

# 2008 – 2009 Norwalk Public Schools – Instructional Plan

## Instructional Goals

- High expectations for all students based on standards. Focus on LA and Math
- Access for all students to challenging content
- Close the achievement gap by focusing on the performance of all students who have not met expected standards
- Value diversity, respectfulness, and responsibility

### Indicators of Achievement

- Student performance on State tests
- Assessments based on student work

## Curriculum Development & Instruction

Evaluation → Development → Prof. Devl.

### *Curriculum Review/Revision*

Begin review of Science K-8  
ESL - Revision Grades 9 – 12;  
Implementation in Grades 6-8

### *Program Initiatives*

- Implement Power Standards
- Monitor implementation of new courses
- Develop pacing guides:
  - SS - grades 6-10
  - LA - grades K-5
  - Math – grades 3-5
- Implement new Pre-K program at Brookside
- Expand Welcome Center Services
- Assess AT Program; expand student diversity
- Develop Common Assessments in MS Social Studies
- Explore HS Elective in Anatomy & Physiology

### *Professional Development*

- Writing across all curricula at secondary level
- Science: Use of Inquiry Strategies
- Data Team Training across District
- Math: Grades 1-5

## Best Practices/Staff Development Priorities

- Reflect → Teach → Assess → Reflect
- Maintain focus on the instructional core, i.e., the interaction between student and teacher in the presence of content
  - Focus on students as intellectually active workers
  - High level thinking and academically rigorous problem solving in classroom tasks
  - Using student performance data and formative assessments to set goals and plan instruction
- Integrate technology into the curriculum
- Implement CRISS Strategies

## Instructional Work

- Continue District and School Growth Plans as student achievement improvement model
- Training in and Implementation of CALI model
- Implementation & Unwrapping of Power Standards:
  - SS - Grades 6 - 10
  - LA- Grades K-5, 9 - 12
  - Math - Grades 6 – 10
  - Science - Grades 6 - 10
- Develop and Review Curriculum Benchmarks and Assessments
- Enhance welcoming atmosphere in all schools: students' handbooks; secretaries' handbooks; school walkthroughs

## Multi-Year Priorities

- Strong instructional leadership
- Highly functioning learning communities
- Increase system capacity for professional growth
- Continued emphasis on inclusion
- Accountability through assessment of stated objectives in the district/school growth plans
- Effective supervision to improve performance
- Academic intervention to ensure student success
- Enhanced academic opportunities for all students
- Strong parental and community involvement
- Strong systemic pre- and after school programs
- Strong linkages with community agencies and organizations, e.g., NEF, NCC, Norwalk ACTS