

FUTURE SEARCH

Report to School Committee

December 1, 2010

Future Search

- Two day event
- Cross section of both communities
- Historical scan
- Focus on the present
- Values and beliefs

Focus on the Future :

Preferred Vision

Mission Statement

The WOCSD commits to ensuring that each scholar develops the social, academic, critical and creative thinking skills necessary to meet with success in college, career, citizenship and life. The responsibility for education is shared by student, family, school and community.

Vision Statement

WOCSD will be a nationally recognized system known for high performing schools that produce creative, caring, competent students who take charge of their own learning.

Future Search Themes

CORE VALUES

Ensure students develop and demonstrate our core values: respect, responsibility, honesty, trustworthiness, compassion

STUDENT COMPETENCIES

Create independent learners able to compete in a global society

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Foster and increase community involvement in and support of our schools

CURRICULUM INSTRUCTION ASSESSMENT

Align curriculum with national and state standards and utilize a wide variety of instructional strategies to maximize learning

TECHNOLOGY

Expand use of technology in support of learning and district goals

FACILITIES

Ensure safe and engaging building and grounds appropriate for education and community use

CORE VALUES



District Wide Initiatives

Ensure students develop and demonstrate our core values: respect, responsibility, honesty, trustworthiness, compassion

Long Term Goal(s)

Create a district wide culture reflective of core values demonstrated by student and staff

1 Year Goal(s)

Maintain clear and appropriate district policies regarding student behavior

Evidence: Policies adopted by School Committee

Wells High School

Activities

- Develop/continue opportunities to recognize positive behavior
- Educate students on the consequences of negative behavior

Evidence

- Breakfast of Champions
- Incorporate positive action curriculum activities into school-wide curriculum
- Advisory periods

Wells Junior High School

Activities

- Guidance Counselor will provide presentations for grades 5-8 during the Allied Arts schedule for Extension days. Topics will focus on cyber-bullying, social networking, internet safety and making good choices.
- Building Leadership Team will review and add input to appropriate district policies regarding student conduct.
- Staff will make implementation of core values visible throughout school
- Staff will recognize students who consistently demonstrate the core values
- Teachers will meet with administrators to discuss and align what teachers need for support when dealing with disruptive students

Evidence

- Lesson plans
- Post assessments and student reflections
- Feedback provided by leadership
- Core values posted and visible in key locations of the school and classroom
- Recognition events at each grade level
- Meeting Minutes

Wells Elementary School

Activities

- Explore programs/strategies to improve students' understanding and demonstration of respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, compassion and honesty. Add *persistence and resiliency* to the list.
 - Teach the skills
 - Focus on effort and improvement

Evidence

- Number of students receiving certificates of recognition
- Posters in all classrooms
- *Improved relationships and time on task during instruction and assessment*

CURRICULUM INSTRUCTION ASSESSMENT



District Wide Initiatives

Align curriculum with national and state standards and utilize a wide variety of instructional strategies to maximize learning

Long Term Goal(s)

Develop, implement and maintain a guaranteed and viable K-12 curriculum aligned to national and state standards.

Ensure research based instructional strategies are utilized by teachers/staff to accelerate student achievement.

1 Year Goal(s)

Design, implement and evaluate a structure for Curriculum Council work

Evidence: Approved document

Complete program review of:

- Health
- Foreign Language
- Gifted & Talented

Evidence: Report to School Committee

Wells High School

Activities

- Explore programs/strategies to improve student achievement
- Use student data to prepare students for post-secondary education
- Create common assessments for students (school-wide)
- Document all curriculum school-wide

Evidence

- Create/modify documented curriculum for each course
- Incorporate the accuplacer (math) for all juniors (Spring)
 - create math class to address students that fall below the accuplacer cut score (Fall 2011)
- PSAT/SAT Prep incorporated in English, Math, Science, Social Studies classes
 - creation of SAT Prep (math) for all juniors not taking a math class
 - create/implement school-wide rubrics for common student assessment

Wells Junior High School

Activities

- Teachers will read the national and state standards in their content area
- Teachers will identify current content/instruction that aligns with the common core and/or national standards
- Procedures will be set in place to provide and encourage opportunities for staff to visit and observe other classes within and outside the district
- Staff will identify, review and disseminate materials focusing on “Best Practice” in all content areas including technology, allied areas and special education
- Meet with content teams to identify topics which need to be eliminated in order to meet the common core or national standards

