

Improved Student Connection to Newburyport

<p>Students feel connected to the Newburyport community.</p> <p><i>Vision Statement</i></p> <p>Newburyport provides a supportive, protective and fair environment for its students. Students feel that the community values and supports them in the pursuit of their goals. Students can establish and grow social relationships and activities with friends without unfair or ad hoc restrictions. As part of a community that communicates clearly and openly, Newburyport students understand the legal and moral limits for their activities and behaviors.</p> <p>Students continually increase their connection with Newburyport. Students support community organizations through voluntary community service. Students collaborate to understand and address concerns of Newburyport businesses, organizations, and people.</p>	

Opportunity for Improvement

According to the *Assets Survey* results, our students lack the protective asset of feeling valued by the Newburyport community. Although the community strongly values its citizens' connection to the community -- including the City's youth -- our youth do not sense such a connection. The community believes that strengthening this asset is important. When our students feel more valued by the community and when they more value the community, they will be safer, better learners, and better citizens.

Root Cause: Insufficient data to understand problem

We do not have good data to determine extent of problem or from which to measure progress

Long Term Strategies	FY09 Specific Actions
Utilize surveys, focus groups and other techniques to ascertain level of student connection to the Newburyport community and obstacles to students forming a positive relationship, and, obstacles to feeling valued by the community.	Work with NYS and the Beacon Coalition to hold community focus groups and gather data on community climate and what youth see as positive and negative in their relationship to the Newburyport community.

Root Cause: Student perception of Newburyport is low

Students' perceptions of how the community values them are low due to past experience, misperception, or lack of knowledge.

Long Term Strategies	FY09 Specific Actions
Create experiences for students, based on survey results, that can potentially lead to more positive perceptions of the community.	School Committee sponsor a working session with NYS and other partners to explore and brainstorm collaborative programs which help to increase positive connections with the community.
Educate the community about student perceptions of the community.	Work with NYS and the Beacon Coalition to report results to the Newburyport community from all Asset and Risk surveys in which Newburyport has participated.
Collaborate with NYS and other partners to help educate community members about the Assets and	

Long Term Strategies	FY09 Specific Actions
<p>asset building behaviors and strategies.</p> <p>Create more opportunities for positive student-senior citizen interaction.</p>	