



Curriculum and Instructional Improvement



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CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Weston Public Schools is engaged in the continuous improvement of its academic program and services. For the 2018-19 school year, the district will be focused on a comprehensive renewal of its K-12 science and K-5 reading programs. The following highlights those initiatives and the associated requests for resources.

In response to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), the district has updated the K-8 scope and sequence and the course progression at WHS. The curriculum cost center includes essential resources to implement new standards and curriculum for the K-12 science program. For 2018-19, all teachers in grades K-2 and 5 will need new science kits in order to facilitate their science units of study. The kits include both student and teacher resources. The middle school will also require new resources to support the updated science curriculum. In addition, two exciting new science electives are being added to the Program of Studies at WHS to broaden the breadth of electives available to students: Honors Science Research and AP Environmental Science.

Establishing a Science Research Program, including a course and laboratory, at WHS offers highly motivated science students the opportunity to pursue their own research interests at a pace that best suits their own workload and academic goals. This course will provide students with the potential to compete in science competitions at the state and possibly national levels in order to communicate their findings to experts in the field. Included in this budget and the high school budget are resources for personnel, materials, and equipment maintenance. Through the generous contributions of the Weston Education Foundation, the Board of Education has received a commitment to fund the WHS science research laboratory with the necessary instrumentation for students to conduct their research on site.

Another priority is our K-5 reading initiative consisting of significant changes to units of study and assessments. 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 phasing out the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) over a two-year period in favor of the Fountas and Pinnell assessment system, which will provide teachers with more detailed information regarding a student's reading progress. Training and support will be provided to WIS teachers through the CILs next year for this transition followed by HES in 2019-2020.

Last year, the district conducted an evaluation of its curriculum instructional leader (CILs) program. It was determined that these positions continue to provide added value to supporting academic excellence through instructional coaching and curriculum development efforts. Consequently, the consulting lines in the curriculum cost center have been reduced since in-district CILs are able to provide high-quality professional learning opportunities as part of their responsibilities. The 0.2 FTE theatre arts coordinator position has been eliminated and a portion of that FTE has been reallocated to augment the fine arts CIL position by an additional 0.1 FTE. This shift in FTE results in a slight savings in the budget.

In summary, district priorities guide the allocation of resources to enhance the educational program, which includes funding for professional and curriculum development, textbooks, and instructional coaching.

Curriculum
Weston Public Schools, Weston, CT

<u>2017-2018 Actual</u>				<u>2018-2019 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
0.20	0.00	0.20	Visual Arts	0.30	0.00	0.30	0.10
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
6.40	0.00	6.40		6.50	0.00	6.50	0.10
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
7.40	0.00	7.40		7.50	0.00	7.50	0.10