



Curriculum Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 2, 2024
9:30 AM
Remote Session

- I. Call to order
- II. Approval of June 2024 meeting minutes
- III. Introduction of Weston's new Curriculum Instructional Leaders for 6-12 English and 6-12 Social Studies
- IV. Summer Curriculum Update
 - Summer Curriculum Academy
 - Curriculum at a Glance for parents: Westonps.org
- V. PowerSchool enhancements
 - Portfolio+ and Assessment
 - Demographic information/forms
- VI. Panorama survey window for families, students, and staff
Monday, September 16 - Friday, October 11, 2024
- VII. Updated graduation requirement discussion
- VIII. New course proposal - AP/ ECE US History
- IX. Adjournment

Curriculum Committee Meeting

June 11, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

Weston Middle School LLC

Present Committee Members:

Bernadette Kingsley (Chairperson), David Felton, Chap Hoepfner

Present Administration:

Tina Henckel, Ed.D, Assistant Superintendent; Lisa Barbiero, Superintendent; Meghan Conetta, WHS Principal; Dan Doak, WMS Principal; Pattie Falber, WIS Principal; Laura Kaddis, HES Principal; MaryFaith Zanghi, K-12 Health & PE CIL; Kate O'Keefe, K-12 Visual Arts CIL; Liz Morris, K-12 Performing Arts CIL; Mercedes Fernandes, K-12 World Language CIL; Andrea Noble, K-2 ELA & Social Studies CIL; Kelly Delvecchio, K-2 Math & Science CIL; Alex Bluestein, 3-5 ELA & Social Studies CIL; Erin Barlow, 3-5 Math & Science CIL; Jessica DiBuono, 6-12 ELA CIL; Nick Torres, 6-12 Social Studies CIL; Riley Rapoport, 6-12 Math CIL; Beth Lancaster, 6-12 Science and Technology CIL; Phillip Cross, Finance and Operations Director; Tracy Edwards, PPS Director

Members of the Public:

Peter Gordon

1. Call to Order

The meeting called to order at 3:03 p.m.

Discussion:

Dr. Henckel reviewed the general purpose of the Curriculum Committee meetings and reviewed meeting norms.

2. Approval of May 2024 meeting minutes

Motion Passed: Move that the Curriculum Committee approve the May 2024 meeting minutes. This motion made by Chad Hoepfner and seconded by Bernadette Kingsley.

2 Yeas - 0 Nays

3. Presentation of the 2024 Academic Year in Review

Discussion:

Dr. Henckel introduced the new structure of the Academic Year in Review presentation. She highlighted the focus and mission for the Curriculum Instructional Leader (CIL) Team for the 2023-24 school year and going forward.

Health and PE Curriculum Leader, MaryFaith Zanghi spoke on curriculum revision as the focus for the 2023-24 year. Namely, the skills based instruction revisions that took place this year.

Curriculum Leaders Alex Bluestein, Andrea Noble and Dr. Jessica DiBuono spoke on the curriculum revision and development for English Language Arts. The department focused on Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) that included academic as well as social-emotional support to maximize student performance outcomes. They leveraged new assessment systems for data analysis to inform best practices. In their discussion, they highlighted the implementation of the American Reading Company (ARC) program for K-5 and the next steps for teachers K-12.

Curriculum Leaders Nick Torres, Alex Bluestein and Andrea Noble presented Social Studies K-12. Their focus was to implement new standards put forth from the State at each grade level cohesively so there are no gaps or redundancies. In addition, the focus for the lower grades was to engage in authentic tasks and integrate into English language arts and other subjects such as math and science.

Mathematics K-12 was presented by Kelly DelVecchio, Erin Barlow and Riley Rapoport. The lower schools focused on empowering students' learning strategies. They spoke on the implementation of Illustrative Math new curricula for grades 1-5 and grades 6-8. Grades 6-12 engaged in student-focused learning and promoting thinking classrooms.

Science K-12 was presented by Kelly DelVecchio, Erin Barlow and Beth Lancaster. They spoke on their collaboration on piloting a new platform for assessment in order to gather meaningful data. The focus is to create standards that follow the inquiry method. The CILs spoke on the success of the district-wide solar eclipse event and the positive feedback from students.

