

Loogootee Elementary School
#5997

Loogootee Community School Corporation
#5525

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**LOOGOOTEE ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

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INTRODUCTION

Description of the Community, School, and Programs

Loogootee is located in Martin County in southwestern Indiana. Seventy-two percent of the county is considered rural. Loogootee has a population of 2751.

A large number of residents of Loogootee are employed with the federal government and government contractors at Naval Surface Warfare Center, a Naval facility north of Loogootee. Crane Naval Warfare Center lies primarily in the Loogootee Community School district. Due to cutbacks in Impact Aid funding, Loogootee Community Schools lose a significant amount of tax revenue due to the base occupying a large portion of the district area. Some people work at factories south of Loogootee in Jasper.

Due to a lack of employment opportunities, residents most often seek employment outside of the community. The median income of Martin County is \$44,024. Citizens of Martin County living below the poverty level is 13.2 percent. Due to these statistics 48 percent of the students at Loogootee Elementary qualify for free or reduced lunches.

The U.S. Census Bureau tells us that 78.5 percent of Martin County residents are high school graduates. Eighty-two percent of our high school graduates pursue some form of higher education. Only 10 percent hold a Bachelor's degree or higher.

Loogootee Elementary is part of the Loogootee Community School District. This includes Loogootee High School, which houses ninth through twelfth grade, and Loogootee Middle School, which houses fifth through eighth grade. Loogootee Community School Corporation is one of two school corporations in the county.

Loogootee Elementary serves 260 students. Our school houses students in Preschool through fourth grade, with two or three classrooms per grade level. High school interns and cadet teachers provide assistance in many classrooms. Parent volunteers frequently provide support. We have two classroom paraprofessionals who work with students during reading and math instruction at all grade levels. We also have a reading and math specialist who works with 2nd and 3rd grades to lower the student to teacher ratios. The specialist is a retired teacher who works from 8:00 - 1:00 each day. Students participate in music, physical education, health, art, technology and library classes. Loogootee Elementary also has a school nurse who is shared throughout the district.

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The Special Education program services students with a wide range of special needs. Each student's least restrictive environment is determined by his or her Individual Education Plan (IEP). The department consists of one full time teacher. Speech, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy services are provided through the Daviess-Martin Special Education Cooperative. Our Speech Pathologist is shared with the corporation and local pre-schools.

Title I services are offered in both Language Arts and Math in Kindergarten through Fourth Grade. Students receive 30 minutes pull out remediation in English Language Arts and/or Math depending on their needs. Title I is staffed by a Title Teacher, and three Title I paraprofessionals.

The Loogootee School Community has numerous social support services available including:

- Area businesses
- Area churches
- City of Loogootee
- Corporation Social Worker – Youth First
- Jumping Jax
- Girl Scouts & Boy Scouts
- Martin County S.O.A.R
- Mayor's office
- Mini 4-H-Martin County Extension Office
- School/Community Council
- Shop With a Cop
- St. Vincent dePaul

The community utilizes the school building for various activities such as: St. John's Religion classes, cheerleading practice, and Girl Scouts.

Description and Location of Curriculum

We offer a K-4 guaranteed and viable curriculum to meet the diverse needs of the learners that we serve. Instruction in all subject areas is based on the 2014 Indiana College and Career Ready Standards. Each teacher has a copy of the standards in their classroom as well as access to a digital copy of the entire K-4 curriculum. Reading instruction supports the essential five: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary. Our math curriculum is supported by our adoption of the Envision math series. Content areas reinforce reading, math, and writing skills. Our Resource program uses LLI to strengthen comprehension. Teachers are expected to seek out additional resources to meet state standard requirements.

Titles and Descriptions of Assessments in Addition to ISTEP+

Engrade (Acuity)

Acuity is a computer generated test that is administered to students in grades three and four three times per year in ELA and Math. The results are used to identify students who need extra help throughout the year and to identify standards on which teachers need to focus.

mClass Math and DIBELS

mClass Math and DIBELS are used in grades kindergarten through second to identify students who need extra help in the foundations of math and reading and to monitor their progress.

