

**WOODSDALE  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
SCHOOL  
IMPROVEMENT  
PLAN**

**2007 - 2008**



**WOODSDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
120 CHESTNUT STREET  
ABINGTON, MA 02351**

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# WOODSDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

2006 - 2007

Sharon Bellao – Principal/Co-Chair  
Janet Guenet- Parent/Co-Chair  
Michael Kurowski - Parent/Co-Chair  
Kerriane McGrath - Parent /Secretary  
Julie Lavoie – Teacher  
Christina Verlicco - Teacher  
Paul Chase – Community Representative  
Roland Turcotte- Community Representative  
James West – School Committee Representative

**GOAL # 1**

**TO ENHANCE AND ENRICH INSTRUCTION AND STUDENT PERFORMANCE IN THE AREA OF  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS.**

**RATIONALE**

There is a need to prepare our children with the skills needed to effectively communicate in writing throughout all curriculum areas, and to be actively engaged in reading a variety of literary and non literary texts. Good readers read thoughtfully and purposefully, constantly checking their understanding of the author's intent and meaning so that their interpretations will be sound. The Massachusetts Department of Education, English Language Arts Curriculum Framework (June 2001), suggests that students need to learn to write with clarity, coherence, and personal engagement. That writing needs to incorporate a variety of genres in different forms of discourse (informational, persuasive, expressive, and literary). Students should be able to use reflective writing productively in all content areas as a means to comment on observations, experiences, classroom discussion or their reading.

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## Woodsdale School – Improvement Plan

**Strategic Goal: To enhance and enrich instruction and student performance in the area of English Language Arts**

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<b><u>Action Steps</u></b>	<b><u>Person(s) Responsible</u></b>	<b><u>Timeline</u></b>	<b><u>Indicators of Accomplishment</u></b>	<b><u>Resources Needed</u></b>
Ongoing analysis of curriculum, teaching, and learning	Principal Teachers Support staff	Ongoing Sept.- June	Student Performance Improves on MCAS by 5%	Common Planning Time
Participate in Professional Development ELA topics that been identified as weaknesses	Teachers/support staff	Ongoing throughout calendar year	20% PDPs overall in ELA	Course reimbursement where applicable
Provide reading support for those students whose skills have been identified as below grade level either by DRA assessment, MCAS, or other assessments	Principal Reading specialist Classroom teachers	Ongoing Sept.- June	1. Informal assessment of students to show positive progress 2. MCAS score to improve across the board by 5%	Collaboration between classroom teacher and reading specialist grade 3, Small group instruction gr. 3-6
Expand parent workshops to enhance literacy support skills in grades 3-6	Principal ELA coordinator	Spring 2007	ELA MCAS scores increase across grade levels	Family Reading Night
Renovation and re-design of library	Principal PTO Teachers Support Staff	Sept. – June	Increased use of space for reading, research, instruction, and technology	PTO funds District funds Volunteers

Woodsdale School – Improvement Plan

**Strategic Goal: To enhance and enrich instruction and students performance in the area of English Language Arts**

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<b><u>Action Steps</u></b>	<b>Person(s) Responsible</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Indicators of Accomplishment</b>	<b>Resources Needed</b>
Encourage nightly reading at home.	Principal Teachers Parents	Ongoing Sept.-June	Improved reading skills, MCAS scores improve	Texts/Novels
Implement daily practice of guided reading, literature study and independent reading	Teachers/support staff	Ongoing Sept.-June	Informal and formal assessment of students to show positive progress	Texts/novels
Use of unified graphic organizers from the LINKS program to ensure consistency across the grades	Principal ELA coordinator Teachers	Ongoing Sept.-June	Students able to choose proper graphic organizer without prompting	LINKS notebooks
Maintain use of “Unpack” the question strategies	Teachers/support staff	Ongoing Sept.-June	Scores in Open Response section of MCAS will increase by 5%	Visual aide of “Unpack” the question in each classroom
Assign open response questions regularly to afford practice and reinforce skill	Teachers	Ongoing Sept.- June	Scores in Open Response section of MCAS will increase by 5%	MCAS materials Instructional materials

