Highlights from the Final WHS NEASC Report

Submitted to the Association October 2019

Founded in 1885

2011 NEASC Standards

Standard One: Core Values, Beliefs, and Learning Expectations

Standard Two : Curriculum

Standard Three : Instruction

Standard Four : Assessment of and for Student Learning

Standard Five : School Culture and Leadership

Standard Six : School Resources for Learning

Standard Seven : Community Resources for Learning

I. Core Values and Beliefs About Learning: *Commendations*

1. **Journeys**
2. **Advisory**
3. **House System**
4. **Rich Array of Courses**
5. **Extracurricular Activities**
6. **Visuals throughout WHS**
7. **WPS Profile of a Graduate (POG)**

I. Core Values and Beliefs About Learning: *Recommendations*

1. **Develop specific measurable criteria for success** (e.g. school-wide rubrics, for POG competencies).
2. **Ensure the core values, beliefs, and POG are actively reflected in the culture of the school** (e.g. drive curriculum, instruction, and assessment in every classroom).
3. Develop and implement a process to **regularly review and revise core values, beliefs, and the POG** based on research, multiple data sources, and district and school community priorities.

II. Curriculum: *Commendations*

1. **Depth of Understanding & Application of Knowledge**
   a. established process for curricular coordination
   b. verbal articulation between and among all academic areas within the school as well as with sending schools.

2. **Sufficient Instructional Materials, Technology, Equipment, and Supplies**

II. Curriculum: *Recommendations*

1. **Written Curriculum**
   a. Units of Study (e.g. essential questions, concepts, & skills)
   b. Connect to WPS POG
   c. Clear plan for Assessments
2. **Teacher Collaboration**
   a. develop formal cross-disciplinary activities, units or courses.
   b. formally collaborate on development, evaluation, and revision of the curriculum

III. Instruction: *Commendations*

1. ***Strong connections:*** WHS core values & teacher's instructional practices.

2. ***Prevalence of instructional strategies to engage students:*** (e.g. emphasizing inquiry, problem-solving, and higher-order thinking; applying knowledge and skills to authentic tasks; and engaging students in self-assessment and reflection)

III. Instruction: *Commendations* (cont'd)

3. *The efforts of teachers* → they actively seek out colleagues on their personal time to meet and discuss student assessment as a means to explore ways to improve instruction.

4. *Additional support* for students in the classroom.

5. *Formative assessments* teachers adjust instructional practices when needed.

III. Instruction: *Recommendations*

1. Ensure all teachers have **dedicated time for collaboration**.

2. **Differentiate instruction**.

3. **Decrease the amount of teacher-directed instruction**.

IV. Assessment of & for Student Learning:
Commendations

1. **Consistent collection, disaggregation, and analysis of data** to respond to inequities in student achievement**.**
2. **Communication** of unit-specific learning objectives in individual courses.
3. **Specific and measurable criteria** for success prior to summative assessments
4. **Wide range of assessment strategies**
   a. Formative
   b. Summative

IV. Assessment of & for Student Learning:
Commendations (cont'd)

5. Change from **final exams to final project.**

6. **Specific, timely, and corrective feedback** provided to students to ensure they revise and improve their work.

7. **Formative assessments** to inform and adapt instructional practices.

8. **Individual and departmental examination of student learning results** for the purpose of revising curriculum and improving instructional practice.

IV. Assessment of & for Student Learning: *Recommendations*

1. Process to **assess individual and whole-school POG progress**.

2. Process to **communicate individual and whole-school POG progress.**

3. Prior to units of study, teachers **communicate directly the applicable POG related learning experiences**.

IV. Assessment of & for Student Learning:
Recommendations (cont'd)

4. **Ensure teachers have adequate time** for collaboration on common assessments and for gathering and disaggregating data.

5. Review and revise grading and reporting practices to ensure **consistency** within and among departments with the core values, beliefs, and POG

V. School Culture and Leadership: *Commendations*

1. Promotion of **high expectations & physical and emotional well being**.

2. Implementation of **Challenge Success.**

3. Development of the **POG.**

4. Principal and professional staff's **use of resources outside of the school to maintain currency with best practices**.

5. WHS' **effective evaluation and supervision process**.

V. School Culture and Leadership: *Commendations*

5. **Student load** and **class size**.

6. **Instructional leadership** provided by the principal.

7. **Empowerment of the staff to:**

- be peer instructional leaders
- introduce new initiatives and instructional materials.

V. School Culture and Leadership: *Commendations*

8. **Restorative justice practices** and **diversion programs**

9. Opportunities for all students to **voice concerns** regarding school culture.

10. **Proactive work of school leaders** and faculty to address school culture concerns.

V. School Culture and Leadership: *Recommendations*

1. **Student accountability** during emergencies & drills.

2. A plan for **professional collaboration**.

3. **Achievement/opportunity gap** plans.

4. Continue to **work with student leaders to address identified gaps in the equity of student experience** .

VI. School Resources for Learning: *Commendations*

1. **Coordinated approach for student interventions.**
2. **Wide variety of programs** offered to cover a range of needs and to target specific needs.
3. **Student support teams** that effectively identifies students at risk and matches them to appropriate resources.
4. The WHS **Wheel of Supports** that provides links to all supports for students and parents.

VI. School Resources for Learning: *Commendations (cont'd)*

5. Productive and positive **library** environment.

6. Personalized, caring relationships between **school counselors** & students.

7. Comprehensive **four-year developmental guidance program**.

VI. School Resources for Learning: *Commendations (cont'd)*

8. Effective organization of the **health services suite.**

9. **Timely and coordinated communication** among guidance, administration, and health staff.

VI. School Resources for Learning: *Recommendations*

1. Develop and implement a plan to **further integrate library/media resources** into school curriculum initiatives.

VII. Community Resources for Learning: *Commendations*

1. The **dependable funding** provided by the community and district's governing body.
2. **Plans and programs** to ensure maintenance, repair, and cleanliness of the building and school plant.
3. **Physical plant and facilities meet all applicable federal and state laws** and are in compliance with local fire, health, and safety regulations.

VII. Community Resources for Learning: *Commendations (cont'd)*

4. **WHS school site and plant.**

5. **WPS budgeting process.**

6. **Physical distribution of support and administrative staff** throughout the building.

VII. Community Resources for Learning: *Commendations (cont'd)*

7. Commitment to **green technology systems**.

8. **Productive parent, community, business, and higher education partnerships** that support student learning.

9. **Old high school is honored** in the new building design.

Takeaways: *Commendations*

1. **School and community support** in terms of funding and resources.

2. **Wide variety of offerings** at the school.

3. **Number and types of supports** we have in place to take care of the social emotional well being of our kids.

4. **Higher order thinking and authentic learning opportunities** in our classes.

Takeaways: *Recommendations*

1. Develop and implement **a system for teaching, assessing, and communicating the POG**.

2. Continue to work towards **providing time for teacher collaboration** in order to ensure **consistency among courses and written curriculum** (e.g. units of study, lesson plans).

3. Continue to focus on ways we can **close achievement and opportunity gaps between/among groups of students**.