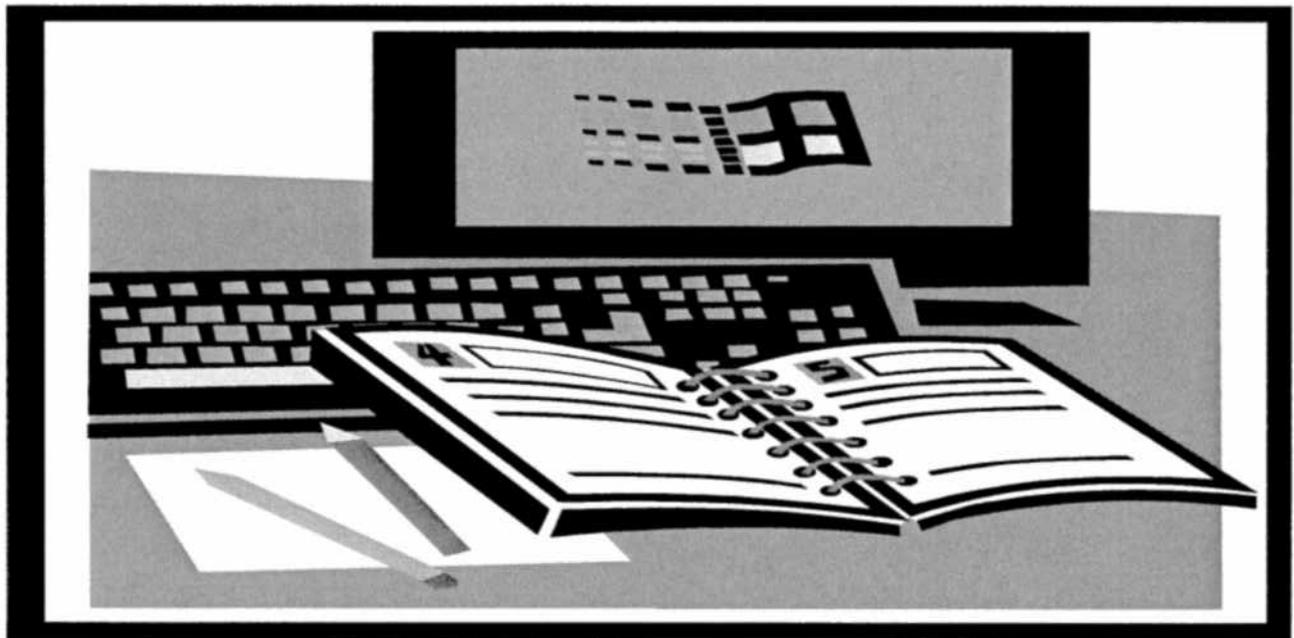




Ross Woodward Classical Studies Magnet

Annual Report



2013-2014

Ross Woodward Classical Studies Interdistrict Magnet School

Name of School

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Cheryl Brown, Principal

Director or Principal

Participating (formally) School Districts

1. Hamden

2. West Haven

3. East Haven

4. Branford

5. Shelton

6. Meriden

7. Waterbury

8. North Haven

9. Ansonia

10. Madison

11. Wallingford

12. Seymour

13. Middletown

14. Derby

15. Naugatuck

16. New Britain

- 17. Killingworth
- 18. Stratford
- 19. Milford



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Information for Statewide Policymakers

2013-14 continued to be a year of unprecedented inquiry into statewide interdistrict magnet schools by a range of policy groups and those holding the ultimate legislative and budgetary authority over our statewide program. The Connecticut General Assembly continues to require the CSDE to produce a Results-based Accountability template for determining program effectiveness and a comprehensive magnet school plan with specific recommendations for supporting and sustaining the program. In order for the CSDE to be able to answer specific questions to ensure the program's long-term viability, we request information on the following objectives:

- 1) Describe the methods used to ensure recruitment and retention of a diverse student body, and how the demand for your program translates into sustained interest in the school. Please include any specific efforts in reaching families that may not yet be familiar with school choice programs. (Note: not applicable for those schools who were required to submit an enrollment management plan in the spring of 2014 due to non-compliance)

Our priority in 2013-2104 was designing a new school website in order to not only be able to provide accurate information about our school, but to share student work through a virtual gallery. Prospective families can explore the projects and products are students are producing. They can also link to our learning partners directly through the website in order to gain a comprehensive understanding of the programs and opportunities we offer.

