

# West Potomac High School

## Highlights from the 2011-2012 School Improvement Plan

### Vision Statement

To cultivate ethical scholarship, leadership, motivation, and strength from within to achieve excellence.

### Mission Statement

The West Potomac High School community provides rigorous, relevant, and engaging learning experiences to prepare students to be empowered citizens in an ever-changing global society by monitoring, measuring, analyzing, and modifying instruction to ensure that all students meet their academic potential across the spectrum of learners.



West Potomac High School  
6500 Quander Road  
Alexandria, VA 22307  
703-718-2500  
[www.fcps.edu/WestPotomacHS/](http://www.fcps.edu/WestPotomacHS/)

Fairfax County Public Schools requires each school to develop a School Improvement Plan (SIP) every year. The SIP addresses the three student achievement goals—Academics, Essential Life Skills, and Responsibility to the Community. The West Potomac High School (WPHS) Leadership Team developed objectives and work plans based on FCPS and Cluster IV priorities, data from various sources, knowledge of strengths and weaknesses, and best practices research.

Below are WPHS school improvement plan objectives and work plan strategies by student achievement goals.

### Academics

*Objective:* The WPHS faculty will use collaborative teaming to narrow the student achievement gap for all sub-groups.

#### *Work Plan Strategies:*

- Monitor authenticity and follow through of collaborative teams (e.g., common planning, professional learning plans)
- Strengthen the capacity of collaborative learning teams in collaborative protocols
- Support use of multiple assessments and data analysis
- Formulate intervention and enrichment strategies/actions
- Expand school-wide literacy programs

### Essential Life Skills

*Objective:* The WPHS teachers/staff and parents will foster student tenacity or GRIT (Dan Pink's *Drive*).

#### *Work Plan Strategies:*

- Establish a task force to formulate and implement an attendance process for the school
- Strengthen programs in which students participate as mentees (e.g., Best Buddies, Mentoring Matters, Real World AP/Honors).
- Involve staff, parents, and community members as participants in mentoring programs

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- Expand the advanced academic mentoring program (Real World AP/Honors)
  - Provide focus groups that support specific needs of students (academic, personal/social, and career development)
  - Build and strengthen relationships between students and counselors

### **Responsibility to the Community**

*Objective:* The WPHS teachers/staff and parents will support community service learning.

*Work Plan Strategies:*

- Establish a process improvement team for service learning
- Strengthen programs in which students serve as mentors (e.g., Best Buddies, Mentoring Matters, Real World AP/Honors)
- Refine procedures for collection of service learning hours data
- Refine timeline and process for seniors participating in SHOUT (Students Helping Others United Together)

### **School-based Achievement Goal**

In addition to the three student achievement goals, the WPHS Leadership Team developed a school-based achievement goal on communication.

*Objective:* The WPHS teachers and staff will build a more cohesive environment through enhanced communication.

*Work Plan Strategies:*

- Establish a consistent West Potomac brand (e.g. visual, common language)
- Creation of a comprehensive and school-wide academic calendar
- Ramp up staff and student use of class Blackboard sites, and monitor usage
- Revise the staff handbook
- Create version of the SIP to facilitate internal and external communication
- Develop parent outreach opportunities (e.g. Parent Learning and Assessment Committee, Student Services Advisory Council, offsite town hall meetings, parent handbook, classes through Parent Resource Center )
- Provide students and parents information on ways to relieve stresses associated with tests/exams
- Administer a survey to parents, students and teachers to measure communication across the domains of: internal, external, language divide, and digital divide

The WPHS SIP is a broad document that includes performance indicators, timelines, and in-process measures. This information will assist departments, collaborative learning teams and programs in developing SMART goals and action plans for the 2011-2012 school year. The full SIP is available as a PDF file on the WPHS website, <http://www.fcps.edu/WestPotomacHS/>, and will be updated as necessary throughout the year.