Clifford Pierce Middle School



Title 1 School Improvement Plan

2023 - 2024

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	Schoolwide Plan Components – Checklist					
	Required Components of a Title I, A Schoolwide Plan	LEA Review				
1	A comprehensive needs assessment of the whole school	<u>p. 6</u>				
2	 Implementation of schoolwide reform strategies that: Provide opportunities for all children to meet proficient and advanced levels of student academic achievement Use effective methods and instructional strategies that are based on scientifically based research that strengthens the core academic program Increases the amount of learning time Includes strategies for serving underserved populations Includes strategies to address the needs of all children in the school, but particularly low achieving children and those at risk of not meeting state standards Address how the school will determine if those needs of the children have been met Are consistent with and are designed to implement state and local improvement plans, if any 	p. 10				
3	Highly qualified teachers in all core content area classes	<u>p.16</u>				
4	High quality and ongoing professional development for teachers, principals, and paraprofessionals	<u>p.19</u>				
5	Strategies to attract high-quality teachers to this school	<u>p.20</u>				
6	Strategies to increase parental involvement, such as literacy services 6a. Description how the school will provide individual academic assessment results to parents	<u>p.21</u>				

	6b. Strategies to involve parents in the planning, review, and improvement of the schoolwide plan	
7	Plans for assisting preschool children in the transition from early childhood programs such as Head Start, Even Start, Early Reading First, or a state-run preschool program	<u>p.23</u>
8	Opportunities and expectations for teachers to be included in the decision making related to the use of academic assessment results leading to the improvement of student achievement	<u>p.24</u>
9	Activities and programs at the school level to ensure that students having difficulty mastering proficient and advanced levels of the academic achievement are provided with effective, timely additional assistance	p. 10 p. 26 p.35
10 10a.	Coordination and integration of Federal, State and local funds; and resources such as in-kind services and program components List programs that will be consolidated under the schoolwide plan (if applicable)	<u>p.24</u>

Description of the School

Clifford Pierce Middle School is located in the town of Merrillville, Indiana. The community is a mix of socioeconomic middle class and lower middle class. Merrillville Community School Corporation has an enrollment of approximately 6000 students with 2105 students enrolled in five K-4 elementary schools, 915 at Merrillville Intermediate School, 982 at Clifford Pierce Middle School, and 2021 at Merrillville High School. Clifford Pierce Middle School exclusively comprised of 7th and 8th grade students within the school community. Clifford Pierce Middle School is a one-of-a-kind building, which has been featured in architectural publications. One of the unique features of Clifford Pierce Middle School is the planetarium, which serves over 26,000 visitors each year with programs for all Merrillville school districts, and the community at-large.

Various ethnic, racial, and religious groups and traditions are represented within the student population. The enrollment at Clifford Pierce Middle School is approximately 960 students for 7th and 8th grade. The ethnic makeup of the student population is diverse with 65.3% Black, 11.1% White, 18.3% Hispanic, 4.4% multiracial, and .7% Asian. Included in the student population are 14.9% special education students and 2.4% English Language Learner students. Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch represent 62.2% of the total population. Three administrators, one dean, two guidance counselors, two social workers, one school nurse, 66 teachers including 6 special education teachers, and 56 support staff serve the school.

Merrillville Community School Corporation Mission and Vision Statements

Vision:

Every Child. Every Day. Whatever It Takes.

Mission Statement

- Creates quality learning experiences by setting standards that engage students to reach their highest potential
- Provides learning environments that are enhanced through meaningful relationships that give students a global perspective
- Empowers students to believe they can be successful

Clifford Pierce Middle School Mission and Vision Statements

Mission Statement

Preparing, Inspiring, Respecting, and Transforming Every Student (PIRATES)

<u>Vision</u>

Clifford Pierce Middle School has adopted a vision that emphasizes the importance of academics, develops the character of students, and creates an environment that is conducive to learning. This vision is the basis for the future and drives the mission of the middle school. The professional faculty, staff, and administration understand and accept personal responsibility for achieving the mission of the school; and the school is committed to continuous improvement and quality which results in the highest possible levels of student achievement.

A rigorous curriculum prepares students for future success. Clearly written goals aligned with demanding academic standards have been established and reach far beyond the minimum standards required by the Indiana Department of Education. As a result, students are inspired with an appreciation for the need to learn skills to be college and career ready while acquainting them with new and expanding technology. Each student is encouraged to take ownership for their learning which results in the mastery of basic and grade-level skills.

Clifford Pierce Middle School collaborates with the community to provide a welcoming and safe environment. Families and members of the community are welcomed to participate and assist with a variety of educational programs. Students are inspired by teachers who use a wide range of teaching methods in order to ensure that students are active learners. The critical components of PBIS (Be respectful, Be responsible, and Be safe) are emphasized with the students on a daily basis. This daily emphasis assists in transforming students into responsible, respectful, accountable, life-long learners and productive citizens.

Comprehensive Needs Assessment

The goals set forth in the 2023-2024 SIP are based on the data obtained from the Comprehensive Needs Assessment. Both Math and English/Language Arts goals were based on the data shown below. An analysis of the data indicates a need for increasing the low proficiency rates, especially within the Special Education subgroup.

i-Ready Data

Spring 2023 - 6th grade and 7th grade i-Ready Data

Targeted iReady Domains	Grade	Mid or Above Grade Level	Early On Grade Level	On Grade Level	One Grade Level Below	Two Grade Levels Below	Three or More Grade Levels Below	Below Grade Level
<u>Math</u> Algebra & Algebraic Thinking	6 / 7 Total Avg.	20 / 15 17.5	24 / 20 22	44 / 35 39.5	30 / 32 31	13 / 12 12.5	13 / 21 17	56 /65 60.5
<u>Math</u> Number & Operations	6 / 7 Total Avg.	27 / 24 25.5	20 / 24 22	47 / 48 47.5	30 /22 26	13 / 14 13.5	9 / 15 12	52 /51 51.5
<u>E/LA</u> Vocabulary	6 / 7 Total Avg.	25 / 24 24.5	13 / 20 16.5	38 / 44 41	30 / 20 27	15 / 15 15	18 / 21 19.5	63/ 56 59.5
<u>E/LA</u> Comprehension Informational Text	6 / 7 Total Avg.	26 / 23 24.5	15 / 17 16	41 / 40 40.5	25 / 16 20.5	10 / 10 10	25 / 34 29.5	60 / 60 60

