

Weston Global Education Committee
Weston Global Education: Standards and Big Ideas
June 2009

Mission Statement:

The Weston Public Schools is committed to fostering the growth of our PreK-12 students to prepare them for the Global community: infusing our curriculum with the skills, content knowledge and experiences that prepare students to navigate an interconnected world no longer limited by time, geography, national boundaries or culture.

Standard 1: **Students will understand global interconnections.**

Big Ideas*:

1. We share a common humanity.
2. Actions in one area cause reactions in another.
3. The shared climate requires shared responsibility.
4. In a global economy there are positive and negative results of interdependence as one economy impacts others.
5. Geographical location influences a continent's development and interaction with other countries.

Standard 2: **Students will recognize and appreciate the diversity of cultures throughout the world.**

Big Ideas:

1. Language, art, religion, cuisine, and history are key elements of culture.
2. Human beings create, learn, and adapt culture.
3. Culture helps us to understand ourselves as both individuals and members of various groups.
4. Human cultures exhibit both similarities and differences.
5. Cultures are dynamic and ever changing.

Standard 3: **Students will be able to communicate effectively to develop connections with a diverse range of cultures.**

Big Ideas:

1. Cultures include distinctive ways of communicating and living that require understanding and respect.
2. Given that the majority of the world is bilingual, students need diverse language skills.
3. Technology is an important form/tool of communication in the 21st century.

Standard 4: **Students will think critically and work collaboratively in cross-cultural contexts.**

Big Ideas:

1. Political, economic, environmental, social, geographic, and historical contexts impact decision making processes.
2. Critical thinking, abstract reasoning, and creativity are essential to being a global citizen.
3. Problem solving and solutions are impacted by cultural perspectives.

Standard 5: **Students will be competent in world geography and understand its influences in the world.**

Big Ideas:

1. The movement and interaction of peoples are influenced by geography.
2. Human decisions impact geography.
3. Geography influences development and interactions.

*Big Ideas are enduring understandings that provide teachers and students a conceptual base for learning. Big Ideas are core concept embedded in Standards.