



District Update

Progress toward Goals

November 3, 2022



Vision

The Watchung Borough School District is committed to inspiring learners to explore, inquire, and collaborate on their joyful journey toward discovery, independent thinking, and creative problem solving. Our culture of acceptance and inclusion provides the foundation for learning and social and emotional growth. Through reflection and ethical decision-making, we continue to learn and grow, embrace differences, and prepare for an increasingly complex, ever-changing world.



District Update

Overview of Presentation

- *i-Ready* diagnostic results (Fall 2022)
- Update on Progress toward District Goals
- Next Steps for Advancing toward District Goals



i-Ready Diagnostic Data

Important Notes:

- Student performance is measured against expectations created by historical *i-Ready* data.
- Fall results in presentation are measured against end-of-year expectations.

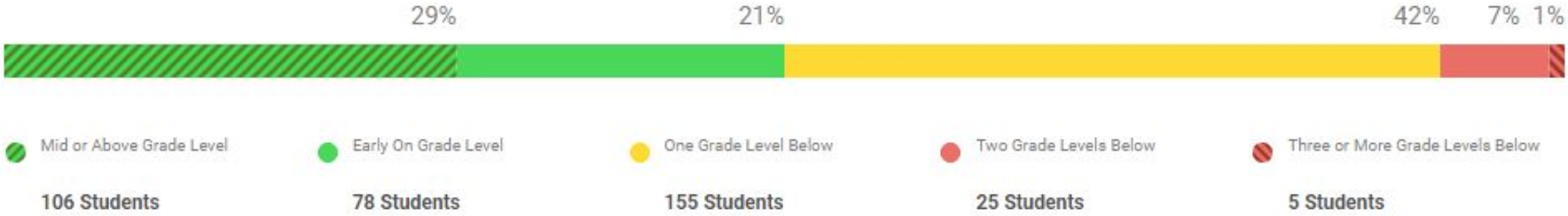


District Goals, 2022-23

- Develop academic-enrichment opportunities for students through personalized learning, inquiry, and collaborative problem solving.
- Enhance and diversify strategies for communicating with the community with a focus on the website and social media.
- Strengthen social-emotional wellness of students and staff and continue promoting a culturally vibrant, inclusive school community.
- Prepare for and lead the district through the QSAC monitoring process.



i-Ready Diagnostic, Fall 2022 Reading, Grades K-4

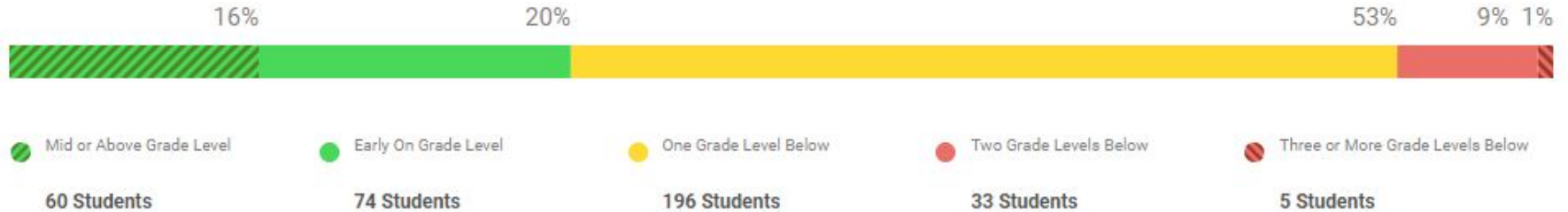


i-Ready Diagnostic, Fall 2022 Reading, Grades K-4

Grade	Overall Grade-Level Placement						Students Assessed/Total
Grade K		17%	26%	57%	0%	0%	84/84
Grade 1		30%	16%	52%	2%	0%	61/64
Grade 2		23%	19%	38%	20%	0%	74/74
Grade 3		39%	29%	19%	10%	3%	72/74
Grade 4		37%	14%	42%	3%	4%	78/78



