



**Gardner Elementary School
School Improvement Plan
2017-2018**

Gardner Elementary School Improvement Plan

School Improvement Planning Process

The School Council at Gardner School is a dedicated group of individuals who value education and are committed to providing the best for the students of Gardner School. The council's goal in developing the School Improvement Plan is to make continuous improvements to Gardner School in our pursuit of excellence. We are committed to quality instruction, appropriate assessment procedures, parental involvement, and developing well-rounded students. The following process is followed in the development of the plan:

Phase I -Review

- Student assessment results
- Student performance data
- Parent involvement
- School safety
- School environment
- Budget

Phase II – Research

- Examine areas in need of improvement
- Research best practices for interventions/improvements

Phase III – Develop and Monitor

- Develop School Improvement Plan based on District Improvement Plan
- Monitor goals throughout the school year and make adjustments as needed



SWANSEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS MISSION & VISION STATEMENT

Mission Statement:

To provide opportunities and pathways in a safe, supportive and technology-rich environment that engage, challenge and inspire students to achieve college and career readiness and to contribute to our 21st century community.

Vision Statement:

Public education in Swansea is a collaborative effort among staff, faculty, students, parents and the community; we seek to challenge, inspire and bring the joy of learning to all students. Guided by our Core Values, we will provide all students opportunities to become lifelong learners who excel academically, socially and personally. Our goal is to empower students to contribute actively to the civic, moral and economic spirit of our diverse democratic community and society.

Core Values:

- Sharing communication among all stakeholders
- Working collaboratively with the community
- Authentic learning opportunities
- Nurturing safe educational environments
- Strengthening higher order thinking skills
- Engaging students as active learners
- Accountability in academic excellence and integrity

GARDNER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Mission Statement:

Gardner School is an integrated elementary school. The overall goal of our program is to help each child develop to his/her fullest potential through an effective education. This goal is based on a secure mastery of basic skills, complemented by scientific exploration, artistic creativity, physical activity, and the integration of technology into the curriculum.

GARDNER DEMOGRAPHIC & SCHOOL INFORMATION

The Gardner School serves a diverse population of learners, from kindergarten through grade 2. Currently we have four full-day kindergarten classes, four first grade classes and four second grade classes.

Kindergarten – 95

Grade 1 – 75

Grade 2 – 76

Total Enrollment – 246

Gardner School, located at 10 Church Street, has a population of 246 students in grades K-2, with four classes at each grade level. Full day kindergarten continues to be an integral part of our academic program and provides a firm foundation for students as they begin their educational journey in Swansea.

The staff at the Gardner School is dedicated to the success of all students. Common planning time allows teachers to meet in grade level teams to plan curriculum, discuss the progress of students, and collaborate to provide the best instruction possible. At least one teacher at each grade level is trained in how to instruct English language learners. Two reading specialists implement the Title I program, which supports students in need of additional assistance in developing their reading skills. One special education teacher, one instructional coach, a school nurse, two para-professionals and our school secretary completes the staff at Gardner.

The Gardner School Booster Club transitioned to a PTO at the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year. In addition to raising funds to support student activities, the group has also focused on community building events such as the Halloween “Spooktacular”, Holiday

Bazaar and the Sweetheart Dance. Through the efforts of this dedicated group of parents, our school library has been replenished with over 600 new titles. In addition, the Scholastic book fairs, organized by the PTO, continue to put books into our children's homes.

Gardner School provides a wide variety of learning experiences both within and outside of the classroom. The students participate in the Jump Rope for Heart in their physical education classes, raising funds for education and research through the American Heart Association. During the 2016-2017 school year, Gardner School became a Feinsein Leadership School. The message of Alan Shawn Feinsein to students is, "Every time you do something good for someone, you make the world a better place". The Gardner School Community took this message to heart by sponsoring the pajama and book drive, the Christmas food drive for area veterans, partnering with the Swansea Police Department to raise money for gifts for needy families, a collection of food and other pet supplies for the Swansea Animal Shelter and monthly hat days to support various other charities. Mr. Feinsein himself visited Gardner School to speak to the students about how proud he was of their efforts!

The literacy and math programs at Gardner School align perfectly with the increased rigor of the Common Core State Standards. The focus of the 2016-2017 school year has been on developing effective reading practices, based on the needs of the readers within our classrooms. The teachers have been provided with professional development opportunities in guided reading and authentic literacy centers and the district has invested in the books required to implement these practices. Our instruction is directed at helping students learn how to read critically and use their minds to apply what they know to new life challenges.