Goals:

- Increase interdistrict enrollment and retention of a diverse student population in all grades

Objectives:

- Increase access to school information
- Increase public profile
- Increase community partnerships

Activities:

- Communicate with parents through school website
- Design and produce school literature
- Design and produce school apparel
- Design and produce school banners for recruitment events
- Meet with prospective parents and students
- Offer shadowing and school tours for prospective students and families
- Call wait-listed parents
- Promote school at district magnet fairs
- Hold (3) Open Houses for prospective parents and students
- Hold Ice Cream Social/Information Session for perspective students and families (post- magnet lottery)
- Participate in city and state academic and arts-based competitions
- Maintain contact with local public relations and news outlets

- Increase field trips, community service, and project-based learning with cultural institutions, municipal services, nursing homes and universities in order to develop working partnerships and community involvement

2) Describe your school’s professional development priorities for 2013-14. Be specific as to activities that support your special magnet theme.

Our schoolwide professional development focus for 2013-2014 was “rebooting” our magnet theme. We devoted 6 faculty meetings to this and met with teachers in grade level team meetings monthly to revisit and revise thematic magnet units of study. As a whole faculty we worked on text complexity, text-dependent questions, Socratic Seminar and eliciting higher-order thinking. In grade level meetings we worked on developing student-centered/teacher-coached project based assessments and aligning them both with CCSS and district curriculum initiatives. We also devoted meeting time to planning high quality field trips, community partnerships and opportunity for parent engagement. Finally, we did some technology training in order to support teachers integrate technology into coached projects and to train teachers in using the school website (in order to upload student work and communicate with parents).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TOPICS:

- Seminar Text Selection and Text Complexity
- Seminar Facilitation
- Writing Higher-Order Questions
- Data Analysis & planning for individualized learning goals
- Math In Focus/Singapore Math
- Workshop Model
- Power Schools/Power Teacher
- Differentiated Project Based Learning
- SRBI (Scientific Research Based Intervention)
- CCSS/SBAC
- SSP (Student Success Plans) and Advisory Systems
- School Website and parent outreach/engagement

3) What does your school do uniquely well (related to your magnet theme) that you think other regular public schools may replicate on the local level or in other public schools.

We promote a balanced, core curriculum that addresses the whole child; we integrate skills and knowledge; specifically we address social studies and science content through the teaching of reading, writing, and math skills and processes. We measure mastery through performance tasks, performances, and projects.

We embrace a constructivist philosophy that promotes student centered learning supported by (adult) intellectual coaching.

We promote active listening and critical thinking through substantive conversations in Socratic seminars. We promote cultural awareness through diverse programming, field trips, and events. Our aim is to prepare all students to be good citizens of the world; not merely holders of knowledge.

4) Describe the manner in which you promote replication of your school’s best practices with regular public schools.

- Regular common planning time
- Vertical team planning

- School Planning and Management Team
- Positive Behavior Intervention & Support
- Whole faculty visioning & interpreting of mission
- Child Study & Scientifically Research Based Interventions
- Teacher input/feedback/choice with regard to professional development
- Data-driven instruction through grade level and building level data teams

5) Describe your school’s two greatest challenges/obstacles to meeting or exceeding the school-wide student learning goals in 2014-15. Please include ways in which the CSDE may support our school in meeting these challenges through enhanced professional development opportunities or specific technical assistance on matters needing close attention.

Challenge #1: Sustaining enrollment of interdistrict magnet students: High percentages of students from outside the district return to their own school system after Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten. It is difficult to get them to stay in our school district once the resources of full-day Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten are no longer needed. Also, transportation is a major obstacle; children are traveling by bus for up to 90 minutes in each direction.

