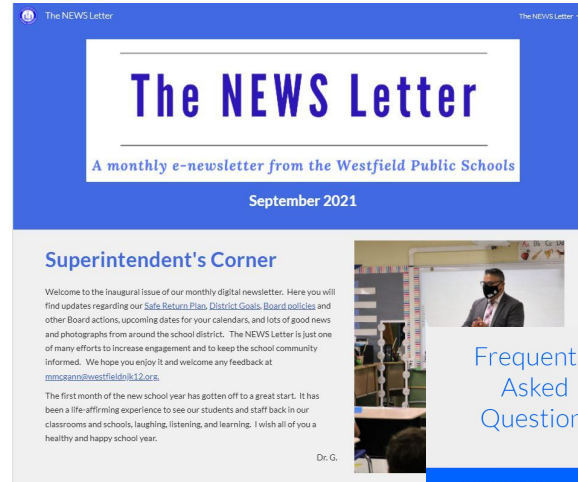
2,739 Twitter followers, up 98 since September

- Top Tweets include: Students Change Hunger, SAT Perfect Scorers, WHS Marching Band 2nd Place in State, BOE recognizes Girls Soccer & Tennis, WHS All-State Band

District Goal #4 - Communications


Updated Methods in 2021-2022

- *The NEWS Letter*
- YouTube Channel
- Livestreamed BOE Meetings
- FAQ - Posted on website, social media, & in *The NEWS Letter*



District Goal #4


Next Steps



July 1, 2022

- NEW Website
- NEW Mobile App
- Communications plan to build upon existing successes and explore new avenues to connect with stakeholders

Ongoing

- Video Brochures
(District & Schools)
 - Community Outreach
- 



Board of Education Meeting February 22, 2022