Targeted iReady Domains	Grade	Mid or Above Grade Level	Early On Grade Level	On Grade Level	One Grade Level Below	Two Grade Levels Below	Three or More Grade Levels Below	Below Grade Level
<u>Math</u> Overall Score	6 / 7 Total Avg.	18 / 15 13	26 / 23 16	44 / 38 29	31 / 28 35	11 / 15 15	13 / 19 21	55 /62 71
<u>E/LA</u> Overall Score	6 / 7 Total Avg.	24/ 21 22	17/ 23 16	41 / 44 38	25/ 18 24	12/ 9 16	21/ 29 22	58 / 56 <mark>62</mark>

ILEARN Data Current 7th & 8th Grade

7th Grade Math	Grade Math % Passing Gen Ed % Passing SpEd		% Passing
2018-2019	33	11	30
2020-2021	24	5	22
2021-2022	29	.2	29
2022-2023	16	1	15

8th Grade Math	% Passing Gen Ed	% Passing SpEd	% Passing Total
2018-2019	29	2	25
2020-2021	18	0	15
2021-2022	13	.4	13
2022-2023	11	5	10

7th Grade ELA	% Passing Gen Ed % Passing SpEd		% Passing Total
2018-2019	43	8	38
2020-2021	43	6	38
2021-2022	40	.4	40
2022-2023	33	3	30

8th Grade ELA	th Grade ELA % Passing Gen Ed % Passing SpEd		% Passing Total
2018-2019	41	3	36
2020-2021	40	9	36
2021-2022	27	1	27
2022-2023	29	9	27

Attendance Data

In studying the attendance data over four years, the data shows that intentional and purposeful plans need to be in place to raise the overall attendance rate. Data is tracked by grade and the averages for all years are shown below. An action plan and goal were developed to target students who fall below a 97% attendance rate.

Grade	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
7th	95.8	98.8	94.52	84.78	87.6
8th	95.9	98.32	93.99	84.85	86.69
Total School Year	95.7	98.56	94.24	83.23	87.14

Discipline Data

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Office Referrals	3605	896	165	4322	16,269 or 10,565
Detention	1122	1486	0	1517	3225
Friday School	469	494	0	330	1302
In-school Suspension	335	350	66	704	771
Out of School Suspension	291	314	75	423	422

Summary of Findings (Weaknesses, Root Causes)

An analysis of the 2021- 2022 data led to the following observations and conclusions:

<u>Weakness</u>

- Algebra & Algebraic Thinking and Number and Operations are the lowest domains on Math iReady Diagnostic Assessment
- Vocabulary is the lowest domain on English/LA iReady Diagnostic

Root Causes

- Lack of common formative and summative assessments
- Low academic expectations
- Lack of academic interventions for students
- iREADY not being done with fidelity

Implementation of Schoolwide Reform Strategies

- Student goal-setting and data reflection
- Students will attend IREADY period daily
- IREADY PD-understanding the rigor required-ALL grade levels
- Common performance tasks in math and ELA-scoring using rubrics, analyzing data, and planning next steps
- Use of Standards Mastery
- Data driven PD offerings
- Use flex scheduling based on data to assist Tier 3 students three times per week utilizing a lead teacher and aides for monitoring proficiency levels and regroup students based on data
- Title I courses will be offered daily to increase direct instruction to lowest students and serve as a double block in ELA and Math
- Students will meet with their Math and ELA teachers for an extra 33 minutes, once per week, for additional instruction and support
- Students will receive three days, per week, of project-based instruction that will incorporate math and ELA content and technology

Focus Area	a : English/Language A	rts
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The following is based on a Comprehensive Needs Assessment Data Dashboard that disaggregates data by subgroups and focus areas.				
June 2024 MEASURABLE O	UTCOME: Proficiency rate on iREA	DY in ELA will increase by 10%		
June 2025 MEASURABLE O	UTCOME: Proficiency rate on iREA	DY in ELA will increase by 15%		
Focus Area	iREADY ELA Proficiency			
Root Cause	Lack of targeted interventions in lowest iReady domains.			
Data Based Rationale	56 % of the current students at Clifford Pierce Middle School are below grade level in the iReady Vocabulary domain.			
Research-Based Goal	Teachers use multiple instructional strategies and multiple response strategies that actively engage and meet student learning needs.			
Evidence-Based Intervention	Description: Core Component (if applicable) • School-wide alignment □ Safe Learning Environment			

	of strategies and best practices • School-wide focus on specific reading comprehension skills	□ Technology ⊠ Curriculum ⊠ Instruction ⊠ Assessment □ Parent Particu □ District Level	pation	
Targeted Group (for focused data analysis)	Choose all that apply ⊠F/R Lunch	⊠ELL ⊠Eth	nicity ⊠High-Ris	k
	Professional Develo	pment Plan		
Action Steps	Description of Action	Person Responsible	Evidence of Success	Date to Evaluate
Discuss academic data from i-Ready and preliminary ILEARN	Lead staff through root cause analysis and explain the plan	Administrators	Google form survey	10/2/2023
Identify best practices and strategies	PD over Marzano high yield teaching strategies	Administrators Teachers Instructional Coach	Teacher artifacts and assessments	1/22/2024
Breakdown Nonfiction standard and review scope and sequence for teaching standard	Curriculum round tables, review the curriculum maps and break down state standards	ELA Department	Walk-thrus and Assessments	ONGOING
Data Dig Meetings	Teachers will look at common assessments and disaggregate data to make curriculum adjustments as needed	ELA Department	Teacher artifacts and assessment data	ONGOING
Discuss FLEX SCHEDULING period with staff	Communicate and share literacy procedures and curriculum	Administrators Instructional coach	Exit ticket/climate session survey	8/28/23

Focus Area : Mathematics

School: Clifford Pierce Middle School

The following is based on a Comprehensive Needs Assessment Data Dashboard that disaggregated data by subgroups and focus areas.

