

*Standard 1: Vision and Purpose*

*The system establishes and communicates a shared purpose and direction for improving the performance of students and the effectiveness of the system.*

The West Feliciana Parish School System (WFPSS) embraces the vision, mission, and beliefs statements that provide the foundation for the educational program and assist in decision-making. WFPSS solicits input from community members, teachers, administrators, support staff, and students in the development of the vision, mission statement, and beliefs.

A Vision and Purpose Committee surveyed faculty members, students, and stakeholders for their input to create the vision and belief statement. WFPSS contracted with NSSE through AdvanceEd to provide research-based surveys and provide a detailed summary of survey results. The survey items included statements concerning students and their performance, school effectiveness, and school and community contexts. The Vision and Purpose Committee, which included faculty, staff, students, and stakeholders, analyzed the results of a community survey to establish the vision for the district. The committee presented their report and asked for additional comments from the District, School Board members, and stakeholders. After input from all schools and the SACS/CASI District committee members, the Steering Committee accepted the final statement of beliefs and vision and presented it to all school personnel, School Board members, and stakeholders. The vision is reviewed annually to ensure that it continues to guide and support the district's educational programs.

WFPSS is committed to the process of providing excellent educational services to all its students. To fulfill the vision and purpose, the District Improvement Process involves students, parents, teachers, administrators, support personnel, and community members in developing the district-wide academic improvement plan. District committees meet annually to analyze data, determine strengths and weaknesses and assess student achievement to create an action plan that will ensure success for all students.

WFPSS maintains a full and current description of its students using SIS and SASI databases. Data sources such as iLEAP, LEAP, GEE, DRA, DIBELS, SER, IEP's, progress reports, and report cards give concise information concerning student performance. (Data sources are detailed in Standard 4 - page 2.) The system reviews this data to make decisions regarding instruction for individual students and to address issues concerning curriculum and/or teaching strategies. Additional demographic and socio-economic data are derived from local, state, and federal government agencies to assist with decision-making. WFPSS continually observes student performance to determine if each student is meeting expected growth targets. The District provides "matched pairs" data, which teachers use to monitor individual student progress from year to year. Teachers formally and informally assess students daily using a variety of techniques.

Using the information in this profile, WFPSS develops a comprehensive plan to advance its goals and vision. All school personnel have been informed of the WFPSS mission statement, vision, and beliefs through new teacher orientation programs and professional in-services at the district and school level. The SACS/CASI District Planning Team, which includes

members of all stakeholder groups, provides guidance and feedback in planning, analysis, and assessment.

The vision of WFPSS is reflected in each school's instructional program and district-wide professional development. Guided by the Louisiana Comprehensive Curriculum, teachers collaborate to review, reflect, and revise instructional programs based on current research and best practices to meet the needs of students. Professional development is provided throughout the district and includes nine staff development days each school year. Continuous professional development is also embedded at each school level and includes grade level, team, and departmental meetings. Current topics include effective teaching, curriculum mapping, and differentiated instruction. The District seeks to hire highly qualified teachers and teachers with National Board Certification.

Dedication to excellence begins with the Early Head Start program and universal four-year-old Pre Kindergarten and continues into elementary, middle and high school. The District Plan and School Improvement Plans determine goals and objectives to improve student performance. The district believes in early intervention practices to help at-risk students achieve school readiness and academic success. Supervisors, principals and teachers monitor student progress regularly and meet often to discuss trends, concerns and strengths of programs. The district goal is for each student to be an active learner and productive citizen in our global society.

The WFPSS utilizes federal, state, and local funds to fulfill the vision and mission and to meet standards set by the state accountability system and the NCLB Act. Supervisors of all federal programs meet annually with representatives from each school to appropriate funds for the implementation of the District Plan. Each school's improvement plan (SIP) incorporates the goals and mission of the district plan, while also addressing the individualized needs of each school site. Each school's SIP is submitted to district level supervisors for feedback, revision, and approval. The School Improvement Plans guide the educational programs at each school.

Student, teacher, and staff achievements and honors are recognized at School Board meetings. WFPSS is dedicated to excellence and provides many opportunities for students and faculty to be honored for their successes. Some recent accomplishments include two regional teachers of the year and a teacher who was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study four weeks in China this summer. In addition, two teachers were named Regional Teachers of the Year, and one of those teachers was named the Louisiana Middle School Teacher of the Year for the 2007-2008 school year. Twelve teachers hold National Board Certification.

WFPSS communicates the District Improvement Plan and School Improvement Plans through school handbooks, school newsletters, teacher newsletters, the superintendent's monthly newsletter, and the district website. The new district website connects WFPSS schools to our community and the world. The superintendent and school personnel give reports to organizations and agencies informing them of district performance scores and success stories of teachers and staff. School personnel foster

partnerships with community organizations by their active participation as members and leaders.

To fulfill the vision and purpose of the WFPSS requires many people working together who are dedicated to excellence and who desire the best possible education for each student who enters West Feliciana schools.

WFPSS is anchored in past successes, but working toward a brighter future for students by assisting them with the skills necessary to be active learners and responsible citizens, connected to an ever-changing world.