

PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT

Kathleen C. Greider, Superintendent of Schools
(860) 673-8268
greiderk@fpsct.org

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WELCOMING SCHOOLS WALKTHROUGHS AT WEST DISTRICT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Farmington Public Schools are committed to creating inclusive and supportive learning spaces for all children and families. As part of our broader efforts to meet the needs of our increasingly diverse population, we engaged in a Welcoming Schools Walkthrough at West District Elementary School on Tuesday, April 4, 2023. Welcoming Schools Walkthroughs are an

opportunity for guided self-assessment during which our schools can identify opportunities for continued growth in developing joyful and engaging school communities across the district.

Working alongside outside experts in Family Engagement, we are poised to take a fresh look at new opportunities to welcome families into our school communities and develop trusting partnerships that support children's academic and social needs. *Welcoming Schools Walkthroughs* are facilitated by CREC with a team that consists of parents and community members along with district staff. We are excited about the team approach to reviewing our current practices and finding new ways to strengthen our communication and engagement with families.

Natalie Simpson, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Coordinator for the Farmington Public Schools, thinks that the suggestions from the *Welcoming Schools Walkthrough* “support our dedication to continuous improvement and help us further support and celebrate our school community's diversity”. This work is part of the broader work supported by our Equity Framework and sponsored by the CCEI Community Engagement Subcommittee.

“The *Welcoming Schools Walkthrough* provides a unique opportunity for our faculty to see West District School as our new students, families, and guests see it--through fresh eyes”, says Carolyn Fink, Principal of West District Elementary School. “I am excited to invite our families, community members, and former students to help us explore both our strengths and our areas for growth. While the *Welcoming Schools Walkthrough* is being hosted by West District Elementary School, the takeaways will be shared among our 6 other schools, supporting the Farmington Public Schools in creating even more inclusive and supportive environments for all students and families”.