Challenge #2: Widespread Parental Involvement: Though we had a tremendous increase in parent engagement and involvement this past year, the percentage of parents participating in organized channels for involvement was not high. A challenge is that our students come from twenty towns and many, many communities and neighborhoods (even within New Haven). Creating a sense of “ownership” with all our parents is an ongoing challenge.

6) Provide the number of applications received by grade and town of residence; as of date of lottery.

7) Provide the number of students on wait list/pool by grade, race and residence; as of October 1, 2013, (see note)

Note: Wait list/pool refers to those students not enrolled in your school or another interdistrict magnet school who applied for admission to your school for the 2013-14 year. Example: any student who entered a lottery for admission to your school as a first choice that ultimately not placed in any interdistrict magnet school.



Financial Information

DIRECTIONS: Provide, as attachments, Schedules 1 and 2 from the attached expenditures and revenues document. These should reflect *actual expenditures and revenues* by the close of 2013-14, and not merely the budgeted amounts from the onset of the school year submitted in your grant application.

Attachment C-1

Magnet School Name: Ross/Woodward Classical Studies

District/School Code: 00146

SCHEDULE 1: Total Current Expenditures from All Sources by Function and Object										
Report All Cash Expenditures and Encumbrances from All Sources Regular and Special Education. #										
										OBJECT**
LINE	CODE	FUNCTION (Program Area)***	Total*** (Col.1)	Salaries (Col. 2)	Employee Benefits (Col. 3)	Purchased Services (Col. 4)	Supplies (Col. 7)	Property (Col. 8)	Other (Col. 9)	
1202	1000	Program Expenditures	\$3,779,865	2,937,232	260,544	233,881	149,131	199,077	0	
1203	2100	Support Services - Students	\$481,536	322,320	126,279	15,891	16,457	589	0	
1204	2200	Improvement of Instructional Services	\$440,646	295,951	118,380	19,529	6,490	296	0	
1205	2300	Support Services - General Admin.	\$100,497	53,393	21,357	18,498	7,249	0	0	
1206	2400	School Based Administration	\$651,092	477,729	149,230	7,764	16,369	0	0	
1207	2600	Operation and Maintenance of Plant Svc.	\$851,011	190,572	66,233	263,370	330,679	157	0	
1208	2700	Student Transportation Services	\$22,424	7,761	3,104	11,517	42	0	0	
1209	2500 2900	Support Services	\$269,311	83,624	33,450	150,972	490	775	0	
1210	3100	Net Expenditures for Food Services	\$0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
1211	3200	Net Expenditures for Enterprise Operations	\$0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
1212		Indirect Overhead	\$0							
1213		TOTAL	\$6,596,383	4,368,582	778,578	721,422	526,907	200,894	0	

**Do not include transportations costs associated with home to school and back home or the excess cost of special education services

***Definitions of objects and functions are to be consistent with those on expenditure report ED001.

SCHEDULE 2: Revenue by Source		
LINE	CODE DESCRIPTION	Total Revenue (Col. 1)
220	xxx Other State Grants	\$408,149
	State Magnet Operating Grant	\$2,793,425
	Alliance	
	Priority	
	Bilingual	
	After School	
	School Based Clinic	
	Science Improvement for Reform Districts	
	Family Resource Center	
221	xxx Other Federal Grants	\$501,800
	Magnet School Assistance Grant	
	Title 1, Title II, Title III	
	Teacher Incentive Fund	
	Perkins Career and Technical Education	
	IDEA	
	ARRA	
	Common Core Implementation	
	Low Performing Schools	
	Extended Day	
222	1920 Contributions	\$2,861,688
	Local Contributions	
226	xxxx Other Sources of Revenue (list below , include tuition if applicable)	\$31,322
	Private - Buck Grant, 1st Niagra, Gates Foundation, Nellie Mae	
299	Total	\$6,596,383