June 2024 MEASURABLE OUTCOME: Proficiency rate on IREADY assessments for math will improve by 10%

June 2025 MEASUR 15%	ABLE OUTCOME: Proficiency rate on IREADY assessments for math will improve by
Focus Area	IRFADY Math Proficiency

Focus Area	IREADY Math Proficiency					
Root Cause	Low performance in t	the Math Algebra & Algebra	ic Thinking and Number	& Operations		
Data Based Rationale		vel - Algebra & Algebraic Thi vel - Number & Operations	nking			
Research-Based Goal	reflect, revise, and ev	d professional development valuate their classroom prac laborative setting and indiv	tices to improve learning	-		
Evidence-Based Intervention	Description: Core Component (if applicable) ● Professional Development department specific over process standards and best practice strategies □ Safe Learning Environment ● School-wide focus over number sense/computation (Numeracy period) using common curriculum □ Assessment □ Parent Participation □ District Level					
Targeted Group (for focused data analysis)						
	Pro	fessional Development Plar	1			
August Action Steps	Description of Action	Person Responsible	Evidence of Success	Date to Evaluate		
Discuss academic data from i-READY and 2018-2019 ILEARN data	Lead the staff through root cause analysis and explain the plan	Administrators	Google form survey	10/2/2023		
Discuss FLEX SCHEDULING period with staff	Communicate and share numeracy procedures and curriculum	Administrators Instructional Coach	Exit ticket/climate session survey	8/28/2023		
Department Professional Development	Process Standard Training/Best Practices	Administration Instructional Coach Guest presenter	Teacher artifacts Walk-thrus	9/25/2023		
Data Digs	Disaggregate data on process standards and	Instructional Coach Teachers	Teacher artifacts Assessments	Monthly		

	numeracy period	Administration		
Professional Development School-wide	Numeracy curriculum and data	Administrators Instructional Coach	Walk-thrus Assessments	Monthly

Focus Area : Attendance

The following is based on a Comprehensive Needs Assessment Data Dashboard that disaggregates data by subgroups and focus areas.						
June 2024 ME	ASURABLE OUTCOME: 95% attendance					
June 2025 ME	ASURABLE OUTCOME: 97% attendance					
Focus Area	Attendance					
Root Cause	Students have not adjusted completely to be	eing back in the b	uilding after COVID			
Data Based Rationale	In the 2022-23 school year, Clifford Pierce M 87.14%.	iddle School had	an average attendar	ce rate of		
Research- Based Goal	A specific schedule and process are used to	monitor processe	s.			
Evidence- Based Intervention	Description: Core Component (if applicable) - Monitor attendance regularly and communicate with parents Safe Learning Environment - Action plan with guidance counselors Technology - Social work services provided Instruction - Truancy court for severe cases Parent Participation Ø District Level District Level					
Targeted Group (for focused data analysis)	Choose all that apply	∃Ethnicity ⊠H	ligh-Risk			
	Professional Develo	pment Plan				
Action Steps	Description of ActionPerson ResponsibleEvidence of SuccessDate to Evaluate					
Increase parent awareness	Communicate with parents and students the MCSC attendance policy at open house and beginning of the year information, promote Skyward monitoring for parents, mobile app, quarterly parent letter	Administrators Teachers Office Staff	% of handbook signature pages Robocall data Parent newsletter	8/31/2023		

Identify early high-risk students	Identify early high-risk students, communicate and update monthly attendance goals and policies to parents, staff, and students, promote Skyward monitoring for parents, mobile app, quarterly parent letter	Administrators Teachers Office Staff Social Workers Guidance Counselors	Parent contact Newsletters Robocall Staff bulletins Meeting updates	9/29/2023
Truancy Court	Implement with fidelity the MCSC Truancy Court program by using weekly attendance data to analyze.	Administrators Teachers Office Staff Social Workers Guidance Counselors	Reduction in referrals to truancy court	Ongoing
Action Steps	Description of Action	Person Responsible	Evidence of Success	Date to Evaluate
Parent Teacher Conferences (9/29/22, 1/26/23, 4/27/23)	Communicate with parents the MCSC attendance policy at parent-teacher conferences.	Administrators Teachers Office Staff Social Workers Guidance Counselors	% of parents at PT conferences	5/1/2024
Truancy Court	Monitor and continue to implement with fidelity the MCSC truancy court program and analyzing attendance data	Administrators Teachers Office Staff Social Workers Guidance Counselors	Reduction in referrals to truancy court	5/31/2024

Focus Area: Behavior

The following is based on a Comprehensive Needs Assessment Data Dashboard that disaggregated data by subgroups and focus areas.

June 2024 MEASURABLE OUTCOME: 2023-24 trimester 1 discipline referrals will decrease by 40% from trimester 1 from 2022-23.

June 2025 MEASURABLE OUTCOME: 2024-25 trimester 1 discipline referrals will decrease by 5% from trimester 1 from 2023-24.

Focus Area	Behavior	Behavior				
Root Cause	Students are transitionin	g back int	o school from	summer		
Data Based Rationale	Significantly more referra	als during	Trimester 1			
Research-Based Goal	The school community m academic and personal g				romotes the	
Evidence-Based Intervention	Description: Core Component (if applicable) PBIS implementation and ⊠ Safe Learning Environment rewards for expected behaviors □ Technology will decrease disciplinary ⊠ Curriculum infractions. □ Instruction Emphasis on project-based and active learning, especially during □ Parent Participation winter months. □ District Level					
Targeted Group (for focused data analysis)						
	Professiona	l Develop	ment Plan			
Action Steps	Description of Action	Person R	esponsible	Evidence of Success	Date to Evaluate	
Teacher students, staff, and parents rules, expectations, and discipline process	Student handbook signatures, review behavior matrix	Administrators, teachers, office staff, guidance counselors, social workers		% of handbook signatures returned, discipline data	8/29/2023	
Train teachers on PBL and more active, hands-on learning.	-Review handbook and behavior matrix -PD for teachers over PBL	Administrators, teachers		Exit tickets/ surveys for teachers, classroom observations	9/26/2023	
-Monitor	-Teachers conduct PBL	Administ	trators,	-Lesson	11/7/2023	

implementation of PBL and hands-on learning -PBIS activities	lessons and submit plans or artifacts -Universal PBIS celebrations (dances, field trips)	teachers	plans/artifacts of PBL -Discipline data -Classroom observations	
-Monitor implementation of PBL and hands-on learning -PBIS activities	-Teachers conduct PBL lessons and submit plans or artifacts -Universal PBIS celebrations (dances, field trips)	Administrators, teachers	Lesson plans/artifacts of PBL -Discipline data -Classroom observations	12/12/2023

