

Watertown Public Schools

Lowell School Improvement Plan 2006 - 2009

Goal 1: CURRICULUM				
<i>Define and implement a consistent and coherent PreK-12, standards-based curriculum that teaches essential skills and key concepts as well as creative and critical thinking for the 21st Century.</i>				
Supporting Objectives	Strategies/Actions (Resources/Funding)	Responsibility	Measures & Milestones	Status/Timeline
Promote the development of good "Habits of Mind"	School wide attention on building understanding of the Habits of Mind through morning announcements, assemblies, etc. Materials provided to interested teachers	Principal Interested Teachers	Building Leadership Team will create a plan for school-wide emphasis by October, 2008 Plan will be implemented throughout school year Materials and resources available to interested teachers	
Integrate physical fitness and academics to enhance student engagement	Purchase 'Take Ten' for interested teachers *Operating Budget	Principal Interested teachers	Teachers will self identify in June 2008 Interested teachers will implement program Implementers will provide feedback as to value and effectiveness	
Implement Think Math Curriculum K thru 5, a district-wide initiative	Teachers and teaching teams will present instruction with the support of Think Math	Principal Teachers Teaching Teams Harcourt Brace Consultants PDC	Regularly scheduled monthly team meetings will plan the upcoming months math focus for instruction and identify lessons and materials	Initial training district wide on September 6 th . 2 Grade Level Team Meetings per month dedicated to Math all year long (May, 2008) 2 Hours per Full PD Day dedicated to Math Grade level team time dedicated to math implementation (May,

				2008) FIRST YEAR IMPLEMENTATION COMPLETED
Establish a core set of beyond the classroom field experiences across the grades	Brainstorming sessions with teaching teams Brainstorming session with site council Building Leadership Team will finalize	Principal and faculty Principal School Site Council BLT	Beginning in the fall sessions will be held in forums to create a list. List will be honed and revised. BLT will finalize in Spring '08 Implemented in '08-'09 school year	On the schedule for faculty 8/27/2008 meetings for Jan 9 and Mar 5 Teams have submitted, BLT to finalize in June '08 COMPLETED JUNE, 2008
Implement School-Wide Grade Level Field Experience Plan	Disseminate Plan Creating Funding Plan Enlist PTO Grade Level Coordinators to organize	Principal Classroom Teams Grade Level Coordinators	Work with PTO to create funding plan Inform community through SSC, PTO, Back to School Night and Lowell Lowdown in September, 2008	
Expand the implementation of "Similarities and Differences" Unit, instructional experiences to be delivered to primary grades	Reserve teaching trunk from St. Petersburg Museum Deliver instruction experiences provided	School council action team on school climate. Parent Volunteers	Trunk to be reserved Volunteers identified and trained Instructional experiences conducted	Decision to purchase "Different and the Same" Video Series from Destination Education Will use Target donations COMPLETED JUNE, 2008
Explore "Understanding Differences" program for upper grades	Contact program Explore value and viability	SSC/ Staff member	Fact finding Discussion Decision	

Goal 2: INSTRUCTION

Improve achievement of all students by engaging teachers as instructional leaders, and deepen student understanding with new strategies and tools for teaching and learning.

Supporting Objectives	Strategies/Actions (Resources/Funding)	Responsibility	Measures & Milestones	Status/Timeline
Provide time for Intervention/Challenge in the schedule that will allow grade levels to reconfigure student groups for targeted instruction	Create schedule Allocate staff Provide teaching resources *Operating Budget	Principal	Schedule configured to include common 30 minute instructional block By June 2008 Schedule Implemented in September 2008	
Consider an Awards and Recognition Program for Staff and Students	Building leadership team will explore the possibilities of creating such a program with consultation with SSC and PTO	Principal	Building Leadership team will create a process whereby the Lowell Community will consider the viability and value of an Awards and Recognition Program for Staff and students.	
Phonemic Awareness K-1	Implement the teaching of objectives outlined in the new Scope/Sequence/Pacing Guide Provide materials toolbox	Reading Task Force Principal K-1 Teachers	Initial PD for teachers September Ongoing PD support for instructional practices	
Phonics K-3	Implement the teaching of objectives outlined in the new Scope/Sequence/Pacing Guide Provide materials toolbox	Reading Task Force Principal K-3 Teachers	Initial PD for teachers September Ongoing PD support for instructional practices	
Handwriting Without Tears	Support continued implementation @ PreK and 3 through OB Implement HWT in K with Operating Budget / grade 4	Principal OT PreK, K, 3 and 4 Teachers	Handwriting Without Tears program items purchased OT staff meet with new grade levels to support implementation	

