

Standard 2: Governance and Leadership

The system provides governance and leadership that promote student performance and system effectiveness.

The West Feliciana Parish School System operates according to federal and state laws and local policies established by the School Board. Louisiana Revised Statute 17:52 guides leadership and governance decisions. The School Board acts as the legislative body to determine policies for the control, operation, maintenance, and improvement of the school system. The WFPSS Policy and Procedures manual guides the operation of the school district. A copy of this manual is on file and accessible to stakeholders. Each school's principal implements these policies according to specific regulations and procedures. Faculty and staff are informed of School Board policies and comply with them ensuring smooth school operations.

The WFPSS is governed by a seven-member board elected to represent each electoral district for a four year term. The members receive a minimum of six hours of training and instruction regarding school board powers, policies, and duties, school laws of the state, and educational research and trends. The Board establishes policies that recognize and preserve the role of the Superintendent, Supervisors, and Principals to perform their duties following district policies and procedures. The Board, Superintendent, and Supervisors provide direction, assistance, support, and resources to meet the organizational and student performance goals. To provide legal counsel, an attorney is assigned to the Board, the Superintendent, and administrators. To ensure financial responsibility, the Board secures sufficient funds, maintains adequate insurance, and equitably aligns funds for meeting the

needs of schools. The Board meets monthly on the third Tuesday. All board meeting are open to the public, and minutes of the meetings are published in the local newspaper.

The Board appoints a Superintendent to serve as the chief executive officer and supports him in his responsibilities. Mr. Lloyd L. Lindsey is currently serving as the Superintendent. He is responsible to the Board for the efficient administration of the school system and for implementing the policies and procedures adopted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Mr. Lindsey leads the WFPSS and the stakeholders in supporting the vision, mission, and beliefs of our learning community. The WFSSS employs central office Supervisors who are part of the district administrative team. This team is responsible for implementing the regulations, policies and procedures that endorse our vision, mission, and beliefs.

Mr. Lindsey is an active member of the BellSouth CLSR Superintendents Leadership Network and the Louisiana State Accountability Commission. Through his association with the CLSR (Schlechty Center for Leadership in School Reform) the district has focused on the concept of “Working on the Work,” creating engaging work for students of all ages. Supervisors and administrators are involved with the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development and will attend the conference in New Orleans in Spring 2008. The district embraces the 3 R’s of “Rigor, Relevance and Relationships” and the Rigor/Relevance Framework formulated by Ray McNulty and Bill Daggett of the International Center for Leadership in Education. A contingent of supervisors and administrators attended the

Model Schools Conference sponsored by the ICLE this past summer in Washington, D.C.

The WFPSS has ranked consistently as one of the top five school districts in the state based on the state accountability reports. Each school analyzes student test data and performance trends to implement educational practices and to meet the needs of our diverse population. WFPSS attributes its success to highly dedicated teachers who have achieved highly qualified status based on NCLB. Forty-two percent of teachers in West Feliciana have Master's Degree or higher, and twelve teachers hold National Board Certification. West Feliciana Parish has a District Improvement Plan, and each school has a School Improvement Plan that focuses on student performance and individual school effectiveness.

Teachers and administrators are evaluated according to the West Feliciana Personnel Handbook and timelines according to Louisiana Department of Education. Administrators utilize the professional growth plan, observation(s), job description, self-evaluation to focus on strengthening proficiency in the classroom, professional growth and school improvement.

These observations and evaluation promote improvement of the teaching/learning process and strengthen job performance. Instructional staff and support staff are evaluated on job descriptions and performance.

Teachers and students are involved in decision making at the school and district level. Teachers collaborate on various levels including – grade level and team meetings, school and district committees, and professional

development and leadership opportunities. Teachers meet regularly with their principals to plan, implement and assess the instructional program. Students are valuable participants in extra curricular activities, clubs, sports, academic competition, special projects, and student government. In addition, students serve as stakeholders and committee members in the school improvement process.

Parents, community members, and other stakeholders are valuable assets to our district. Periodic surveys are given to community members to assess the stakeholder satisfaction of our district. In addition, the district conducted a series of formal surveys of stakeholders through NSSE as an integral part of the self-study component of District Accreditation. Over 1800 students, parents, teachers, administrators/supervisors, support staff, and community members responded using the following surveys: Preschool Parent Opinion Inventory, Parent Opinion Inventory, Teacher Opinion Inventory, Student Opinion Inventory, Elementary Student Opinion Inventory, Support Staff Opinion Inventory, Inventory of School Effectiveness, Community Opinion Inventory, and Survey of Beliefs.

Stakeholders are included and involved in the “school family.” Each school has a parent-teacher organization. Schools host open houses and family nights, solicit volunteers and community and business adopters. Community members serve on school and district committees. Members of our school system participate in many community and civic organizations such as the Rotary Club, Friends of the Library, Historical Society, Chamber of Commerce, Women’s Service League, Families in Need of Assistance, Habitat for Humanity, and the St. Francisville Symphony Association. This

involvement fosters positive working relationships between the schools and the community.

Our district's strong leadership and the governance it provides make it possible to achieve our mission. Our system is dedicated to excellence, anchored in success, and partnered with our community, we embrace the vision that all students will be prepared for a bright future in an ever-changing and complex world.