



Foster Elementary School
School Improvement Report 2016-2017
June 30, 2017

School Council Members

Debbie Stellar:	Principal
Madeline Martin / Wendy Rapson:	Teacher Representative
Sara Mason Ader:	Parent Representative*

*Foster PTO will elect an additional representative in the fall of 2017

HINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FOSTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
2016-2017**

CORE VALUES

At Foster School our students will:

- Enjoy the process of learning, constantly strive to meet their potential and become lifelong learners.
- Be responsible and demonstrate respect for self, others, and property.
- Practice critical thinking skills to solve problems.
- Have a strong sense of community both in and outside of school.

THEME: Fostering Heroes

Motto: Be Kinder Than Necessary

GOALS FOR 2016-2017

1. Increase student achievement in literacy: Implementation of the K-5 Journeys reading program.
2. Increase student achievement in mathematics: Refine and modify instructional strategies and materials as the Hingham Public Schools transition to the second year of the K-5 Everyday Math program.
3. Foster - a community of learners: Continue to develop responsible learners, who participate in instruction, attend to instruction, pursue interests and meet potential.
4. Foster - a community focused on service: Continue developing an understanding and appreciation of giving to and supporting others through service-learning.
5. Foster - a community committed to global awareness: Continue to develop an understanding and appreciation for a more environmentally aware community, nation, and world for living and learning.

FOSTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
2016-2017**

GOAL 1: Increase student achievement in literacy: Implementation of the *K-5 Journeys* reading program

Aligned with Hingham Public Schools Strategic Plan Goal I: Academic Excellence and Success in the 21st Century
II: Effective Educators, Leaders and Staff
IV: Parent and Community Relations
VI: Technology and Data Management

Targets for Student Performance:

- Improve ELA performance at grades three, four and five by increasing the number of students at proficient and advanced levels on MCAS 2.0 assessments
- Improve ELA performance at kindergarten, grade one, and grade two through intervention strategies based on literacy benchmarks/assessments

Status	Action Steps	Person(s) Involved and Responsible	Resources Needed	Success Measurement(s)
1	<p>District wide:</p> <p>Support implementation of the newly adopted <i>Journeys</i> reading program: Professional development and release time</p>	<p>Literacy Coordinator; Director of English/Language Arts; Director of Student Services; Teachers; Special Education teachers; Reading Specialist; Technology Specialist; Administrators</p>	<p>Materials provided within district resources</p>	<p>Integration of strategies into the Foster Literacy Program; Review of student success in literacy through portfolio assessment review, DDMs, Title I, Report Cards and MCAS 2.0; Technology utilization</p>
3	<p>Foster School:</p> <p>Provide the opportunity to become part of a study group held throughout the year: Close Reading / Written Response to Text</p>	<p>Administrators; Teaching Staff; Reading Specialist; Literacy Coordinator;</p>	<p>Books; ASCD materials: Literacy professional journals/books/tapes</p>	<p>Evaluation of the study group and utilization of information in instructional program</p>

3	Instructional alignment of Wilson Reading to the <i>Journeys</i> program	Title I Staff; Technology Specialist		
2	Expand technology to further literacy goals (Smart Boards, Lexia Program, Read Naturally, COWS/LCD Projector, Aspen, Skype, webinars, PowerPoint, web pages, video conferencing / iPads / iPods, etc.)	Staff ; Students; Administrators		Reflection about utilization and effectiveness in spring 2017
1	Continue Battle of the Books at grades four and five	Teaching Staff; Students	PTO Principal Fund ; Womanade	Student and Staff evaluation spring 2017
2	Refine and review reading materials and strategies to support <i>Journeys</i> reading program to maximize student learning in literacy (Tier I, II, III)	Administrators; Teaching Staff		Student achievement results February 2017 and spring 2017; DDMs; MCAS 2.0 2017
1	Continue annual Poetry Palooza	Administrators, Teaching Staff	PTO Principal Fund	Participation and MCAS 2.0 results
2	Explore Possibilities - Integrating of Foundations strategies into <i>Journeys</i> reading program, if appropriate	Administrators, Teaching Staff		Review of spelling/phonics portfolio results: February and spring 2017
3	Consider Pilot of NWEA on-line assessments for at-risk, Title I, and/or special education students	Administrators, Teaching Staff		Review program results spring 2017
Foster Community:				
1	Continuation of 1000 Book Club (year round)	PTO; Erin McGrath; Wendy Rapson; Families		Participation in Dr. Seuss Breakfast: Invitation to join the 1000 Book Club Saturday, March 2017
1	Continuation of annual Family Literacy Night	Reading Staff; PTO; Families		Participation in Literacy Night 2016-2017
1	Summer Literacy Program and Summer Slide Letter (Entering Grades 1-5)	PTO; Staff; Families	Information sent home in report cards	Recognize participation upon return to school in September 2016 (certificates, special recess, celebrations or prizes)
1	Summer Literacy Coach Program (Entering grades 1-5) offered to all students	Administrators; Teaching Staff; Students	Invitations and information sent home prior to end of school; PTO funds	Recognize participation upon return to school in September 2016 (certificates, special recess, celebration, or prizes); Review of summer progress in fall 2016

