Falmouth Public Schools
Falmouth, Massachusetts

Mission and Core Beliefs

The Mission of the Falmouth Public Schools is to educate students so that they are engaged in their education in a way which develops their capacity to pursue their goals and fosters life-long learning.

In order to ensure success for all students, three core beliefs define us as a school system and enable us to accomplish our mission:

Continuous Improvement for Students, Teachers, Staff, and Administrators

We strongly believe in continuous improvement, and we achieve this through actions such as

➢ *clearly communicating learning standards and performance expectations which are personalized for learners*
➢ *assigning tasks that challenge learners to move to deeper and more complex levels of knowledge and understanding along a developmental path that is age-appropriate*
➢ *helping learners develop the self discipline to work hard and persist at assigned tasks*
➢ *helping learners feel empowered in the learning process through rigorous preparation.*

Enthusiasm for Teaching and Learning

We strongly believe in the enthusiasm for teaching and learning, and we achieve this through actions such as

➢ *supporting curiosity, inquiry, active learning, reflection, creativity and innovation*
➢ *fostering in teachers and learners the confidence it takes to accept new ideas*
➢ *helping teachers and learners overcome the challenges that sometime accompany learning.*

Collaboration in Teaching and Learning

We strongly believe in schools where collaboration is highly valued, teachers and learners feel safe, diversity in all its forms is celebrated as an asset, and we achieve this through actions such as

➢ *acting with integrity*
➢ *demonstrating honesty, responsibility, thoughtfulness, encouragement, and respect*
➢ *modeling the good citizenship and encouraging these goals from the greater educational Falmouth community including parents, volunteers, and community leaders.*

Adopted by Falmouth School Committee: February 13, 2007

Falmouth Public Schools
21ˢᵗ Century Learning Communities' Strategic Plan
2007-2010

Priority 1

➢ Expand positive, personal relationships: teacher to teacher, teacher to student, student to student, and teacher to parent to improve our **Supportive, Personalized and Relevant Learning Environments (PLE)**

Goal Statement   **Responsibility:** District Administration & School Committee

➢ Goal 1: Improve our instruction to better achieve our mission

Click to go to: 1) Strategic Plan Glossary.doc   2) Appendix A.doc   3) Progress Report: Due February

Our Plan	Our Implementation	Our Measures	
Strategy 1A	Actions to implement strategy 1A	How we will monitor progress	Timeline
Expand positive, personalized relationships: teacher to teacher, teacher to student, student to student, and teacher to parent	Research positive, personal teacher to teacher, teacher to student, student to student and teacher to parent relationships in supportive, personalized and relevant learning environments.	**(S)** 1A.1 Report with recommendations to expand positive, personal relationships: teacher to teacher, teacher to student, student to student and teacher to parent relationships in supportive, personalized and relevant learning environments.	**2008-2009** Preliminary Findings **-** Spring 2008 **2008-2009** Pilots Report & Recommendations (Spring 2009) **2009-2010** Implementation of any endorsed recommendations
	Identify and describe recommendations for expanding positive, personal teacher to teacher, teacher to student, student to student and teacher to parent relationships in supportive, personalized and relevant learning environments.		
	Support the recommendations for expanding positive, personal teacher to teacher, teacher to student, student to student and teacher to parent relationships in supportive, personalized and relevant learning environments.		
	Share successful strategies being used in Falmouth schools, using technological applications such as Moodle.	**(TLM)** 1A.2 Create a web-based resource bank	**Ongoing** **2007-2010** Phase in Technological Applications

Denotes Responsibility:

S: Superintendent; AS: Assistant Superintendent; CI: Curriculum & Instruction; PPS: Pupil Personnel Services; TLM: Technology and Library/Media   2

Approved by Falmouth School Committee: 9/25/07

Priority 2
➤ Expand the consistency of expectations for all students to improve our **High Standards and Expectations (HSE)**

Goal Statement   **Responsibility:** District Administration & School Committee

➤ **Goal 1:** Improve our **instruction** to better achieve our mission

Our Plan	Our Implementation	Our Measures	
Strategy 1B	Actions to implement strategy 1B	How we will monitor progress	Timeline
Expand the consistency of expectations for all students	Continue vertical and horizontal alignment of curriculum expectations	(CI) 1B.1 Hire English Language Arts/Social Studies TSA Curriculum Specialist 1B.2 Establish grade level teams 1B.3 Publish meeting dates 1B.4 Create and publish draft curriculum documents 1B.5 Gather staff feedback during grade level/DM staff meetings 1B.6 Revise documents 1B.7 Present documents to school committee 1B.8 Publish final documents of the website	**2007-2009** English Lang. Arts & Social Studies **2008-2010** Math, Science, Tech/English Remaining Curriculum Areas
	Continue work with the K-12 curriculum committees to develop common curriculum maps for grade levels spilt over multiple schools and to support transitions and reach consensus on student learning and performance expectations	(CI) 1B.9 Establish curriculum committees 1B.10 Publish meeting dates 1B.11 Create and publish draft curriculum documents 1B.12 Gather feedback and revise 1B.13 Present documents to school committee 1B.14 Publish final documents of the website	