Technology continues to be an integral part of the curriculum and the students have the opportunity to use iPads and iPods in their classrooms. This technology is utilized to review and reinforce content, particularly in the areas of literacy and math. An interactive smart board is part of the computer lab and all students now have a weekly computer class as part of their itinerant rotation. Recently, with the support of the Greater Fall River Development Council, we were able to add an additional iPad cart and Smart Board to our cadre of technology resources. This state of the art technology enables us to introduce our students to 21st century skills at an early age.

Gardner School provides a safe, nurturing learning environment where students always come first. We provide a challenging curriculum taught by a group of well trained professionals who are passionate about teaching and learning. Again and again research shows what we already know; it is teachers that make the difference.

Gardner School Staff Roster 2016-2017`

Joanne Furze	Principal
Patricia Daignault	Secretary
Susan Notarangelo	Nurse
Judy Eddy	Kindergarten
Jennifer Ayers	Kindergarten
Gail Bettencourt	Kindergarten
Marisa Robinson	Kindergarten
Jennifer Kenyon	Grade 1
Christine Medeiros	Grade 1
Megan Silva	Grade 1
Krystal Mateus-Mello	Grade 1
Elaine Hussey	Grade 2
Diane Durand	Grade 2
Katelyn Rapoza	Grade 2
Kate Gendreau	Grade 2
Michelle Gifford	Reading Specialist/Title I
Diane Eastwood	Reading Specialist/Title I
Pamela Mogilnicki	Special Education
Melissa Kern	Paraprofessional, Kindergarten
Sheri Bacon	Paraprofessional, Kindergarten
Kacie Martel	School Adjustment Counselor
Jennifer Palmisciano	Speech Therapist
Laurie Dumont	Occupational Therapist
Kerri Abrain	Art
Heather Wilson	Art
Annie Hart	Music
Tim Meehan	Music
Brian Vaccaro	Health/Physical Education
Matt Lockwood	Health/Physical Education
Courtney Desmarais	Instructional Coach/Title I
Janice Santos	Custodian

Gardner Elementary School – School Improvement Plan

I. Curriculum, Instruction, and Evaluation

District Goal :

To develop and implement programs that insure quality instruction, high expectations for all learners, and result in steadily improving student achievement. Student assessment results, local benchmarks, and other pertinent data are used to improve student achievement and to inform all aspects of decision-making, including policy development and implementation, instructional programs, assessment practices, procedures, and supervision.

School Objectives:

To maintain and review curriculum in all subject areas and grade levels to insure horizontal and vertical alignment with the Massachusetts Frameworks and Common Core Standards .(A)

To create and maintain an environment of understanding based on disaggregated data that supports student growth. (B)

To promote and maintain the District’s mission, vision and core values to support good teaching that embraces rigor, quality student engagement, and effective methods of personalization and communication. (D)

School-Based Activities	Individuals Responsible	Resources		Evaluation Process
Implement the <i>Units of Study for Teaching Reading</i> in grades K, 1, & 2	Principal Faculty, Assistant Superintendent	Time Professional Development Reading Coach Materials/Funding	2017-2018	Curriculum Documents Student Performance on the BAS
All students in grades 1 & 2 will have a weekly computer class and kindergarten will have 12 computer classes.	Principal Faculty Technology Staff	Computer lab Technology Curriculum	2017-2018	Students transitioning from grades 2-3
Students need opportunities to read high-interest, accessible books of their own choosing with substantial time for actual reading.	Faculty Principal, Title I Reading Teachers Reading Coach PTO	Time Materials Professional Development Schedule	2017-2018	Student performance on the BAS Teacher Input Observations Professional Development Agendas School Library
Continue to use the BAS to assess student growth in literacy	Principal Faculty Title I Teachers	Time Materials	2017-2018	Pre/Post BAS results Student Data

Continue to include interactive read-alouds as part of the daily schedule to incorporate best practices in literacy education across grade levels	Principal Faculty	Time Materials Schedule	2017-2018	Student Data Teacher Input Observations
Offer students direct, explicit instruction in the skills and strategies of proficient reading.	Principal Faculty	Time Materials	2017-2018	Pre/post testing data Student Achievement Teacher Input Observation

II. Teacher Quality and Professional Development

District Goal:

To provide highly qualified professional staff and support staff who are capable of implementing the curriculum, remaining current in their content area knowledge, able to maximize instructional and school/district-based instructional technology, observe, learn and practice research-based instructional strategies and develop and practice effective classroom management skills. Staff will be capable of examining a variety of assessments and practice use in the classroom and analyze the results to: 1) understand and report on student achievement; 2) identify gaps in student learning; 3) adjust instruction and acquire knowledge of learning styles, needs and abilities of students; 4) acquire knowledge and skills to develop, and foster the social, emotional, critical thinking, problem solving, literacy and technology skills that students will need for success in the 21st century. Staff will be knowledgeable of and participate in the educator evaluation process.