Star Reading

Star Reading is used for screening and monitoring progress. It is a reliable, valid, and efficient computer-adaptive assessment of general reading achievement and comprehension for grades K-12. Star Reading provides nationally norm-referenced reading scores and criterion-referenced scores.

IREAD-3

The purpose of the IREAD-3 assessment is to measure foundational reading standards through grade three. It is a summative assessment that was developed in accordance with Public Law 109. It assesses whether students can read proficiently before moving on to fourth grade.

Cogat

The purpose of the Cogat assessment is to identify high ability students. It is given annually to students in Kindergarten, Second, and Fourth grades.

**LOGOOTE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
CORPORATION
STATEMENT OF MISSION AND VISION**

Vision

Our community, administration, teachers and school board working together with one purpose and one focus; the success our students.

Mission

The mission of Loogootee Community School Corporation, in partnership with our community, is to provide an innovative and technological foundation that will prepare each child for the future. We work to build every student's talent to reach the highest potential through rigorous curriculum, enhanced one-to-one technology, and flexible instruction that meets the needs of learners today to become tomorrow's leaders.

**LOGOOTE ELEMNTARY
STATEMENT OF MISSION, VISION, AND BELIEFS**

Vision

Build Every Student's Talents—be the B.E.S.T!

Mission

The students, parents, and staff of Loogootee Elementary, in a cooperative effort, embrace the development of education as a lifetime process. We encourage and challenge students to reach their full potential intellectually, physically, socially, and morally.

Belief Statements

- ◆ Positive Attitudes Will Succeed! (PAWS!)
- ◆ All children are individuals and may need differentiated experiences.

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- ◆ Development of reading, writing, and math skills are essential for student success.
- ◆ Study and life skills, character education, critical thinking, arts and technology are essential skills that enhance self esteem and are essential to student learning.
- ◆ A unified approach to curriculum provides continuity throughout all grade levels and promotes success.
- ◆ Effective parenting skills, parent communication and cooperation with the school, and consistency of rules and their enforcement throughout the school promotes self-discipline.
- ◆ Education goes beyond the classroom to our community.

**SUMMARY OF CURRENT EDUCATIONAL
PROGRAMMING**

**Data, Including Graphs, From the Annual
Performance Report**

Loogootee's achievement on ISTEP+ has been consistently high over the past several years. In 2014-2015 new, more rigorous college-and-career ready standards and a new statewide assessment were implemented. Loogootee's scores continue to be above the state average on the new ISTEP+.

Loogootee Elementary School's enrollment has also decreased over the past five years (see below). However, this is the first year since 2012-13 that our kindergarten is at 69 students. The current situation has also led to an increase in the free and reduced cohort, which now stands at approximately 48%.

Seventeen percent of Loogootee Elementary students qualify for special education which is slightly above the state average of 14%. We have streamlined our intervention process in order to more accurately screen students and provide assistance early on in the education process. Loogootee is a full inclusion school and students are taught at grade level with remedial help in the form of pull out instruction and push in supports.

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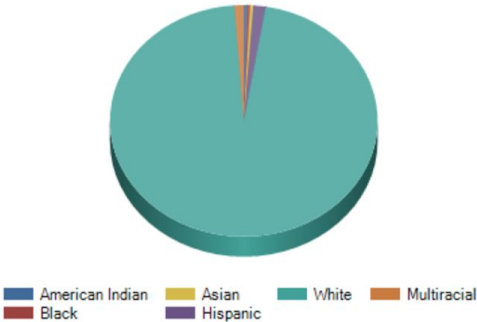
Enrollment By Grade

Grade	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Kindergarten	83	62	58	51	49
Grade 1	56	73	59	51	50
Grade 2	71	55	70	52	48
Grade 3	72	72	63	67	50
Grade 4	66	69	66	60	69
Total Enrollment	348	331	316	281	266