Highly Qualified Paraprofessionals Information

HQ Information	<u>Name</u>	Position	Hire Date
54 hrs college credit	Shaise Nora	Title I Reading Aide	8/20/2008
Associate Degree	Harriett Demetrakis	Title I Reading Aide	3/19/2007
		Title I Reading Aide	
		Title I Math Aide	
141 hrs higher ed	Emily Spitzig	Title I Math Aide	5/5/2021
85 credits hrs	Destiny Garcia	EL Aide	3/20/2023
Bachelors	Sharetta Simmons	Rtl Aide	2/10/2020
		PEP Aide	
		Instructional/Behavioral Aide	
		SpED Aide	
Para Pro	Karin Robinson	SpED Aide	2/10/2010
		MoMH Aide	
	Vacancy	EH Aide	

Highly Qualified Teacher Information

		Vacancy		7th Grd Math 180	
Johnsen	Valerie	Visual Arts P-12 REPA	10247566	Art	
Manthe	Christa	REPA 3, Visual Arts, P-12	10269992	Art	
Hurysz (Simpson)	Kimberly	Health & Safety	1119483	ATODLIFES K	
Cheek	Rick	Choral, General, Instrumental K-12 Rules 46-47	1099878	Band Director	
Collins	Candi	REPA 3,Language Arts, Emergency Permit	10294430	PEP Instructor	
Barber	Miranda	Rules 2002 Econ, Gov't & Citizenship, Historical Perspectives	10035038	Basic Skills Char Ed	
Ulrich	Marc	Business Management And Finance	10249210	Business	
Colakovic	George	REPA 3, Vocal, Instrumental, General Music	10277768	Choir	
				COMPUTER SCIENCE	
Zivanovich	Michelle	REPA 3, Computer Science, Emergency Permit 5-12	10300069	COMPUTER SCIENCE	
Waldier	Adam	Historical Persp, Socio, Gov't & Citizenship, Econ REPA	10044872	Dean Of Students	
Elders	Joshua	General Elementary 1-6 7/8 ND, Science 1-9	1440863	EARTH/SPA CE	
Lawson	Judith	English 9-12 ESL K-12, ELA5-9 Rules 46-47, REPA	1498516	ESL	
Cleek	Tiffany	Occupational Family And Consumer Sciences	10299915	FACS	

	Γ				Γ
Hairston	Christina	New Hire English 5-12 Instruction	10316725	Gr 7 English	Silver
Lain	Erin	REPA 3 Language Arts 5-12	10266764	Gr 7 English	Orange
Leslie	Erica	English	1468997	Gr 7 English	Green
Sabinas	Renee	(REPA) Instructional 5-9 - Language Arts	10050505	Gr 7 English	Red
Havelka-Vande rplow	Paige	REPA 3, Mathematics 5-9, Emergency Permit	10279031	Gr 7 Math	Green
Hogan	Stephani e	Repa Math5-9, Rules 46-47 Gov't, US Hist, Sociology	1586423	GR 7 Math	Silver
Rodriguez (Chorba)	Brianne	Rules 2002 Business Educ./Mathematics	1619069	Gr 7 Math	Orange
Underwood	Whitney	Mathematics 5-9 REPA 3	10202069	Gr 7 Math	Red
Jenkins	Beryl	REPA Life Science	10154377	GR 7 SCIENCE	Orange
Ooms	Andrew			GR 7 SCIENCE	Red
Wiesemann	Hannah	REPA 3, Science 5-9, emergency permit	10297448	GR 7 SCIENCE	Green
		Vacancy		GR 7 SCIENCE	Silver
Klippel	Anthony	Rules 2002 Instructional Initial-Economics/Gov. & Citizenship /Historical Perspectives - 9-12	10048080	GR 7 SS	Red
Роре	Dontrell	REPA 3, Social Studies 5-9, Emergency Permit	10299315	GR 7 SS	Silver
Sajkich	Alexande r	REPA 3, Historical Perspectives/ Gov & Citizenship Conversion,/Economics Addition 5-12	10247569	GR 7 SS	Green
Wroblewski	Andy	United States History, Sociology & World Civilization	1450283	GR 7 SS	Orange
Birkmeyer	Gregory	Language Arts REPA	10199855	GR 8 English	Copper
Dokich	Rachel	Rules 2002, French, Language Arts Jr& High School	1582441	GR 8 English	Blue
		Vacancy		GR 8 English	Yellow
Barnett	Jamie	Mathematics REPA 3 5-12 - Emergency Permit	10274412	GR 8 Math	Copper
Delinck	Jessica	Rules 46 -47 General Elementary/Mathematics	1430278	GR 8 Math	Blue