School Objectives:

To provide research-based professional development across the district that aligns with DESE standards for highly qualified professional development. (A)

To provide quality professional development based on specific areas of need as identified by faculty and staff. (C)

To continue to provide additional assistance and professional development opportunities for teachers with identified areas of growth and development. (E)

School-Based Activities	Individual Responsible	Resources		Evaluation Process
Provide professional development opportunities to support best practices in literacy.	Assistant Superintendent Principal	Funding Time Scheduling Teachers21 Consultant	2017-2018	Implementation of strategies and knowledge learned through professional development in the classroom Observation Teacher Portfolios
Establish a professional library for teachers to provide current and well researched reading material to support their practice in literacy	Principal Faculty	Time Funding	2017-2018	Implementation of strategies and knowledge learned through professional reading in classroom Observation
Provide training for using the <i>Units of Study for Teaching Reading</i>	Assistant Superintendent Principal Faculty	Time Scheduling Funding	2017-2018	Successful implementation of the <i>Units of Study for Teaching Reading</i> by classroom teachers and Title I teachers Analysis of student results on the BAS

III. Human Resource Management

District Goal:

To identify, attract and recruit effective personnel and to structure the environment to support, develop, improve, promote and retain qualified and effective professional staff that are successful in advancing achievement for all students.

School Objectives:

To maintain quality trained mentors district-wide in order to provide and retain qualified and effective professional staff as outlined by state standards. (A)

To create promotional opportunities for professional staff at all levels. (B)

School-Based Activities	Individual Responsible	Resources		Evaluation Process
Ensure that there is at least one trained mentor at all grade levels and recruit staff for additional training opportunities	Principal Faculty	Time Funding Available training	2017-2018	List of Trained Mentors Agenda/ Minutes – Monthly Mentor Meetings
Provide leadership opportunities for faculty such as Feinstein Coordinator, curriculum development, ELL Coordinator	Assistant Superintendent Principal Faculty	Funding Training Time	2017-2018	Feinstein Activities ELL Compliance Reports Curriculum Documents
Ensure that new teachers participate in a formal mentoring program	Principal Faculty Trained Mentors Lead Mentor	Time Funding	2017-2018	Agenda/ Minutes – Monthly Mentor Meetings List of new teachers and their assigned mentors

IV. Student Support Programs and Services

District Goal: To provide quality programs for all students that are comprehensive, accessible and rigorous. To support students and staff through District discipline and behavioral policies and practices that address the needs of all students and include attendance policies to ensure students complete their education.

School Objectives:

To address the needs of the whole child by engaging students in a variety of programs both in and out of the classroom. (A)

To use the most current research based procedures to keep students and staff safe. (B)

To improve transitions for students as they move from pre-school to kindergarten, from elementary to middle school, from middle to high school, and from high school to post-secondary. (C)

To analyze student achievement data to identify students who are low-performing or “at risk” and employ research-based best practices to assist these students in making effective educational progress and ensure that the identified students remain in school and complete their education. (E)

To maintain programs that address the needs of transient and homeless students and provide them with timely and equitable access to quality educational programs as outlined in state regulations. (G)

School-Based Activities	Individual Responsible	Resources		Evaluation Process
Offer after school activities that are of interest to students and parents.	Principal Staff Community resources	Time Funding	2017-2018	Roster of student participation in activities offered
Continue to reinforce staff and student safety.	Superintendent Assistant Superintendent District Maintenance Staff Principal Swansea Police	Funding Training Time	2017-2018	Updated training Student drill schedule
Offer informational opportunities for students, staff and parents as students transition from grade 2 to grade 3	Principals, Faculty	Time	2017-2018	Dates of scheduled meetings for information sessions for students, staff and parents Student data sheets Meeting of grade 2 staff with Brown School Principal

Provide opportunities for academic support for "at risk" students	Principal Faculty Instructional Coach Title I Director	Funding Scheduling	2017-2018	Instructional Support Schedule Student Data Title I class lists
Review and update student handbook	Principal, Secretary Faculty Parents	Time	2017-2018	Revised handbook
Ensure that staff members are properly trained and endorsed to provide SEI for ELL's.	Superintendent Assistant Superintendent Principal ELL Coordinator Staff	Funding SEI training	2017-2018	List of endorsed staff members Available courses and trainings

V. Leadership, Governance, and Communication

District Goal :

To establish and maintain an administrative team that will continue to implement and continuously evaluate the cost effectiveness and efficiency of policies and procedures that are standards-based, focused on student achievement data, and designed to promote continuous improvement of instructional practice and high achievement for all students. To promote public confidence, financial commitment and community support by routinely communicating to the public leadership actions and decisions related to the attainment of District and School goals.