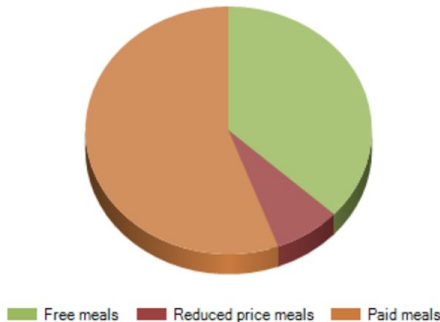
Enrollment Trend



Enrollment 2016-17 by Ethnicity



Enrollment 2016-17 by Free/Reduced Price Meals



**Data Related to Performance Indicators Other Than Those
Included in the Annual Performance Report**

A variable to be considered in the assessment of the ISTEP performance report for the school years would be the addition of scores for students on Free/Reduced Lunches. Loogootee has seen an increase in the numbers of Free/Reduced students over the past ten years from 25% who qualified for Free/Reduced lunches in 2005 to 48% who currently qualify for assistance.

CONCLUSIONS ABOUT CURRENT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Curriculum Support of Academic Standards

The district curriculum, under which Loogootee Elementary functions, is based on the 2014 Indiana College and Career Ready Standards. With the continual revision of the state standards, realignment and development of local curriculum has become a major focus. The following plans are in place to address this issue:

- 2014 Indiana College and Career Ready Standards are used in K - 4.
- Classroom teachers are expected to align their instruction with College and Career Ready Standards and list them in their daily lesson plans.
- Participation in the SIEC Curriculum Consortium
- Supplemental activities are used to address areas not covered or not sufficiently covered by state approved textbooks.
- Teachers utilize Learning Connection to support curriculum.
- Teachers utilize DOE websites on instruction and assessment to support curriculum.

Instruction that Supports the Achievement of the Indiana Academic Standards

Each teacher has a copy of the current 2014 Indiana College and Career Ready Standards in their classroom. Grade level teachers work together during common prep times to ensure that instruction is consistent and covers each essential skill in the subject area.

Loogootee Elementary staff has been participating in the Southern Indiana Education Center Curriculum Consortium to develop ELA and Math Curriculum and Pacing Guides. Last year, teachers unpacked ELA and Math Indiana Standards, created pacing guides, and developed relevant assessments.

Teachers utilize resources on the DOE websites to ensure that students will be adequately prepared for the type of testing they will undergo during ISTEP+ and IREAD3 testing.

Students in grades K-4 are tested using the Star Reading, Engrade, DIBELS, and mClass math assessments two to three times per year, depending on grade level. Data from these tests are used to help adjust curriculum to the individual needs of students. Any student failing to make adequate progress is referred to the Response to Intervention. The teacher

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examines where the child is functioning and develops strategies and goals that are designed to help bring these students to an instructional level that will ensure they are successful.

We offer Title 1 reading and math services to students performing below grade level expectations in grades K-4.

Additional strategies that support student learning that are implemented by our teachers:

- Hands-on manipulatives
- Skill-oriented projects
- Resource
- Reteaching
- Student planner
- Homework incentives
- Extended activities/projects
- Enrichment activities
- Mobile and stationary computer labs
- Educational videos
- Field trips
- Learning centers
- Flexible grouping
- Multi-sensory methods
- Fine-gross motor activities
- Self-evaluation activities
- Audio listening learning
- Reflection
- Project based learning

Analysis of Student Achievement Based on ISTEP+ and Other Strategies

Teachers analyze grade level ISTEP+ results. Released items are also analyzed and improvement plans are put into place. Throughout the school year, teachers individually and collaboratively analyze relevant data that will be used to drive instruction and thus increase student achievement.

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Since 2007-08, Loogootee Elementary students have consistently scored above the state average for the percentage of students passing both ELA & Math ISTEP. In 2014-15, Indiana adopted new standards as well as a more rigorous ISTEP test. Loogootee Elementary students have continued to score higher than the state average in all areas:

3rd ELA:	Loogootee: 77%	State Average: 67%
3rd Math:	Loogootee: 79%	State Average: 56%
4th ELA:	Loogootee: 75%	State Average: 60%
4th Math	Loogootee: 75%	State Average: 62%

Parental Participation in the School

Parental visits to classrooms are encouraged. Parents are invited to help with special activities such as field day, classroom projects, parties, school pictures, book fair, Jump Rope for Heart, fundraisers, etc. Parents are also asked to serve on committees, to participate in interest surveys for our school, and to serve as volunteers in individual classrooms.

