The Strength of the City
Fort Wayne Community Schools: The foundation for growth

FWCS
We Are Your Schools
2016-17 Annual Report
Mission
Fort Wayne Community Schools educates all students to high standards enabling them to become productive, responsible citizens.

Vision
Fort Wayne Community Schools will be the school system of choice and a source of community pride.

Core Values
WE VALUE:
• student achievement as the heart of our work.
• equity in educational opportunities.
• the diversity and uniqueness of our district and community.
• the accountability of the school board, the administration, employees and teaching professionals.
• open and honest communication with our community, parents and students.
• partnerships with business, governmental and community agencies.
• our community’s support, sacrifice and contributions.
• the ability to change and meet all challenges.
• facilities that are clean, safe and well-maintained.
To members of the Fort Wayne community,

I am pleased to share with you a report highlighting the initiatives and accomplishments of the 2016-17 school year. We continued to refine and improve our practices to educate all students to high standards, enabling them to become productive, responsible citizens. At FWCS, this means ensuring every student has access to high quality curriculum and instruction. Equity in educating all students is the fundamental plank on which we base all of our work. We believe that every child can learn and succeed, and everything we do ties to this belief.

This year our Literacy Initiative increased independent reading throughout the District. Our College and Career Readiness Program expanded its offerings and served over 5,000 students. Our efforts continue to serve us well, as our graduation rate of 89.2% again exceeded the state average.

As we look forward amid the many exciting developments in our city, it is evident that education is the strength of the city. FWCS has been educating students to high standards since 1857, and we continue to examine our instruction and supports to strengthen our school system to ensure every child is successful.

We appreciate the leadership of our Board of School Trustees and the support of our community. Together, we are successfully preparing students for success in college and careers. We offer several initiatives to bring the community into our schools, including the Principal for a Day program and the Seeing is Believing Tour. If you are interested in becoming more involved, please contact our Public Affairs Department at 467-2020. We take seriously the trust and relationship we have with our community. Our success is directly linked to your support and involvement.

Sincerely,

WENDY Y. ROBINSON, ED.D.
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
LITERACY INITIATIVE INCREASES INDEPENDENT READING

This past year we emphasized a literacy initiative to increase independent reading. Research shows that students who frequently read independently have higher overall academic success. We acquired more high interest literature for classroom libraries and increased the time devoted to reading independently in the classroom. It has been rewarding to see the increase in students reading during lunchtime and other free periods.

FWCS' ACADEMY FOR EFFECTIVE INSTRUCTION PROVIDES VALUABLE SUPPORT FOR NEW TEACHERS

FWCS’ Academy for Effective Instruction provides valuable support for teachers in their first, second and third years of teaching at FWCS. The program is the only of its kind in northeast Indiana. It begins with an orientation the first week of school. Teachers are given a survey to see where they need additional support. First year teachers are then provided Professional Learning sessions monthly; second year teachers meet five time a year and third year teachers meet three times a year. The content is aligned with the FWCS System of Support and the RISE Rubric. Each session provides practical strategies to take back to the classroom.

In addition to the regular Professional Learning sessions, District Instructional Coaches spend most of their time in buildings, encouraging teachers and helping them build community and engagement in their classrooms. They work closely with Building Instructional Coaches to provide personalized support, including working with teachers who have been identified as needing improvement. Teachers are comfortable working with coaches because they support them and do not evaluate their performance. New teachers, veteran teachers and principals all believe the program is extremely beneficial.

Here are some of the colleges and universities our graduates attend:

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS PROGRAM INCREASES STUDENT SUCCESS

The College and Career Readiness Program, located in the Family and Community Engagement Center, completed its first full year supporting students in grades K-12 in establishing and pursuing college and career goals. Students are encouraged to aim high and reach their fullest potential in whatever path they choose. This year it served over 5,000 students.

- 160 students participated in the 4-week College and Career Readiness Workshop.
- 200+ students participated in local and state conferences and workshops.
- 885 students participated in college/university visits.
- 3,600 21st Century Scholars participated in the completion of Scholar Success Program Requirements (20% increase).
- 285 students and families were assisted with FAFSA completion.
- 35 students took advantage of one-on-one college and career planning.
- 300+ students participated in career fairs and workshops.
- Students have enrolled in 198 different colleges and universities in 38 different states.