Digital Literacy and Information Technology was presented by Beth Lancaster. She spoke on computer science standards and expanding the computer coding experience in the lower grades.

Curriculum Leader Liz Morris presented on K-12 music. This year grades K-5 focused on music literacy—reading, writing and notating music. Grades 6-8 focused on curriculum in the non-performing courses. She also reflected on supporting instrumental programs and spoke on anticipated curriculum revisions. Ms. Morris highlighted some of the performance opportunities in the Weston community as well as performances in the schools.

Curriculum Leader Kate O'Keefe presented on K-12 visual arts. This year the department implemented a district-wide critique and responding rubric, which is aligned with National Core Standards. She reflected on providing equitable experiences for all students and providing more opportunities for exhibition. She highlighted a notable student achievement—two students won the grand prize in CSPAN's Student Cam documentary film contest.

Curriculum Leader Mercedes Fernandes presented on K-12 world language. She spoke the K-5 Spanish program update on curricular units as they transitioned from pandemic years where the instructional time was impacted. New benchmark assessments have been implemented in grades 2 and 5. In grades 6-8, for both the Spanish and French programs the focus was centered on reading and

listening skills; they continued to implement baseline and benchmark assessments. In grades 9-12, the department updated curriculum in high priority courses. In all 9-12 languages, they focused on interpretive and expressive skills. They also placed focus on social-emotional support for world language students to build resilience and perseverance in the learning process.

Each of the departments had display tables and with artifacts demonstrating the teaching and learning from the 2023-24 school year. After the PowerPoint presentation, the Board members spent time visiting the displays and asked the CILs questions on their displays.

Dr. Kingsley stated that she was impressed with the level of collaboration, especially the Cognitive Coaching CIL program. She appreciated the continuity and vertical articulation of the curriculum K-12. She commented on the interesting and creative ways in which the departments are tracking data. She stated she appreciated the social-emotional thread through all of the subject areas.

Mr. Hoepfner thanked the team and commented on the powerful impact of the artifacts. He appreciated the rigor of the curriculum and the task of communicating it to the group. He reflected on how the district might increase the CIL program effectiveness. He commented that the presentation clearly represented the work beyond test score numbers.

Mr. Felton commented on the CIL program. He suggested that it would be helpful to have some data points from teacher who received the coaching.

Dr. Henckel stated that the district has a very clearly defined vision and mission for the CIL program. Phase two is to start rolling out that mission.

4. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

June Curiano

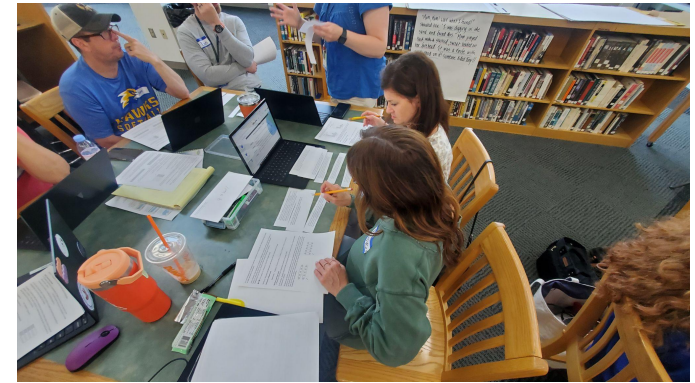


Summer Curriculum Update!

Board of Education Curriculum Meeting
October 2, 2024

Summer Curriculum Academy ('24)

- June 19 **Phase 2** Began: Full team training grounded in research led by CIL Team
 - Review Weston's Curriculum Framework & Design Templates
 - Review how to make decisions around standards and content using the
 - Understanding by Design (Grant Wiggins & Jay McTighe) &
 - Universal Design for Learning (Why, What, How)
 - Focus on quality assessment and standards alignment
- June 19-23, 2024
 - Allocation of days range from 2 to 5 full days per team
- Who is working and how will they be organized?
 - Approximately 64 teachers
 - 33 different teams across K-12
 - 8 different content areas
- **Targeted curriculum based** tasks to be completed per team
 - K-12 Scope and Sequence
 - Pacing Guide per grade
 - Unit 1 Planner and beyond
 - Assessment Design



2024 NEW! Curriculum at a Glance Documents go Live!



Weston Public Schools
Curriculum-at-a-Glance

Grade 5 Math Description: The big ideas in grade 5 include: developing fluency with addition and subtraction of fractions, developing understanding of multiplication and division of fractions in limited cases (unit fractions divided by whole numbers and whole numbers divided by unit fractions), extending division to two-digit divisors, developing an understanding of operations with decimals to hundredths, developing fluency with whole number and decimal operations, and developing understanding of volume.