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Approved by Falmouth School Committee: 9/25/07

Falmouth Public Schools
21ˢᵗ Century Learning Communities' Strategic Plan
2007-2010

Our Plan	Our Implementation	Our Measures	
Strategy 1B	**Actions to implement strategy 1B**	**How we will monitor progress**	**Timeline**
Page 2 Expand the consistency of expectations for all students (continued)	Continue the NAEYC accreditation process	**(CI)** 1B.15 Establish timeline for portfolio collection process 1B.16 Submit final application	**Fall 2007** **Spring 2008**
	Expand inclusive opportunities and access to K-12 curriculum for students with disabilities and other subgroup populations	**(CI) (PPS)** 1B.17 Continue staff training on differentiated instruction, inclusive practices, and ELL training 1B.18 Coordinate a special education program evaluation and report on findings 1B.19 Implement technology and software that will allow wider access to curriculum for all students	**2007-2008** **Spring 2008** **2007-2010**
	Work with Cape Cod Community College to implement the College Connection program at Falmouth High School	**(CI) (PPS)** 1B.20 Track student/parent attendance at meetings throughout the year 1B.21 Track number of students who apply to college	**2007-2009**

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Approved by Falmouth School Committee: 9/25/07

Falmouth Public Schools
21ˢᵗ Century Learning Communities' Strategic Plan
2007-2010

Priority 3
➢ Expand the use of "student-engaging" models of instruction to improve **Curriculum and Instruction (CI)**

Goal Statement
➢ **Goal 1:** Improve our **instruction** to better achieve our mission

Responsibility: District Administration & School Committee

Our Plan	Our Implementation	Our Measures	
Strategy 1C	Actions to implement the strategies	How we will monitor progress	Timeline
Expand the use of "student-engaging" models of instruction	Put our curriculum online	**(CI)** 1C.1 Establish a committee 1C.2 Develop criteria, policies, staff development plan, technology and proposal for putting curriculum online 1C.3 Develop an action plan and proposal for putting curriculum online 1C.4 Phase in implementation	**2007-2008** Research and report to school committee **200-10** Pilots/acquire funding **2010** Implement
	Provide instructional development programs that promote the use of a variety of teaching strategies that will engage students in learning	**(CI)** 1C.5 Identify research-based instructional strategies that increase student engagement 1C.6 Provide sustained instructional development opportunities to increase the use of differentiated models of instruction 1C.7 Develop and publish units that model the use of differentiated instructional strategies, universal design, and a variety of assessments in the classroom	**2007-2010** Ongoing – 1C.7 related to 1C.1-4
	Research and communicate how technology can improve learning	**(TLM)** 1C.8 Provide training on Web 2.0 applications to the staff	**2007-2010** Ongoing
	Implement Virtual High School access for high school students	**(TLM)** 1C.9 Develop a proposal, propose funding and implement if approved	**2007-2008** Implement – Fall 2008

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Approved by Falmouth School Committee: 9/25/07

Priority 4

➢ Expand the understanding and use of assessments that help students learn well to improve **Monitoring, Accountability and Assessment (MAA)**

Goal Statement

Responsibility: District Administration & School Committee

➢ **Goal 1:** Improve our **instruction** to better achieve our mission

Our Plan	Our Implementation	Our Measures	
Strategy 1D	Actions to implement the strategies	How we will monitor progress	Timeline
Expand the understanding and use of assessments that help students learn well	Increase timely feedback on district assessments to staff, students, departments and families	**(TLM)** 1D.1 Implement PowerSchool 1D.2 Develop policies and procedures 1D.3 Develop ongoing training plan 1D.4 Implement web-based standards based progress reports for PK-6 1D.5 Expand PowerSchool implementation to include PK-12 1D.6 Execute PowerTeacher (grade book) 1D.7 Pilot the parent portal 1D.8 Adopt the use of the parent portal	**2007-2008** Implement PowerSchool PK-6 **2008-09** Expand to PK-12 Pilot parent portal **2009-10** Implement parent portal
	Facilitate the distribution, analysis and use of MCAS test data to monitor progress	**(CI)** 1D.9 Research and select a vendor to facilitate data analysis (Community Partners), provide training and implement	**Summer/Fall 2007**
	Provide instructional development to help teachers learn how to design and utilize formative assessments to inform instruction and improve student achievement	**(CI)** 1D.10 Research and communicate collaborative models of Looking at Student Work (LASW) to calibrate grading with common rubrics across the district 1D.11 Develop and communicate alternative means for students to demonstrate proficiency in a variety of ways 1D.12 Communicate research on the benefits of student involvement in academic goal setting and progress monitoring 1D.13 Implement technology-based assessments (Lexia, Kurzweill, Skilstutor)	**2007-2010** Research and conduct needs assessment Provide instructional development and implement when ready (ongoing)