The School/Community Council is comprised with parents, members from our community, and staff. This community of people encourages community involvement and volunteering in our school. It helps to build a bridge between our community and our school.

Meet the teacher night, Title I family night, chili supper night, Scholastic book fairs, fall festival, Veterans' Day, Grandparents' Day, kindergarten roundup and school music programs are well attended. This indicates high parental interest in school activities and achievement. Communication with parents from teachers includes daily and weekly newsletters, assignment sheets, teacher websites, email, and homework folders. Teachers also have voicemail service in each classroom.

Safe and Disciplined Learning Environment

Our school operates under the safe school policy adopted by our school corporation. It utilizes web-based professional development for custodians, bus drivers, cafeteria staff, teachers, assistants, and administrators.

A Crisis Response and Procedure Guide has been adopted and approved by the school board. Each staff member is instructed to have this document located in a place where they can access it at a moment's notice. The manual helps staff respond consistently and predictably to crisis. Drills for fire, weather, and safety are reviewed and practiced monthly or bi-yearly. Every student/parent has access to a digital copy of the student handbook which lists behavior expectations and consequences for misbehavior. Teachers use grade appropriate discipline procedures to manage classroom behavior. Recess detention is given to students

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that do not follow proper procedure in a consistent manner. Teachers have clear guidelines regarding playground supervision and safety. Classroom rules are posted in each classroom.

A corporation social worker paid through a Youth First Grant is available to all students in the corporation. The social worker implements individual and group counseling as well as classroom guidance based on student needs.

Anti-bullying procedures are in place to foster a disciplined learning environment.

We strive to provide our students with school-wide programs on character education, bus safety, drug awareness, fire safety, conflict management, and hygiene.

Technology as a Learning Tool

The Indiana standards provide guidelines for the minimum technological skills expected at each grade level. This document is used as a road map to help teachers integrate technology into their curriculum.

The staff and students at Loogootee Elementary have access to several technology tools and programs including Accelerated Reader, Skyward Gradebook, Study Island, Learning A-Z, and ixl for Language and Math. Teachers have access to Pearson Realize to enhance reading and math instruction.

The corporation technology coordinator helps to develop programs and provide assistance to teachers as they implement technology into the curriculum. A full time technician maintains the system. Our staff has been involved in computer training days during which we learn about new programs available for classroom use. In addition, one teacher per grade level receives additional training and serves as a resource person for their particular level as well as all staff.

Each classroom has chromebook cart that contains a chromebook for every student. Every teacher has a Chromebook and desktop PC. We have a new distance learning lab paid for by the digital learning grant that has learning stations and a smart board. There is a plan to upgrade every classrooms' projector to interactive projectors. Computer assignments have been structured to coordinate with state and local standards in language arts, math, science, and social studies. Computers are used daily for testing, reinforcement of skills being taught, publishing, research, and communication. All computers are internet accessible. Every classroom also has nine iPads to reinforce and enhance skills taught.

A telephone system is used in each classroom for communication through voice mail. Each classroom has been equipped with Apple TV's and projection systems to facilitate instruction.

Professional Development

Loogootee Elementary staff supports and develops the educational goals of the school. This ongoing process encourages the implementation of several teaching styles and strategies. Professional development includes:

Technology

- SAMR Model
- 5 Star Digital PD
- ixl training
- STEM/Westgate
- Engrade

Language Arts

- Staff Collaboration – the master schedule allows for common prep times for the staff to collaborate
- Monthly grade level data meetings to review student progress

Math

- Staff Collaboration – the master schedule allows for common prep times for the staff to collaborate
- Monthly grade level data meetings to review student progress

General

- Safe Schools training
- Map Science standards/STEM activities
- Map career awareness