Evidence

- Content Team Minutes
- Comparison document
- Protocol established
- Collection of materials distributed
- Curriculum documents

Wells Elementary School

Activities

- Complete the K-4 Science and Social Studies Curriculum
- Return to common assessments and instructional practices for Writing (6-Trait)
- Increase Professional Development time and resources

Evidence

- *Completed K-4 Social Studies/Science Curriculum Document*
- Completed unit writing projects at each grade level from Reading Street/Guide on the Side; 3rd and 4th grade will develop four writing prompts that align with 5th grade NECAP writing prompt expectations.
- Local student assessments (i.e. NWEA and DRA)
- Daily Five and Café Literacy implementation for building student literacy independence.
- Three minute walk through observations, teacher/student products.
- Reports of professional development and how it is incorporated into instruction.

STUDENT COMPETENCIES



District Wide Initiatives

Create independent learners able to compete in a global society

Long Term Goal(s)

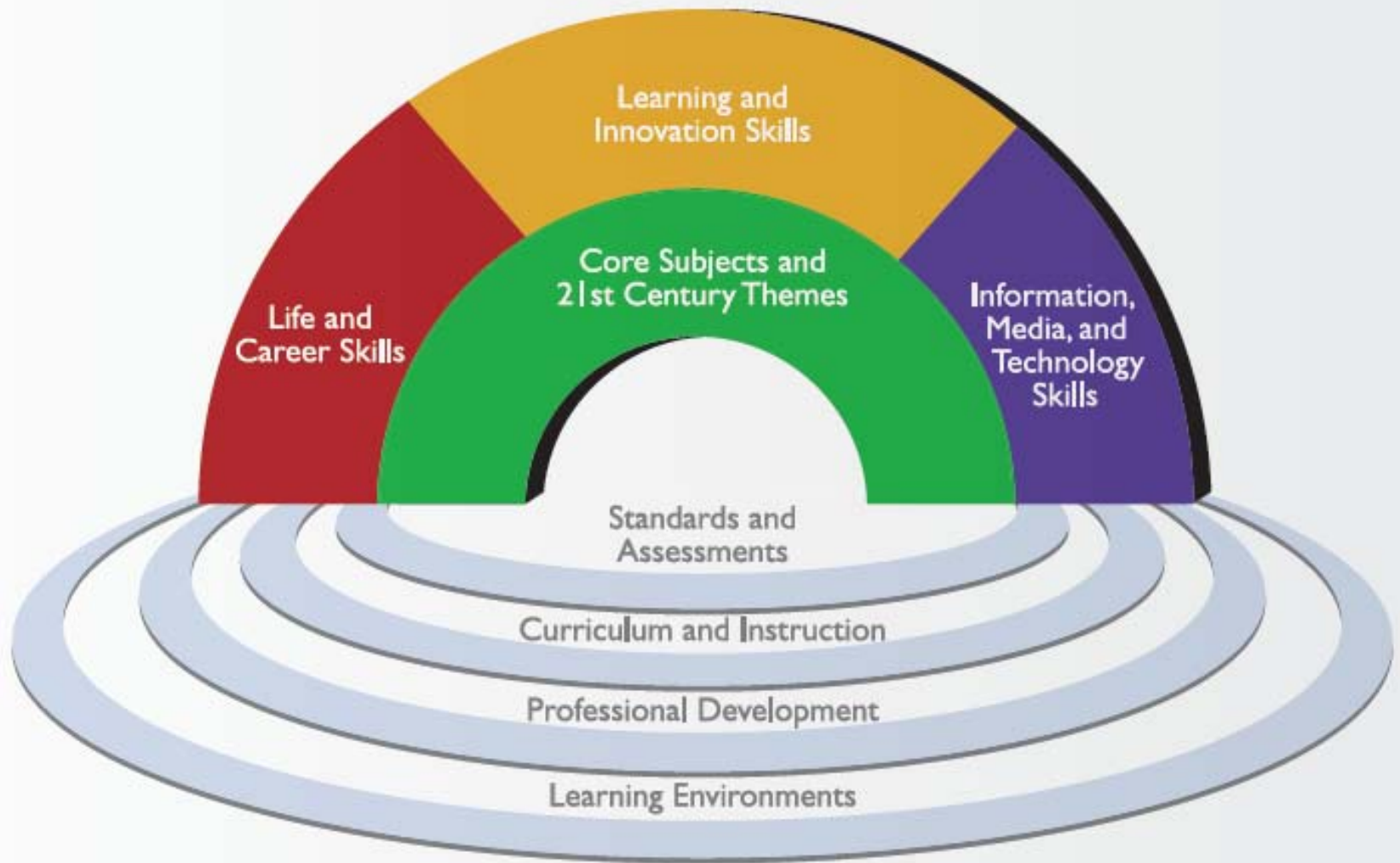
Identify and incorporate 21st Century Skills and proficiencies in curricula