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Approved by Falmouth School Committee: 9/25/07

Priority 5

➢ Expand collaboration between students and teachers and principals and staff to improve **Strong Leadership (SL)**

Goal Statement   **Responsibility:** District Administration & School Committee

➢ **Goal 2:** Improve our **leadership** to better achieve our mission

Click to go to: 1) [Strategic Plan Glossary.doc](#)   2) [Appendix A.doc](#)   3) Progress Report: Due February

Our Plan	Our Implementation	Our Measures	
Strategy 2A	Actions to implement the strategies	How we will monitor progress	Timeline
Expand collaboration between students and teachers and principals and staff	Provide ongoing leadership training for Administrative Council and Instructional Leadership	**(S) (CI)** 2A.1 Survey administrative council and instructional leadership on needs 2A.2 Develop an action plan 2A.3 Implement training 2A.4 Provide time to reflect, design, pilot, and implement new programs and strategies	**2007-2010** Ongoing
	Identify implications of professional learning communities research at Administrative Council and Instructional Leadership meetings	**(S) (CI)** 2A.5 Instructional leadership will all read and discuss *On Common Ground* 2A.6 Develop and implement a sustained PLC training program 2A.7 Provide time for professional collaboration, reflection, to achieve understanding 2A.8 Provide leadership development opportunities for school leadership teams	**2007-2010** Ongoing

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Approved by Falmouth School Committee: 9/25/07

Priority 6
➢ Nurture a culture where parents feel invited to be involved with school staff – sharing data, ideas and concerns to improve **Parent/Community Involvement and Collaboration (PCIC)**

Goal Statement   **Responsibility:** District Administration & School Committee
➢ **Goal 2:** Improve our **leadership** to better achieve our mission

Click to go to: 1) Strategic Plan Glossary.doc   2) Appendix A.doc   3) Progress Report: Due February

Our Plan	Our Implementation	Our Measures	
Strategy 2B	**Actions to implement the strategies**	**How we will monitor progress**	**Timeline**
Nurture a culture where parents feel invited to be involved with school staff - sharing data, ideas and concerns	Redesign FPS website to improve communication	**(TLM)** 2B.1 Monthly meetings of working group 2B.2 Survey results on content inventory preferences 2B.3 Survey results on site design preferences 2B.4 Presentation on new website 2B.5 Pupil Personnel Services and special education sections updated	**2007-2008** Newly designed website – Spring 2008
	Increase internal and external communication	**(TLM)** 2B.6 Improve Website 2B.7 Implement Connect-Ed	**2007-2008**
	Improve and expand partnerships within the local community and with regional and national organizations and institutions	**(CI) (TLM)** 2B.8 Continue to work with partners to implement the Falmouth Kids Global Climate Change Institute 2B.9 Expand partnerships to implement the Falmouth Kids Global Climate Change Institute	**2007-2010**
	Develop a Parent Outreach Series across all levels, providing information to parents on developmentally appropriate issues and concerns	**(PPS)** 2B.10 Draft a series proposal and schedule 2B.11 Track attendance by parents 2B.12 Solicit parent feedback	**2007-2008**

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Approved by Falmouth School Committee: 9/25/07

Priority 7

➢ Expand ongoing in-house support for teachers, including time for internalizing, understanding and reflecting on what's been learned to improve **Instructional Development (ID)**

Goal Statement   **Responsibility:** District Administration & School Committee

➢ **Goal 2:** Improve our **leadership** to better achieve our mission

Click to go to: 1) Strategic Plan Glossary.doc   2) Appendix A.doc   3) Progress Report: Due February