	year of full implementation takes place	Mathematics; Mathematics Specialist; Teaching Staff; Para Educators ; Administrators		throughout the 2016-2017 school year
2	Foster School: Refine and review materials and strategies that support EDM to maximize student learning in math	Math Specialist; Staff	EDM materials; TMI materials; Math games online	Further differentiation of instruction at grades K, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5; Increased achievement in mathematics as indicated in target performance
1	Provide opportunities to expand Staff member understandings of EDM/state standards through modeling, presentations, and collegial discussions			Increased achievement in mathematics as indicated in target performance
2	Expand technology to further math goals (Smart Boards, math online sites, COWS/LCD Projector, Skype, Xtra Math, webinars, PowerPoint, web pages, video conferencing, iPods, iPads, Aspen, etc.)	Math Specialist; Director of Mathematics; Teaching Staff; Para Educators; Administrators; PTO; Parents; Title I Math Staff		Monitor progress and review effectiveness, spring 2017
2	Review and reflect Math Fact Fluency strategies for students, K-5	Math Specialist; Staff		Review student results throughout the 2016-2017 school year
1	Continue targeted math instruction (TMI) model offered at grades K, 1,2, 3, 4, and 5	Math Specialist; Teachers; Para Educators		Review effectiveness spring 2017
1	Continue Math Olympiad Program, fall 2016	Mrs. Newell; Parents		Review effectiveness spring 2017
3	Consider Pilot of NWEA on-line assessments for at-risk, Title I, and/or special education students	Teaching Staff; Administrators		Review program results spring 2017
3	Foster Community: Continue to plan and hold annual Family STEAM Night	Math Specialist; Administrators;	PTO Funds	Participation in annual Family STEAM Night 2016-2017

1	Summer Math Coach Program (Entering grades 1-5) offered to all students	Teaching Staff, Families; PTO Math Specialist; Students; Teaching Staff; Administrators	PTO Funds	Celebration of participation upon return to school September 2016
3	After School Curriculum Enrichment: Taking Math to the Next Level	Administrators; Teaching Staff; Students	Family funded	Review of participant academic progress
Status Code for June Report: 1 / Completed 2 / In Progress 3 / Planned for Next Year 4 / Cancelled				

HINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FOSTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
2016-2017
 GOAL 3 : Foster - a community of learners: Continue to develop responsible learners, who participate in instruction, attend to instruction, pursue interests and meet potential.

Status	Action Steps	Person(s) Involved and Responsible	Resources Needed	Success Measurement(s)
1	Student: Continue Homework Club. Possible offerings Monday through Thursday	Students; Para Educator; Families		Increase in skills essential to successful homework by participants
1	Continue “Habits of Mind” after school program that encourages homework/project completion, Tuesday through Friday: Gr3-5	Administrators; Students; Teachers; Families		Reduction in number of students participating; Reduction of students returning to the program throughout the

