

Mission-Goals-Objectives

Enrollment Management Plan

This Enrollment Management Plan is an important tool for The Woodstock Academy which will provide a more strategic view of school enrollment, as well as a philosophical basis to guide a range of educational, facilities, and related decisions from a systemic view into the future. The Academy also recognizes that enrollment, and its impact on revenue, is central to The Academy's ability to plan responsibly, and depends on productive working relationships and long term commitments from sending towns that focus on quality education and support cost-effective solutions to common challenges.”(Strategic Plan, ‘06)

Research on school size over the past two decades supports the effectiveness of small to medium size high schools, those in the six hundred to twelve hundred student enrollment ranges. A number of studies on high school size find a correlation between small size and high achievement for poor and minority students, with all students performing at least as well, if not better than, large schools. An extensive study of public, private, and parochial high schools found that in schools smaller than six hundred students overall achievement gains began to decrease. Overall achievement tended to rise and plateau in schools in the nine hundred to twelve hundred student ranges. Overall achievement gains decreased in schools over twelve hundred students. According to US News and World Report rankings, the top high schools in the United States with open enrollment illustrate a wide range in overall school size with an average enrollment slightly over eleven hundred students. Other factors supported by research that favor the concept of small school effectiveness include the following: student attitudes, social behavior, extracurricular participation, safety, attendance, dropout rates, parental involvement, sense of community and belongingness, self-concept, interpersonal relations, and teacher attitudes. Factors cited that generally favor larger schools include cost-effectiveness and economies of scale, breadth and depth of curricular offerings that reflect student interest, faculty/staff depth, increased capacity to provide expanded athletic and co-curricular programs, and increased performance of students in high socioeconomic status communities. Research further indicates that larger schools can offer more comprehensive instructional programs of greater quality at lower costs than smaller schools. WestEd, a national nonprofit research agency concluded “Small schools are not a panacea, but they may be a key ingredient of a comprehensive approach to student success.”

Enrollment Management

- Based upon school size research, student achievement factors, and local demographics, the Board of Trustees endorses an enrollment range of one thousand one hundred (1100) to one thousand two hundred (1200) students as the ideal size of The Woodstock Academy.
- Strategies shall be in place to ensure the acceptance of eligible students from our sending towns that have established contracts with The Woodstock Academy.
- The enrollment management plan will include the intentional recruitment of private tuition students to help maintain a healthy and stable enrollment.

Approved: October 19, 2010

The Woodstock Academy
Woodstock, Connecticut