	WEF.			
Provide a series of Art Enrichment experiences	Art Enrichment Committee will work with teachers to select a few appropriate offerings PTO is seeking funds	Principal Art Enrichment Committee Teaching Teams	A schedule of art enrichment activities/assemblies will be scheduled Begin in Fall '07	The committee is up and running! Members: Kevin Shpritzer, Anthony Spano, Anna Lochiatto, Diane Centofanti, Myrto Flessas. One performance help on October 12 th from Young Audiences "Manguito" "Cinderella" performance by WHS Theatre Dept Harp Demonstration/ Performance PB& J Dancers Storyteller Others School – Wide Service Learning Project: each class or grade level selected a community service project to participate in. K: "Bring a Little NE to our Troops, 1: Opening the Lowell Doors to the Elderly, Grade 2: Video / DVD performances to share with home bound, Grade 3 UNICEF and Food Pantry, Grade 4: The Ugandan Connection, and Grade 5: Made Mayan Worry Dolls for children hospital. COMPLETED JUNE 2008
Explore regular education safety nets for math and reading	Peruse the research, visit sites, examine programming options, attend conferences/seminars Explore technological supports	Principal Task Forces Instructional Technology Specialist	Task force will explore options	FASTT Math initial assessment on addition have been completed grades 3 thru 5 Data Group convened

Lowell Elementary School Improvement Plan 2006 – 2009
May, 2008

			FASST Math will be piloted 3-5	<p>on October 25 to determine next steps for 4th and 5th grade intervention planning</p> <p>3rd grade Data Group will be meeting soon</p> <p>Grade 3 fully implemented</p> <p>Grade 2 fully implemented</p> <p>Regular Education Reading Staff have refocused instruction to be data driven targeted. In addition, Team @ Kindergarten have identified common assessments and a cadre of support personnel to provide ERI.</p> <p>COMPLETED JUNE 2008</p>
Recess	Teacher committee to advise principal on routines, supervision plan and consistent behavior expectations and responses.	Principal Professional Staff	<p>Summer '07 organizational meeting to create plan, establish behavioral expectations and responses.</p> <p>Plan will be presented to faculty in Fall '07 and monitored</p>	<p>Planning meeting occurred in August</p> <p>Protocols and procedures are in place and working well</p> <p>COMPLETED, 2008</p>
Ensure that there are age appropriate supplies and toys for both indoor and outdoor recess.	Will reach out to parent community to solicit donations of toys and supplies. PTO might also assist.	Principal Health and safety Committee	Adequate resources for recess throughout the year	<p>Carts purchased and assembled.</p> <p>Ready to debut after April vacation</p> <p>May 2008, carts are stocked and in use</p> <p>PTO fully funded this initiative</p> <p>COMPLETED, 2008</p>

Goal 3: ASSESSMENT*Improve instructional practice and learning outcomes with data-driven decisions, using both formal and informal assessments.*