## Woodsdale School – Improvement Plan

**Strategic Goal: To enhance and enrich instruction and students performance in the area of English Language Arts**

<b><u>Action Steps</u></b>	<b>Person(s) Responsible</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Indicators of Accomplishment</b>	<b>Resources Needed</b>
Provide after school ELA MCAS tutoring	Principal Teachers/support staff	Jan. 07 – May 07	Improvement in MCAS scores across the board by 5%	Previous MCAS questions Materials as needed
Daily “Poetry Pause” in morning announcement	Teachers Students	Jan 07 – June 07	Morning Announcements	Student readers Gr. 6 Peer Leaders
Daily Exposure and analysis of poetry in classrooms gr. 3 – 6	Teachers Support staff	Sept. 06- June 07	1. Teacher Lesson Plans 2. Raised reading comprehension	Lester Laminade resource book. Poetry books
DIBELS training for grade 3 teachers	Principal Asst. Supt. For Curriculum and Instruction	Dec. 2006	Fall 2005	District funding for training.
Wilson training for Special Education teachers	Grade 3 teachers Sped teachers April 2007	April 2007	Completion of training	District funding for training

**GOAL # 2**

**TO IMPROVE STUDENTS' MASTERY OF NUMBER FACTS, AUTHENTIC PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS, AND ABILITY TO EXPRESS MATHEMATICAL UNDERSTANDING**

**RATIONALE**

There is a need to prepare our children with the skills needed to effectively express mathematical understanding. The Massachusetts Department of Education, in the Mathematics Curriculum Framework (November 2000), envisions all students achieving mathematical competence through a strong mathematics program that emphasizes problem solving, communicating, reasoning and proof, making connections, and using representations. To achieve mathematical understanding, students should be actively engaged in doing meaningful mathematics, discussing mathematical ideas, and applying mathematics in interesting, thought provoking situations, in order to reach AYP increment set forth by MCAS results. With that goal in mind, the Abington Public Schools has implemented a new math program, Everyday Mathematics. Teachers have been provided with ongoing professional development in mathematics throughout the 2006-2007 school year.

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Woodsdale School – Improvement Plan

**Strategic Goal: To improve students’ mastery of number facts, authentic problem-solving skills, and ability to express mathematical understanding**

<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Person(s) Responsible</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Indicators of Accomplishment</b>	<b>Resources Needed</b>
Continue to analyze Curriculum instruction and pacing of Everyday Math program	Principal Teachers/support staff	Ongoing Sept.- June	Presentation to staff	Common Planning Time Professional Development
Implement new math curriculum by use of Everyday Math Series	Principal Teachers/support staff	Ongoing Sept.-June	Informal and formal assessment of students to show positive progression throughout the school year.	Professional Development Supplemental Basic Skills 3x weekly
Remain informed of <i>No Child Left Behind</i> action plan as presented by the Abington Public Schools	Principal Subject Coordinator	Ongoing Sept. - June	Presentation to staff	None
Participate in Professional Development math topics emphasizing number sense, geometry, and/or measurement content knowledge in order to provide a strong foundation in mathematics.	Teachers/support staff	Ongoing throughout the calendar year	20% PDPs overall in math	Course reimbursement where applicable

## Woodsdale School – Improvement Plan

**Strategic Goal: To improve students' mastery of number facts, authentic problem-solving skills, and ability to express mathematical understanding**

<b><u>Action Steps</u></b>	<b>Person(s) Responsible</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Indicators of Accomplishment</b>	<b>Resources Needed</b>
Provide math support during the school day for students who score in the Warning or Low Needs Improvement range on MCAS utilizing an RTI model	Principal Classroom Teachers Special Education staff	Ongoing Sept.-June	1. Informal assessment of students to show positive progression throughout year  2. MCAS score to improve across the board by 5%	Collaboration between classroom teacher and tutor
Continue current team teaching practices for grades five and six	Principal Grade level teachers	Ongoing Sept.-June	Team teaching occurring in all classrooms grades five and six	Highly trained teachers in each subject area
Use math centers/review of MCAS questions to provide reinforcement for students	Grade level teachers	Ongoing Sept.-June	Improvement in math scores on assessments	Previous MCAS questions/materials for centers

Woodsdale School – Improvement Plan

**Strategic Goal: To improve students’ mastery of number facts, authentic problem-solving skills, and ability to express mathematical understanding**