1 Year Goal(s)

Develop common understanding of 21st Century Skills

Evidence: Embedded in written curriculum

21st Century Student Outcomes and Support Systems



Wells High School

Activities

- To improve individual student achievement
- Explore programs/strategies to decrease the drop-out rate
- Increase strategies to provide support for at risk students
- Explore alternative academic settings for students
- Explore program/strategies to address students exhibiting low performance in reading

Evidence

- Create a two-tier tutoring program to address the following:
 - students with motivation issues
 - students who perform below the grade level in reading (low Lexiles)
- Principal/Guidance/Dept. Heads meeting with students with eligibility issues
- Establish a program with multiple options for credit recovery
- Create critical thinking activities for all courses

Wells Junior High School

Activities

- Create and implement activities to give all students a sense of belonging
- Identify the 21st Century Skills
- Define and review curricula alignment for 21st Century Skills
- Teachers will begin to develop activities/units/lessons for the weakest areas and standards new to the curriculum

Evidence

- Check in on student involvement
- Type and number of afterschool activities for students
- Staff Meeting Agenda – 21st Century Skills
- Staff and Content Meeting – Alignment of Skills
- Curriculum documents and lesson plans

Wells Elementary School

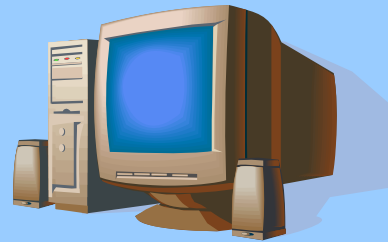
Activities

- Shared understanding of the 21st Century Skills
- Plan for and implement projects which require students to demonstrate higher level thinking skills.
- Provide appropriate support for all students

Evidence

- *Documentation identifying what the skills are.*
- Completed projects that are created by students.
- More student created products that have incorporated higher level thinking skills along with increased student achievement.
- Student data

TECHNOLOGY



District Wide Initiatives

Expand use of technology in support of learning and district goals

Long Term Goal(s)

Students and staff will access and utilize appropriate technology advances to maximize learning and job performance

1 Year Goal(s)

Implement the current District Technology Plan

Evidence: Annual report of District Technology Plan

Wells High School

Activities

- Create opportunities for teachers/students to incorporate technology into the class
- Provide professional development training for credit – recovery for students using online classes
- Budget/purchase Interactive White Board technology for individual classrooms
- Improve the infrastructure for technology
- Share technology-based instruction within the school

Evidence

- Incorporate technology into assessments
- All department leaders will create individual credit recovery curriculum to address student needs
- Purchase of a Interactive White Board
- Demonstrating technology-based lessons using Interactive White Board and other current technology

Wells Junior High School

Activities

- Develop a means to advocate and budget for a full time computer/technology teacher
- Provide professional development for staff to learn, implement and plan for student use of technology in the classroom
- Create a uniform password for students that can be used for all software and web applications
- Develop and implement a plan to have all computers, Interactive White Boards, and other technology connected and running by the first day of school

Evidence

- Budget discussions
- Staff Development agendas
- Uniform password in place as appropriate
- Plan in place and implemented; records

Wells Elementary School

Activities

- Find and use with students, on a regular basis, at least one technology tool that will enhance their higher level thinking skills (applying, analyzing, evaluating, and creating)
- Establish minimum technology competencies for students at each level

Evidence

- Reliable tools in each classroom which students are using daily.
- Create a list of technology resources school wide and district wide.
- More resources for 21st Century teaching and learning materials
- More technology being used in classrooms (i.e. 3 minute walk throughs) & certificates of training.
- Minimum technology standard competency document for each grade level.
- Budget

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



District Wide Initiatives

Foster and increase community involvement in and support of our schools

Long Term Goal(s)

