

# Student Success and Wellness Research Group

## Background

In 2017, the Winchester Public Schools completed a community process of Strategic Visioning to identify conditions for students to thrive emotionally, socially, and academically. We have since strived to align our district goals with these areas.

The goal of this new research group will be to utilize data and/or identify other measures to research factors expressed by students, parents, teachers and community members that impact our vision and goals, particularly around student success and well-being.

Currently, we have three sources of data to 1) measure quality of learning experiences of students (School Quality Measures from annual MCIEA<sup>1</sup> survey of students, staff, and parents); 2) identify potential areas of risk to student wellness (from Middlesex League's bi-annual Youth Risk Behavior Survey); and 3) school climate surveys (to canvass student opinion on safety / stress/ student-teacher relationships). Historically, we have looked at these in isolation but would like to review for trends and connections across the data that could have an impact on our students' educational experience.

## Purpose:

Our purpose is to examine district data and report to the School Committee and Administration on:

1. current perceptions of K-12 student work-load and activity demands;
2. relationship of student experience to achievement, well-being, and assessment;
3. identification of key factors affecting student wellness and success; and
4. research of models (existing or defined) to address the above factors and their potential application to Winchester Public Schools.

*This will be an open-ended process and outcome. This group's purpose is not to answer a primary question or to support or contradict any particular existing school policy. This group is consistent with our district goals, vision of improving the social and emotional health of our students, and our commitment to improving student learning experiences through MCIEA School Quality Measures.*

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<sup>1</sup> Massachusetts Consortium for Innovative Education Assessment: <https://www.mciea.org>

## Goal of the Research Group

**Year 1:** Observe and identify basic underlying perceptions held by parents, students, teachers and research regarding student demands on time, stressors, and any factors impacting success and well-being.

*In Year 1, the group will investigate current student workload and well-being in and out of school. The group will examine research and surveys and will discuss topics such as: extracurricular involvement, homework, student jobs, sports, etc. They will identify key areas of focus.*

**Year 2:** Share current research and/or models that can enhance student well-being, engagement, and performance.

*In Year 2, the group will shift into reviewing models regarding the identified issues and will report to the administration, School Committee, and community-at-large on their findings. .*

## Group Composition

- 2 School Committee members
- 3 administrators
- 6 teachers (elementary, middle, high)
- 6 parents (elementary, middle, high)
- 4 students (middle, high school)
- 1 MCIEA data representative

The research group should be representative of diverse teacher, student, administration, and parent cohorts incorporating a broad range of the community. Teachers, parents and students will be asked to submit an application to participate.

Teachers will be chosen in consultation with the Union President and Assistant Superintendent. Parents will be chosen by the School Committee and Administration representatives to the research group. All group members must be willing to make a 1.5 year commitment. The research group may consult the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Athletic Director as well as other principals and department heads as needed.

## Time Requirements

Research group members will be required to attend one meeting per month, February to June 2020 and September 2020 to June 2021.

Members will also need to dedicate a moderate amount of time in small groups between the monthly meetings to reading, research, and surveys in order to inform the larger group.

Members will organize occasional community, student, or teacher forums for input.

### **Proposed Meeting Dates at 3:45 - 5:30pm at Parkhurst Elementary**

Tuesday, February 10th

Monday, March 2nd

Tuesday, March 24th

Tuesday, April 28th

Tuesday, May 11th

Tuesday, June 9th

Year 2 will continue the work September 2020 to June 2021

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## Task List

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| Task | Date/Status |
|------|-------------|
|------|-------------|

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### Research Group formation

*Set up and initial group formation with Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Union President and School Committee members:*

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| • Notify community of research group and application process | Dec. 2019 |
| • Distribute applications                                    | Jan. 2019 |
| • Notify chosen members                                      | Jan. 2020 |
- 

### Establish page on WPS school committee website

*In consultation with research group, establish means of community Information sharing.*

|  |      |
|--|------|
|  | 2020 |
|--|------|

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### Establish Group Norms and areas of research

*The group will establish norms and begin to review currently available Data (MCIEA, YRBS) and decide what key questions they will undertake and what data they will need to collect.*

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
|  | Jan-June 2020 |
|--|---------------|

- Group will review data currently available to district
  - Group will identify from currently available data what information needs to be clarified or where more data is needed
  - From discussions and data, group will identify areas for growth to investigate in Year 2
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### Share project goals and timeline

*Group will report to Superintendent and School Committee on progress and Plan for Year 2.*

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
|  | June 2020 |
|--|-----------|

**Parent Application**

<https://form.jotform.com/93065276927164>

**Teacher Application**

<https://form.jotform.com/93173929614162>

**Student Application**

<https://form.jotform.com/93174474819165>