<b><u>Action Steps</u></b>	<b>Person(s) Responsible</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Indicators of Accomplishment</b>	<b>Resources Needed</b>
Assign <i>Math Boxes</i> daily to afford practice and reinforce skills	Teachers	Sept.-June	Improvement shown in skills representing every strand	Math Journals
Provide after school math MCAS tutoring for students whose scores fell in the Warning range for one hour per week.	Principal Teachers/support staff	Jan. - May	Improvement in MCAS scores across the board by 5%	1. District and North River Collaborative Funding 2. Previous MCAS questions 3. Materials as needed
Written practice of grade level math skills for homework 3x weekly	Classroom teachers	Sept. - June	Improvement shown in basic math skills as assessed by classroom teachers and raised MCAS scores	1. Math worksheets 2. Computer Software
Encourage parents to practice math facts with students nightly	Principal Teachers Parents	Sept. – June		1. Newsletters 2. Parent Conferences

**GOAL # 3**

**TO DEVELOP OUR VIEW OF TEACHING AND LEARNING FOR UNDERSTANDING WHILE  
UTILIZING EFFECTIVE QUESTIONING TECHNIQUES**

**RATIONALE**

The knowledge base on teaching and learning is ever changing, and we as educators have a responsibility to be examples of lifelong learners. This effort will affect positive change in the school culture - those characteristics that define the school as a whole and provide a foundation for school improvement.

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## Woodsdale School – Improvement Plan

**Strategic Goal: To develop our view of teaching and learning for understanding while utilizing effective questioning techniques**

<b><u>Action Steps</u></b>	<b>Person(s) Responsible</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Indicators of Accomplishment</b>	<b>Resources Needed</b>
Call for, and attend faculty study groups in areas to be targeted by needs	Principal Teachers	Ongoing Calendar year	Information shared at faculty meetings	Copies of reference materials
Share expertise with staff members at faculty meetings, professional development and common planning times	Principal Teachers	Ongoing Sept.-June	Implementation of colleagues strategies	Teacher prepared materials
Observe peers to expand/enlarge instructional strategies	Teachers	Ongoing Sept.-June	Implementation of colleagues strategies  Positive feedback	Coverage in classroom
Continue to refine “Essential Questions” that drive instruction/learning	Teachers	Ongoing Sept.-June	Instruction aligned with essential question	Common Planning Time

## Woodsdale School – Improvement Plan

**Strategic Goal: To develop our view of teaching and learning for understanding while utilizing effective questioning techniques**

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<b><u>Action Steps</u></b>	<b>Person(s) Responsible</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Indicators of Accomplishment</b>	<b>Resources Needed</b>
Mentor newly hired staff members to assist in their participation as team members	Grade level teachers Principal	Ongoing Sept.-June	Bi-weekly meetings	Training for mentors
Provide common planning time for staff to collaborate	Principal	1 hour weekly	Completion of feedback sheets	None
Use student test data (including MCAS) to highlight areas of strengths and weaknesses and drive instruction.	Principals Teachers Support staff	Nov.-April	Strengths and weaknesses identified and instruction modified	Data
Develop common assessment to mark progress	Grade level teachers	Ongoing Sept.-June	Comparison of test scores	None

**GOAL #4**

**TO ENCOURAGE PARENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LEARNING EXPERIENCES OF THEIR CHILDREN IN SCHOOL AND AT HOME**

**RATIONALE**

Educational research continually speaks to the importance of the school working collaboratively with the home to support the learning needs of students. A home-school collaboration is imperative if students are to fully reach their potential.

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Woodsdale School – Improvement Plan

**Strategic Goal: To encourage parents to participate in the learning experiences of their children in school and at home**

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<b><u>Action Steps</u></b>	<b>Person(s) Responsible</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Indicators of Accomplishment</b>	<b>Resources Needed</b>
Post important school information on Website <a href="http://www.abington.k12.ma.us">http://www.abington.k12.ma.us</a>	Principal Teachers Secretary	Ongoing Calendar year	Information is posted Web counter	Access to Website
Open communication between home and school: parent newsletter, open house, grades 2 and 6 orientation	Principal Teachers Parents Support staff	Ongoing Sept.-June	Attendance and/or participation	None
Encourage PTO participation by staggering afternoon/evening meetings	Principal Teachers Parents	Ongoing Aug.-June	Increased attendance	None
Attend Woodsdale sponsored Family Nights (i.e. Math/Science, Reading)	Principal Teachers Parents Students	Feb. March	Attendance and/or participation	PTO funds for supplies and teacher stipends

Woodsdale School – Improvement Plan

**Strategic Goal: To encourage parents to participate in the learning experiences of their children in school and at home**

