

# School Improvement Plan

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LOGOOTE MIDDLE SCHOOL  
#6001

LOGOOTE COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION  
#5525

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*Updated September 2017*

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## **INTRODUCTION**

### **A. Description of Community, School, and Educational Programs**

Loogootee Middle School is located at 201 Brooks Avenue in Loogootee, Indiana, and it is on the west wing of the Loogootee High School complex. Loogootee has a population of 2,581 as indicated by the 2010 census. Martin County's population totals around 10,000 people, making it the smallest population of the 14 counties in the southwestern Indiana Workforce unit. The area can best be described as a rural community with seventy-two percent being rural. Our local school district spans a distance of 31 miles from the northernmost point to the southern region.

Beginning with 2014-15 school year, Loogootee Intermediate and Loogootee Jr. High School combined and was renamed Loogootee Middle School. Loogootee Middle School is a part of the Loogootee Community School district. The school houses grades fifth through eighth, which currently contains 272 students. There are six full-time teachers for grades five and six. We have additional certified staff for art, music, and physical education/health. For grades seven and eight there are sixteen full-time teachers. There are also two full-time resource room teachers and two resource room teaching assistants, supported by part-time speech, physical, and occupational therapists. Our support staff includes a guidance counselor, social worker, librarian, computer technician, and nurse, all which are available on a rotating basis between the three buildings in the corporation.

The Loogootee Middle School is a member of the Daviess-Martin Special Education Cooperative for testing students who experience academic problems. A student's least restrictive environment is determined by their Individualized Education Plan (IEP). The IEP is developed by the case conference committee which includes a classroom teacher, teacher of record, case conference coordinator, parent/guardian and those invited by the parent/guardian as well as others significant to the students' educational needs. Students receive instruction in the general education classroom, while receiving support services from the special education professionals. Classroom teachers work closely with special education professional to monitor each individual student's progress and growth. We have around 50 students that receive Special Education services at our school site each school year. Disability categories range from Specific Learning Disability (SLD), Cognitive Disability (COG), Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH), Other Health Impairment (OHI), Language or Speech Impairment (LSI), Autism Spectrum

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Disorder (AUT), and Emotional Disability (ED). The Middle School also contains a classroom for students with Moderate/Severe Disabilities. Students are bused from area school districts to receive an education.

The NSA Crane, a federal government military institution, occupies a large portion of the school district. This area is a non-taxable entity, which results in a small tax base for assessment and funding for the school system. NSWC, located at Crane, Indiana, provides numerous benefits to our community, as many citizens are employed there. It specializes in research, development, and employs a large number of engineers that provides us with an array of professional people willing to provide their skills and expertise in the areas of tutoring and career development. Others from the area are involved in farming or small businesses, or are employees of U.S. Gypsum, which is located in Martin County. Numerous people are also employed at factories in Jasper, Indiana, since Martin County has no major industry.

Since employment opportunities are lacking, people in the community often seek employment outside of Loogootee. The median income of Martin County is \$44,024, and the unemployment rate is currently around 7% for the county. The percent of people living below poverty level in Martin County is nearly 14 %. According to the statistics, 44% of the students at Loogootee Middle School qualify for free lunch and reduced lunch.

The U.S. Census Bureau indicates that 78.5% of Martin County residents are high school graduates, however only 10% hold a Bachelor's degree or higher.

### **B. Description and Location of Curriculum**

Loogootee Middle School curriculum is based on the 2014 Indiana College and Career Ready Standards adopted by the Indiana State Board of Education. Teachers utilize correlation guides provided by the Department of Education to align resources to the new standards. For the first year, Loogootee Middle School is offering a blended learning experience through the use of Chromebooks. Loogootee Middle School is in their 2 year of the Pearson Math Series. It is the school's first year with the new Pearson Reading Series, as well as a techbook for Science by Discovery Education. In addition, Loogootee Middle School is in their first year of utilizing the Engrade Assessment (formerly Acuity). Teachers are utilizing the data from this assessment to form RtI/Remediation/Enrichment groups for Math and ELA to target standards that are not being mastered. A thirty minute daily RtI block has been added so students can receive more individualized instruction. In addition, teachers utilize other resources to

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enrich the curriculum. Science and Math teachers work with the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Education Department at NSA Crane and our local 4-H Extension Educator to provide hands-on learning opportunities related to Math and Science. Teachers also utilize internet based resources such as NASA.gov, Khan academy, and National Geographic to assist with real world applications of skills learned in the classroom.