Mendoza	Jason	Mathematics 5-9 REPA	10238466	GR 8 Math	Purple
		Vacancy		GR 8 Math	Yellow
Howard	Lyzanethia	REPA 3, Science 5-9 Emergency Permit	10302942	Gr 8 Science	Copper
O'Keefe	Kelly	Life Science, 5-12, REPA 3 - Emergency Permit	10274411	Gr 8 Science	Yellow
Siegfried	Ashley	Life Science Middle School/Junior High, High School Rules 2002	1607794	Gr 8 Science	Purple
		Vacancy		Gr 8 Science	Blue
Hill	David	Social Studies 5-9 REPA 3	10273148	GR 8 SS	Copper
Jackson	Sharice	REPA 3, Historical Perspectives 5-12	10315486	GR 8 SS	Purple
Morando	Lauren	Sociology/Hist Perspectives/Psychology Rules 2002	1592413	GR 8 SS	Yellow
Walker	Heather	REPA 3, Historical Perspectives/ Gov & Citizenship Conversion,/Economics Addition 5-12	10186158	GR 8 SS	Blue
Davis	Aynnayka	School Counselor Rules 46-47	1439393	GUIDANCE	
Jenkins	Tarreka	School Counselor P-12, Emergency Permit	10303050	GUIDANCE	
Haddad	Christoph er	Rules 2002 Instrumental and General Music	1608296	Instructional Coach	
Butler	TeReika	Mathematics 5-9 REPA - Emergency Permit	10278115	Math 180	
Henderson	Megan			MEDIA SPEC	
Edwards	Madeline	REPA 3, Instrumental & General Music P-12	10293423	Orchestra	
Jones	Brent	Physical Education k-12 REPA 3	10243260	PE	
VanderWoude	Katrina	REPA 3, PE P-12 Emergency Permit	10250272	PE/Health	
		Vacancy		PEP Instructor	
Bush	Tanya	pe/health & safety (coaching endorsement k-12)	1231212	PHYSED GIRL	
Bazil	Tina	Rules 2002 Mild Intervention	1591726	Reading	
Robinson	Amanda	Reading & English Rules 46-47	1529905	Reading	
Murry	Brandon	Emergency Permit Needed		Reading 8th Grade	
Johnson	Sonya	Emergency POermit Needed		Reading 7th Grade	

Professional Development

Merrillville Community School Corporation (MCSC) is devoting professional development programs in support of data driven decision making in order to drive curriculum and instructional decision making with alignment of all systems. This work will support the implementation of data driven decision making at the classroom, school and district levels. This work will drive curriculum and instructional alignment.

Merrillville Community School Corporation				
Professional Development / Early Release Dates (Subject to Change)				
	2023-2024			
Tuesday	8/29/23	Classroon Management 101		
Tuesday	9/12/23	SEL Curriculum - Second Step Training		
Tuesday	9/26/23	PBIS		
Tuesday	10/10/23	Restorative Practices		
Tuesday	10/31/23	PLC Training		
Tuesday	11/7/23	All Employees Job Embedded PD		
Tuesday	12/12/23	PLC		
Tuesday	1/9/24	PLC		
Tuesday	2/13/24	PLC		
Tuesday	3/12/24	PLC		
Tuesday	4/9/24	PLC		
Tuesday	5/7/24	All Employees Job Embedded PD		

Strategies to Attract Highly Qualified Teachers

The Merrillville Community School Corporation attracts qualified teachers by:

- Attending Job Fairs
- Working with Colleges and Universities to host and recruit student teachers
- Providing opportunities for observing and student teaching placements
- Advertising in local and national publications.

In addition, the Corporation incorporates a multi-tiered application, interview and evaluation process that strives to initially select the most qualified individuals from the pool of available candidates. Once employed, the Corporation offers continued support to new staff members which includes:

- An orientation week prior to the start of the year
- New teacher staff development
- The assignment of a mentor

District Teacher Mentoring Program

Teachers new to the Merrillville School Corporation are assigned a mentor and attend mentor training designed and presented by the Northwest Indiana Educational Service Center. The Mentor program is a two-year program that prepares individuals to meet certification requirements in the State of Indiana. A portfolio, from the individual's content area, is one of the culminating requirements of the program. In addition, all teachers are involved in professional development sessions utilizing a positive behavior in schools (PBIS) approach to support instructional efforts.

Teacher Mentoring Program

Professional Learning Communities have been created within the building that allow the staff opportunities to meet, mentor, share ideas, study student data, and strategize on how to improve student achievement. Additional opportunities for in-school mentoring include: attending best practices training sessions with the school's administrative team and working with the instructional coach and respective teacher leaders and department chairs. If required, release time is provided for new teachers to observe grade level and/or content area staff. Each teacher new to Pierce is paired with a veteran teacher, and they attend a monthly support meeting.

Pierce Parental Participation

- Parent Boosters are a part of each club and extracurricular activity associated with the school. Parents support the teams and clubs by attending scheduled events, assisting with fundraisers, and ensuring that students actively participate.
- Parent volunteers are solicited to assist with school-wide activities such as Career Fair, Chambertown, and various other PBIS activities.

Additional Parental Activities

Listed below are some of the additional activities that involve parents of Pierce Middle Students.

- School-Family Compact This compact outlines school, parent and student responsibilities (see Appendix).
- Pierce Family Involvement Policy This policy outlines opportunities for family involvement. Both the compact and family involvement policy are distributed to families in August for their review and signed copies are collected (see Appendix).
- Homework Information Homework assignment sheets and/or notebooks go home on a daily basis; upcoming assignments are also posted in most teachers' Google Classrooms and/or Skyward.
- Team Letters & Calendars- Team letters/calendars are shared with parents informing parents of projects, events and schedules in the classroom on a regular basis
- Open House Parents are invited to learn about daily routines and expectations in their child's classroom. This takes place at the beginning of the school year.
- Title I Annual Meetings Meetings offered at three times of the day will be held no later than October 1st of each school year. In addition to being informed of Fieler school's participation in Title I and family's rights to be involved, families will receive written information about the Title I Program that includes:
 - o Information about Title I programs such as an explanation of the selection process and samples of tests used to determine eligibility for Title I service
 - o A description and examples of the curriculum and materials used to improve reading and math skills
 - o Forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and how schools are identified for improvement
 - o Clarification of proficiency levels students are expected to meet
 - o Family rights to request meetings to participate in decisions relating to the education of their child
 - o Online resources & support at http://www.mvsc.k12.in.us/titlei

- A Title I Family Fun Night, held no later than December 1st of each school year. This training session will give families helpful ideas to assist in the education of their children at home. Topics will provide assistance in understanding the State's academic standards and may include one or more of the following; Phonics and Decoding Skills, Vocabulary Development, Comprehension, Fluency, Math Facts, Technology & Internet Resources
- Parent Volunteers* Parents volunteer for field trips, class projects/centers in the classroom, and various club sponsored events.
 *Parents and volunteers must now go through criminal history/background check participation.https://in01001403.schoolwires.net/page/27
- E-mails to parents
- Phone calls to parents
- Parents support school fundraising efforts.
- Via Pierce's <u>website</u>, parents receive communication via Skyward, school messenger, and our Homework Hotline.

