

“How should we improve teaching and learning to ensure that all students achieve the national Common Core Standards in 2015?”

Applying our WCSU Core Values to this essential question will help our schools find the most effective answers. The eleven school districts of the Windham Central Supervisory Union (WCSU) collaborate using the *Core Values for the WCSU* — The WCSU will

- ~ Place students at the center of our decision-making.
- ~ Build trust and respect by acting ethically, transparently, and with integrity.
- ~ Operate as a community of learners committed to developing the skills and capabilities of all.
- ~ Collaborate, share and seek creative solutions.

The twelve school district boards' collective effort resulted in the *WCSU Strategic Plan* to achieve common goals in three areas: Curriculum and Instruction, Human Resources, and Operations. The Curriculum and Instruction area includes our most important goal — student learning and achievement. All other goals and action steps are designed to support our students in this effort. See web link <https://sites.google.com/a/windhamcentral.org/home/home/mission-core-values>.

Professional learning for our teachers and paraprofessionals focuses on literacy including writing across the curriculum and mathematics. Teachers from every school continue collaborating in Grade Level Assessment Meetings (GLAMs) to apply what they have learned. This work outside the classroom improves our effectiveness as a teaching team Pre-k through 12. A coordinated approach to teaching and learning will ensure that our students meet Common Core State Standards in 2015.

This year the WCSU Learning After School (LAFTER) programs are providing opportunities for students to extend learning beyond the school day. A federal 21st Century Grant of \$450,000 will continue to provide these after school activities for 2013-2014. Our WCSU 21st Century Director, Jennifer Connor, coordinates and oversees the LAFTER programs in seven schools. The success of these activities depends on the interests and talents of local citizens. If you have an idea to share give Jennifer a call at 365-9510 x118.

A school budget provides the plan for investing in opportunities for student learning and growth. Your school directors carefully considered every detail of the FY14 Budget. This fiscally responsible budget takes into account our current circumstances; the continuing effects of Hurricane Irene, declining school enrollment, and a slow growth economy. Your board welcomes all suggestions, weighs them carefully, and makes tough decisions while keeping foremost the needs of *all* students.

I support your board's proposed budget for 2013 -2014 and urge you to approve it at your school district meeting. Allow me to publicly thank you and the members of your school board for your commitment to the public education of all our children.

Steven B. John, Ed.D., WCSU Superintendent

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