Currently, teachers who are teaching Math and Language Arts have completed training in order to map out their curriculum. Teachers have been involved in breaking down the standards, developing units and essential questions, and creating assessments, as well as mapping out year long unit plans.

Loogootee Middle School strives to meet the needs of all learners. In order to meet the needs of each learner, data teams analyze assessment data in order to plan remediation and enrichment. Days are built into the curriculum maps to allow teachers time to work on student needs. Students also receive accommodations through IEP's and 504 plans.

### **C. Titles and Descriptions of Assessments in Addition to ISTEP+**

#### **Engrade**

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

## **STATEMENT OF MISSION, VISION, OR BELIEFS**

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

### *Belief Statements -*

#### Students:

- All students can learn if given the opportunity to do so.
- Students should learn cooperation, teamwork, and tolerance for others in order to be successful citizens in the 21st Century.
- The parents and staff members must promote punctuality and regular attendance.

#### Instructional:

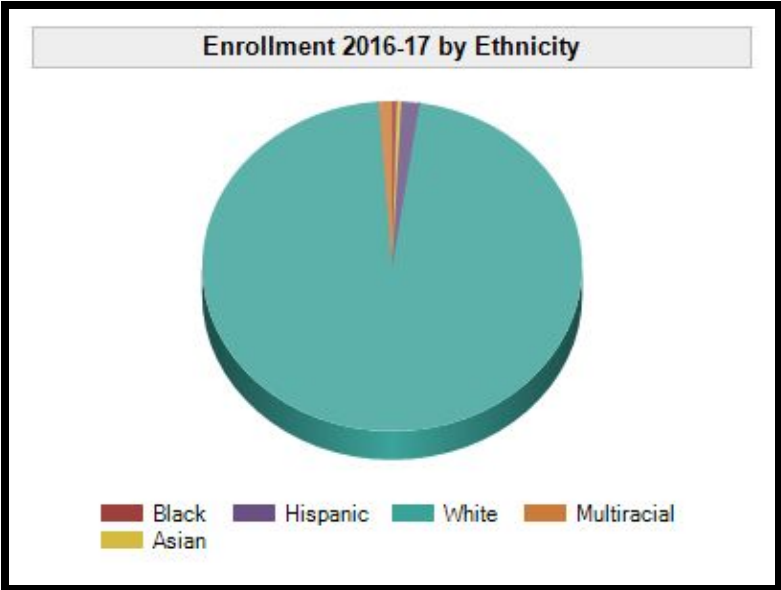
- The school should strive to meet the individual student's learning style.
- Extra-curricular activities enhance student learning and acceptance of responsibility.
- Students should acquire essential reading, writing, mathematical, and thinking skills for achieving in the 21st Century.

#### Community:

- Students learn best when they have the support and encouragement of parents, community, teachers, and peers.
- The school should be able to adapt to the changing community and to the world.
- Respect, cooperation, and communication among staff members, students, parents, and the community create a positive learning environment.

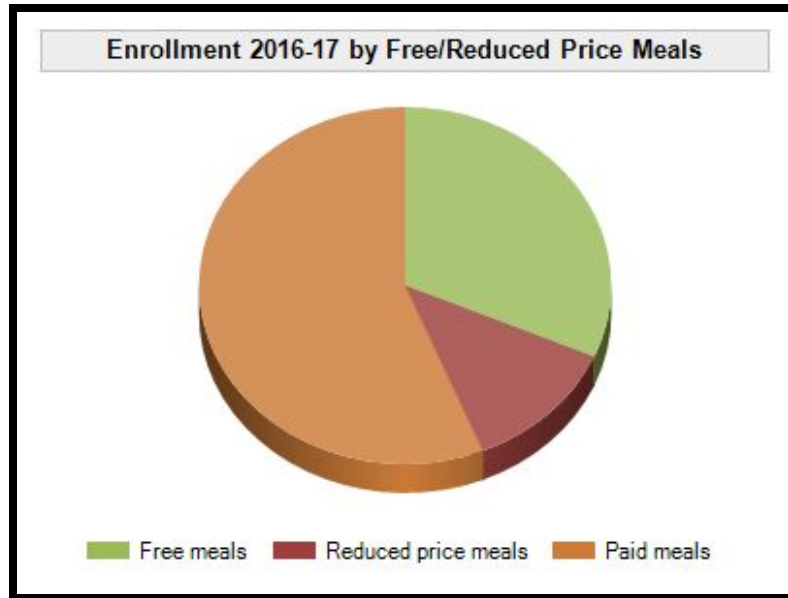
**SUMMARY OF CURRENT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING**

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



The graph shows the enrollment for Loogootee Middle School by Ethnicity. The graph shows 96.5% of students are white, 1.5% are Hispanic, 0.4 are Asian, 0.4% are Black, and 1.2% are multiracial.