Parental Notification of Individual Academic Assessment Results

- Report Cards (Every 6 weeks)
- Trimester Report Cards (Every 12 weeks)
- Communication of ILEARN results will be sent to each student's home
- An optional parent conference regarding results will be offered to any parents needing further explanation.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences each trimester
- All parents have access to Skyward. This electronic record contains all students' data in real time and can be checked by a parent.
- In the SWP parents are encouraged to be actively involved to improve Language Arts and Math achievement for their children.

Parental Involvement in Revision of the Schoolwide Plan

- Parents will be informed in the fall of the plan, through a school brochure. New parents will be given the brochure as they enroll their student to our school. Information will be provided to parents in their language.
- Parents will complete a parent survey in the Spring and again at the end of the school year, to help us assess the current plan. The results of the survey will contribute to revisions we make in the plan for the next school year.

Pre-K to K and 8th to 9th Grade Transition Plans

Students who are transitioning from PreK to K are afforded:

- The opportunity to visit their new school.
- Transition conferences are held for SPED students who are transitioning to Kindergarten.
- Each Elementary holds Kindergarten Round-Up and Parent/Student Orientation days.
- At registration, families receive a *Kindergarten Welcome Packet* containing educational resources and supplies to help prepare their child for Kindergarten.
- Head Start and area preschools are invited to participate in Kindergarten Round-up and to set up transition meetings with the Kindergarten teachers.
- A representative from the district presents at monthly Head Start Parent University events to provide training and distribute educational resources and supplies to help prepare children for Kindergarten.
- We have a standard process for the transferring of information in the cumulative folders between levels.

Students exiting 8th grade participate in the following activities to support their transition into 9th grade;

• A visit from the 9th grade counselors and high school administrators in late winter to discuss schedules and high school expectations.

- A visit from high school students and staff members in the Spring. During this meeting, information about student life is expressed to the students regarding extracurricular activities, course offerings, calculating GPAs, and general rules and expectations.
- A special scheduling night at the high school for all 8th graders and their parents to provide parents with information about curricular and co-curricular offerings at Merrillville High School.
- A back to school freshman orientation held in the summer prior to the school session.

The district implements the following procedures to ensure effective transitions for students from middle grades to high school:

- 8th grade students are identified for ELL, honors, Freshman Academy, and SPED programs prior to the transition to Merrillville High School.
- The district follows a standard process for the transfer of information in the cumulative folders between levels.

Opportunities for Staff to Be Included in Assessment Decisions

At Pierce, certified teachers participate in analysis of student achievement data in small groups. Each department has monthly collaboration meetings to discuss assessments. This information is utilized to discuss improvement of student achievement and to analyze student assessment data and use this information to create flexible remediation and enrichment groups for both Math and Language Arts. Our action plans address weekly collaboration time for each grade level team of teachers. The staff also participate in school data meetings at least once per trimester during the designated professional development.

Description of how Title I funds will be coordinated with local, state, and federal funding programs:

Local Programs

Merrillville Community School Corporation provides funding for instructional coaches, classroom teachers, support staff and social workers. Title I funding will be used to supplement staffing needs by providing a Title I teacher and paraprofessionals. The Title I funded teacher and paraprofessionals provide small group learning opportunities in the areas of math and reading during the school day. Title I funds are used to extend learning opportunities including

tutoring and/or summer programming. Funding will also be used to provide transportation for our extended time learning activities. Title I funding will be used to supplement school family involvement activities.

State Programs

School Improvement Grants and Technology grants align with our Title I funds. The money received from these state grants will be used to provide professional development for high leverage instructional practices as well as using technology to implement those strategies in the classroom.

Federal Programs

Title I funding will coordinate closely with our Title II and Title IV monies. Through our professional development, we will train teachers in high leverage instructional strategies as well as develop curriculum for both extended day learning and instructional videos and learning opportunities for our parents. Title III money will also align with our Title I funding to include professional development in high leverage EL strategies. IC 20-31-5 and 6, and 511 IAC 6.2-3-3 outline the required components of a school improvement plan, which include the following:

Description and Location of Curriculum

The Merrillville Community School Corporation follows the Indiana Academic Standards for all academic areas including Math, Science, Social Studies, English/Language Arts, Technology, Art, Music, and Physical Education. Representation on curriculum design committees includes teachers and administrators from all levels. All Merrillville Community Schools Curriculum Maps are posted on our <u>district website</u> for stakeholders to view. There are also detailed curriculum maps for reading and math that can be found in the MCSC Google drive. In addition to copies of the curriculum being available at our school each fall, each grade level provides parents with a timeline of when their child will be learning each standard.

Assessment Instruments

- **ILEARN** is a state-wide assessment that is given once a year to measure student progress on the Indiana State Standards for grades 7-8.
- **i-Ready** reading and math is taken 3 times a year to monitor growth and overall proficiency.
- Scholastic Reading Inventory is a tool to determine a child's reading Lexile.

• **Common Formative Assessments** are standards based ELA and math tests administered quarterly to assess students' understanding of the critical standards in English and math.

Include Needs of All Learners

Merrillville Community Schools meets the needs of all learners through our high ability, Title I, special education and EL programs.

Our High Ability (honors) program is an ability grouped on a single team at each grade level. High ability clusters are offered a 7th and 8th grade honors curriculum in ELA, math, social studies, and science. High school credit is offered for 8th grade honors ELA and math.

Students in grades 7-8 are placed in appropriate instructional situations. Northwest Indiana Special Education Cooperative, or NISEC, is a special education cooperative sponsored by Merrillville Community Schools and other surrounding school corporations. NISEC is responsible for meeting the provisions of IDEA and Indiana Rule Article 7, which deal with the education of students with disabilities. This includes administering, supervising, coordinating, and providing special services for all children in the Northwest Indiana area, including the students of Pierce Middle School.

General educators at Pierce work with special educators to provide each student with an appropriate individualized education plan (IEP) to meet their needs. Programs provided by NISEC at Pierce include: psychological evaluations; speech, language and hearing services; Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) programs; occupational, physical, emotional, and behavioral therapy, and related services.

EL staff work in conjunction with classroom teachers to support English Language Learners as they work toward meeting goals set forth in their Individual Learning Plan. Small group pull out and push in instruction targets the areas of language acquisition and English Language Development. EL staff support classroom teachers implementation of WIDA standards into grade level content.

