

## WCASD Plan for Professional Learning

### *Steering Committee*

A steering committee called PDAC, Professional Development Advisory Council, crafts the Professional Learning plan. The committee is comprised of K-12 teachers, educational specialists, administrators, parents, community, and business representatives. PDAC meets at least twice per year in the fall and spring.

### *Professional Education Plan*

The WCASD Professional Learning Plan is aligned to the PA Core standards and to the Danielson Framework for Teaching. It is designed to meet the needs identified by the steering committee for increased student performance and educator effectiveness. Administrators seek the input of all teaching staff prior to the development of a summer course catalog for professional learning opportunities. As part of Act 13, teachers also create a personalized plan for their own learning to meet a need or a challenge they identify for their students.

### *Action Steps from Comprehensive Plan*

The WCASD Comprehensive Plan has identified five priority areas for professional learning.

- **EQUITY:** topics such as social justice, implicit bias, race and culture, LGBTQ+, building equitable relationships with students, creating a trauma aware environment
- **INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT PRACTICES:** such as creating a repository of local assessments where students demonstrate common learning outcomes through flexible measures
- **SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING:** utilizing the Collaborative for Academic, Social, Emotional Learning (CASEL) model for self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, responsible decision-making, and relationship skills
- **SPECIAL EDUCATION:** topics such as autism, positive behavior support, transition, science of literacy, IEP development, parent and paraprofessional training
- **TECHNOLOGY:** such as creating a K-12 skills matrix with sample lessons, operationalizing ISTE standards in the classroom, and training in the appropriate use of social media

### *State Mandated Trainings*

The Pennsylvania Department of Education requires training in four areas.

- **LANGUAGE AND LITERACY ACQUISITION:** The secondary English teachers and reading specialists are working with Dr. William Lewis from the University of Delaware on curriculum development using Quad Texts.
- **TEACHING DIVERSE LEARNERS IN INCLUSIVE SETTINGS:** WCASD has contracted with The Howard Group for topics such as Universal Design for Learning, Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Pedagogy, and Supporting Language Learners. All teachers will receive this information through a train-the-trainer model.
- **TRAUMA INFORMED TRAINING:** All existing staff have been trained in trauma-informed practices. New hires are trained during the first 30 days of employment.
- **SCHOOL SAFETY:** All employees complete an eLearning module on active shooter response called ALICE Basics for Schools. In addition, all staff are trained in Awareness, Prevention, and

Postvention for Youth Suicide. Finally, every employee completes a video training monthly on Cyber Security Awareness.