

Downers Grove Grade School District 58 School Improvement Plan Whittier School 2023-2024

Goal #1 - ELA (Small Group and Differentiated Instruction)

Statement of Goal

Over the course of the 2023-24 school year, the Whittier School team will focus on small group instruction and differentiation in the area of reading throughout grades K-6. The Instructional Leadership Team will support the staff in creating a structure, guiding implementation, and providing strategies to successfully incorporate small group instruction and differentiation within each classroom.

Rationale for Goal

The Whittier Instructional Leadership Team met several times to review data and assess areas of strength and areas for potential growth within our school. It was determined that in order to improve student achievement and growth in reading, a focus on small groups, and differentiated instruction would allow teachers to meet the specific needs of all students in the way they learn, and the pace in which they learn.

Implementation and Support of Goal

At Whittier, all teachers in grades K-6 will effectively utilize, with fidelity, small group and differentiated instruction. Teachers in grades K-6 will receive support in creating a structure, guiding implementation, and providing strategies to successfully incorporate small group instruction and differentiation within each classroom. Professional learning opportunities will be provided on designated PLM dates. Building Principal and ILT will observe small group lessons and provide feedback to assist teacher reflection and refining of the small group and differentiated instruction process.

Plans and Timelines to Measure Effectiveness

The effectiveness of this goal will depend on the implementation of small group and differentiated instruction. Throughout the implementation, both baseline and progress data will be collected, reviewed, and reflected upon for guidance in instructional planning and student progress. Whittier staff will be supported through training, implementing, and reflecting throughout each of the trimesters this school year.

Measurement of this goal will include:

- Fall, Winter, and Spring staff survey comparison
- professional development plan implementation

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- data collection on Benchmark assessments
- data collection on MAP

Year-End Goal Review (to be completed June 2024)

Review of Implementation

Review of Impact

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Goal #2 (Positive Behavior Support System)

Statement of Goal

Whittier School will implement District 58's tenets of Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe in all areas of our building with fidelity during the 2023-24 school year.

Rationale for Goal

District 58's Mission Statement states: "The mission of District 58, in partnership with parents and community, is to challenge and engage each child by providing quality educational programs and support services in a safe, nurturing and child-centered environment in order to prepare all students to be lifelong learners and contributing members of a global society." Research consistently demonstrates that a safe, positive school environment leads to improved student and teacher outcomes, and a reduction in disciplinary actions (source: Center on PBIS).

A district committee was formed during the 2022-23 school year to develop district-wide approaches to positive behavior supports. During the 2023-24 school year, each of the 13 buildings in District 58 will implement a system that includes those district-wide principles, describing and encouraging positive behaviors throughout the school environment.

Implementation and Support of Goal

At Whittier, all teachers in grades K-6 will effectively participate in the All School PBSS program.. The Whittier PBSS team developed a plan to be implemented schoolwide, which includes schoolwide student expectations, along with a positive reinforcement program. Professional learning opportunities will be provided on designated PLM dates, during Faculty Meetings, and during Building-Level Committee Meetings. The Whittier PBSS team will serve as mentors to the entire staff as this new program is rolled out.

Plans and Timelines to Measure Effectiveness

The effectiveness of this goal will depend on the implementation of the Whittier Schoolwide PBSS Program. PBSS Program will include:

- Introduction of Schoolwide Student Expectations
- Jaguar Jackpot
- Weekly, Monthly, Special, Classroom, All School raffle drawings and prizes
- Monthly PBSS Assemblies to recognize and celebrate student behavioral growth

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Measurement of this goal will include the plan, outcome, and participation of a schoolwide behavior expectations program. All School Common Expectations and Language (Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe) will be developed, modeled, and implemented. Raffle tickets will be tabulated and confirm the level of participation.

Year-End Goal Review (to be completed June 2024)

Review of Implementation

Review of Impact

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Goal #3 (Writing Curriculum)

Statement of Goal

Whittier School will implement the School Wide Writing Fundamentals Program in Grades K-5 with fidelity in the 2023-24 school year.

Rationale for Goal

For the past several years, review of District 58 data has revealed that student's writing achievement, particularly on the state assessments, was an area of relative weakness. A writing sub-committee has spent several years reviewing best practice and exploring writing resources that could potentially strengthen instruction. In June of 2023, the Board of Education approved the purchase and adoption of a core writing resource for Kindergarten through fifth grade in District 58.

As stated in the What Works ClearingHouse publication "Teaching Elementary School Students to Be Effective Writers," an early foundation in writing offers students a valuable tool for learning, communication, and self-expression. The implementation of the core resource School-Wide Writing Fundamentals in grades kindergarten through fifth grade, will not only provide daily instruction and time for students to write, students will use the writing process for a variety of purposes, build writing fluency, and engage with a community of writers as aligned to the four recommendations in Teaching Elementary School Students to Be Effective Writers.

Implementation and Support of Goal

At Whittier, all teachers in grades K-5 will effectively utilize, with fidelity, the School Wide Writing Fundamentals Program. Teachers in grades K and 5 piloted the writing program last school year, and will serve as mentors, along with the Instructional Coach. Professional learning opportunities will be provided on designated PLM dates. Building Principal will observe writing lessons and provide feedback to assist teacher reflection and refining of the writing process and curriculum.

Plans and Timelines to Measure Effectiveness

The effectiveness of this goal will depend on the implementation of the School Wide Writing Fundamentals Program. Throughout the implementation, both baseline and progress data will be collected, reviewed, and reflected upon for guidance in instructional planning. Whittier staff will be

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supported through training, implementing, and reflecting throughout each of the trimesters this school year.

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Year-End Goal Review (to be completed June 2024)

Review of Implementation

Review of Impact