

Downers Grove Grade School District 58 School Improvement Plan

Pierce Downer School 2023-2024

Goal #1

Statement of Goal

During the 2023-24 school year, students will demonstrate an improved understanding of morphemes to enhance their vocabulary acquisition, reading comprehension, and written expression skills.

Rationale for Goal

By focusing on enhancing morpheme awareness, students will become more equipped with skills to contribute to their academic success and lifelong language.

Implementation and Support of Goal

- Students in K-3 will use curricular resources that include morpheme instruction, word parts, writing and vocabulary, that are research based.
- Students in grades 4-6 will be using Morpheme Magic, programming that explicitly teaches and builds morpheme awareness skills in readers of all levels.
- ILT will be supporting classroom teachers to ensure fidelity of implementation
- ILT will use peer modeling to help support instruction, assessment, and groupings
- ILT will provide resources and support for classrooms for morpheme instruction

Plans and Timelines to Measure Effectiveness

- September and October will be used to gauge students' baseline knowledge and review curriculum standards with staff related to morphology and word analysis.
- November and December will be introductory lessons, introducing the concept of morphemes and their importance in word formation.
- January and February will connect the understanding of morphemes to vocabulary building and cross-curricular connections.
- Provide mid-year assessments to measure progress.
- March through the end of the year will review areas where students may need additional support and introduce more advanced morphemes and word formation rules.

Downers Grove Grade School District 58 School Improvement Plan

Pierce Downer School 2023-2024

Goal #2

Statement of Goal

During the 2023-24 school year, teachers will develop and implement effective classroom management plans that foster a positive and inclusive learning environment, resulting in improved student engagement, behavior, and academic performance.

Rationale for Goal

By focusing on classroom management plans, teachers will develop comprehensive and tailored management systems that promote expected behaviors and support the academic, social, and emotional growth of all students.

Implementation and Support of Goal

To support this goal, the building principal will share the common expectations at the end of the previous school year, to gather feedback and finalize for opening day of SY23-24. With an introduction at the beginning of the year, along with the

Plans and Timelines to Measure Effectiveness

- Review previous year feedback and data to pinpoint specific classroom management challenges.
- Introduce the school improvement goal and rationale at opening day institute.
- Create and share districtwide process for reporting challenging behaviors that align with the PBSS and MTSS model.
- September and October will be spent developing classroom rules and expectations, involving students whenever possible in that process. Define consistent routines and procedures for various classroom activities.
- Implement school wide system for positive reinforcement and acknowledge students for following rules and expectations.
- Focus on building positive relationships with students. Spend time getting to know them and understanding their needs. Improve communication with students and their families about expectations and consequences.
- Gather qualitative and quantitative data on behavior, documenting incidents, patterns, and changes.

Downers Grove Grade School District 58 School Improvement Plan

Pierce Downer School 2023-2024

Goal #3 (All Buildings)

Statement of Goal

Pierce Downer 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

- Identify the PBSS team within the building and conduct the initial training for staff during institute days.
- Prioritize sharing the PD Promise (promise to be respectful, responsible, and safe) in the beginning of the school year.
- Regularly review with staff and students to ensure a shared understanding of the PBSS principles.

Plans and Timelines to Measure Effectiveness

- Assess current school climate and culture needs for both students and staff.
- Review and implement the tiered system of supports, including universal (district and building), targeted (classroom or group), and intensive (individual) interventions.

Downers Grove Grade School District 58 School Improvement Plan

Pierce Downer School 2023-2024

- Continuously monitor and collect data to assess the effectiveness of the PBSS model, make necessary adjustments and improvements.
- Proactively identify potential challenges and reinforce expected behaviors prior to the occurrence.

Goal #4 (Elementary Buildings Only)

Statement of Goal

Pierce Downer 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

- In year one, Pierce Downer staff will focus on program development and preparedness. This will include the scope and goals of the program, including desired learning outcomes for each grade level.
- Participate in Professional development opportunities.

Downers Grove Grade School District 58 School Improvement Plan

Pierce Downer School 2023-2024

Plans and Timelines to Measure Effectiveness

- Follow the scope and sequence while also being responsive to student needs.
- Utilize the Forefront program to ensure fidelity with standards based reporting and to make informed decisions for instruction.