

# **Downers Grove Grade School District 58 School Improvement Plan**

## **El Sierra School 2023-2024**

### **Goal #1**

#### **Statement of Goal**

El Sierra School will continue targeted instruction of foundational skills in kindergarten through 2nd grades. Additionally, El Sierra will target the area of literary text in grades 3rd through sixth during the 2023-24 school year.

#### **Rationale for Goal**

The El Sierra Instructional Leadership Team met several times to review data and assess areas of strength and areas for potential growth within our school and determined that a continued focus is needed in the area of foundational skills at the kindergarten through second-grade levels, and literary text in grades three through six. According to the US Department of Education's guide called *Foundational Skills to Support Reading for Understanding in Kindergarten Through 3rd Grade*, it is important to "develop awareness of the segments of sounds in speech and how they link to letters," and, "analyze word parts, and write and recognize words"(p. 3). The National Reading Panel's Report stresses the use of different types of text while working on reading comprehension. Different types of texts place different demands on learners. Reading a story successfully entails understanding the plot, characters and relationships, and so much more. The use of foundational skills in small groups in kindergarten through second grade and the Benchmark literary text curriculum in grades three through five, along with StudySync in sixth grade will provide students with targeted instruction in these areas.

#### **Implementation and Support of Goal**

The strength of this goal will be measured by the fidelity in which the resources are used, the time allocated to professional development in these areas at faculty meetings and professional learning Mondays, and student progress as measured by classroom data, and NWEA MAP scores. El Sierra will utilize the grade-level team meetings to discuss strategies and model lessons with a focus on foundational skills and literary text. These activities will be led by the reading specialist and principal.

#### **Plans and Timelines to Measure Effectiveness**

The success of this goal is ultimately measured by the presence of instruction aligned with the resources, strategies, and pedagogy within the Benchmark/StudySync curricula. This instructional presence will be verified using a combination of observational and feedback tools, including but not

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limited to principal walk-throughs and observations, teacher reflection and feedback, review of lesson plans and materials, student artifacts and outcomes, grade-level collaboration and conversations, and year-end review of sequence and pacing.

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

#### **Review of Implementation**

#### **Review of Impact**

### **Goal #2**

#### **Statement of Goal**

El Sierra School will begin targeted instruction in the area of math for Operations & Algebraic Thinking, specifically in the area of word problems and problem solving for the 2023-24 school year.

#### **Rationale for Goal**

The El Sierra Instructional Leadership Team met several times to review data and assess areas of strength and areas for potential growth within our school and determined that a focus is needed in the area of Operations and Algebraic Thinking, specifically with word problems. According to the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, “Problem-solving is the cornerstone of school mathematics. Unless students can solve problems, the facts, concepts, and procedures they know are of little use”. Additionally, the Standards for Mathematical Practice (SMPs) include a student’s ability to “Make Sense of Problems and Persevere in Solving Them (SMP 1). The targeted use of word problems and a focus on problem-solving in small groups in kindergarten through sixth grade by using the Bridges and Big Ideas curriculum will support this school-wide goal.

#### **Implementation and Support of Goal**

The strength of this goal will be measured by the fidelity in which the resources are used, the time allocated to professional development in these areas at faculty meetings and professional learning Mondays, and student progress as measured by classroom data, Forefront data, and NWEA MAP scores. El Sierra will utilize the grade-level team meetings to discuss strategies and model lessons with a

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focus on solving word problems in math. These activities will be led by the math interventionist, instructional coach, and principal.

### **Plans and Timelines to Measure Effectiveness**

The success of this goal is ultimately measured by the presence of instruction aligned with the resources, strategies, and pedagogy within the Bridges & Big Ideas curricula. This instructional presence will be verified using a combination of observational and feedback tools, including but not limited to principal walk-throughs and observations, teacher reflection and feedback, review of lesson plans and materials, review of Forefront data, student artifacts and outcomes, grade-level collaboration and conversations, and year-end review of sequence and pacing.

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

#### **Review of Implementation**

#### **Review of Impact**

### **Goal #3**

#### **Statement of Goal**

El Sierra 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).

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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**

The strength of this goal will be measured by the fidelity in which the school staff reinforces positive behavior and consistently provides re-teaching of the common expectations of students in all areas of the school. Resources and time have been allocated to professional development in these areas at faculty meetings and professional learning Mondays. El Sierra will utilize the grade-level team meetings to discuss strategies with a focus on common expectations and restorative practices. These activities will be led by the social worker, psychologist, teachers, and principal.

### **Plans and Timelines to Measure Effectiveness**

The success of this goal is ultimately measured by the presence of positive behavior celebrations throughout the school, and proactive conversations with students by all staff regarding behavioral expectations throughout the school year. This will be verified using a combination of observational and feedback tools, including but not limited to principal walk-throughs and observations, teacher reflection and feedback, and a review of SEL lessons and materials. Student behavioral data and the number of incidents as measured by classroom and PowerSchool data.

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

#### **Review of Implementation**

#### **Review of Impact**

### **Goal #4**

#### **Statement of Goal**

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

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### **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**

The strength of this goal will be measured by the fidelity in which the resources are used, the time allocated to professional development in these areas at faculty meetings and professional learning Mondays, and student progress as measured by classroom data, and NWEA MAP scores. El Sierra will utilize the grade-level team meetings to discuss strategies and model lessons with a focus on the new writing curriculum. These activities will be led by the instructional coach, curriculum coordinator, and/or principal.

### **Plans and Timelines to Measure Effectiveness**

The success of this goal is ultimately measured by the presence of instruction aligned with the resources, strategies, and pedagogy within the *School-Wide* curricula. This instructional presence will be verified using a combination of observational and feedback tools, including but not limited to principal walk-throughs and observations, teacher reflection and feedback, review of lesson plans and materials, student artifacts and outcomes, grade-level collaboration and conversations, and year-end review of sequence and pacing.

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

### **Review of Implementation**

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