

Williamsport Area SD

District Level Plan

07/01/2015 - 06/30/2018



WASD District Profile

Demographics

2780 West Fourth Street
Williamsport, PA 17701
(570)327-5500
Superintendent: Don Adams
Director of Special Education: Marisha Cruz

Planning Process

The process used to develop the Comprehensive Plan for the School District involved 6 steps. Those steps are listed below.

Administrative Tasks

The administrative tasks were designed to create a smooth flow for the process. Those tasks were:

- Creation of the Board/Administrator goal setting team
- Discussion of quality members for building level teams with building level administrators
- Setting timelines for school plan development
- Providing time at Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) Meetings from September 1, 2014 through August 30, 2014 to complete building level plans.
- Creation of the board/administrator goal setting team
- Identifying members of the District Level Team
- Reviewing building level plans as part of the District Plan completion
- Deadline for completion of the district level plan

District Comprehensive Planning at Administrative Retreat

The district administrators met at their annual retreat in June 2013 and June 2014 to develop draft district goals. Those goals were taken to the board/administrator retreat as the basis for establishing the district goals.

Board and Administrator Retreat

The school board and administrators from each level met to establish District Goals in July of 2013. These goals were used as the basis for each individual school to create their individual plans. These goals were reviewed and modified in July of 2014. Individual school plans were reviewed with respect to the modified district goals.

Initial Analysis for Building Level Plans

The first level of review of District profile, foundation questions, and analyzing data was done at the Instructional Leadership Team meetings by administrators from September 2013 through December 2013. At this time the process of developing each school's building level plan was established.

Development of Building Level Plans

Each building level lead administrator established a building level team, based on the guidelines established at ILT, to develop the building level plan. These plans were developed from November 2013 through May 2014.

Development of District Level Plan

Following the board/administrator retreat in July 2014, the district level team was established. Individual school plans and the district goals were reviewed as part of the creation of the district plan. The district level plan and building plans were submitted to the board of education for review at the first board meeting in October 2014. The plan was submitted to The Pennsylvania Department of Education in November 2014 for approval.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Williamsport Area School District (WASD) is to develop responsible citizens through excellence in education.

Vision Statement

The vision of the Williamsport Area School District and the community in which it resides is presented as a series of statements.

1. We value each child as our own. That value is demonstrated by challenging and supporting each child to achieve his/her peak potential.
2. Every stakeholder (e.g., administrators, educators, support staff, parents, students and community) of the educational delivery system is respected.
3. Partnerships in the community expand opportunities and resources, including outreach programs, for our students and their families
4. The community is proud of the school district, takes ownership of it, feels they are getting value from their investment in it, and views the school district as a collaborative partner.
5. Learning environments are enjoyable, engaging, and promote enthusiasm (the affective side of schooling).
6. Our community is an outstanding and safe place to live, learn, work and play.
7. Every child is engaged with a significant positive role model in addition to family members.
8. Innovative and diverse learning opportunities are abundant; technological resources are available to support those learning opportunities.
9. Students who are college and career ready are an investment in our community and the future generation of inspirational community leaders.

Shared Values

As a member of the Williamsport Area School District community, we value:

- the pursuit of excellence
- a nurturing environment that supports the emotional, physical, intellectual, social and creative (whole) needs of each child
- communication and collaboration between home, school, and community.

- **teacher leadership, share decision-making and professional development.**
- **creating a community of life-long learners and responsible citizens.**
- **real world diversity of the population we serve**
- **different learning styles, abilities and individual aspirations.**
- **extended learning opportunities, such as extra-curricular, college credit dual enrollment, co-curricular enrichment in and outside of the classroom are available to each child**
- **the emotional, physical, intellectual, social and creative (whole) child.**
- **consistent district curricula across buildings and classrooms (aligned K-12), while recognizing individual needs of all students.**
- **inspired efforts of our students, faculty and staff**

Educational Community

The Williamsport Area School District is located in north-central Pennsylvania, along the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, and includes six municipalities in Lycoming County. The School District covers an area of approximately 98 square miles and serves a population of approximately 45,000 in the City of Williamsport and Hepburn, Lewis, Lycoming, Old Lycoming, and Woodward Townships. Approximately 70% of the School District population and 64% of the taxable property are in the City of Williamsport.

