



The Westlake City Schools

Continuous Improvement Plan

Beliefs, Vision, Mission

Excellence Measures Summary

2010-2013



The inspiring ideas for this Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) build upon the district’s BELIEFS, VISION, and MISSION.

Beliefs are the principles and concepts that govern the district’s decisions and actions. They influence the district’s picture of the future (vision) and the reason the district exists (mission). The beliefs, vision, and mission of the Westlake City School District follow.

BELIEFS

The Westlake City Schools believe:

- 1 Students come first.**
- 2 Each individual’s dignity and worth is to be respected.**
- 3 Learning is a lifelong process.**

We further believe that:

Successful students are ready to learn, display appropriate behavioral and social skills, assume responsibility, and work to reach their full potential. They are enthusiastic about learning, possess strong academic skills, and strive for excellence.

Supportive families are proactive and involved in all aspects of their children’s education, assist their children with schoolwork, encourage their children to make positive choices and be responsible for their actions, guide and motivate their children to reach their full potential, and work in partnership with schools.

Excellent teachers care for their students, are knowledgeable regarding subject matter and effective instructional strategies, and engage students in meaningful learning experiences.

Excellent administrators are knowledgeable and provide meaningful instructional and managerial leadership. They create a safe, orderly, professional, and supportive environment. They empower all staff by providing opportunities for professional development, and communicate effectively with all constituents.

Excellent support staff members are capable and enthusiastic in their positions, caring and compassionate, and thorough in their work. They support the educational experience and overall smooth functioning of the school district.

Ideal learning environments are child-centered, inclusive, stimulating and positive, free from distractions, appropriate in class size, and include ample and varied resources. Students and staff feel safe physically and emotionally, and devote themselves to academic and personal achievement.

Supportive community members, organizations, and businesses celebrate their schools’ and students’ accomplishments, contribute to the educational process, share resources, and engage in dialogue.

Excellent schools are a product of the contributions of constituents. All constituents are needed for an excellent learning community that is characterized by shared mission, vision, and values, collective inquiry, collaborative teams, best practices, continuous improvement and a results orientation.



VISION

The Westlake City School District will provide a dynamic, student-centered, 21st century learning environment.

Our district will be characterized by: high achievement; actively engaged and globally competitive learners; mutual respect; shared knowledge; pursuit of new skills and capabilities; collaborative learning; willingness to take action; a team commitment to data-driven continuous improvement; and tangible results.

MISSION

WE EDUCATE FOR EXCELLENCE . . .

Empowering all students to achieve their educational goals, to direct their lives, and to contribute to society.

Excellence is defined in Westlake by:

1. Exceptional Achievement at Local, State, National and International Levels;	<i>Our students achieve at the highest levels; we use rigorous local, state, national and international measures to assess and ensure student preparedness.</i>
2. Exceptional Progress by All Students;	<i>We address the needs of all learners and ensure our students' progress exceeds a year's expected growth.</i>
3. Internationally Competitive, Capable, Engaged and Experienced Students;	<i>Our curriculum and educational experiences prepare our students to be globally competitive citizens with expanded language skills and a broader knowledge and awareness of cultures.</i>
4. Relevant Service Learning and Experiential Learning for All Students;	<i>Our students' education includes a solid core curriculum and relevant out of class experiences to prepare them for their future and to contribute to society.</i>
5. Seamless Integration of Technology to Maximize Learning;	<i>Our students confidently and effectively utilize technology to support their learning and enhance their lives.</i>
6. An All-Inclusive Environment; and	<i>We engage all students to learn in an environment that is safe and respectful in order to foster full involvement.</i>
7. Learning Environments that Promote Wellness and Environmental Responsibility.	<i>Our learning environments emphasize and support wellness as well as environmental responsibility.</i>



2010-2013 EXCELLENCE MEASURES AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Performance Indicators – Excellence measures are supported by actions that can be observed and measured. Effective indicators, accompanied by consistent data collection and analysis, help to focus on results and monitor progress. Performance indicators ensure we stay on course by describing in specific, measurable terms, how the district will know it is achieving its goals.

- 1. Exceptional Achievement on Local, State, National and International Levels;**
 - 1.1 Earn the highest Ohio Local Report Card rating
 - 1.2 Identify additional state, national, and international performance measures of excellence for curricular, co-curricular/visual and performing arts and set goals to meet the identified standards
 - 1.3 Implement the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP) within 3 years
 - 1.4 Implement staff development to ensure use of state, national, and international best practices and effective school structures to enhance existing best practices
 - 1.5 Monitor to ensure standard best practices are used consistently and effectively
- 2. Exceptional Progress by All Students;**
 - 2.1 Ensure progress on state testing results in the district exceeding a year's expected growth as measured by the state value-added metric
 - 2.2 Implement staff development to ensure effective implementation of above best practice standards
 - 2.3 Build a foundation for common, short-cycle assessments in areas not measured by the state
 - 2.4 Monitor to ensure standard best practices are used consistently and effectively
- 3. Internationally Competitive, Capable, Engaged and Experienced Students;**
 - 3.1 Continue to develop a curriculum and assessment model that exceeds Ohio's standards by using national and international standards as a framework with an emphasis on global awareness, including instruction in a second language at the primary level
 - 3.2 Promote a district culture that fosters, encourages, and expands opportunities for world experience and travel for students
- 4. Relevant Service Learning and Experiential Learning for All Students;**
 - 4.1 Establish a Service Learning Continuum that includes a Service Learning Graduation Requirement
 - 4.2 Create a systemic framework where innovative classroom experiences complement traditional learning for students at all levels (i.e., project-based, STEM-like learning and internships)
 - 4.3 Utilize engaged partnerships with community agencies, businesses, higher education institutions and alumni to engage students in relevant service and experiential learning at all levels
 - 4.4 Incorporate interpersonal/soft skills throughout the PK-12 curriculum
- 5. Seamless Integration of Technology to Maximize Learning;**
 - 5.1 Provide technology-rich learning experiences for all students
 - 5.2 Focused staff development program on integration of technology to enhance student achievement
- 6. An All-Inclusive Environment; and**
 - 6.1 Build on a school environment that is welcoming and emotionally safe from bullying, harassment, prejudice and alienation
 - 6.2 Monitor and ensure that all activities are inclusive
 - 6.3 Implement a system to seek out/monitor challenges to an inclusionary environment and address barriers promptly
- 7. Learning Environments that Promote Wellness and Environmental Responsibility.**
 - 7.1 Emphasize health & wellness through a variety of traditional & nontraditional learning experiences
 - 7.2 Increase our environmental responsibility and promote staff and student awareness of sustainability

