**2017-2018 WCSD Essential Learnings Expectations Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s)**

***Why essential learnings?***

To ensure that we have a systematic and practical approach to mastery of our most essential of content area/grade specific standards.

***What are essential learnings?***

Essential learnings are mindfully selected, grade/course specific standards within each content areas that ALL students must know and be able to do by the end of each school year. Essential standards represent the assured student competencies that each teacher needs to help every student learn, and demonstrate proficiency in, by the end of the current grade or course.

***How are essential learnings determined?***

All of our courses are derived from a specific set of state and/or national level standards. At the professional learning community level, standards are examined deeply to determine if a standard is deemed “essential” by utilizing the following criteria:

**Endurance:** Lasting beyond one grade or course; concepts and skills needed in life

**Leverage:** Crossover application within the content area and to other content areas (Interdisciplinary)

**Readiness:** Prerequisite concepts and skills students need to enter a new grade level or course of study

**What about the other standards we teach that are not deemed essential?**

Other (Supporting) standards WILL be taught alongside our essentials however may not receive the same level of instruction and/or assessment emphasis as the essential learnings. In other words, we will NOT just teach from our list of essential learnings.