

Policies

Westerly Public Schools Purpose

No. 1000

The Westerly School Committee is responsible to the people for whose benefit the School District has been established. Further, it is recognized that the School Committee influences the course of education in the District's schools for years to come. By virtue of this responsibility, the School Committee and each of its members must look to the future and to the needs of all people more than the average citizen finds necessary. This requires a comprehensive perspective and an emphasis on long-range planning in addition to attention to immediate problems.

The School Committee's primary responsibility is to conduct long-range planning and to establish policies, programs and procedures which will best meet the educational needs of District students. The School Committee will formulate policies which best serve the educational interests of all students.

The School Committee also adopts curriculum and provides fiscal oversight of the Westerly Public Schools. It is charged with accomplishing these tasks while also being responsible for the careful management of resources available to the District.

The School Committee must fulfill these responsibilities by functioning primarily as a legislative body to formulate and adopt policy, by selecting a Superintendent who shall act as an chief executive to implement policy, and evaluating the results of these efforts.

The School Committee shall perform its functions openly, soliciting and encouraging broad-based involvement in the School Committee's decision making process by public, and staff.

In accordance with these principles, Rhode Island General Law and the Rhode Island Basic Education Program (BEP), the Westerly School Committee will address the following functions in order to ensure that all of its schools are providing an adequate education to every student:

Lead the Focus on Learning and Achievement. The School Committee shall provide on-site direction that continuously guides site-based leadership; identify expectations and accountability for implementation of proven practices; and address barriers to implementation of identified educational goals.

Recruit, Support, and Retain Highly Effective Staff. The School Committee shall recruit, identify, mentor, support, and retain effective staff; build the capacity of staff to meet organizational expectations; and provide job-embedded professional development based on student need.

Guide the Implementation of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment. The School Committee shall provide access to rigorous, guaranteed, and viable curricula for all students; ensure differentiated instructional strategies, materials, and assessments; and build systems that provide opportunities for common planning and assessment. This will include providing the Superintendent with sufficient and adequate guidelines for implementing School Committee policies.

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Use Information for Planning and Accountability. The School Committee shall develop and implement proficiency-based comprehensive assessment systems; distribute results of measured school progress and student performance; and maintain responsive and accessible information systems.

Engage Families and the Community. The School Committee shall implement effective family and community communication systems; engage families, students, and the community to promote positive student achievement and behavior; and provide adult and alternative learning opportunities integrated with community needs.

Foster Safe and Supportive Environments for Students and Staff. The School Committee shall address the physical, social, and emotional needs of all students; ensure safe school facilities and learning environments; and require that every student has at least one adult accountable for his or her learning.

Ensure Equity and Adequacy of Fiscal and Human Resources. The School Committee shall identify and provide requisite resources to meet student needs; allocate fiscal and human resources based on student need and overcome barriers to effective resource allocation at the school level. This will include maintaining all school facilities and addressing the financial pressures facing Westerly and its citizens.

Support Excellence in Student Performance Across all Subgroups. The School Committee shall establish policies that ensure all students are offered curriculum and instructional support that allows them to exceed in all academic areas.

Reference: Chapter 16 of the General Laws of Rhode Island and the RI Basic Education Program (BEP) dated 4 June 2009

Adopted: April 5, 2006
Revised: January 3, 2007
Amended: June 2, 2010