				year
1	Classroom: Continue to refine and implement Second Step, Steps to Respect, Responsive Classroom, and <u>No Mind Left Behind: 8 Pillars of Executive Control</u> staff study group project	Adjustment Counselor; Teaching Staff; Administrators; Students; School Psychologist	Program materials for Second Step, Steps to Respect, and Responsive Classroom. Staff study group project	Consistent social and civic skill development of the students measured by report cards, office referrals, and adjustment counselor referrals
1	School: Continue school-wide implementation of “Habits of Mind”	Administrators; Staff; Students; Families	Materials provided by HEF and PTO	Staff review winter 2017
3	Consider Student Council and Safety Patrol programs	Administrators; Students	NAESP Student Council materials; AAA materials	Building social, emotional, and problem solving skills
1	Continuation of the “Fostering Good Citizens” Plan, a part of our Respect, Responsibility, and Building Relationships Committee	Administrators; Teaching Staff; Support Staff; Students; Families		Monitor student behavior issues (increase and/or decrease areas of concern); Staff review June 2017
2	Midyear reflections at grades 3, 4, 5: Respect, Responsibility, Relationships	Adjustment Counselor, School Psychologist		Identify students in need of social skills support; Initiate proactive strategies
1	Staff and student review of Recess Program, K-5, including Trouble Free Playground and PlayFit strategies	Administrators; Staff; Students; Mr. Davidson	Provided through HEF	Staff review winter 2017
1	Continuation of school-wide monthly celebration program to include recognition and celebration of “Habits of Mind,” service, Fostering Good Citizens, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Arbor Day/Earth Week celebrations	Staff; Administrators	Provided through PTO	Staff review Spring 2017
3	Continue study of Foster Wellness (Yoga, Brain Gym, Meditation, JAM, BOKS, Zentangles, Nutrition) and the creation of a comprehensive coordinated plan and program	Staff; Adjustment counselor; Psychologist; Administrators	Partially funded through HEF	Recommendations to the staff in the winter of 2016

2	Professional Development: Social Thinking	All Staff	HEF funded	Reflect on training/partial implementation of program, June 2017
2	Review and continuation of Yoga in the Classroom	Staff, Students	Partially funded through HEF	Integration in comprehensive Wellness Plan
1	Maintain MindUP program check-in groups 8:20-8:30 for students identified	Staff	MindUP program already purchased	Increase in focus and participation for students in classrooms
2	Re-design of ISIT Team to include specific Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Health concerns	Psychologist, Adjustment Counselor, Teachers		Reflect on effectiveness in spring 2017
2	Fostering Resilient Learners: Identify strategies from recent professional readings on trauma, depression, and anxiety in the classroom	All Foster Staff		Review effectiveness of strategies in spring 2017
1	District: Provide summer professional development in Responsive Classroom: Levels I and II	Responsive Classroom Staff		
2	Home: Continue to include “Home/School” Connections in Foster Family Facts/ Website	Administrators	Professional association materials (i.e. NAESP, ASCD)	Community response to Foster Family Facts and Website at Foster Focus Group and Principal Coffees
2	Provide additional in-depth descriptions of Foster Programs on the Website	Administrators; Staff		Note information placed on the Website and feedback on effectiveness through Foster Focus Group and Principal Coffees
1	Community: Expand Foster Plus opportunities to meet student and family needs	PTO Board/Members; Staff; Administrators	PTO	Review of programs offered: Clubs, Curriculum Enrichment, Invention Camp (STEM)
<p>Status Code for June Report: 1 / Completed 2 / In Progress 3 / Planned for Next Year 4 / Cancelled</p>				

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FOSTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
2016-2017**

GOAL 4 : Foster - a community focused on service: Continue developing an understanding and appreciation of giving to and supporting others through service-learning.

Aligned with Hingham Public Schools Strategic Plan Goal III : Safe and Supportive Environment
Goal IV : Parent and Community Relations

Status	Action Steps	Person(s) Involved and Responsible	Resources Needed	Success Measurement(s)
1	Student: Participate in at least one service activity during the school year	Students	Opportunities publicized throughout the year (Food Pantry, Foster’s Garden, the Red Cross, UNICEF, Jimmy Fund, Coat Drive, Mail for the Military, Book Drives, Recycling, Homeless Veterans, VFW Poppy Donations, etc.)	Recognition of community service; Bulletin board
1	Classroom: Establish at least one service activity during the school year	Teaching Staff; Para educators; Students	Select a school wide planned project or identify a special classroom project	Recognition of community service; Bulletin board
1	School: Plan and identify school-wide service activities for the year	Administrators; Teaching Staff; Para Educators; Students	Community organizations	Recognition of community service; Bulletin board
3	Possible participation in the town Fourth of July Parade	Parents; Students; Staff	PTO financial support	Community response is positive to the school and float
1	Refine and continue school-wide celebration program to include service in the community	Administrators; Staff		School-wide celebrations; Service-learning results

