

# School Improvement Plan

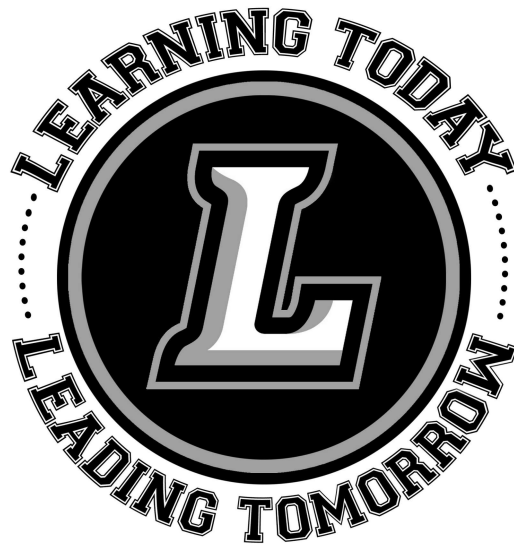
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LOOGOOTEE MIDDLE SCHOOL  
#6001

LOOGOOTEE COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION  
#5525

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Mr. Chip Mehaffey, Superintendent  
Mr. Chris Walker, Middle School Principal  
Mr. Cory Julian, Middle School Associate Principal



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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 2,740 as indicated by the 2020 census. Martin County's population totals around 9,800 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 living outside of city limits. Our local school district spans a distance of 31 miles from the northernmost point to the southern region.

Beginning with the 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 189 students. There are four 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 five full-time teachers and seven shared teachers. There is also one full-time resource room teacher 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 of which are available on a rotating basis between the three buildings in the corporation.

Loogootee Middle School is a member of the Daviess-Martin Special Education Cooperative for 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 special education professionals. Classroom teachers work closely with special education professionals to monitor each individual student's progress and growth. We have 36 students that receive Special Education services at our school site during the 2021-22 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 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 use 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 work opportunities are lacking, people in the community often seek employment outside of Loogootee. The median income of Martin County is \$47,024, and the unemployment rate is currently around 3% for the county. The percent of people living below the poverty level in Martin County is nearly 14%. According to the statistics, 40% of the students at Loogootee Middle School qualify for free lunch and reduced lunch.

The U.S. Census Bureau indicates that 88% of Martin County residents are high school graduates, however, only 14% 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. Since 2017, Loogootee Middle School offers a blended learning experience through the use of Chromebooks. Loogootee Middle School uses the Pearson Math Series, Pearson Reading Series, as well as a textbook for Science by Discovery Education. In addition, Loogootee Middle School teachers are utilizing NWEA data to form Remediation/Enrichment groups for Math and ELA to target standards that are not being mastered. In addition, teachers utilize other resources to 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 results in order to plan remediation and enrichment. Days are built into the curriculum 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 ILEARN**

#### **NWEA**

NWEA 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

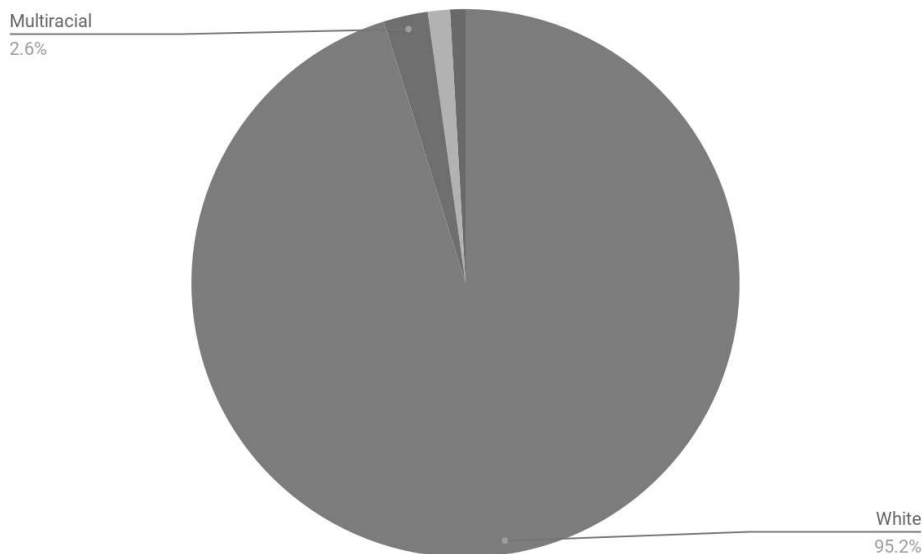
#### Community:

- 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

Diversity 2021-22

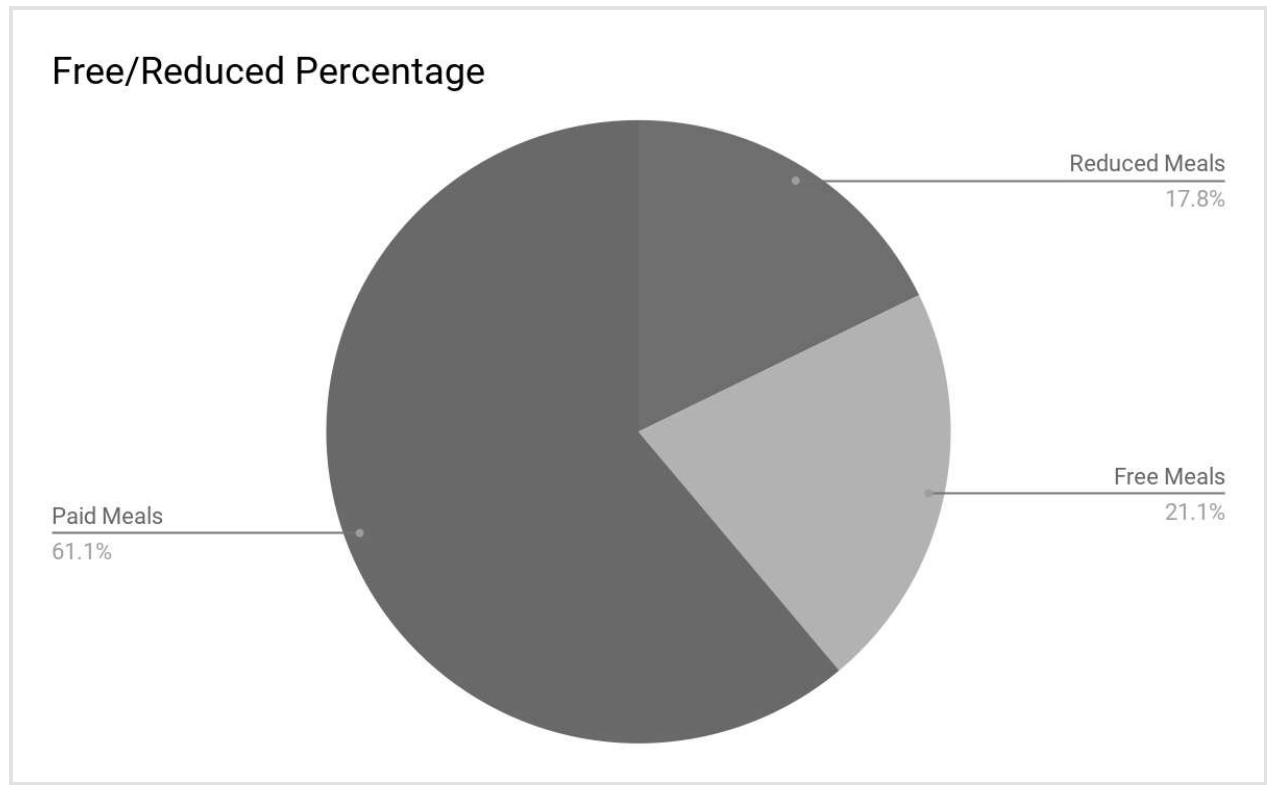


**The percentage totals by ethnicity:**

94.8% White	2.6% Multiracial
1.3% Hispanic	0.9% Asian

The graph below shows the number of students who receive free and reduced-price meals for Loogootee Middle School. The graph shows 61% of students are on paid

meals, 18% are on reduced-price meals, and 21% are on free meals.



#### LOOGOOTEE MIDDLE SCHOOL ILEARN DATA

ILEARN	Math	State	ELA	State
2019	52.5%	47.8%	51%	47.9%
2020	NA	NA	NA	NA
2021	45%	37%	48%	41%

The table shows the ILEARN 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 ILEARN performance report for the school year would be the addition of the 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 39% who currently qualify for assistance in 2021-2022.