Supporting Objectives	Strategies/Actions (Resources/Funding)	Responsibility	Measures & Milestones	Status/Timeline
Measures of Academic Progress K through 3 (just literacy)	Trimester Evaluation System to support teachers in matching instruction to students and documenting growth	District Principal Instruct. Technologist Guidance	Initial PD for core district group in August, 2008 Initial training for teachers in September, 2008 Ongoing PD support for instructional decision making	
By June 2008 all children will improve reading performance as determined by a school wide common assessment tool, (demonstrating at least one years growth) and MCAS scores, with a minimum of 65-70% meeting P or A targets	Teaching Teams will use assessment data to differentiate reading needs of students Teaching Teams will flexibly group to address reading needs	Principal Classroom teachers Reading teachers Special Educators	Ongoing assessments will provide feedback on student achievement and allow teachers to respond quickly if strategies need adjustment Data will demonstrate significant improvement in reading achievement	Teaching teams have administered school-wide assessments and will analyze MCAS data on November 6 th . Teachers were provided time and opportunity to share data Awaiting end-of-year benchmark data June, 2008 and 2008 MCAS scores in Fall, 2008
By June 2008 all children will improve in mathematics performance with the focus on number sense as determined by a school wide common assessment tool (demonstrating at least one year's growth) and MCAS scores with a minimum of 65-70% meeting P or A targets.	Teaching Teams will use assessment data to differentiate instruction based on math needs of students Teaching Teams will develop differentiated plans to address math needs	Principal Classroom teachers Reading teachers Special Educators	Ongoing assessments will provide feedback on student achievement and allow teachers to respond quickly if strategies need adjustment Data will demonstrate significant improvement in math achievement	Teaching teams have administering school-wide assessments and will analyze MCAS data on November 6 th . Teachers were provided time and opportunity to share data Awaiting end-of-year data June, 2008 and 2008 MCAS scores in Fall, 2008

Goal 4: EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Promote and effectively use technology to improve instruction and professional productivity.

Supporting Objectives	Strategies/Actions (Resources/Funding)	Responsibility	Measures & Milestones	Status/Timeline
Support the integration of 2 additional laptop carts, and other new technology	District budget purchase Tech Notes at Faculty Meetings	Principal Instructional Technologist	Roll out of hardware in September, 2008 Ongoing PD support for effective use	
Effectively schedule computer lab use for optimal instructional benefit	Work to develop a schedule that accomplishes assessment goals, FASST Math participation, computer technology instruction and effective curriculum integration in fall	Principal Instructional Technologist	Schedule is created and implemented in Fall of 2008	
Explore assistive and instructional technology that can enhance student's educational outcomes	Identify software programs and other devices to trial Variety of funding sources, OB, PTO, etc	Principal Teachers Instructional Technologist	Ongoing throughout the year	
Promote the use of technology to enhance student learning experiences	Teachers will collaborate on one Project Based unit that integrates technology	Principal Teachers Instructional Technology Specialist	Paced throughout the year, teachers will collaborate on one project based curriculum unit utilizing technology	Some initial planning and collaboration has occurred. Some classroom teachers completed projects integrating technology
Promote the use of technology to increase teacher productivity	produce progress notes and report card using our on-line capabilities teachers will continue to use Teacherweb.com to communicate home	Principal Teachers Instructional Technology Specialist	Reports will be electronically produced More teachers will participate in maintaining classroom and program websites	IPass and Summary Report training has taken place in increments. 3 rd session will be held on Nov 6 th . All summary reports are now produced online TeacherWeb