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<b><u>Action Steps</u></b>	<b>Person(s) Responsible</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Indicators of Accomplishment</b>	<b>Resources Needed</b>
Report student progress with mid-term reports and report cards	Teachers	3 times yearly for each report	Parents receive reports	None
Provide classroom with extra support including sharing a particular expertise	Parents	Ongoing Sept.-June	Extra activities scheduled in classroom	None
Create School Messenger lists for communication of urgent notices and scheduled meetings to Woodsdale Community	Principal Technology Administrator	Ongoing Sept. - June	Population notified in timely fashion	None

**GOAL #5**

**TO INCREASE THE INTEGRATION OF TECHNOLOGY IN INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT**

**RATIONALE**

For students to be able to make effective use of the technology available in today's school and workplace settings it is important that the instructional personnel be familiar and comfortable with technology.



## Woodsdale School – Improvement Plan

**Strategic Goal: To increase the integration of Technology in instruction and assessment**

<b><u>Action Steps</u></b>	<b>Person(s) Responsible</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Indicators of Accomplishment</b>	<b>Resources Needed</b>
Provide training in the use of the digital camera, digital camcorder, LCD projector and Smartboard	Principal Teachers	Sept.-June	Increased use of this equipment	Training at faculty meetings, after school workshps
Provide training in the use of PowerPoint and other software programs	Technology liaison	Sept.-June	Use of PowerPoint presentation in classrooms	PowerPoint program on all computers
Use COWS (computers on wheels) in the classroom for whole class instruction and individual student research	Teacher Support staff	Ongoing Sept.-June	Use of COWS in classroom	None
Attend outside Professional Development opportunities in technology as well as those within the Abington Public School District	Principal Teachers	Ongoing calendar year	PDPs earned in technology	Course reimbursement where applicable
Integrate internet use into research projects	Teachers	Ongoing Sept.-June	Use of internet for research	PTO funds Consulation with Technology dept.
Locate technology in a central location by renovating and redesigning the library	Principal PTO Teachers/support staff	Sept.-June	Increased use of technology by classroom teachers	Consultation with Technology dept.

**GOAL #6**

**TO CONSISTENTLY EMPLOY POSITIVE BEHAVIORS RESPECTING THE RIGHTS OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE WOODSDALE COMMUNITY IN THE CLASSROOM AND ON THE PLAYGROUND**

**RATIONALE**

Given the erosion of respect in today's society, and a clear mandate from Woodsdale parents, it is evident that a school-wide effort is needed to foster the continued development of a learning community where individual differences and rights are respected. Practices that are consistently understood and followed by all students and staff will contribute to an environment where learning can take place without disruption

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## Woodsdale School – Improvement Plan

**Strategic Goal: To consistently employ positive behaviors respecting the rights of all members of the Woodsdale Community  
in the classroom and on the playground**

<b><u>Action Steps</u></b>	<b>Person(s) Responsible</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Indicators of Accomplishment</b>	<b>Resources Needed</b>
Continue the practice of recognizing acts of kindness	Faculty	Ongoing Sept.-June	Leaves attached to the tree of kindness	None
Promote PTO sponsored programs that celebrate diversity and multicultural experience	Principal Teachers Parents Support staff	Ongoing Sept.-June	Programs presented to the school community	PTO funding
Develop Peer Leader Program and building wide discussion of positive behavior	Principal Adjustment Counselors Teachers Support staff	Spring 2007	Increase in positive behavior	Posters ELA Novels Resource books Consultation and training by counseling staff
Promote clear, consistent communication related to student behavior as defined in handbook	Faculty	Ongoing Sept.-June	Improved student behavior	None
Communicate behavior infractions to parents (share strategies)	Principal Teachers	Ongoing Sept.-June	Improved student behavior	None
Faculty training in bullying	BSC Principal	Dec. 2007	Improved student behavior	Free grant funded program from Bridgewater State College

Woodsdale School – Improvement Plan

**Strategic Goal: To consistently employ positive behaviors respecting the rights of all members of the Woodsdale Community in the classroom and on the playground**

<u>Action Steps</u>	<b>Person(s) Responsible</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Indicators of Accomplishment</b>	<b>Resources Needed</b>
Implement new Wellness Standards based on current State Mandates	Faculty Parents	Ongoing Sept. - June	Improved nutritional habits and wellness	None