The economy of the local school district has seen recent growth in the last 5 years that is related to the Marcellus Shale natural gas industry. Although the district has not seen an increase in student growth from this industry, the availability of jobs related to the natural gas industry is significant and has created a positive economic impact in the local community. Other major employers in the area are two local colleges, a major health system, and numerous industries...most of which are located on the southern edge of the school district. In spite of the local economic growth, the poverty rate (as measured by free and reduced lunch rates) of the families of the Williamsport Area School District has continued to creep upward. Approximately 60% percent of students now fall at or below the poverty level. The district educates approximately 5,100 students across four Grades K-3 primary schools, two Grades 4-6 intermediate schools, one Grades 7-8 middle school and one Grades 9-12 high school. The district population is comprised of the following groups: 67% white, 15% black, 14% multi-racial, 2% Hispanic, 1% Asian and 1% other.

The community has numerous resources that support the needs of our community. We have an active YMCA and YWCA that support the needs of students and families within our communities. These needs include child care, recreation, support for women with young children, and numerous other educational and outreach programs. STEP, Inc., a community action agency, provides significant support to every facet of our population through five major pathways: early learning, housing options, workforce development, community collaboration, and independent living. The First Community Foundation Partnership also provides significant support to the community through grants that support specific community needs. HOPE, Inc. is an agency that provides support and care for children and adults, many of whom are disabled. The Community Arts Center, Community Theatre League and Uptown Music Collective are examples of organizations that provide cultural experiences for children and adults in the community. These are just a sampling of the many organizations that make Williamsport a special community for its families.

The school district has many resources that support its families. Our comprehensive high school has a strong blend of academic, career and technical education, extracurricular and co-curricular activities. This includes a strong partnership with The Pennsylvania College of Technology that provides 14 course dual enrollment opportunities at the Williamsport Area High School. The district has also had the opportunity to provide additional resources and programming through many grants including a federal library grant that updated library resources, a School Improvement Grant that helped transform our high school, a TRACKS nutrition grant that has provided health and nutrition educational opportunities for Grades K-6, a Keystone to Opportunities grant that has supported the literacy needs of the K-5 language arts program, and numerous grants from our Local Educational Foundation that support innovative instructional projects.

The school district provides supports for all students. This includes special education services that provide opportunities for students with autism, emotional needs, special physical needs, and specific learning needs. We also provide a wide variety of opportunities for gifted students at all levels through course opportunities and acceleration. The district provides a wide range of professional development opportunities for its staff so they can provide focused and well-planned instruction to students. We provide many opportunities for the fine and performing arts. The community partners with the district through First Friday events, Community Arts Center performances and many other venues to showcase our students' talents.

During the past 5 years it has been exceptionally rewarding to see the collaboration with the local community in the arts, through business and industry connections, through participation in events that exhibit our students' talents and through a general feeling that the school district is an essential piece to the welfare of the community.

WASD Planning Committee

Name	Role
Don Adams	Administrator
Elizabeth Barnhart	Special Education Director/Specialist
Tom Bartholomew	Secondary School Teacher - Regular Education
Andrew Bennett	Elementary School Teacher - Regular Education
Michelle Bennett	Elementary School Teacher - Regular Education
Susie Bigger	Administrator
Carole Bresticker	Community Representative
Stephanie Calder	Business Representative
Marisha Cruz	Special Education Director/Specialist
Liz Dincher	Secondary School Teacher - Special Education
Trevor Enderle	Elementary School Teacher - Regular Education
Reginald Fatherly	Administrator
Kirk Felix	Administrator
Jason Fink	Business Representative
Tracey Graff	Middle School Teacher - Regular Education
Deborah Grove	Community Representative
John Killian	Student Curriculum Director/Specialist
Kevin Mumbauer	Elementary School Teacher - Regular Education
Keri Nasdeo	Ed Specialist - School Psychologist
Susan Newcomer	Parent
Andrew Paulhamus	Secondary School Teacher - Regular Education
Trey Phillips	Business Representative
Nicole Pish	Secondary School Teacher - Regular Education
Robert Rook	Middle School Teacher - Regular Education
Justin Ross	Special Education Director/Specialist
Dana Schenck-Welshans	Secondary School Teacher - Regular Education
Kathleen Taylor	Elementary School Teacher - Special Education
Heather Vogt	Middle School Teacher - Special Education
Paula Warrender	Parent
Amy Weaver	Secondary School Teacher - Regular Education
Jennifer Wilson	Parent

Feedback regarding this plan should be addressed to dadams@wasd.org

Dr. Don Adams, Superintendent of Schools, Williamsport Area School District