The College and Career Readiness Team has set a goal to increase student participation by 10% each year.

Graduation Rates Remain High

FWCS’ graduation rates remained consistently high. The district’s 2015-16 graduation rate was 89.2%, exceeding the state average of 89.1%.

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Graduation Rate</th>
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<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>88.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>87.7%</td>
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<td>2012-13</td>
<td>90.7%</td>
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<td>2014-15</td>
<td>86.6%</td>
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<td>2015-16</td>
<td>89.2%</td>
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FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CENTER COMPLETES FIRST FULL YEAR

The FWCS Family and Community Engagement Center (FACE) completed its first full year of serving families. It is a centrally located one-stop-shop for families entering FWCS or needing assistance accessing community resources to enhance students’ education and health. It manages student enrollment, including the school choice lottery and student placement; Community Programs, which operates the Study Connection tutoring program, oversees volunteer screening and coordinates FWCS-based scholarships; alternative programming, including the Center for Academic Success at Nebraska and Anthis; college and career readiness; the homeless program; and athletics. It also houses an on-site health clinic to assist families with health screenings and immunizations. This year FACE served thousands of families, including:

- Over 6,500 visitors to FACE
- Over 100 families attending parenting classes
- Over 873 homeless families served
- Over 1,646 families visited Health Services at FACE.

b INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM GAINS COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The “b Instrumental” program, which provides musical instruments to students in grades 7 through 12 who otherwise would not be able to afford them, gained community support with a large “challenge grant” of $500,000 from Chuck and Lisa Surack and Sweetwater. Sponsored by the FWCS Foundation, b Instrumental was piloted in Lakeside, Miami and Shawnee middle schools beginning in 2016. The success of the pilot program encouraged us to engage in a capital campaign led by the Foundation to raise funds so it can be expanded to all middle schools. The program’s goals are to improve overall student success in academic achievement and social development, ultimately leading to better opportunities and improved quality of life.
ENGAGING THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY

FWCS engages the entire community in many ways. Following are some additional highlights of this past year’s community engagement:

- 54 community members took part in Principal for a Day, including state legislators, business executives, Realtors and other professionals.
- Employees from six local businesses volunteered to clean, paint and spruce up nine FWCS facilities as part of a special United Way Day of Caring.
- FWCS again partnered with the Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana-Michiana and IPFW to host a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Conference for girls.
- Over 700 people attended the FWCS Showcase, where all schools and departments are represented so that families have an opportunity to learn more about FWCS programs and services.
- FWCS reached out to parents, students and staff with a Climate Survey to ensure our programs and services are effective.
- FWCS employees participated in many family summer carnivals and events, including the Three Rivers Festival.
- FWCS employees donated and packed 300 backpacks filled with new supplies for students.
- FWCS co-sponsored the Northeast Indiana College Fair, where nearly 100 colleges and universities were represented.
- Study Connection completed its 28th year with support from 660 volunteers.
Running Lean, Staying on Track

BUDGET AND TAX RATE REMAIN FLAT
At FWCS we take our role as stewards of taxpayer money very seriously. This past year our annual budget of $298 million was about 2 percent above the 2016 budget. The 2017 tax rate was 3.5 percent, higher than the 2016 rate but lower than the 2015 rate. The budget presents long-term financial challenges for FWCS as the needs of our students continue to grow while our funding does not. Because of changes in state funding and enrollment declines, reductions in the General Fund Budget may be necessary in the future.

FUNDS FOCUSED IN THE CLASSROOM
FWCS remains among the highest in the state in terms of funneling dollars into the classroom, exceeding the state average. The last time the state reported dollars to the classroom, FWCS spent 70.1% of its budget on student academic achievement.

MORE BUILDINGS BECOME ENERGY EFFICIENT
Five more FWCS buildings earned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) ENERGY STAR certification, which signifies that the buildings perform in the top 25 percent of similar facilities nationwide for energy efficiency and meet strict energy efficiency performance levels set by the EPA. North Side High School and Arlington, Indian Village, Lincoln and Maplewood elementary schools joined Adams, Bloomindale, Brentwood, Fairfield, Harris, Holland and Scott Academy elementary schools, Northrop, South Side and Wayne high schools and Lakeside and Portage middle schools on the ENERGY STAR list. The process not only ensures that we are saving money, but we are making the school environment a healthy, safe place for students and staff. We expect to add more schools in the future.