School Objectives:

To continue to develop a culture of shared leadership and decision making practices to enhance effective communication with all stakeholders. (A)

To include all District and community stakeholders in decision making practices to enhance effective communication with all stakeholders. (B)

To maintain and enhance the District technology plan that facilitates and strengthens the teaching and learning process for all students, staff, and community stakeholders. (C)

To continue to develop School Improvement Plans that align with the District Improvement Plan and are based upon student achievement data. (E)

School-Based Activities	Individual Responsible	Resources		Evaluation Process
The School Council will develop a School Improvement Plan based on the District Improvement Plan	Principal Faculty Parents	Time	2017-2018	School Improvement Plan Meeting Agendas Minutes
Gardner School PTO will meet monthly to plan events and support student learning and activities	Principal Faculty Parents	Time	2017-2018	
Continue to encourage the use of technology in the classroom	Principal, Faculty District Technology Staff	Time, Funding,	2017 -2018	Technology sign-out sheets. Observation Teacher evidence
Communicate student and staff successes with community	Principal, Faculty PTO School Attendance	Staff, time, parents	2017-2018	Newsletters Website Local Newspapers School Committee Spotlight Feinstein Recognition Program
Analyze student performance data on the BAS	Principal, Faculty	Time	2017-2018	BAS results, data analysis

VI. Financial and Asset Management Effectiveness and Efficiency

District Goal :

To engage in a participative, well-documented, and transparent budget process that uses student achievement as a factor in the overall budget. To acquire and utilize appropriate resources to provide and sustain achievement for all students. To regularly assess the cost effectiveness and efficiency of all financial and capital assets in order to adapt to reasonable changes and unanticipated events.

School Objectives:

To continue developing a transparent, comprehensive and understandable budget through an open, participatory process. (A)

To identify and utilize non-traditional sources of revenue by building partnerships with the community, businesses, colleges and universities, including seeking grants. (B)

To continue to develop a budget where resources are allocated based upon the ongoing analysis of aggregate and disaggregated student assessment data to ensure its effectiveness in supporting improved achievement for all populations. (C)

School-Based Activities	Individual Responsible	Resources		Evaluation Process
Purchase reading materials to support literacy initiatives and the new Science and Technology/Engineering Standards	Principal, Assistant Superintendent Faculty	Funding	2017-2018	Staff sign-out of reading materials List of available resources
Review budget building process with staff, PTO, and School Council	Principal, Staff Parents	Time,	2017-2018	Staff requests for additional materials Budget for 2018-2019 School Council Agenda/Minutes
Develop a capital improvement plan to address the safety, physical appearance and overall condition of the school	Principal, Staff School Council	Time, Funding	2017-2018	School Improvement Plan Maintenance Requests
Seek additional sources of revenue for the school through grants and community partnerships	Principal Faculty PTO	Time, Community Resources	2017-2018	List of additional resources received through grants, community partnerships, and the Feinstein Foundation

**Gardner Elementary School
2017-2018 Capital Improvement Plan**

1. Refurbish stage floor
2. Sand and put an additional coat of polyurethane on the hardwood floors in the upper wing of the building
3. Create additional staff parking in the rear of the building
4. Touch up paint throughout building
5. Repair damage to curbing
6. Scrape and paint exterior trim in the front of the building
7. Replace furniture in 5 classrooms
8. Provide bulletin boards for teachers to display student work
9. Install a “literary trail” and “buddy bench” on the playground

Gardner School Feinstein Leadership

1. Pajama/Book Drive
 - 188 pairs of Pajamas
 - 99 books
2. Veterans Food Drive
 - 2,945 non-perishable food items
3. Swansea Patrolman's Association
 - \$390 (which they matched for a total of \$780)
4. Swansea Animal Shelter
 - 1002 items collected
 - \$800 donation
5. Community Autism Resources
 - \$150 donation
6. Michael J. Fox Parkinsons Foundation
 - \$182 donation
7. Positive Synergy (Autism Resources)
 - \$268 donation
8. Special Olympics
 - \$150 donation
9. The Jimmy Fund
 - \$184 donation