				continues to grow COMPLETED, JUNE 2008
--	--	--	--	--

Goal 5: SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS				
<i>Improve and expand partnerships between elementary and secondary levels, and with community resources.</i>				
Supporting Objectives	Strategies/Actions (Resources/Funding)	Responsibility	Measures & Milestones	Status/Timeline
Implement School-Wide Grade Level Homework Plan	Disseminate Plan Support consistent implementation	Principal Classroom Teams	Inform community through SSC, PTO, Back to School Night and Lowell Lowdown in September, 2008	
Parent Support and Education Programming	Grade level coffees :”What to Expect from your ---- Grader”	Principal Guidance Counselor	Parent Support and Education Programming	
Social Networking Opportunities	Grade Level Breakfasts for parents and children in cafeteria	Grade level coordinators	Grade level coordinators will set a calendar of dates and work with food services to coordinate	
Provide timely curriculum information	Include grade level curriculum updates in the Lowell Lowdown	Principal and Classroom Teams	Teaching Teams will provide periodic curriculum updates to be incorporated in the Lowell Lowdown	
Provide access to timely school information online	Design and maintain school ‘splash’ page	Principal Instructional Technologist	A user friendly webpage that provides pertinent school information along with useful links will be designed and regularly maintained	
Continue Parent / Community Volunteer Program A parent run database for all volunteer opportunities in the school (in or out of classrooms. Including: job descriptions and time frame; parent volunteer orientation (with CORI drive), maintenance of list). Expand to include ELL parent outreach.	Identify new parent coordinator Survey teachers Organize database and train volunteers	Parent Volunteers (to run and maintain) with support from school secretary	Parent coordinator identified Teachers survey Database established Training conducted Volunteer program established	Ruth Fleischer will be Coordinator Has met with AH Beginnings of Volunteer Opportunities publication Ruth has organized a monthly newsletter detailing volunteer opportunities and coordinating them.

Goal 6: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT*Provide effective and focused professional development that ensures time and structure to implement departmental goals.*

Supporting Objectives	Strategies/Actions (Resources/Funding)	Responsibility	Measures & Milestones	Status/Timeline
Implement Instructional Decision Making model to respond to the range of student needs in math and literacy	Conduct data analysis and decision making meetings monthly Identify common instructional record / data keeping process Reallocate staff to reduce student teacher ratio at Int/Ch period Pilot some instructional approaches using Operating Budget purchases	Principal Guidance Counselor Teaching Teams	Facilitated Team Time is devoted to using Instructional Decision Making model to respond to the range of student needs in math and literacy using common assessments	
Early Reading Initiative	Support staff through PD	Principal RTF	PD schedule reflects time allocation RTF identifies goals and strategies RTF provides PD	
Create a professional resource library to maximize the availability of supplementary teaching resources for math and science.	Academic Achievement Committee will research materials and seek funds A section of the library will be earmarked for professional library	Principal Principal, librarian and head custodian	The beginnings of a professional library will be evident Fall 2007 Throughout the course of the year resources will be added.	The beginnings are evident Oct,2007 Thru the hard work of Bob Daly, Sharon Fulton and Alice Holt it is organized! Mar, 2008 Now we just need a management system CMTEE submitted a small grant to Mass Cultural Council to jump start science, awaiting decision August, 2008

Community Education Foundation Goals

Goal 1: STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Raise expectations, challenge, and support all students so that they reach high levels of achievement as measured by multiple assessments.

Goal 2: CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Implement a consistent and coherent K-12 curriculum that teaches essential skills and key concepts as well as creative and critical thinking.

Goal 3: DIVERSITY

Implement instructional practices that address the diverse characteristics and needs of our student population.

Goal 4: PARTNERSHIPS

Strengthen and expand home-school-community partnerships so that student learning is supported and improved.

Teaching & Learning Council Goals (Used in each Department Improvement Plan)

Goal 1: CURRICULUM

Define and implement a consistent and coherent PreK-12, standards-based curriculum that teaches essential skills and key concepts as well as creative and critical thinking for the 21st Century. (CEF Goal 2)

Goal 2: INSTRUCTION

Improve achievement of all students by engaging teachers as instructional leaders, and deepen student understanding with new strategies and tools for teaching and learning. (CEF Goals 1, 2, 3)

Goal 3: ASSESSMENT

Improve instructional practice and learning outcomes with data-driven decisions, using both formal and informal assessments. (CEF Goals 1, 2, 3)

Goal 4: EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Promote and effectively use technology to improve instruction and professional productivity. (CEF Goals 1, 2, 3)

Goal 5: SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Improve and expand partnerships between elementary and secondary levels, and with community resources. (CEF Goal 4)

Goal 6: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Provide effective and focused professional development that ensures time and structure to implement departmental goals. (CEF Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)