REPAIR FWCS PHASE 2 BUILDING PROGRAM UNDERWAY
The FWCS REPAIR Building Program Phase 2 that was approved in May of 2016 has begun in earnest. Phase 2 includes major work in 10 buildings and smaller improvement projects occurring in 32 other buildings. The renovation of Nebraska Elementary to become the Center for Academic Success at Nebraska was completed and opened to students for the start of the 2017-18 school year. Renovations at Glenwood Park and St. Joseph Central elementaries were started during the spring of 2017 and will be completed for the 2018-19 school year. In addition, window replacements were completed this summer at Northcrest and Washington elementaries, lighting and flooring replacements were completed at the Helen P. Brown Natatorium and air conditioning projects were completed at Blackhawk and Miami middle schools and Whitney Young Early Childhood Center.

REPAIR FWCS PHASE 2 LOOKING AHEAD
Design is currently in the final stages for the renovations of Northrop High School, Lane Middle School and Washington Center Elementary School. These projects will be bid in December of 2017 and January of 2018, with construction scheduled to begin in spring of 2018. In addition, the air conditioning projects at Bunche Early Childhood Center and Study Elementary as well as classroom security projects in 22 buildings across the district will be completed in the summer of 2018.
SUPERINTENDENT DR. WENDY ROBINSON NAMED INDIANA SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

Dr. Wendy Robinson was named the Indiana Association of Public School (IAPSS) Superintendents Superintendent of the Year. J.T. Coopman, IAPSS Executive Director, said “Dr. Wendy Robinson has not only been a steady force guiding one of Indiana’s largest school districts, she is a passionate advocate for children and public schools and a national leader for her expertise in improving urban education.”

OTHER SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS INCLUDED:

• Wayne New Tech Jeff Roberts was named FWCS Teacher of the Year.
• FWCS Director of Health and Wellness Mary Hess was recognized as the School Nurse Administrator of the Year by the Indiana Association of Nurses.
• Towles New Tech teacher Carissa Richardson-Lahrman was named Hoosier Educator of the Year by the Indiana State Teachers Association.
• North Side High School teacher Alan Woehnker was named the 2017 Fort Wayne Museum of Art Scholastic Art Teacher of the Year.
• Wayne New Tech student Wendy Samayoa was appointed to the United States Air Force Academy, class of 2021.
• The North Side High School Marching Band placed in the top 10 in the State competition. North Side’s Marching Band has placed in the top 10 over 30 times in Band Director Edward King’s career.
• Northrop High School students Benjamin Yoss and Alexander Espinozo and North Side High School student Audrey Scantlin were named National Merit Semi-Finalists. Benjamin Yoss was also a finalist in the National Achievement Scholarship competition.
• The Northrop High School Athletic Department was recognized by the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) as a Champion of Character School.
• The Northrop and Snider high school bands received the Indiana State School Association (ISSMA) All-Music Award for 2016-17.
• Fort Wayne Community Schools had 45 students who won regional gold or silver keys in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards and some students won multiple awards at the regional level. Brady Fanning, Northrop; and Carol Galidia, Joseph Kruger and Cameron Ocock, North Side; and Iris Alfaro, Towles New Tech, all Gold Key winners regionally, went on to win National awards.
• Northrop High School student Victor Stjepic and South Side student Juana Munguia-Pax were 2017 Lilly Scholars.
• The Memorial Park Middle School 7th grade team C.A.R.L. (Creative and Recreational Learning) placed second in the State and in the top three regionally in the 2017 7th grade eCYBERMISSION competition.
• Snider High School students Taylor Davis, Zach Hyde, Lydia Haydock, Alex Farmer, Grace McCormick and Kendra McDaniel were selected for the National Scholastic Press Honor Roll.
• FWCS Career Academy instructor Karen Gillie was named Indiana SkillsUSA Career and Technical Education Advisor of the Year.
• Twelve FWCS Career Academy students placed first the state SkillsUSA Championship, earning them a trip to the national competition.
ALLEN COUNTY
The FWCS Security Department maintains a collaborative working relationship with the Allen County Sheriff’s Department, courts and Homeland Security. FWCS has School Resource Officers through the Allen County Sheriff’s Department. FWCS’ Printing Services does the printing work for Allen County Government.