Unit 1: Finding Volume

Essential Question(s):

- What is volume and how is it used in the world around me?
- How do you determine the volume of a cube or rectangular prism?
- How can three-dimensional shapes be represented and analyzed?
- How do you solve problems relating to volume?

Student Understandings (By the end of this unit, students will...)

- Understand volume is the space taken up by a solid object.
- Determine the volume of a rectangular prism by determining the number of unit cubes needed to fill it.
- Use the layered structure in a rectangular prism will help to find volume.
- Find volume using length x width x height or area of base x height.
- Understand solid figures that are composed of two or more right rectangular prisms, can be decomposed to find the volume of the entire shape.
- Write a simple expression which can be solved.

Key Learning Experiences

Summative Assessment

Performance task: Lots and Lots of Garbage



PANORAMA
EDUCATION



Administering Panorama Surveys



Weston Public Schools



Why are we administering surveys?

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Our Partnership

Weston, as a result of our partnership with Panorama Education, will conduct robust, research-based school and community climate surveys to gather comprehensive data on the experiences and perceptions of students, staff and the broader community.



How We Will Use Survey Results

Weston aim's to use this actionable data to drive continuous improvements in the following areas:

- Improve School Climate;
- Enhance Student Engagement & Well-being;
- Inform Decision-making;
- Foster Community Engagement;
- Monitor Progress.



**Who are we surveying and
what survey instruments and
topics are we using?**

Student Surveys



Student Survey

- School Climate
- School Rigorous Expectations
- School Teacher-Student Relationships
- School Belonging
- Valuing of School
- School Learning Strategies
- School Safety
- Background Questions

Teacher & Staff Surveys



Teacher and Staff Surveys

- School Climate
- Professional Learning
- School Leadership
- Staff-Family Relationships
- Free Responses
- Background Questions

Family Surveys



Community Survey

- Family Engagement
- Learning Behaviors
- School Climate
- Barriers to Engagement
- School Safety
- Free Responses
- Background Questions

**When are we administering
our surveys?**

All Stakeholder Survey Administration Timeline

September						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Sept 16, 2024 - All Surveys open**
- **Principals will communicate in week ahead newsletters along the way - Monitor response rates & download completion lists**
- **Oct 11, 2024 - All Surveys close**
- **October Analysis - Results available**

Planning Period
 Survey Window
 Reviewing Results with Principals

**What will the survey taking
process look like?**



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Family Surveys



PANORAMA
EDUCATION

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How will families access the survey?

Principals will provide Community members with a **unique survey link** delivered to their email inbox.

Direct Survey Link

<https://surveys.panoramaed.com/westonpsct/4881331317/surveys>

Parent Letter with specific language from Director Tracy Edwards

How will families access the survey?

Families will utilize **school-specific survey links** that are unique to Weston. The survey will be anonymous.

English 

Exit



Welcome! Click "Take this survey" to begin.

