

Empowered to Discover the Best Version of Ourselves



Wareham Public Schools
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The Wareham Public Schools has made some incredible advances since the inception of **WPS 2021**, our 5 -year District Strategic Plan.

1. We have developed a strong leadership team.
2. The evaluation system is robust and supports teaching and learning.
3. We have established formative, summative, and performance-based assessments.
4. All students have their own devices.
5. Rigorous curriculum units have been developed.
6. We chose to adhere to the IB philosophy (Inquirers, Knowledgeable, Thinkers, Communicators, Principled, Open-Minded, Caring, Risk-Takers, Balanced, & Reflective).
7. Common philosophies and practices have led to rigorous, relevant, dynamic curriculum and instruction.
8. Learning has begun to be more personalized.
9. Student choice, voice, and agency are priorities for all schools.
10. We have a learning management system used to respond to individual students and cultures. It is rigorous and engages students in their personalized instruction.
11. Culture overall is improving with PBIS, Emotional Intelligence training, support from guidance counselors and social workers, and the relationships established with outside agencies enhancing social/emotional intelligence.
12. Data, both internally and externally, have consistently shown improvements.

As we bring **WPS 2021** to a close, it is time to consider what lies ahead and formulate a new Strategic Plan, **WPS 2026**. We know that the next five years will be critical as we continue to grow and transform the system to replicate better what will matter most to our students as we prepare them to live their best lives.

Digital Convergence is vital and is defined as "The intersection of people and ideas as they seek a unified approach to transform the existing education system through technology adoption" (Smith, 2017, p. 14). For schools, this means: "Is the successful combination of six major drivers of work through which technology adoption can effectively occur and includes (1) leadership, (2) instructional models, (3) modern curriculum, (4) digital ecosystems, (5) professional learning, and (6) community" (Smith, 2017, p. 14).

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“Digital convergence is technically simple but socially complex” (Modern Teacher, PPT, 2020).

The Strategic Planning Steering Committee met on January 27th. We need members of our entire community to join us as we prepare **WPS 2026**. to include all stakeholders. Work on this Committee is voluntary. Five sub-groups, led by Steering Committee members, will address Scholarship-Student Learning, Professional Learning, Social Emotional Learning, Community: College, Career, & Life Ready, and Stewardship-Digital Convergence. Learning more about each will help us formulate the elements necessary for us to grow. Much of what is currently in our plan, **WPS 2021**, will be considered because those elements are relevant. As we work in sub-groups and then reconvene, we will begin to formulate a collective vision that defines a portrait of a WPS graduate. We want to provide learning experiences for our students that prepare them to live their best lives and become contributing members of our global society. Digital convergence can help us effectively provide opportunities for the Wareham community to become empowered to discover their best selves.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kimberly Shaver-Hood

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The Wareham Public Schools is asking for your help. We would greatly appreciate all WPS staff, Town Officials, Police, Fire, & Business Owners to reply to assist as we devise a five-year Strategic Plan that is relevant to all stakeholders in our schools and in the community. Meetings will be held via Zoom monthly. We will begin meeting in mid-February, end in May with a goal to have an initial plan ready for School Committee approval/vote at our last School Committee meeting in June 2021.

If you are interested, please copy and paste this message below and send to aschwamb@wareham.k12.ma.us

Dear Dr. Schwamb or Andrea (whichever you prefer):

I (your name) am interested in participating in developing the new Strategic Plan, **WPS 2026**. The group I am most interested in working on is (you may check more than one and will be placed where needed most to provide diverse, inclusive perspectives):

Overarching Elements	Defined	Please Check
Scholarship- Student Learning	<i>Providing students with all elements associated with a relevant, rigorous and equitable educational experience.</i>	
Professional Learning	<i>Ensure that teachers and other stakeholders develop the necessary skills, competencies, and pedagogy to transform teaching and learning. Integrate technology for competency-based, personalized learning. Requires a long-term Strategic Plan, the development and support of cross-functional teams, and systems to develop, deploy, and monitor learning for stakeholders. This seeks to measure teacher proficiency with the new instructional model and technological integration.</i>	
Social Emotional Learning	<i>“Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions” (https://casel.org/overview-sel/, retrieved December 3, 2020)..</i>	
Community: College, Career, & Life Ready	<i>The district engages the community in learning about where students can expand their experiences. Partners with stakeholders to support students.</i>	
Stewardship-Digital Convergence	<i>“The intersection of people and ideas as they seek a unified approach to transform the existing education system through technology adoption” (Smith, 2017, p. 14).</i>	