Increase and improve communication among and between all stakeholder groups

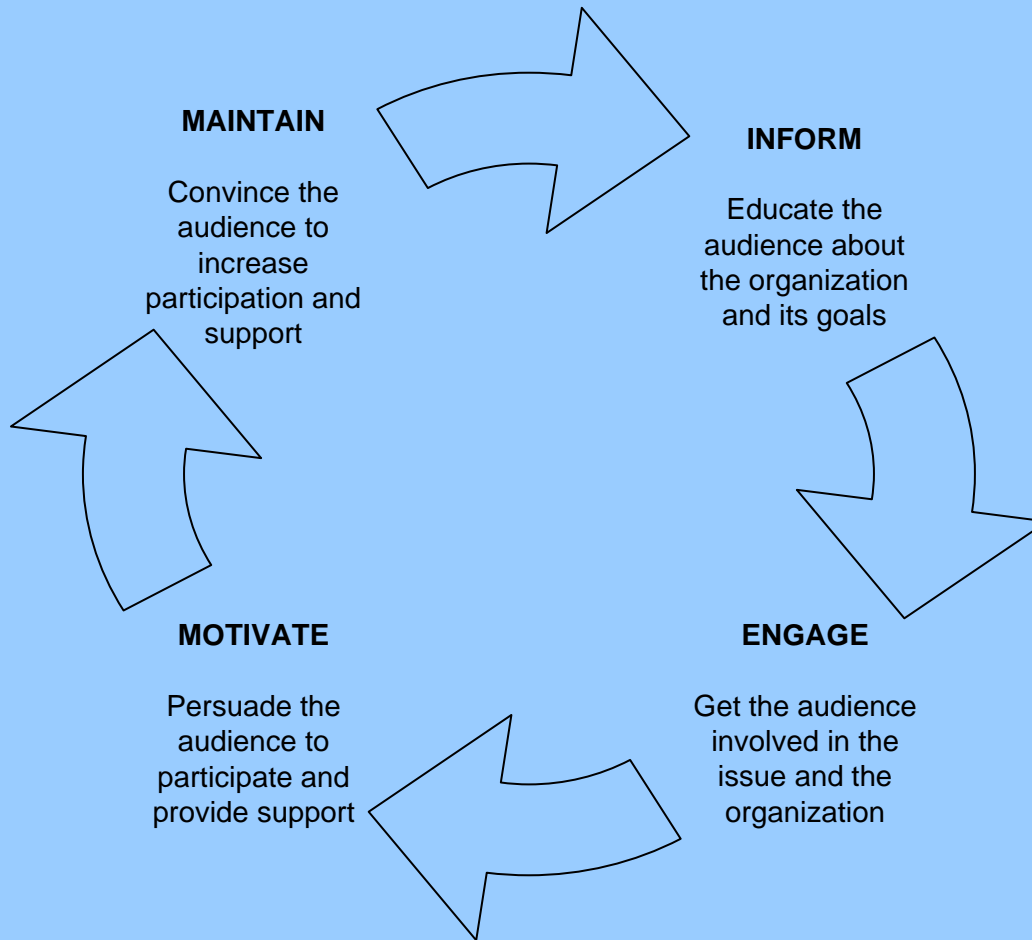
Increase financial support of district goals; Ensure public is informed of, understands and is focused on needs of the district.

1 Year Goal(s)

Develop and implement Strategic Communication Plan

Evidence: Documented plan

The Strategic Communications Cycle



Wells High School

Activities

- Create opportunities for community members to increase school involvement in and awareness of school
- Create transparency of all courses and activities at Wells High School
- Recognize community members who contribute to WHS
- Create opportunities for student participation in community-based projects
- Promote WHS and community partnerships

Evidence

- Create opportunities for students to volunteer in the community
- Create web pages for all teachers and faculty on the WOCSD website
- Breakfast of Champions, Hall of Fame, Certificates of Appreciation
- Students fundraising and volunteering for charities:
 - Ronald McDonald House
 - Barbara Bush
 - Children's Hospital
 - Toys for Tots
 - local food pantries
- Newspaper/webpage/TV

Wells Junior High School

Activities

- Create and implement strategies which help parents support students assuming responsibility for their actions

Evidence

- Newsletters

Wells Elementary School

Activities

- Provide the public with consistent targeted exposure using the media for each grade level (coffee meetings with parents and non-parents).
- Recognize effort as well as achievement in the local newspapers.