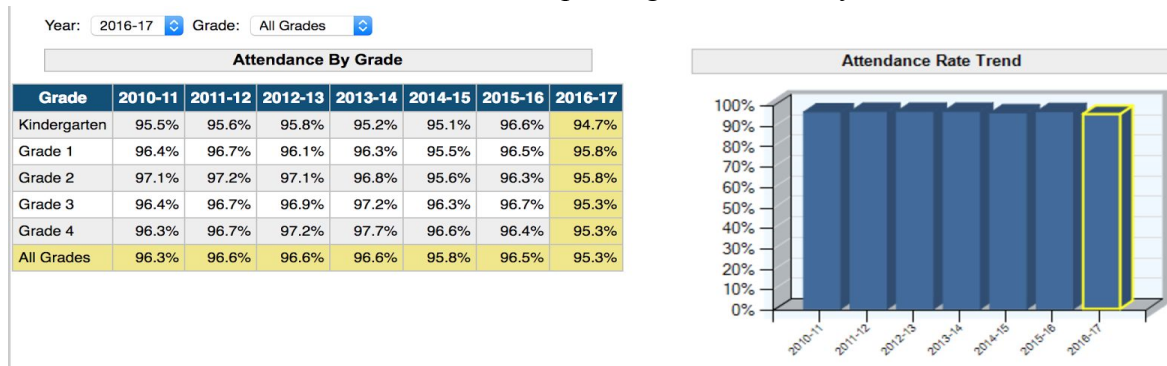
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT OBJECTIVES

Attendance Data

Students at Loogootee Elementary demonstrate good attendance over all. Our attendance rate consistently is above the state average.

Good attendance is supported by a strong attendance policy and by our PayDay criteria. Students are awarded for monthly perfect attendance as well as at the end of the school year. Student and staff attendance is posted each week in the the school entryway and grade level and classrooms with the best attendance each week are recognized.

A letter is issued to parents of every student who reaches seven undocumented and/or unexcused absences within a semester, or who accrues seven or more tardies within a semester. When issues cannot be resolved, students in violation of the attendance requirements are reported to Child Protective Services. It is our goal to at least maintain our current attendance rate and work toward improving the rate each year.



AREAS NEEDING IMMEDIATE IMPROVEMENT

In-depth analysis of ISTEP scores, teacher made tests, student progress reports, and teacher observations indicate student weaknesses in the areas of:

- Math strategies and rationale (making arguments for answers)
- Math fact fluency
- Multiple Step Math Problem-solving
- Applied Portion ELA questions
- Writing genres, writing process, writing research
- Discrepancy between the number of paid lunch students who passed ISTEP compared to free/reduced lunch students

Therefore, the following goals have been developed to address weaknesses.

GOALS

Goal 1

Improve overall math ISTEP scores.

Objectives:

By the end of 2018, Loogootee students will increase Math ISTEP scores to greater than 80%.

Strategies:

- Administer research-based tests throughout the year in grades kindergarten through four to establish individual student baselines.
- Continue to revise math pacing guides to add rigor and align with 2014 Indiana College and Career Ready Standards.
- Training and support on data driven instruction to enhance the focus on College and Career Ready Standards to track important data.
- Use ixl Math and Engrade to remediate weaker math students and ability grouping on level and above level students to provide enrichment and enhancement.
- Various strategies such as Mastery math facts, Timed Tables the Fun Way, math fact games to improve math fact fluency.
- Focus on math fact fluency during RtI time until the first round of Engrade testing in September.
- Increase the number of on level students in grades K, 1, and 2 on mClass math benchmarks.
- Teachers will incorporate rigorous, daily math activities that focus on higher level depth of knowledge, multi-step, and/or multiple correct answers.
- Goal setting with students regarding ISTEP scores - discuss prior year results and add goals and strategies for this year.
- ISTEP parent meeting explaining the types of questions, what the school is doing in preparation and what parents can do.
- Differentiated instruction to address all students' areas of need.
- Bell ringers throughout year to provide test taking strategies and ISTEP examples
- Emphasize the higher order thinking/writing questions in the Envision Math Series

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Goal 2

By the end of 2018, Loogootee students will increase their ELA ISTEP scores.