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The graph shows the number of students who receive free and reduced price meals for Loogootee Middle School. The graph shows 56.2% of students are on paid meals, 12.3% are on reduced price meals, and 31.5% are on free meals.

**ISTEP Data**

Year	Math	State	ELA	State	Math/ELA	State
<b>09-10</b>	90.0%	78.3%	80.7%	76.8%	76.8%	69.3%
<b>10-11</b>	92.8%	80.1%	79.0%	77.4%	77.4%	71.3%
<b>11-12</b>	95.2%	81.2%	72.1%	71.4%	71.4%	72.4%
<b>12-13</b>	92.5%	83.0%	82.1%	81.4%	81.4%	73.7%
<b>13-14</b>	96.2%	83.5%	86.8%	85.3%	85.3%	74.7%
<b>14-15</b>	66.8%	59.7%	61.1%	65.1%	55.0	51.5%
<b>15-16</b>	68.2%	57.8%	68.0%	66.1%	59.7%	50.0%
<b>16-17</b>	69.3%	58.5%	64.6%	65.2%	56.4%	51.4%

\*\*In 2014-15 Indiana transitioned to new, more rigorous college-and-career ready standards and a new statewide assessment to measure these standards. Therefore, results are not comparable to previous data.



The table shows the ISTEP+ passing trend for Loogootee Middle School in comparison to the state. Overall, Loogootee Middle School is consistently above the state average.

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

One variable to consider when assessing the ISTEP performance report for the school years would be the addition of scores for students on Free/Reduced Lunches. Loogootee School Corporation has seen an increase in the numbers of Free/Reduced students over the past ten years from 35.9% who qualified for Free/Reduced students in 2005 to 44% who currently qualify for assistance.

**CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THE CURRENT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING**

**A. Curriculum Support of Academic Standards**

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

- 2014 Indiana College and Career Ready Standards are used in Grades 5-8.
- The science department transitioned to the 2016 Indiana Academic Standards.
- It is an expectation for teachers to align their instruction to the College and Career Ready standards and list them in their daily lesson plans.
- Participation in the SIEC Curriculum Consortium
- Supplemental activities are implemented to address areas that are not covered, but are in the standards.
- Teachers utilize Learning Connection and the DOE website to access support for the curriculum.

**B. Instruction that Supports the Achievement of Indiana Academic Standards**

We continue to align the College and Career Ready Standards to the curriculum, as the foundation in developing daily and unit lesson plans that will help our students be successful in the ISTEP+ Part 1 and Part 2 testing for future years. Our staff is aware of these standards and have them available to aid in all standards being covered in the

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development of daily and weekly lesson plans. Adopted textbooks in math, language arts, social studies, and science have lessons with the Indiana State Standards, which gives teachers the opportunity to track standards as the skills are taught, tested, and mastered. The correlation guides for each content area help in aligning the textbooks to the new standards. Since the standards are still new for teachers and students, grade level meetings are held to ensure that instruction at each grade level is consistent and covers the essential skills in the subject areas.

Math and ELA teachers have been a part of a Curriculum Consortium to focus on aligning curriculum to the new standards. Teachers are working on developing units for the entire year and creating assessments to go along with the units. Since textbooks are derived from the old standards, supplemental activities and IDOE Correlation Guides are incorporated to address areas from the College and Career Ready Standards.

Students in grades 5-8 are tested using Engrade and iXL assessments. Currently, the Engrade is given three times per year. The data from these tests are used to help adjust curriculum to the individual needs of students. The assessment shows what standards are being mastered and which ones are not. iXL is another program that is used to provide students learning activities based on the standards for math and ELA. A 30 minute period during the day is utilized to assist students who are failing to meet the progress that they are expected. This period of time is also used for enrichment activities for students who are more advanced.

