

**WALLA WALLA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MIDDLE SCHOOL
STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE
INSTRUCTION OF WRITING
2006-2008**

OUR VISION

Centers of learning meeting the writing instructional needs of all students.

OUR MISSION

Walla Walla Public Schools, in partnership with the community, is committed to excellence in personalized learning that challenges and supports all students in becoming effective writers.

OUR GOALS

GOAL I: Develop a 21st century learning community that supports continuous learning through relevant and aligned curriculum, instruction, assessment, and professional development.

1. Create a safe and nurturing learning environment for all students.
 - a. Commit to personalized learning to meet the diversity of student writing needs, and thereby increase student achievement, as measured by classroom based assessment and the Washington Assessment of Student Learning.
 - 1) Continue to develop students as thinkers and problem solvers.
 - 2) Continue to develop students who understand and use the Writing Process.
 - 3) Continue to teach students to self-select purpose for pre-writes and modes for their writing.
 - 4) Continue to provide students with specific, positive feedback to build their writing successes.
2. Ensure a rigorous education program of study that builds a connection between writing and the “real world.”
 - a. Align current preschool to Grade 12 writing curriculum, instruction, and assessment to professional and state standards, as evidenced by curriculum documents, resources, and assessments.
 - 1) Use GLE’s to provide writing curriculum alignment in buildings and across grade levels and subject areas throughout the district.
 - 2) Create and implement a middle school plan to enable seventh grade ELL and Bilingual students to reach the WASL writing targets in seventh grade.

- 3) Implement the K-12 Special Education writing programs as they relate to state standards.
 - 4) Create common writing vocabulary to include, but not be limited to, Writing Process, modes, forms/genre, and six traits.
3. Study research based and validated instructional writing strategies.
 - a. Identify and publish effective instructional practices that guide instruction, coaching, and supervision.
 - 1) Establish Middle School Writing Committee.
 - 2) Participate in District Writing Committee.
 - 3) Focus professional development on effective writing instructional practices.
 - 4) Provide collaboration time across grades five through nine to examine student-writing outcomes that affect instructional practices.
 4. Use data to drive decisions for certificated and classified staff, students, administrators, parents, and the community.
 - a. Implement district-wide classroom based assessments that guide writing instruction to improve student achievement, as measured by local and state assessment.
 - 1) Assess students twice each year.
 - 2) Analyze data to evaluate the effectiveness of instructional practices.
 - 3) Maintain and/or implement alternative instructional practices.
 - 4) Select and/or develop writing prompts based on state standards.
 - 5) Replicate research based Spanish prompts and anchor papers.
 - 6) Utilize state developed WASL checklists for students.
 5. Establish priorities for professional development in writing instruction.
 - a. Develop and publish a comprehensive district professional development plan for writing instruction.
 - 1) Study and evaluate instructional practices.
 - 2) Identify district trainers in effective programs.
 - 3) Create a yearly professional development collaboration calendar and timeline.
 - 4) Prioritize and protect time for the writing collaboration, training, learning, and feedback as they relate to the enhancement of writing instruction.
 - 5) Establish writing mentors in the middle school building to facilitate professional development for new writing instructors.

GOAL II: Improve communication among certificated and classified staff, students, administrators, parents, and the community.

1. Establish and promote an understanding of the goals, needs, and accomplishments of the district's writing focus and program.
 - a. Increase understanding and support of the district's writing mission by certificated and classified staff, students, administrators, parents, and the community.

- 1) Publish and communicate district writing plan through building newsletters, in school publications and on school websites.
 - 2) Establish online site supporting the teaching and learning of writing.
 - 3) Provide opportunities for teachers to be released from their classrooms to model, observe, and/or spread effective writing.
 - 4) Provide funding for District Writing Committee representatives to attend OSPI January conference and other writing seminars/trainings.
2. Communicate frequently and effectively to improve student writing.
 - a. Provide evidence of improved student writing progress to certificated and classified staff, students, administrators, parents, and the community.
 - 1) Provide information gleaned from district-wide writing assessments.
 - 2) During parents events, provide information and resources that may enable families to help support and improve their students' writing progress.

GOAL III: Use technology to enhance writing skills and opportunities.

1. Provide staff development and student learning opportunities in the use of technology to improve writing instruction.
 - a. Integrate technology into writing instruction.
 - 1) Research best practices and create design standards to support the integration of technology into student writing curriculum.
 - 2) Utilize state-of-art learning environment based on available funding.
 - 3) Design shared folders to share information about writing instructional methodology, strategies, and tools.
 - b. Train certificated and classified staff, students, administrators, parents, and the community to become efficient, productive users of technology.
 - 1) Provide training and resources to staff and students in the use of technology rich facilities and learning environments as they support writing.
 - 2) Post information and resources on the District's web site that may enable families to help support and improve their students' writing progress.