Evidence

- Attendance data meeting minutes and surveys.
- Meeting attendance, flyers, newspaper articles, and surveys.
- *Newspaper, television, channel 3 and website.*

FACILITIES



District Wide Initiatives

Ensure safe and engaging building and grounds appropriate for education and community use

Long Term Goal(s)

Develop and implement a comprehensive facilities plan to insure an environment that is safe, healthy and appropriate to our educational mission and is a community resource.

1 Year Goal(s)

Develop long range plan for facilities replacement/renewal

Evidence: Written plan

Wells High School

Activities

- Address facilities relative to NEASC report
- Address safety concerns
- Provide space for athletic teams
- Maintain physical plant

Evidence

- Complete Special Report to NEASC
- Communicate needs to all stakeholders
- Create a wrestling room
- Painted gymnasium
- Repaired leaking roof/windows
- Replaced damaged ceiling
- Fundraise for new tower on football field

Wells Junior High School

Activities

- Complete final phase of roof project
- Complete brick restoration project

Evidence

- Final documentation of roof completion
- Final documentation of brickwork completion

Wells Elementary School

Activities

- WES Staff feel attention to the high school is an overarching priority at this time
- Maintain/improve existing WES facility in conjunction with long range facilities plan

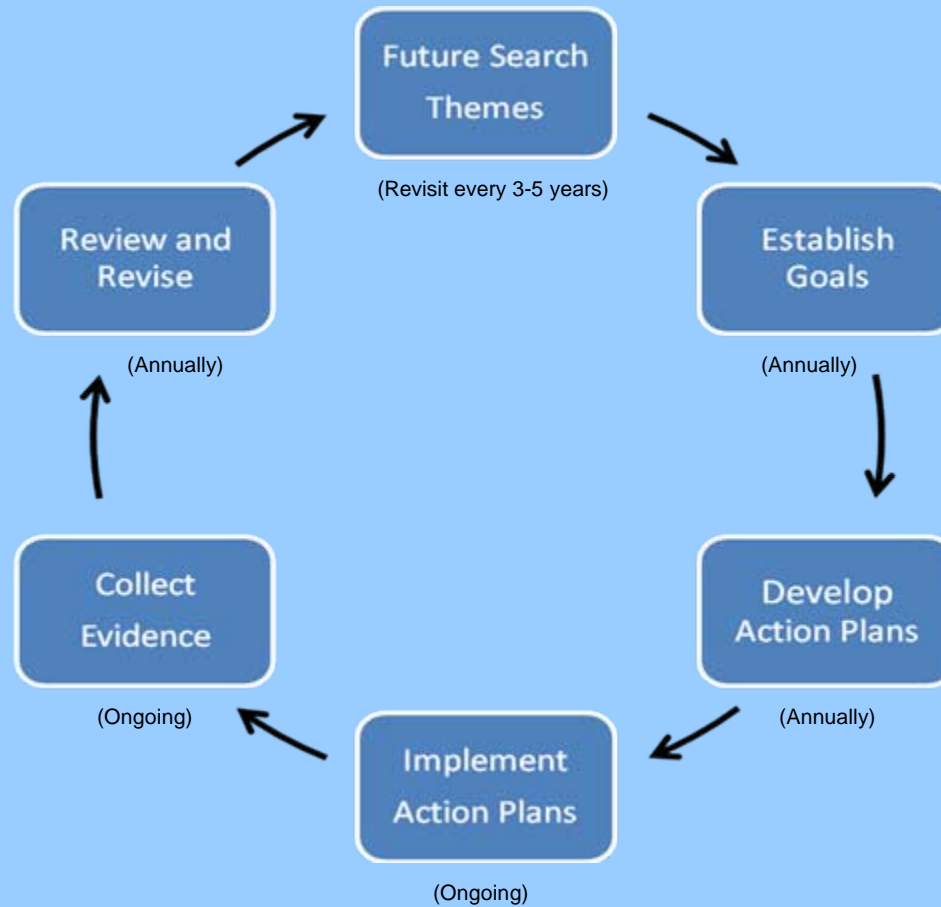
Evidence

What?

So What?

Now What?

Future Search Process



September	January	May
Communicate goals Affirm	State of Schools Report	Review and present evidence/accomplishments Reset goals

<http://k12wocsd.net>

THANK YOU

- Future Search Participants
- Linda Gaidimas, Facilitator
- Fran Prentice
- Leadership Team
- WOCSD Staff
- School Committee
- Community