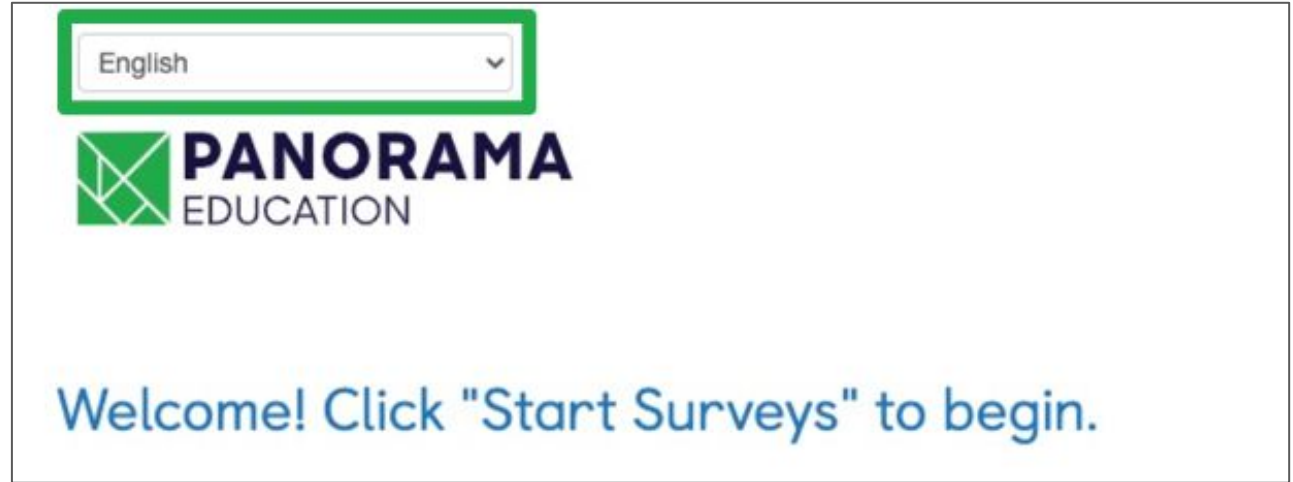
WESTON SCHOOL COMMUNITY SURVEY

Hurlbutt Elementary		Take this survey
Weston High School		Take this survey
Weston Intermediate School		Take this survey
Weston Middle School	21	Take this survey

Family Survey Taking Experience

Family members select their **preferred survey language** from a drop-down menu. *Panorama content is [translated into a variety of languages!](#)*

- ✓ English
- Español (Spanish)
- Faa-Samoa (Samoa)
- Faka-Tonga (Tongan)
- Français (French)
- Kiswahili (Swahili)
- Kreyòl ayisyen (Haitian Creole)
- Português (Portuguese)
- Soomaali (Somali)
- Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese)
- Русский (Russian)
- العربية (Arabic)
- ភាសាខ្មែរ (Khmer)
- 简体中文 (Simplified Chinese)
- 繁體中文 (Traditional Chinese)
- 한국어 (Korean)



Family Survey Taking Experience

After respondents answer all of their questions, they need to make sure to hit the “**Submit**” button.

31. Overall, how high are your teachers' expectations of you?

Not high at all Slightly high Somewhat high Quite high Extremely high

Clear

Submit

Having trouble? Email support@panoramaed.com
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Family Survey Taking Experience

Once respondents click the submit button, they will see a **thank you screen** to confirm their completion.

Thanks for taking our survey!

Surveys do not auto-save. Therefore, you must complete your surveys in a single sitting. Approx. 10 minutes to complete.

Survey Window
Open: Monday September 16
Close: Friday October 11



UConn ECE

HIST 1501/ 1502 Proposal

UConn Early College Experience



- UConn credit in high school for a fraction of the price.
- Access to UConn's resources
 - Library, tutoring center, writing center, mentors
- Not teaching "to the test"
- Depth over breadth
 - Improved writing and critical thinking skills
- Hist 1501/1502 (S1 & S2)
 - Two 3-credit classes in one year!



