

WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

AIM FACT SHEET (Academic Innovation & Measurement)

AIM in the classroom

Students in grades K-12 experience AIM as part of their everyday lessons, units, and assessments. AIM experiences are designed for students to:

- Apply their thinking skills to real-life problems.
- Think in a manner that encourages creative/innovative solutions.
- Discuss, present, and defend their work to others in a meaningful way.
- Work effectively in a team.
- Examine multiple global perspectives

Defining Characteristics of AIM

Regardless of the grade level or subject area, teachers strive in their AIM units to:

- Pose problems to students that have multiple solutions or pathways.
- Create an active learning environment with high levels of student engagement.
- Have students apply a deep understanding of a topic to new situations.

Examples of AIM

A wide range of classroom experiences have resulted from teacher collaboration and innovation around AIM. AIM may include having students:

- Examine a local, national, or global issue and present solutions to an authentic audience.
- Synthesize information across multiple texts and media to support and defend a position.
- Deliver presentations to authentic audiences.
- Engage in conducting their own scientific research and designing machines to solve a problem.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is AIM?

AIM is a K-12 initiative resulting from a partnership with Teachers College, Columbia University. The overarching goal of AIM is to empower students to be innovative thinkers, creative problem-solvers, effective communicators, and inspired learners prepared to thrive in this ever-changing global world. AIM units and assessments are designed to teach and measure student progress in achieving these goals.

AIM implementation plan

We are currently in year four of our AIM implementation plan. All teachers in grades K through 12 have been trained in AIM.

How has the program been received by teachers and students?

There is strong enthusiasm among teachers for the innovative spirit of the work. Students report that lessons and classes are highly engaging, have real world relevance, and require them to think deeper and more creatively.

How are the results from AIM assessments used by teachers?

AIM assessments are administered as a natural part of the learning process. They provide teachers with information regarding student performance that guides their future planning and instruction.

What is an AIM cornerstone assessment?

A cornerstone assessment is an end-of-year assessment designed to measure students' progress in achieving the goals mentioned above. The cornerstone assessment is currently being administered in grades 2, 5, 8, and 11. Students and parents receive feedback on their child's performance following the grading of these assessments.

Do other districts participate in AIM?

This innovative approach to teaching, learning, and assessment places Weston Public Schools at the forefront of the movement to prepare students for the challenges of a global world.