



# DISTRICT News

WEST SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT

January 2013

## Preparing for the New Elementary Common Core Standards

The elementary math and language arts committees have been gearing up for the transition to the Pennsylvania Common Core Standards (PACCS) which will occur in 2013-2014.

The committees have closely examined and compared the PACCS to the District's current curriculum, which is aligned to the Pennsylvania Academic Standards. They will continue their work to align and adjust our current Student Learning Maps and common assessments to the PACCS throughout the remainder of 2012-2013. Here is a glimpse into these two curricular areas:

**Elementary English/Language Arts** - Writing benchmarks are administered three times a year to students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Writing prompts include narrative, persuasive, and informational for intermediate students and narrative and informational for primary students.

By establishing a shared set of principles, common assessments, and standard practices, the committee created a common language for evaluating student progress across grade levels. Reading progress continues to be measured

using the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA). All students in second through fifth grade are given the DRA at the beginning and end of the school year. Students in kindergarten begin testing mid-year, while first grade students are tested at the beginning, middle, and end of the year. Teachers utilize the data collected to identify and address individual student needs.

**Elementary Math** - The elementary mathematics mini-curriculum committee has diligently worked the last two years to create common assessments for each unit of study in math for kindergarten through fifth grade. In an effort to continuously improve these assessments, the committee continues to receive feedback from elementary teachers across the District in order to refine the questions which are utilized to ensure student understanding of the required state standards.

The committee is comparing the current math curriculum to the PACCS in order to make the necessary alterations and refinements to the District's Student Learning Maps. Once this challenging task is completed, the committee will alter the common assessments accordingly.

## Welcoming the Class of 2026

The District will be conducting kindergarten registration March 18-21, 2013, at the Administration Center for Education. Students will be registered for kindergarten by appointment only. Please contact the building principal of the elementary school in your attendance area to schedule an appointment and obtain a registration packet. To be admitted to kindergarten for the 2013-2014 school year, children must be five years of age prior to October 1, 2013, and have an official birth certificate and proper immunization records.

Parents of a child turning five between October 1 and November 30, 2013, and petitioning the District for early admission must contact the school's guidance counselor prior to May 1, 2013, for necessary testing information.



## Working Toward Adequate Yearly Progress

The *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB) mandates that schools and school districts achieve Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) on required statewide assessments. Adequate Yearly Progress is defined by a minimum percentage of students who meet or exceed academic proficiency standards in reading/language arts and mathematics on the Pennsylvania State System of Assessment (PSSA) in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 11. Beginning in 2013, AYP for grade 11 will be determined by results on Keystone Exams.

For 2012, the percentage of the students taking the reading PSSA tests must have met or exceeded the proficiency standards. In reading, 81 percent of the students must have met or exceeded proficiency standards. In mathematics, 78 percent of the students must have met or exceeded proficiency standards. Those required percentages were raised for 2012 and will increase every year until 2014 when the current federal mandate calls for 100 percent proficiency in reading and mathematics for ALL students.

The district-level results for 2012 were as follows:

### Reading Performance

#### Target - 78% Proficiency Level

District Grades 3-5.....	75.4%
District Grades 6-8.....	73.4%
District Grade 11 .....	69.3%

### Mathematics Performance

#### Target - 78% Proficiency Level

District Grades 3-5.....	80.3%
District Grades 6-8.....	72.2%
District Grade 11 .....	59.9%

Each school as well as school district must meet these performance targets.

Every student subgroup, consisting of 40 or more students, must achieve the performance targets in reading/language arts and mathematics for the school and school district to be considered “making AYP.” Subgroups include students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs), economically disadvantaged students, students with limited English proficiency, and students representing various racial/ethnic groups.

The District, as a whole, missed AYP for 2012. However, the following schools met AYP: Fairview Elementary School, Hillside Elementary School, Mt. Zion Elementary School, Lower Allen Elementary School, Red Mill Elementary School, Rossmoyne Elementary School, Washington Heights Elementary School, and Allen Middle School.

### Schools in Warning

- **Fishing Creek Elementary School** - The Economically Disadvantaged subgroup missed the reading performance target.
- **Newberry Elementary School** - The Economically Disadvantaged subgroup missed the reading performance target.
- **Highland Elementary School** - The IEP subgroup missed the reading performance target. The Economically Disadvantaged subgroup missed the math and reading performance targets.

### Schools in School Improvement I

- **Crossroads Middle School** - The IEP subgroup missed the math and reading performance targets. The Economically Disadvantaged subgroup missed the math performance target.
- **Lemoyne Middle School** - The IEP and Economically Disadvantaged subgroups missed the math performance target.

- **New Cumberland Middle School** - The Economically Disadvantaged subgroup missed the math and reading performance targets.

**Schools in Corrective Action I**

- **Cedar Cliff High School** - The Economically Disadvantaged subgroup missed the math and reading performance targets.
- **Red Land High School** – The eleventh grade class missed the math and reading performance targets. The White non-Hispanic and the IEP subgroups missed the math and reading performance targets. The Economically Disadvantaged subgroup missed the math performance target.