Safe and Disciplined Learning Environment

In order to secure a safe and disciplined learning environment, MCSC has implemented the Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) program throughout the district. The PBIS program builds the capacity of schools, families, and communities to promote social and academic success of all students, including those with emotional/behavioral and other disabilities. The key focus areas of the program include: prevention- based School wide systems of positive behavior support, data-based decision-making for instruction of behavior and academics, and wraparound planning for students with complex emotional and behavioral needs and their families.

CPMS's PBIS Leadership team meets monthly to celebrate success, solve problems, and make decisions based on analyzed data and identification of needs. The leadership team works with teachers at each grade level to place interventions in place. Interventions used are preferential seating, sticker charts, rewards, behavior plans, and mentoring. Approximately 40 students check in and out daily with an adult member to offer another layer of support to those students who need it. The PBIS teams meet at least twice each month to disaggregate data and service students and teachers within our school.

PBIS Team Members:

Candace Lillie	Alan Dickerson	DeeEtta Wright	Adam Waldier
Lauren Morando	Cheryl Smith	Nicole Dominguez	Heather Walker
Stephanie Kite	Stephanie Lunsford	Tanya Bush	

Technology Initiatives

The Merrillville Community School Corporation continues toward the goal to integrate effective instructional technology to improve teaching and learning across the district. This year's activities include, but are not limited to:

- Differentiated professional development focused on <u>learning first</u>, <u>technology</u> <u>second</u> to include:
 - Opportunities for technology cadre members and instructional coaches to attend various technology conferences to increase their knowledge and understanding;
 - Job embedded training by both internal (coaches and cadre member) and external instructional technology experts;
 - Catalog of instructional technology training sessions held both during the school day and after hours;
 - Summer (2019) technology boot camp.

Currently, each teacher is provided with a desktop PC equipped with Windows 2010 Professional, Internet access, and e-mail as well as an iPad and a laptop. Each teacher also has a password-protected folder located on the school corporation main server. Along with teachers having access to their own PC, CPMS is equipped with chromebooks for each student, 10 PC labs, each containing 30 student workstations, a laser printer, a scanner and a projector. Each workstation is connected to the corporation server via an Ethernet connection, providing fast access to the Internet and to the students' personal password-protected folder located on the server.

All student workstations are equipped with Windows 2000 Professional. Every student has access to an assigned chromebook in their core classes (English, math, science, social studies) in all grades. These devices enhance learning and provide students with the opportunity to collaborate, communicate, create, and think critically.

Cultural Competency

The PBIS Model encourages and supports culturally responsive environments throughout MCSC. This initiative is funded by a federal special education development grant (SPDG). The PBIS-IN collects quantitative data through surveys and accesses our school data throughout the school year. The data collected is used for research purposes and associated publications and grant reports. All participant individually-identifiable information is kept confidential and protected to the fullest extent of the law. This information is useful to our school in documenting the effectiveness of our PBIS program for the school board, parents and the community.Professional development sessions throughout the year will include culturally responsive training for staff.

In the area of special education, we are not only providing resource services for individualized and small group instruction at students' levels, but we provide more general education classroom time to students to provide them with exposure and instruction of grade-level standards.

Our cultural competency goals are as follows:

- Teachers will learn information and skills that they can use in their classroom to benefit all students, including those from diverse backgrounds.
- Teachers will learn about best practices in education through research, observation and attendance at workshops and will synthesize this knowledge into their instruction.
- Teachers will collaborate with one another to improve instructional methods so that the individual learning needs of students will be met.

All teachers participated in a six week district-led study circle which focused on developing cultural competency.

Appendix

Pierce Middle School School-Family Partnership

Dear Pierce Families,

The Merrillville Community School Corporation and the families of the students participating in activities, services, and programs funded by Title I and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), agree that this compact outlines how the families of Title I participants, the entire school staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement as well as the means by which the school and families will build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve the State's high standards.

School Responsibilities

1. Provide high quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the participating children to meet the State's student academic achievement standards as follows:

- Based on academic need, students receive small group instruction of Indiana Academic Standards that focuses on one of the following:
 - Reading instruction: phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension skills
 - Math Instruction: Course I 7th Grade focuses on key foundational concepts that enable students to make connections while learning to think algebraically. Course II 8th Grade transitions students to pre-algebra with an emphasis on building proportional reasoning.

2. Hold Teacher conferences during which this compact will be discussed as it relates to the individual child's achievement.

• Conferences will be held each trimester as scheduled by the district. **Reading** and Math Intervention Teachers will be available on these days.

3. Provide families with frequent reports on their child's progress.

- Student progress will be reported at the end of each grading period and trimester.
- Families may receive online access to their child's grades through RDS. Contact the school for more information.

4. Provide families with reasonable access to staff and opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class and to observe classroom activities as follows:

- Teachers are available to meet with families by appointment.
- Families may participate in family and family activities offered during the school day.
- Families may view video-taped instruction as part of the Title I orientation and family training events.

5. Provide families with opportunities to reserve family materials, games, and books through the Family Resource Center. Provide several workshops throughout the year for families.

Suggested Family Involvement

We, as family members of a Title I participant, will support our child's learning in the following ways:

1. Make sure our child attends school each day and arrives on time, barring illness.

2. Make sure that homework is completed and our child is reading or practicing math facts each night for at least 20 minutes.

- 3. Monitor the amount of television and video game time for our child.
- 4. Participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to our child's education.
- 5. Promote positive use of our child's extracurricular time.

