

For the 2024-25 year, Worcester Educational Access Television (WEA-TV), the public education access channel for the City of Worcester that is part of the Worcester Public Schools Communications Department, focused on producing a series of videos under 2 minutes long that explained high-level programs or initiatives to an audience of students, families, and community members. Worcester Public Schools is a highly diverse district with nearly 25,000 students and 50 schools or programs. Video 1: Countdown to Kindergarten event (8/29/24) at Polar Park, the home of the minor league Worcester Red Sox. Hundreds of families of children entering kindergarten attend to partake in fun activities, along with resources to help families understand what they need to know about attending school. Video 2: Culture and Climate Assistants feature (1/10/25). In a bold move, the district now employs Culture and Climate Assistants in every secondary school. These specialists are there to connect with students on social-emotional issues and are a proactive measure to safety and well-being. Student and staff sense of belonging and safety has been on the increase since this approach has taken shape. This was a highly public move and debated by our School Committee. Video 3: Importance of MCAS (3/14/25). In November 2024, voters in Massachusetts chose to stop mandating that students had to pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System exam as a graduation requirement. However, students are still required to take the exam and districts are still measured on MCAS performance for accountability. Out of an abundance of concern that high school students would no longer see the need to perform well on the test, WEA-TV made this video to showcase why doing well on the MCAS is still important for students. Video 4: South High Community School Career Technical Education (10/16/24): The district continues to expand its Career Technical Education programs inside comprehensive high schools. This video was made as an overview of South High Community School's three Chapter 74 (state-approved) CTE programs: Culinary Arts, Diesel Technology, and Early Childhood Education. This is important information for eighth-grade families who are determining what high school they should select for ninth grade. Video 5: My Stop School Bus App (9/27/24): We produced this video about the My Stop school bus smartphone app, which tracks the location of a child's bus. This video is intended to help families understand how to use the app. We embedded this video on the

Transportation website and distributed it on social media and ParentSquare.