

# Wolcott Public Schools

District Growth Plan: 2016-2019



Our Future is in Children's Education



## WOLCOTT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The mission of the Wolcott Public Schools is to promote the academic, social, and emotional development of all students to become contributing members of the global community.

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## WOLCOTT DISTRICT DATA TEAM

Bryan MacKay	Cindy Skerritt	Cristy Bredice
Daniel Caetano	Deborah Osvald	Ellen Kasek
Gloria Clair	Joan Gray	Joanne Mumley
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Linda DeVoe	Sara Tedesco	Matthew Toller
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Dr. Anthony Gasper		Frank Purcaro

## The Process of Developing this Plan

The WPS District Growth Plan 2016-2019 was developed by the broad base of stakeholders that comprise the District Data Team. The team is made up of 25 members representing classroom teachers, content specialists, support services, Board of Education members, and school and district administrators.

The team held five meetings between January and May of 2016. The team became experts in Connecticut's new accountability model and also on all available data pertaining to Wolcott's district-wide performance. We used this data to identify and prioritize areas of need and to deemphasize several areas in which the district was performing well already.

Finally, the members worked hard to identify ambitious adult-action strategies that we believe will lead to fulfillment of our goals.

The Board of Education's strategic goals were a critical part of these conversations and are integrated throughout this plan.



## Wolcott Board of Education: Strategic Goals: 2014-2019

### Goal 1: High Individual Expectations for Students

To set high expectations for each student to meet his/her individual academic potential to prepare him/her for the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### Goal 2: Environment for Learning

To provide an optimal environment where students feel safe and secure to learn, grow and develop.

### Goal 3: High Performance Standards

To maintain high standards of performance and professional conduct by Wolcott Public School personnel and related community members and organizations.

### Goal 4: Social and Emotional Development

To foster, support and aid the social and emotional development of students in partnership with parents and the community.

### Goal 5: Citizenship

To prepare students to become responsible citizens by providing learning opportunities within the community.

## Student-Centered Outcomes: 2016-2019

By June of 2019, students' performance on the ELA SBAC (meeting or exceeding expectations) will improve by 10 percentage points from the current level of 70.3% to 80.3% with a concurrent reduction in the high-need sub-group achievement gap.

By June of 2019, students' performance on the math SBAC (meeting or exceeding expectations) will improve by 10 percentage points from the current level of 63.7% to 73.7% with a concurrent reduction in the high-need sub-group achievement gap.

By June 2019, the chronic absenteeism rate for the high-need sub-group will decrease from 8.3% to less than 5%.

By June 2019, grade 11 and 12 students will show an increase in the participation in College & Career Readiness (as defined by SDE) from 69.1% to 75%.

By June 2019, grade 11 and 12 students will show an increase in achievement in College & Career Readiness exams from 38.5% to 45%.

By June 2019, 75% of 4th, 6th, and 8th grade students will meet or exceed the performance target on the State's physical fitness test.

By June of 2019, grade 10 students will demonstrate a six percentage point improvement in the number who meet or exceed the performance target on the State's physical fitness test.



### Remarks from the Superintendent:

Firstly, I'd like to thank the members of the District Data Team for their dedication and willingness to have challenging conversations in the construction of this plan. The school staff and town residents should be proud of the high caliber of professionals that we have serving Wolcott's children. This plan and my work in the district are grounded in a small number of theories of action that, I believe, will lead to greater and greater successes for the children of our school system.

- ◇ If educators are provided the opportunity, structure, and resources to have evidence-based conversations about students' needs and their own work, outcomes will improve through a more informed level of professional practice.
- ◇ If there is a coherence - a unity of understanding - that is present across all levels and facets of our organization, students will benefit from a system of schools in which they experience a sense of purpose, worth, and success.
- ◇ If we all commit ourselves to making small but consistent improvements in our practice each day, large and meaningful improvements will be seen over time and this will greatly benefit the lives of the students under our charge.

This District Growth Plan will serve as a guidepost to nearly every function of our school district. How we prioritize our time, resources, and professionals will be determined in consultation with this plan.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "AJ Gasper".

Anthony J. Gasper, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools



# Adult Actions Linked to BOE Goals

## Goal 1: High Individual Expectations for Students

To set high expectations for each student to meet his/her individual academic potential to prepare him/her for the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



Create and implement written curriculum documents that are aligned to CCSS or content standards, encourage higher-order thinking to foster student engagement, make connections to the world beyond the classroom, and allow flexibility for personalized and/or group learning.

Ensure that students experience planned instruction that provides opportunities for collaboration, requires perseverance and critical thinking to solve real world problems, is relevant to the individual student's needs, is aligned with the written curriculum, and is supported by the necessary resources and tools.

Regularly use a variety of methods to measure what students have learned and are able to do before, during, and after each lesson and unit in efficient and effective ways to inform short-range and long-range decision making.

Ensure that teachers use the results of assessments to make decisions about small-group and whole-group instruction, make recommendations for future professional development, reflect on their professional practice, and identify specific needs of individual students.



# Adult Actions Linked to BOE Goals



## Goal 2: Environment for Learning

To provide an optimal environment where students feel safe and secure to learn, grow, and develop.

Provide an orderly, non-disruptive, physically safe environment.

Incorporate a universal set of behavior expectations with common language so that each student feels accepted and emotionally safe.

Promote school-wide positive relationships to create an environment that is conducive to learning

## Goal 3: High Performance Standards

To maintain high standards of performance and professional conduct by Wolcott Public School personnel and related community members and organizations.

Use data from formal and informal observations of practice to identify strengths and needs and to inform professional development.

Provide practitioners with relevant and timely feedback on their performance to promote a culture of continual growth.

Ensure that professional learning is relevant and is inclusive of modeling, coaching, and peer-to-peer activities.



# Adult Actions Linked to BOE Goals

## Goal 4: Social & Emotional Development

To foster, support, and aid the social and emotional development of students in partnership with parents and the community



Provide a learning environment that supports and enhances the development of social competence and emotional well-being.

Build partnerships and develop programs that help families to understand the social and emotional development of children.

Ensure continuing education for practitioners to support and develop student social and emotional development.

## Goal 5: Citizenship

To prepare students to become responsible citizens by providing learning opportunities within the community.

Develop programs that increase interaction between school and community organizations/businesses to help students make informed career choices.

Ensure that students regularly engage in community service to enhance their understanding of their civic duty and the world beyond the classroom.

Foster student-to-student and practitioner-to-practitioner mentoring.





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## Wolcott Public Schools

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