Suggestions for the Student

- 1. Do my homework everyday and ask for help when needed.
- 2. Read or practice math facts at least 20 minutes everyday outside of school time.
- 3. Give my family member, or guardian, all notes and information that I receive.
- 4. Work hard and cooperate with teachers while in school.
- 5. Follow all school rules

Staff

Candace Lillie, Principal Alan Dickerson, Assistant Principal DeeEtta Wright, Assistant Principal 7th Grade Math Lab Teacher 8th Grade Math Lab Teacher 7th and 8th Grade Reading Teacher

Spr. 09 Family Input Meeting - No Revisions Spr. 10 Family Input Meeting -include family suggestions Spr. 11 Family Input Meeting-include family suggestions Revision – Fall 2013 Orientation Meeting Revision – Fall 2014 re: conferences Revision: Nov. 2014 Math program additions Revision Fall 2015: Math 180 and conferences Spr. 16 – Change to Family Compact Spr. 17 – ESSA Spr. 18 - No Changes Spring 19 - Conferences Fall 21 - NoRevisions Fall 23 - Revision-Staff Members' Names

Pierce Middle School Family Involvement Policy

The staff at Pierce Middle School supports the Family involvement goals of Title I and encourages the regular participation by Pierce families in all aspects of the program. The education of children is viewed as a cooperative effort among the families, school, and community. In this policy, the word family also includes guardians and other persons involved in supervising the child's learning.

To fulfill the requirements of Family involvement, all Pierce Families shall be invited to participate in the following:

✤ A Fall Family Orientation Meeting

- In addition to being informed of online resources & support at <u>http://www.mvsc.k12.in.us/titlei/</u>, Families will receive written information about the Title I Program that includes:
 - An explanation of the testing process and selection of students for the reading and math intervention programs
 - A description and explanation of the curriculum in use in the classroom
 - Forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and how schools are identified for improvement
 - Proficiency levels students are expected to meet
 - Family Rights to request information about the qualifications of teachers and paraprofessionals in their school

♦ A Title I Family Fun Night

- This event for families will provide guidance in how families can assist in the education of their children at home. Topics may include one or more of the following:
 - Reading Comprehension
 - Fluency

- Vocabulary
- Writing
- Math

Teacher Conferences

 This is an opportunity for families to meet with teachers to discuss their child's progress. Title I Reading and Math intervention teachers will also be available to explain how to monitor student progress and understand report cards.

✤ A Spring Family Event

 This meeting will provide families with an opportunity to evaluate the design, development, and operation of the Title I program for the next school year. This event will also serve to provide guidance in how families can assist in the education of their children at home.

Use of the Title I Family Library

• These resources will provide families ways to work with their children at home.

To further build Family involvement, Pierce Middle School will be involved in the following initiatives;

- Staff training in the value and utility of contributions of families, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with families as equal partners, implement and coordinate Family programs, and build ties between families and the school.
- Coordinating and integrating Family involvement strategies under Title I with strategies under other programs such as Head Start, Reading First, families as teachers, and Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, and State-run preschool programs.
- Making information related to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities are sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent possible, in language families can understand.

Other reasonable support for Family involvement activities as requested.

All children and youth in foster care are categorically eligible for Title I, whether or not they live in a Title I, Part A school attendance area, attend a Title I school, or meet the academic standards required for eligibility.

> No Revisions - Spr. 09 Family Input Meeting Revisions - Spr. 10 Family Input Meeting Revisions - May 2010 Monitoring Revision – February 2011 Monitoring Revisions - Spr. 11 Family Input Meeting No Revisions – Fall Orientation Meeting No Revisions - 2013-2014 Fall 2014 – Revisions re: conferences Revisions - Nov. 2014 Math Additions **Revisions: Fall 2015 Conferences** Spr. 16 - Change to Family Involvement Spr 17 – No changes Spr 18 – Family Fun Night Winter 18 - language parents can understand Spring 19: No revisions Fall 21 No Revisions

Title I Program Description

The Title I Language Arts support program serves 7th and 8th grade students who have shown weakness in the area of language arts and are in need of more intensive intervention. In order to determine eligibility for the supplemental language arts program, student test data in the area of reading comprehension, vocabulary, and writing is analyzed. After a review of the data, students are ranked and selected for services. Students seen to be the most at risk will receive an additional 50 minutes of daily instruction in the area of language arts. These students will participate in whole group, small group, and independent instruction as part of the Leveled Literacy Intervention program. In both grades 7 and 8, the pull out program will be facilitated by a Title I teacher and Highly Qualified paraprofessionals.

The Title I math support program serves 7th and 8th grade students who have shown weakness in the area of mathematics and are in need of more intensive intervention. In order to determine eligibility for the supplemental mathematics program, student test data in the area of grade level math concepts is analyzed. After a review of the data, students are ranked and selected for services. Students seen to be the most at risk will receive an additional 50 minutes of daily instruction in the area of mathematics. These students will participate in whole class direct instruction, small group instruction, and independent instruction specialized to meet that

individual student's needs as part of the Scholastic Math 180 program. In both grades 7 and 8, the Math 180 pull out program will be facilitated by a Title I teacher and a Highly Qualified paraprofessional.

Responsibilities of the School, the LEA, and the SEA

Responsibilities of the School

The school, Clifford Pierce Middle School, will be responsible for arranging meetings with school staff, parents and the LEA to review and revise the School Improvement Plan. The school will also be responsible for implementing all aspects of the plan.

Responsibilities of the LEA

The LEA will provide feedback on the Clifford Pierce's School Improvement Plan. The review process will include completion of the Schoolwide Plan Components Checklist. Guidance will be given to the principal and staff to ensure full implementation of the school improvement plan. The LEA will provide assistance to the Principal and Staff of Clifford Pierce by providing sufficient Title I funds received through the SEA.

Responsibilities of the SEA

State resources from the IDOE website will be used in the schoolwide planning process. The SEA will provide technical or other assistance as requested. Assistance may include workshops, consultation with grant specialists and review of the schoolwide plan.

Documentation of Support by Teachers

Documentation of Support by Teachers

SCHOOL:

I, Kristina Shultz, as the exclusive representative, by signing this document, demonstrates my support for the Professional Development Program submitted by the above mentioned school.

Signature:	Date		
Printed Name	Group you are representing	Staff Signature	Date
Candace Lillie	Principal		
Renee Sabinas	Teacher		
Adam Waldier	Teacher		
Lauren Morando	Teacher		
Christopher Haddad	Teacher		

Tony Klippel	Teacher	
Ryan Manley	Teacher	
Jason Mendoza	Teacher	
Alan Dickerson	Dean of Students	
Brianne Rodriguez	Teacher	
	Parent	
Laura Nelson	Clerical Support Staff	
Alan Dickerson	Assistant Principal	
DeeEtta Wright	Assistant Principal	

District Assurance Form