ALLEN COUNTY EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP
Through its Project Reads program, the Allen County Education Partnership works with several FWCS elementary schools.

ASSOCIATED CHURCHES
The Rising Stars program matches churches with schools. Many provide tutoring, assist with vision screening, collect school and classroom supplies and host teacher appreciation activities.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS
The Big Brothers Big Sisters School Buddies program is provided at 18 elementary schools, and Real Men Read touches classrooms in all elementary schools.

Blessings in a Backpack
The Blessings in a Backpack program provides meals to children on weekends at Abbett, Adams, Fairfield and South Wayne elementary schools. The food is sent home with the children on Fridays.

Boys and Girls Club
Fairfield Elementary works with the Boys and Girls Club on a regular basis to collaborate on homework.

City of Fort Wayne
FWCS Career Academy Construction Trades works with the city to do concrete work. The FWCS Security Department maintains a collaborative working relationship with the Fort Wayne Police Department, Fort Wayne Fire Department, Animal Care and Control and Traffic Engineering. FWCS has School Resource Officers through the Fort Wayne Police Department.

Rotary Club of Fort Wayne
The Downtown Rotary Club of Fort Wayne partners with Washington Elementary by providing School Buddies, Study Connection tutors, the Rotary Reader program and other supportive services. They formed Early Act Club, an elementary school version of Rotary. Anthony Wayne Rotary sponsors an Early Act Club at Holland Elementary.

Early Childhood Alliance
Early Childhood Alliance works with FWCS to ensure all children are ready and successful for K-12 education by providing early childhood education and services for families, early childhood professionals and the community.

FAME
FAME partners with schools to provide visiting artists and teacher workshops. Students also participate in the annual FAME Festival.

Fort Wayne Ballet
The Fort Wayne Ballet provides thematic unit studies on dance that are integrated with content areas such as science and language arts at Whitney Young Early Childhood Center.

Fort Wayne Dance Collective
The Dance Collective provides classes to third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students at Weisser Park and preschool students at the FWCS Career Academy Early Childhood Center. The Dance Collective also supports a dance elective at South Side High School and Wayne High School.

Fort Wayne Museum of Art
FWCS partners with the Fort Wayne Museum of Art to provide enhanced art education.

Fort Wayne Philharmonic
The Fort Wayne Philharmonic presents an annual Young People’s Concert in the spring for all fifth-graders. Throughout the year, various ensembles visit schools to introduce students to a variety of music.

Fort Wayne Youtheatre
FWCS students participate in Youtheatre classes, productions and outreach. The organization leads Creative Drama classes at Title I pre-kindergarten programs.

In-School Girl and Boy Scouting Programs
The Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts offer enrichment opportunities in many schools.

IPFW
FWCS students can get college credits through IPFW’s Collegiate Connection and its dual credit courses.

Ivy Tech Community College
FWCS students can get college credits through Ivy Tech’s dual credit courses.

Junior Achievement
Most FWCS schools are sites for Junior Achievement, which helps students prepare for the workplace by providing economic and business education.

Parkview Hospital Community Nursing
Parkview Hospital is committed to a partnership with FWCS to promote the health and well-being of students most in need. Parkview provides school-based nurses and specialists who provide direct care and consultation.

Trine University
FWCS students can get college credits through Trine University’s dual credit courses.

United Way
United Way’s Education Network is dedicated to children’s success in school, which includes a partnership of local youth-serving organizations.

Vincennes University
FWCS students can get college credits through Vincennes University’s dual credit courses.

Wellspring
Wellspring provides a free summer day camp.

YMCA
FWCS partners with the YMCA to offer child care services before and after school.
by the numbers

FWCS

FOUNDED IN

1857

50

SCHOOLS

30,000

STUDENTS

4,000

STAFF MEMBERS

BUDGET

$298 m

LOCAL INCOME TAXES PAID

$2.3 m

WAGES PAID

$176 m

LANGUAGES SPOKEN

70+

SCHOOLS