## **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 the continual revision of the state standards, the realignment and development of the current curriculum have 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 which is the foundation in developing daily and unit lesson plans to help our students be successful in the ILEARN testing. Our staff is aware of these standards and have them available to aid in all standards being covered in the 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.



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 NWEA and iXL assessments. Currently, NWEA is given three times per year. The data from these tests are used to help adjust the 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 with 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 demonstrate academic progress. This period of time is also used for enrichment activities for students who are more advanced.

Additional strategies that support student learning that is 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 ILEARN results in order to put improvement plans into 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 NWEA assessments and the iXL computer program.

Loogootee Middle School also uses the NWEA 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 part 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 includes weekly newsletters, assignment books, 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 teach their child as the need arises.

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

Our school operates under a safe school policy that 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 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 an 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 the 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 (SIEC) video library, and our own in-house library.

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 and a Viewsonic is available at each grade level.

A director of technology/curriculum and computer technician covers 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
- NWEA Assessment/Data
- Data/Progress Monitoring Meetings - (monthly)
- Staff Collaboration
- Smekens Writing Training

### **Math**

- Curriculum Mapping
- NWEA Training
- Data/Progress Monitoring Meetings
- Staff Collaboration
- ILEARN 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 are put into place. At the end of each grading period, students who achieve perfect attendance are given an award.

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.

**Loogootee Middle School Attendance Rate**

<b>School Year</b>	<b>Loogootee Middle School (5-8)</b>
2020-2021	96.5%
2019-2020	96.3%
2018-2019	95.4%

In 2018, the corporation adopted a “MANE TRAIT” program to identify the traits of a successful Loogootee Lion student. Many of the traits incorporate lessons on good attendance and punctuality and students are recognized each month for excellent behavior and attendance.

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

Percent Passing **ILEARN** - 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>
2019	52	49	43	62
2020	NA	NA	NA	NA
2021	53.2	42.6	44.7	52.2

Percent Passing **ILEARN** - Math

<b>Year</b>	<b>Math 5th Grade</b>	<b>Math 6th Grade</b>	<b>Math 7th Grade</b>	<b>Math 8th Grade</b>
2019	72	49	44	52
2020	NA	NA	NA	NA
2021	66	40.7	29.8	29.9

## **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 ILEARN 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 ILEARN test. Improvement is needed, especially in the area of language arts and math for grades seven and eight.

Improvement is needed immediately within our Middle School Special Education student population, as well as the free/reduced lunch category. The difference in scores from students with paid lunch to free/reduced estimates remains at 20%. It is the intent to increase the special education population scores by 2%, as well as, the students who are on free/reduced lunch by 2%. 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, 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 grades 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: **ILEARN** (ELA Scores) (Math Scores)

**Goal 1:** Improve ELA scores on the 2021-2022 ILEARN Assessment (grades 5-8) by 2%.

Strategies:

- Administer research-based assessments throughout the year in grades 5-8 to establish baselines (NWEA is the selected assessment for 2021-22).
- Use item samples from IDOE to familiarize students with question formats. The building will have a monthly data meeting to interpret student data and make necessary adjustments.
- Goal setting with students in regards to their NWEA assessments.
- Co-teaching with an English and special education teacher.
- Using IXL, ELA, Study Island, Newsela, and NWEA to remediate ELA students and provide enrichment and enhancement for students 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.

**Goal 2:** Improve Math scores on the 2021-2022 ILEARN Assessment (grades 5-8) by 2%.

Strategies:

- Administer research-based assessments throughout the year in grades 5-8 to establish baselines (NWEA is the selected assessment for 2020-21).
- Use item samples from IDOE to familiarize students with question formats.
- Hold monthly data meetings to interpret student data and make necessary adjustments.
- Goal setting with students in regards to their NWEA scores.
- Co-teaching with a math and special education teacher.
- Using IXL Math, Study Island, and NWEA to remediate math students and provide enrichment and enhancement for students 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 the Core 40 diploma 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
- NWEA
- PBL Implementation
- 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, ILEARN data, NWEA, iXL, and study island results from local assessments.

### **2021-2022**

- 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 ILEARN, iXL, Study Island and NWEA 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.