Objectives:

By the end of 2018, Loogootee students will increase their ELA ISTEP scores to greater than 80% through focusing on the applied portion of the test.

Strategies:

- Administer research-based tests throughout the year in grades kindergarten through four to establish individual student baselines.
- Teach highlighting skills using paper/pencil and computer based highlighting
- Implement strategies such as the close reading, RELAX method, visualizing, identifying paragraphs, skimming finger, reading questions first, and Read Works.
- Training and support on data driven instruction to enhance the focus on College and Career Ready Standards to track important data .
- Increase the number of green students on DIBELs and TRC in K, 1, and 2.
- Goal setting with students regarding ISTEP scores - discuss prior year results and add strategies for this year.
- ISTEP parent meeting explaining the types of questions, what the school is doing in preparation and what parents can do.
- Use Study Island and Engrade to remediate weaker students and ability group on level and above level students to provide enrichment and enhancement.
- Continue to revise language arts pacing guides to add rigor and align with 2014 Indiana College and Career Ready Standards.
- Differentiated instruction to address all students' areas of need.
- Bell ringers throughout year to provide test taking strategies and ISTEP examples.
- Principal Book of the Month with monthly writing prompts at all grade levels.
- Students review and revise sample ISTEP writing prompts in response to reading passages.

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Goal 3

Improve writing skills, stressing questions that include persuasive, informative, or narrative writing in response to literature and nonfiction texts.

Objectives:

By the end of 2018, Loogootee students will increase their Language Arts ISTEP scores to greater than 80%

Strategies:

- Administer research-based tests throughout the year in grades kindergarten through four to establish individual student baselines.
- Use strategies such as Word Wall to increase vocabulary.
- Use existing computer programs to develop and enhance Language Arts across the curriculum.
- Continue use of an inclusion-based model for special education instruction.
- Principal Book of the Month with monthly writing prompts at all grade levels.
- Training and support on data driven instruction to enhance the focus on College and Career Ready Standards to track important data.
- Monthly school-wide writing prompt
- Students review and revise sample ISTEP writing prompts
- Embed writing across curriculum (science and math journals, etc.)
- Teach students the writing process and strategies - using different types of organizational maps; emphasizing planning versus formal writing
- Practice going from planning stage to the formal writing

ACADEMIC HONORS AND CORE 40

Loogootee Elementary Curriculum is aligned with the state academic standards and supports Core 40 for Loogootee High School. Loogootee Elementary School's curriculum and expectations promote student achievement for academic honors.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our program includes ongoing professional growth experiences that provide adequate time and job embedded opportunities to support school improvement and student learning.

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Through collaboration and modeling teachers will discuss and model best practices in reading, writing, and math during prep time and at monthly faculty meetings. Professional development this school year has focused on:

- Reading comprehension mini-lessons
- Integrating Technology in the Classroom
- Engrade and reading data

STATUTES AND RULES TO BE WAIVED--none

TIMELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

2017-18

Teachers will use data in order to identify students who need remediation, reinforcement of grade level material, or enrichment at all grade levels

Special Education teacher continues to implement LLI, a 20 minute intensive comprehension program for Special Education students, based on student reading level.

Students participate in balanced literacy activities where teachers will meet individually or in small groups to assess and work on reading skills.

Students will be encouraged to read books at their reading levels in Accelerated Reader and strategies will be used by teachers to grow students' levels towards complex text.

Teachers will require students to read more nonfiction text. This will be encouraged by the school librarian.

Students will be given independent reading time multiple times per week to increase reading stamina.

Students will be given opportunities to consistently write in response to reading with focus on the use of text supported answers.

Teachers will incorporate rigorous, daily math activities that focus on higher level depth of knowledge, multi-step, and/or multiple correct answers.

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Review and analysis of ISTEP data, I-READ data , and other state and local assessments to drive and check progress toward goals.

2018-19

The 2018-19 plan will continue with the same implementation as the 2017-18 plan.

2019-20

Implementation for the 2019-20 plan will continue with the same detail as 2017-18 plan, but the plan will be revised and updated by studying current data and progress made toward goals.