27



17,236

Student Participants Annually



~7

Credits Earned per Student






87%

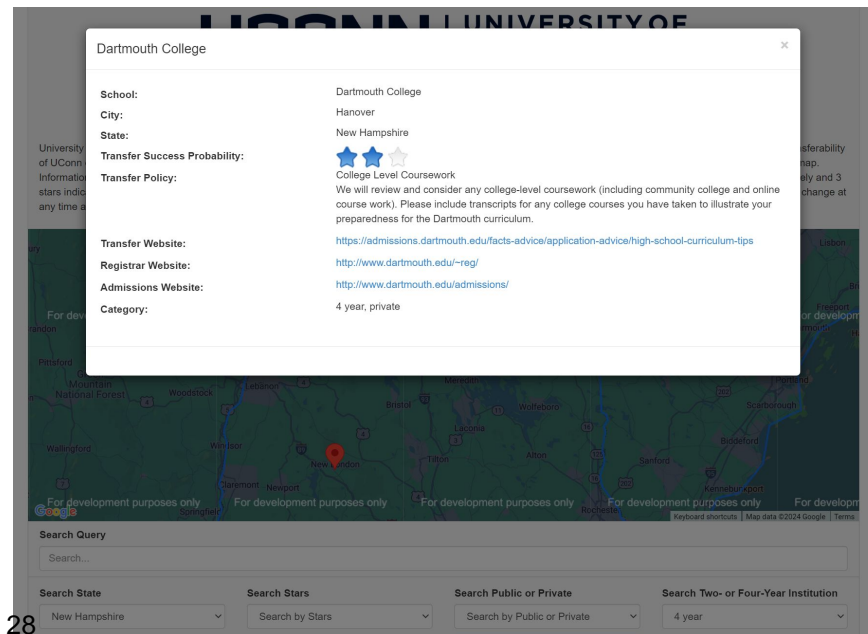
Credit Transfer Rate

Transferring Credits


Credit Transfer Database

UConn Early College Experience has constructed the largest transfer credit database in the country which details transfer credit policies of about 950 major universities.

	High	Answered affirmatively in UConn ECE surveys (UConn ECE alumni student survey or UConn ECE nation-wide credit transfer survey); strong policy support for successful transfer.
	Medium	Transfer credit is not a university-wide policy; may be determined by individual academic departments/disciplines.
	Low	Students may have to advocate for transfer by submitting syllabi to departments; transfer credit policies are unclear or explicitly say will not transfer credit.



Dartmouth College

School: Dartmouth College
City: Hanover
State: New Hampshire
Transfer Success Probability: 
Transfer Policy: College Level Coursework
We will review and consider any college-level coursework (including community college and online course work). Please include transcripts for any college courses you have taken to illustrate your preparedness for the Dartmouth curriculum.
Transfer Website: <https://admissions.dartmouth.edu/facts-advice/application-advice/high-school-curriculum-tips>
Registrar Website: <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~reg/>
Admissions Website: <http://www.dartmouth.edu/admissions/>
Category: 4 year, private

Search Query
Search...

Search State: New Hampshire
Search Stars: Search by Stars
Search Public or Private: Search by Public or Private
Search Two- or Four-Year Institution: 4 year

2023-24 COSTS

UConn ECE Courses

1 credit = \$50

2 credit = \$100

3 credit = \$150

4 credit = \$200

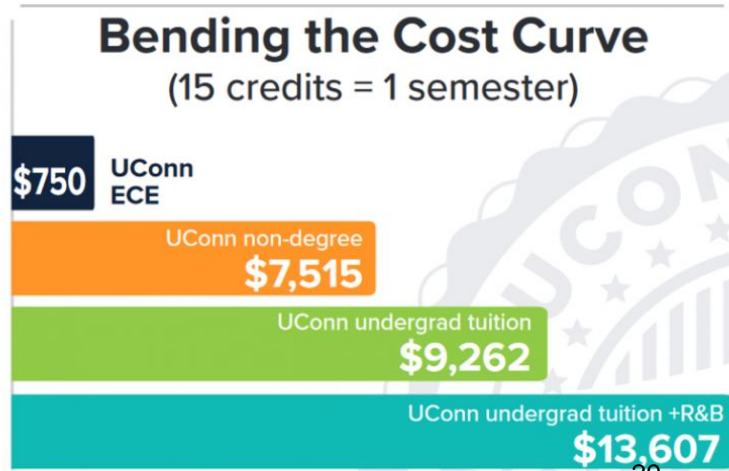
UConn Undergraduate Courses

1 credit = 709

2 credit = \$1,418

3 credit = \$2,127

4 credit = \$2,836



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based on 2021-22 tuition and fees

Cost



ECE

1501 = \$150.00

1502 = \$150.00

\$300.00 total

At UCONN

1501 = \$2,127

1502 = \$2,127

\$4,254.00 total

WHS Students save:

\$3,954.00