



Warwick Valley Central School District, NY

About the District

Location:

Warwick, NY

Setting:

Suburban/Rural

Enrollment:

3,700

Economically Disadvantaged:

22%

Multilingual Learners:

1%

Title I Schools:

Some

See how Warwick Valley built student-owned learning through shared instructional language

Corwin Solution

Visible Learning+ Teacher Clarity

Years Implemented:
2024–2026

Consultants:
Kim West

The Challenge

Warwick Valley's students performed well on traditional measures, but leadership wanted to move beyond that single metric toward broader "Portrait of a Graduate" goals. This meant shifting instruction from passive knowledge transfer to active student ownership of learning — a shift that required a shared instructional language educators didn't yet have.



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Our Approach

Working closely with their Corwin advisor, Warwick Valley leadership co-designed an embedded, foundational approach to Visible Learning, built around a broader goal: improving instruction district-wide and shifting toward student-owned learning, all through a shared instructional language.

That work was organized into 16 cohorts—elementary teachers grouped by grade level, secondary teachers by department—each paired with an administrator. In 2024–2025, administrators completed the Visible Learning Foundation workshop first so they could support

their cohorts, followed by every teacher in the district, building a shared understanding of which instructional practices have the greatest impact on student learning and why. In 2025–2026, cohorts moved into Teacher Clarity, helping teachers define clear learning targets and success criteria so students understand not just what they’re learning, but why.

Corwin faculty member Kim West spent 60 days each year working directly with the cohorts, walking educators through the research behind each practice and helping them apply it to their own curriculum.

Results for Educators

- Speak a common instructional language across the district, regardless of content expertise
- Frame instruction in ways that invite student ownership, not passive compliance
- Display learning targets and success criteria clearly in every classroom
- Apply new strategies in the classroom, and refine over time



Visible Learning has strengthened Warwick’s focus on what matters most: understanding our impact on student learning. It has created a shared language across classrooms and schools, helping educators use evidence, clarity, and reflection to make intentional instructional decisions that move every learner forward.



—Dr. Meghan McGourty
Assistant Superintendent
for Curriculum & Instruction



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Results for Students

- Articulate what they're learning and why, not just what to do
- Feel calmer in class, knowing what to expect
- Engage in more analytical thinking and student-led discussion
- Describe learning as more relevant and personally meaningful



I feel like my teacher providing learning targets really gets my head in the right space to learn. When I'm reading off the board what I am going to be learning that day before my teacher even starts talking, it helps me prepare myself and set my goals for what I'm going to learn.



—8th-grade student
Warwick Valley MS

A Story of Impact

Warwick Valley's art teacher wasn't excited to learn she'd be attending mentoring training right before winter break—it felt like one more thing added to an already full plate. But something shifted over the course of the day. By the time she got home, she wasn't just relieved it was over; she was genuinely eager to tell her husband and daughter about the new ways of engaging her students she'd discovered.

Not long after, she wrote to the leadership team: *"I wanted to reach out again and thank you for taking the time to put us on this journey and path to success, finding such meaningful new ways of looking at and presenting content areas to our students. As a parent, as an educator, I'm exhilarated by this approach."*

Looking Ahead

- **Feedback:** The district's primary focus going forward will be on feedback, a natural progression since teacher clarity is well embedded. The work is two-way: teachers giving students more meaningful, timely feedback tied to their learning targets, and seeking feedback from students about how instruction has landed.
- **New-teacher onboarding:** Introducing Visible Learning+ and Teacher Clarity to a new cohort ensures incoming educators start the work from day one.
- **Long-term goal:** Visible Learning School certification for Warwick's elementary schools.

Find out what Visible Learning+ and Teacher Clarity could do for your school or district.

Contact your Corwin Advisor to discuss how we can help you meet your learning goals.