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

- Skill-oriented projects
- Student Planner
- Resource Assistance
- Reteaching
- Flexible Grouping
- Enrichment Activities
- Field Trips
- 1:1 Technology
- Educational Videos
- Extended Activities/Projects

### **C. Analysis of Student Achievement**

Teachers analyze grade level ISTEP+ results in order to put improvement plans into

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place. Other assessment programs that are analyzed in order to drive instruction to increase student achievement are programs that were described earlier. These programs are the Engrade assessments and iXL computer program.

Loogootee Middle School also uses the Engrade Assessment. This assessment will provide teachers with an additional tool to gather data on individual students. The data will provide what students have mastered and what areas they need more instruction in regards to the standards. This data will be used to place students in Rtl groupings so teachers can focus on specific standards that the students are not mastering.

#### **D. Parental Participation in the School**

Parents are an integral part of a successful school program. In order to create educated, responsible adults of the future, it takes commitment on the parts of students, parents, and teachers working together to achieve that end result. Ways in which parents participate in this endeavor vary in some instances from classroom to classroom, as well as from student to student. However, participation is actively sought after in every instance. Parents are invited to help with special activities such as classroom projects, school pictures, Book Fair, classroom parties, field trips, etc.

Open House Night, as well as special music programs and awards programs are well attended. These factors indicate that there is high parental interest in school activities and achievement. Communication with parents from teachers include weekly newsletters, assignment books, homework hotline, e-mail, parent-teacher conferences, teacher websites, and homework folders. Parents also have the opportunity to participate in our Family Access program through the school student information system. Attendance, grades, homework, class schedules, fees, immunization records, lunch accounts, and personal and medical information can be accessed and updated allowing constant flow between school employees and parents. There are telephones with a voicemail system in every classroom to facilitate communication between home and school, allowing parents to reach their child as the need arises.

In 2005, the PAC (Parent Activity Committee) was developed. Over the last ten years, this group has expanded and become more involved with many school functions. This parent group has been very active in volunteering for many school events including helping the classrooms, various incentive programs, and helping with special activities (including fundraising for special grade level events.) The group's main purpose is to keep the community, parents, and school communicating and working together towards a common goal.

### **E. Safe and Disciplined Learning Environment**

Our school operates under a safe school policy which was adopted by the school corporation. The *Loogootee Crisis Management Plan* has been adopted and approved by the school board. Each staff member is instructed to have the document located in a place that is easy to access. The manual provides staff with the knowledge on how to respond if a crisis arises. The plan includes the following elements:

- Locked doors from the outside restrict access from the outside to our school. School personnel allow entrance into the school only.
- Security alarms on exterior doors that sound when a door is ajar.
- Signs directing all visitors to report to the office to be given identification badge verifying their presence in the building.
- All parents participating in any school event or volunteering on a long-term basis must pass a criminal and drug screening test.
- Security is monitored in the hallways through the use of video cameras viewable from the principal's office.
- Office staff and administration are readily available through phone contact in all rooms.
- Conflict resolution skills are modeled by the school counselor, social worker, and supported by teachers and students.

Every student/parent receives a copy of the student handbook (included in assignment book) which explains behavior expectations and consequences for misbehavior.

We strive to provide our students with school-wide programs to promote character education, drug awareness, conflict management, hygiene, diversity, and college preparedness.

### **F. Technology as a Learning Tool**

The College and Career Ready Standards provide students with an increased opportunity to practice technological skills at each grade level. This provides insight as to how teachers should integrate technology into their daily curriculum. Students and staff at Loogootee Middle School have access to various technology tools and programs. Beginning the 2017-2018 school year, Loogootee Middle School is 1:1 with each student having a Chromebook. All Math, ELA, and Science classes in the middle school have an online component to the curriculum. These programs include Accelerated Reader, Skyward Gradebook, IXL, and Pearson Realize. Teachers also have access to Learn 360 Video Streaming, the Southern Indiana Education Center

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(SIEC) video library, and our own in-house library.

This year, the library was remodeled with part of it turned into a Technology Lab. Classes have the ability to reserve the tech lab to collaborate and work on projects. This was able to be done through the Digital Learning Grant received by the Corporation.

Each classroom is equipped with a telephone system for communication through voicemail. Projection systems, as well as document cameras are used for instruction. Classrooms also contain a DVD/VCR player to incorporate an array of learning tools.

