

February 15, 2022

At the last Board of Education Meeting, it was wonderful to see the Board making an effort to be more transparent with these meetings via the live stream on Worcester Public School's YouTube page. Thank you for providing an outlet for members of our community to view what is taking place during these meetings. At the last meeting, there seemed to be a lot of praise from the Superintendent of schools, verbally patting everyone on the back in regards to the state of our schools and the high academic value our schools instill on our future leaders.

Unfortunately, we the parents and community see something different.

According to the Director of Institutional Research at Wor-Wic Community College, alarming statistics were provided last month that leaves me concerned about the quality of core subjects being taught in Worcester County Schools. Of 71 graduates of Worcester County High Schools entering Wor-Wic community College, 18% required remedial training in reading, 24% required remedial training in writing and a staggering 51% required remedial training in mathematics. This means they could not begin taking college level classes in English or Mathematics. In grading terms, Worcester scored a B- in teaching Reading, a C in training students in writing, and an F in preparation of Mathematics.

Of 71 Worcester County High School students entering Wor-Wic Community College, 55% required remedial training before starting college level courses. This is also considered an F. Of all first time college students from all schools, 46% require some remedial training before taking college level courses. This does not deserve fist bumps and praise; this deserves a secondary glance at what our teachers are spending their time on during core subject hours.

The purpose of public education was to train students to become skilled workers while teaching them the traditional core academic disciplines.

There may be many reasons for these staggering low scores: The Covid pandemic displacing students to online learning, masking in current school conditions, mental health at an all time low, or a combination of all 3 or additional issues. Whatever the case may be, these numbers are simply unacceptable.