1	Home: Provide families with information in the home/school communication about service opportunities	Families	Community organizations	Informal input from parents at school and/or PTO meetings/activities
2	Community: Invite community organizations to share service opportunities	Administrators; Staff; Students	Community organizations	Bulletin board; Service
1	Participate in the “Fostering Heroes” Celebration and Spirit Week	Administrators; Staff; Students; Families		School Celebration, June 2017
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HINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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2016-2017
GOAL 5: Foster - a community committed to global awareness: Continue to develop an understanding and appreciation for a more environmentally aware community, nation, and world for living and learning.
Aligned with Hingham Public Schools Strategic Plan Goal I: Academic Excellence and Success in the 21 st century Goal III: Safe and Supportive Environment Goal IV: Parent, and Community Relations Goal V: Leadership and Governance

Status	Action Steps	Person(s) Involved and Responsible	Resources Needed	Success Measurement(s)
1	Student: Continue to recognize the impact of materials which harm the environment	PTO; Teachers; Staff; Administrators; Students; Cafeteria Staff; Custodial Staff ;	Charts and scales to track recycling; Holly Hill Farm presentations & educational program, PTO funded	Monitor and chart collection of recyclable and composting material by tracking amount collected; Reduction in amount of trash collected in the regular dumpster;

1	Continue to create awareness and responsibility to protect the environment from harmful products and commit to actions via the 3 R's (reduce, reuse, recycle) as part of daily life	Green Team Chair Jen Murphy; Foster School Green Team Committee; Holly Hill Farm Staff		Check list of recyclable bins in all rooms to assure adequate recycling
1	Choose two recycling representatives from each grade five classroom for the collection of recyclable materials school-wide; K-5 classroom representatives are also identified			
1	Develop an awareness of sustainability through the Foster gardening project, and lunch composting /recycling process			
	Classroom / School:			
2	Continue to pave the way for Mass law requiring all large institutions to separate compost from the regular waste stream by increasing the composting process at Foster.	PTO; Teachers; Staff; Administrators; Students; Cafeteria Staff; Custodial Staff ; Green Team Chair Jen Murphy; Foster School Green Team Committee; Holly Hill Farm Staff	Continue to track progress; Composting; Green Team Page on the PTO Website; Holly Hill Farm presentation; Parent volunteer participation to maintain/enhance garden; PTO funding for education campaigns such as Earth Week	Reduction in amount of trash collected in the regular dumpster; Continue integration of Green messaging into monthly school celebrations; Increased vegetable and compost yield from garden and composting; Increased awareness by students, teachers, other staff and Foster school parents of the activities focused on the 3R's and the school garden; Reduction in the use of disposable plastic water bottles during school events
1	Continue practicing the 3R's through daily classroom actions, integrate Green Team messaging into the monthly school-wide celebrations			
3	Consider another girl scout energy audit in 2016-2017			
1	Energy savings through electrical safety presentations by Ray Gouley			
2	Continue to maintain the Green Team Page on the PTO Website			
1	Continue to reduce the school's use of plastic bottles through the Foster School "Hydration Station" and associated fundraiser and awareness campaigns			
3	Complete the Butterfly Garden	Dr. Stellar; Grade 4	PTO	Butterflies are enjoying the garden by the

		students		spring of 2017
2	Home: Increase awareness of energy conservation at home through communication to parents and students about the benefits of decreasing energy and water usage through "mindful" practices and consider household signing of an "energy pledge"			
1	Ride Your Bike to School Day			October 2016
2	Re-initiate the anti-idling campaign/pledge			
	Community:			
2	Identify and support within the Foster community town-wide initiatives that make the community more environmentally friendly	PTO; Teachers; Staff; Administrators; Students; Cafeteria Staff; Custodial Staff ; Green Team Chair Jen Murphy Foster School Green Team Committee; Foster Families	Home/school communication	Monitor recycling / composting efforts at home; Increase student use of reusable containers; Decrease in the use of single use containers at school lunch
1	Work with all-school Green Team Committee on community initiatives			
2	Coordinate communication and activities regarding initiatives supported by other Hingham schools	PTO; Teachers; Staff; Administration; Students; Cafeteria Staff; Custodial Staff ; Green Team Chair Jen Murphy Foster School Green Team Committee; Foster families and neighbors; Maintenance	Home/school communication; PTO Website	Recognition of the Green Team Committee efforts; Increased PR via print and electronic publications about Foster School's efforts to go green
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