Smart boards are being utilized in fifth and sixth grade classrooms, as well as the resource classrooms for 5th-8th grades. In addition to the smart boards, each resource classroom contains ten iPads.

A director of technology/curriculum and computer technician cover three buildings in the school district. They provide professional development and software training to the staff on programs utilized in the school. The tech staff is on call as needed between the three buildings.

### **G. Professional Development**

Loogootee Middle School staff supports and develops the educational goals of the school. This on-going process encourages the implementation of several teaching styles and strategies.

#### **Technology**

- Five Star Technology Training/Assessment.Instructional Practices
- Online Lesson Plan Books
- Website and Skyward training

#### **Language Arts**

- Curriculum Mapping
- Engrade Assessment/Data
- Data/Progress Monitoring Meetings - (monthly)
- Staff Collaboration - master schedule allows for common prep times for staff to collaborate
- Engrade Assessment/Data
- Smekens Writing Training

#### **Math**

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- Curriculum Mapping
- Engrade Training
- Data/Progress Monitoring Meetings
- Staff Collaboration - master schedule allows for common prep times for staff to collaborate
- ISTEP Training

**Science**

- Rigorous Curriculum Design
- Discovery Education
- 

**General**

- Safe Schools training
- Crisis Prevention training
- Online Bullying Prevention

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT OBJECTIVES****A. Attendance Data**

The attendance rate for Loogootee Middle School is good overall. In the past, it has consistently been above the state average.

Good attendance is supported by a strong attendance policy and our Pay-Day criteria that is put into place. At the end of each grading period, students who achieve perfect attendance are given an award. In addition, there is a school-wide incentive program (Pay-Day) for each term that promotes achieving perfect/outstanding attendance, as well as zero tardies.

The attendance policy at Loogootee Middle School requires a letter to be sent home once a student has missed three and five undocumented and/or unexcused absences within a semester. Once a child has reached ten absences that are unexcused, it is reported to Child Protective Services or the Martin County Probation office, depending on the age of the student. Our goal is to maintain our current attendance rate, as well as work towards improving the rate yearly.

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**Loogootee Middle School Attendance Rate**

<b>School Year</b>	<b>Loogootee Middle School (5-8)</b>	<b>State of Indiana Average (5-8)</b>
2016-2017	96.2%	96.2%
2015-2016	97.0%	96.3%
2014-2015	96.5%	96.2%
2013-2014	96.6%	96.5%
2012-2013	96.0%	96.6%
2011-2012	96.2%	96.7%
2010-2011	95.6%	96.5%

**B. Percentage of Students Meeting Academic Standards under the ISTEP  
Program**

**Percent Passing ISTEP+ - English/Language Arts**

<b>Year</b>	<b>E/LA 5th Grade</b>	<b>E/LA 6th Grade</b>	<b>E/LA 7th Grade</b>	<b>E/LA 8th Grade</b>
2012 - 2013	92	74	75	72
2013 - 2014	89	85	73	75
2014-2015	62	66	66	51
2015-2016	71	69	70	61
2016-2017	66	72	60	59

**Percent Passing ISTEP+ - Math**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Math 5th Grade</b>	<b>Math 6th Grade</b>	<b>Math 7th Grade</b>	<b>Math 8th Grade</b>
2012-2013	93	93	71	70
2013-2014	97	96	82	72
2014-2015	76	70	61	59

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2015-2016	79	63	63	67
2016-2017	83	81	53	62

**AREAS NEEDING IMMEDIATE IMPROVEMENT**

Looking to the future, it is the intent of Loogootee Middle School to work towards increasing the percentage of students passing the ISTEP+ Part 1 and Part 2 assessment and mastering the new College and Career Ready Standards until we are consistently at or above the 90% passing threshold. Improvement is needed across the board in all subject areas for fifth through eighth grades. The standards are still very new to teachers and students, as well as creating the rigor needed to do well on the ISTEP+ test. Improvement is needed, especially in the area of language arts and math for grades seven and eight. Social Studies scores have remained well above the state average over the last three years. One area that is consistently low across the board is how students do on constructed-response type questions. This is being addressed through training across all content areas.