All schools within the District developed School Improvement Plans during the 2011-2012 school year and refined them based on the results of the 2012 PSSAs. These plans align with the District’s Comprehensive Strategic Planning efforts and will help schools meet the increasing student performance requirements of NCLB. As required, the Improvement Plans for those schools in School Improvement and Corrective Action were approved by the School Board and submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Continued work with Response to Instruction and Intervention and Title I services will help to improve elementary student performance. Increased use of data obtained through the Northwest Evaluation Association’s Measures of Academic Progress® (Grades 1-8) and Pennsylvania’s Classroom Diagnostic Tools (Grades 7-12 for students in Keystone Exam content oriented courses) will facilitate differentiated instruction.

NCLB legislation also mandates that schools and school districts meet established targets in attendance rates at the elementary and middle school level, graduation rates at the high school level, and participation rates at all levels.

All West Shore schools met the thresholds established for attendance or graduation rates and participation rates.

**Attendance Rate**

**Target - 90% or growth from one year to the next if below 90%**

District Attendance Rate ..... 95.0%  
*as reported by PA Department of Education*

**Middle Schools**

Allen Middle School ..... 95.0%  
 Crossroads Middle School ..... 95.2%  
 Lemoyne Middle School ..... 95.2%  
 New Cumberland Middle School ..... 94.6%

**Elementary Schools**

Fairview Elementary School..... 95.2%  
 Fishing Creek Elementary School .....96.1%  
 Highland Elementary School.....96.1%  
 Hillside Elementary School ..... 96.4%  
 Newberry Elementary School ..... 94.9%  
 Red Mill Elementary School ..... 95.4%  
 Rossmoyne Elementary School ..... 95.7%  
 Washington Heights Elementary School .. 95.0%

*Lower Allen (and Mt. Zion) is not listed as it is (was) a K-2 school and PSSAs are not administered at that level.*

Attendance rates are from the 2010-2011 school year, the most current year for which the State provides data.

**Graduation Rate**

**Target - 85% graduation rate or a 10% reduction of the difference between the previous year’s graduation rate and 85%**

District Graduation Rate..... 89.2%  
*as reported by PA Department of Education*

**PSSA Participation Rate**

**Target - 95% student population**

District Grades 3-5..... 99.8%  
 District Grades 6-8 ..... 99.8%  
 District Grade 11 ..... 99.0%



### **Mission Statement**

The West Shore School District is committed to providing this generation with a quality education serving as a foundation for responsible and successful citizenship.

### **Board of School Directors**

Anthony J. Tezik, Ed.D., President  
Ronald L. Candioto, Jr., Vice President  
M. Todd Ambrose  
Judith A. Crocenzi  
Denise N. Grover  
Brian K. Guistwhite  
Frank J. Kambic  
Gayle M. Russell  
Kelli C. Williamson

### **Administration**

Jemry L. Small, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
  
Todd B. Stoltz, Ed.D.  
Assistant Superintendent

## **West Shore School District**

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[www.wssd.k12.pa.us](http://www.wssd.k12.pa.us)

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The West Shore School District will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, marital status, or disability in accordance with state and federal laws governing educational and vocational programs and in its recruitment and employment practices. Inquiries concerning the application of Title VII, Title IX, Section 504, the ADA, and the implementing regulations may be referred to the Director of Human Resources, 507 Fishing Creek Road, P.O. Box 803, New Cumberland, PA 17070-0803, telephone (717) 938-9577. Revised 12-2012

## **Senior Citizen's Gold Card**

All District residents with a Senior Citizen's Gold Card will be entitled to free admission to any home athletic event, to all plays and musical productions, and to all other District programs except the baccalaureate and graduation programs if these have to be held in school auditoriums. For specific designated events or matches where seating is anticipated to be at a premium level, a Gold Card will not be accepted. If you have questions about obtaining a Gold Card, please contact the receptionist at the Administration Center for Education.

## **Seeking Feedback**

The District continues to share information with the community through the District website, *District News*, and twitter in addition to information shared by individual schools.

The District is not able to promise publication of all topics, but we would like to hear from you. What stories would you like to see in future publications and/or web postings? Please share your ideas with Dr. Ryan Argot at [rargot@wssd.k12.pa.us](mailto:rargot@wssd.k12.pa.us).

## **Special Education Public Notice**

The West Shore School District is required to identify students who may have disabilities. The required Public Notice for Child Find for the District is currently available online. Visit [www.wssd.k12.pa.us](http://www.wssd.k12.pa.us) and select the Departments tab to view the Special Education page and public notice. If you have difficulty accessing this or have questions, please contact Mrs. Rosemary Holecki, Coordinator of Special Education, at 938-9577 or email [rholecki@wssd.k12.pa.us](mailto:rholecki@wssd.k12.pa.us).