Our Plan	Our Implementation	Our Measures	
Strategy 2C	Actions to implement the strategies	How we will monitor progress	Timeline
Expand ongoing in-house instructional development support for teachers, including time for internalizing, understanding and reflecting on what's been learned	Provide training in curriculum initiatives for all staff in a consistent, ongoing way	**(CI)** 2C.1 Publish district sponsored instructional development program offerings in advance 2C.2 Provide instructional development programs that promote the use of teaching strategies that will increase student engagement and support district initiatives 2C.3 Provide follow-up meetings for staff to reflect upon applying new skills to instructional practice 2C.4 Hire and utilize our ELA instructional coach to provide personalized, embedded, instructional development in our K-6 schools	**2007-2010** Provide ongoing instructional development aligned with our mission and core beliefs
	Provide time for teachers to internalize, understand and reflect upon new instructional strategies, assessments and programs adopted by the district	**(CI)** 2C.5 Identify staff meeting time to be used for grade-level meetings instructional improvement and best-practice consistency across the district	
	Continue to expand the mentoring and induction program	**(CI)** 2C.6 Publish a Mentor Handbook 2C.7 Implement district-wide mentor-protégé meetings 2C.8 Provide ongoing mentor training	

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Approved by Falmouth School Committee: 9/25/07

		(TLM) (CI)	
Page 2 Expand ongoing in-house instructional development support for teachers, including time for internalizing, understanding and reflecting on what's been learned	Pilot online instructional development delivery model	2C.9 Enrollment of staff in online training 2C.10 Report of online activity 2C.11 Staff evaluation of online training	**2007-2008**

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Approved by Falmouth School Committee: 9/25/07

Priority 8
➢ Develop flexible schedules to allow for more active teaching and learning to improve our use of **Time and Structure (TS)**

Goal Statement   **Responsibility:** District Administration & School Committee
➢ **Goal 2:** Improve our **leadership** to better achieve our mission

Our Plan	Our Implementation	Our Measures	
Strategy 2D	Actions to implement the strategies	How we will monitor progress	Timeline
Develop flexible schedules to allow for more active teaching and learning	Investigate models of alternative and flexible schedules to allow for more active teaching and learning. Continue the Rennie Center Initiative discussions regarding the use of time and structures to allow for more active teaching and learning Use PowerSchool to run models of different scheduling scenarios to allow for more active teaching and learning. Describe what can be learned from the time and structure internal analyses conducted by the East Falmouth and North Falmouth Elementary Schools	**(PPS) (TLM) (CI)** 2D.1 Report on time and structure K-12 with recommendations to allow for more active teaching and learning 2D.2 Implement recommendations	**2007-2008** Interim Report - Spring 2008 **2008-2009** Report with Recommendations - Spring 2009 **2009-2010** Implement endorsed recommendations

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Approved by Falmouth School Committee: 9/25/07

Priority 9

➢ Improve safety and security **(O)**

Goal Statement   **Responsibility:** District Administration & School Committee

➢ **Goal 3:** Improve **operations** to better achieve our mission

Our Plan	Our Implementation	Our Measures	
Strategy 3	**Actions to implement the strategies**	**How we will monitor progress**	**Timeline**
Conduct a thorough review of safety and security and develop an implementation plan	Implement Connect-Ed	**(AS) (TLM)** 3.1 Each principal will use Connect-Ed at least once each term 3.2 Report of usage	**2007-2008**
	Complete report by consultant with updated protocols and security recommendations	**(AS)** 3.3 Update, implement and practice safety protocols	**2007-2010** Biannually each school year
		(AS) 3.4 Review safety and security protocols annually with local agencies	**2007-2010** Annually; each summer
		(AS) 3.5 Assess and recommend installation of security monitoring devices	**December 2007** Budget recommendation

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Approved by Falmouth School Committee: 9/25/07

Priority 10

➢ Improve funding for instruction-related technology **(F)**

Goal Statement

Responsibility: District Administration & School Committee

➢ **Goal 4**: Improve **finances** to better achieve our mission

Click to go to: 1) Strategic Plan Glossary.doc   2) Appendix A.doc   3) Progress Report: Due February

Our Plan	Our Implementation	Our Measures	Timeline
Strategy 4	Actions to implement the strategies	How we will monitor progress	
Improve funding for instruction-related technology	Develop a comprehensive District Instructional Technology Plan	(TLM) (AS) 4.1 Current status report 4.2 Network audit report 4.3 Needs assessment results 4.4 Monthly meetings and Agendas of the Technology Advisory Board 4.5 Technology Plan written 4.6 Presentation of Plan to School Committee and positive vote attained 4.7 Technology Plan posted on website	**2007-2008**
	Seek alternative funding sources through grant and partnerships	(TLM) (AS) 4.8 Grants awarded 4.9 Increased technology funding	**2007-2010**
	Request additional technology funding as needed	(TLM) (AS) 4.10 Increased operational funding as needed for instruction-related technology 4.11 Technology Article on Town Warrant as needed for instruction-related technology	**FY 2009-11**

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