Improvement is needed immediately within our Middle School Special Education student population, as well as the free/reduced lunch category. The difference of scores from students with paid lunch to free/reduced estimates about 20%. It is the intent to increase the special education population scores by 1%, as well as, the students who are on free/reduced lunch by 1%. Both Math and English/Language Arts scores have been fluctuating in recent years with little or no growth taking place. With the new standards in place and the influence on technology enhanced questions, a strong emphasis needs to be placed on preparing the students for the new testing format. Analysis of the data indicates that reading comprehension, especially Non-Fiction and Informational Text, as well as writing deficiencies, especially writing applications are areas that are in need of improvement for grade 5-8. In mathematics, areas that are in need of improvement are Geometry, Number Sense, Computation, Algebra and Functions, Measurement, and Problem Solving.



## **GOALS**

Loogootee Middle School will use data collected from the following areas as benchmarks for progress:

**Goal 1:** Improve ISTEP ELA scores.

Objective:

By the end of 2018, Loogootee Middle School students will increase their ELA ISTEP scores by 3%.

Strategies:

- Administer research-based assessments throughout the year in grades 5-8 to establish baselines.
- Develop pacing guides to align with the 2014 Indiana College and Career Ready Standards.
- Use item samples from IDOE for familiarize students with question formats.
- Monthly data meetings to interpret student data and make necessary adjustments.
- Goal setting with students in regards to their Engrade assessments.
- Co-teaching with math and special education teacher.
- Using IXL ELA and Engrade to remediate week math students and provide enrichment and enhancement for student at and above grade level.
- Adopt ELA textbooks to align with the state standards.
- Differentiation of instruction to meet the needs of all learners.
- Utilize Bell Ringers as a way to work on areas of weakness.

**Goal 2:** Improve overall math ISTEP scores

Objective:

By the end of 2018, Loogootee Middle School students will increase their Math ISTEP scores by 3%.

Strategies:

- Administer research-based assessments throughout the year in grades 5-8 to establish baselines.
- Develop pacing guides to align with the 2014 Indiana College and Career Ready Standards.

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- Use item samples from IDOE for familiarize students with question formats.
- Monthly data meetings to interpret student data and make necessary adjustments.
  
- Goal setting with students in regards to their Engrade scores.
- Co-teaching with math and special education teacher.
- Using IXL Math and Engrade to remediate week math students and provide enrichment and enhancement for student at and above grade level.
- Differentiation of instruction to meet the needs of all learners.
- Utilize Bell Ringers as a way to work on areas of weakness.

### **ACADEMIC HONORS DIPLOMA AND CORE 40**

Loogootee Middle School curriculum is aligned with the Indiana College and Career Ready Standards and supports Core 40 for Loogootee High School. Loogootee Middle School's curriculum and expectations promote student achievement for Academic Honors.

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Loogootee Middle School includes ongoing professional growth experiences that provide time and job embedded opportunities to support school improvement. Teachers will have opportunities to discuss and model best practices in reading, writing, and math during common planning periods, as well as built in professional development twice a month. Professional Development opportunities have focused on:

- School Safety
- Engrade
- iXL
- Continued curriculum development
- Technology tools for the classroom
- Planning RtI activities based on data

### **STATUTES AND RULES TO BE WAIVED**

None

## **TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION, REVIEW, AND REVISION**

The principal and school improvement committee at Loogootee Middle School will review the achievement of students annually, as well as throughout the year after benchmark and formative assessments. The achievement review will include data provided by the Indiana Department of Education, ISTEP+ data, Engrade, iXL, and results from local assessments.

### **2017-2018**

- Math and ELA teachers will continue curriculum mapping, developing units, creating pacing guides, and creating common assessments in order to provide a rigorous curriculum that meets the Indiana College and Career Ready Standards.
- Teachers will utilize data in order to identify students who need remediation, reinforcement of grade level material, or enrichment at all grade levels.
- Built-in professional development will allow teachers time to collaborate and learn strategies together and from one another.
- Continue to work with Special Education teachers to implement LLI training and develop strategies to improve test scores.
- Review and analyze, ISTEP, iXL, and Engrade data to drive instruction, as well as check progress towards goals.
- Continue to improve student incentive initiatives to promote good grades, attendance, responsibility, and good behavior.
- Emphasize the importance of reading through the Accelerated Reader Program by providing incentives for students that are reading.
- Explore ways to add Math and ELA instructional time for students in grades 7-8.

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**2018-2019**

The 2018-19 plan will continue with the same implementation as the 2016-17 plan, but the plan will be revised and updated by studying the most current data.

**2019-2020**

The 2019-20 plan will continue with the same implementation as the 2017-18 plan, but the plan will be revised and updated by studying the most current data.