i-Ready Diagnostic, Fall 2022 Math, Grades K-4

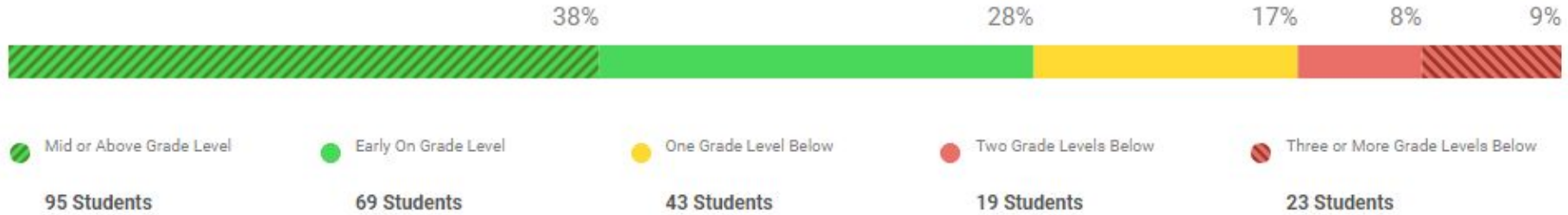


i-Ready Diagnostic, Fall 2022 Math, Grades K-4

Grade	Overall Grade-Level Placement						Students Assessed/Total
Grade K		23%	15%	62%	0%	0%	81/84
Grade 1		17%	16%	59%	8%	0%	63/64
Grade 2		9%	16%	57%	18%	0%	74/74
Grade 3		8%	21%	57%	10%	4%	72/74
Grade 4		22%	32%	33%	10%	3%	78/78



i-Ready Diagnostic, Fall 2022 Reading, Grades 5-8

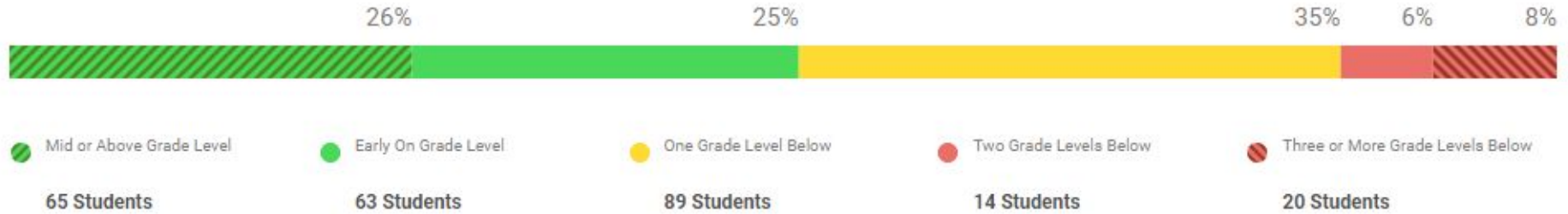


i-Ready Diagnostic, Fall 2022 Reading, Grades 5-8










Grade	Overall Grade-Level Placement						Students Assessed/Total
Grade 5		27%	33%	22%	16%	2%	63/64
Grade 6		41%	27%	13%	8%	13%	64/65
Grade 7		35%	29%	18%	4%	13%	68/68
Grade 8		52%	20%	17%	2%	9%	54/54



i-Ready Diagnostic, Fall 2022 Math, Grades 5-8



i-Ready Diagnostic, Fall 2022 Math, Grades 5-8

Grade	Overall Grade-Level Placement						Students Assessed/Total
Grade 5		20%	23%	42%	8%	6%	64/64
Grade 6		28%	29%	31%	3%	9%	65/65
Grade 7		25%	25%	34%	6%	10%	68/68
Grade 8		31%	22%	35%	6%	6%	54/54



Academic Initiatives

How are we developing strategies for personalized learning, inquiry, and collaborative problem solving?

Teaching and learning process

- Classroom
- Enrichment programs
- Clubs and activities
- Field trips
- Professional learning



Academic Initiatives

Classroom (Culture of Inquiry and Collaboration)

- Engage in authentic, deeper learning (LATIC)
- Use *i-Ready* data to inform instruction and personalize learning for individual students and classes
- Use individual state testing data to support students
- Emphasize a growth mindset
- Build student agency and pride in student work
- Self-monitoring and collective responsibility
- Reinforce productive collaboration
- Use evidence-based teaching



Academic Initiatives

Enrichment Programs

- Expanded SOAR program/opportunities
- Expand coding opportunities in STEM coding classes
- School-wide contests and opportunities (Spelling Bee, Science Night, STEM Night, writing contests, etc.)
- Extension and enrichment activities/resources in the classroom
- FLEX period
- Valley View Tech Team (students)
- Bayberry lunchtime enrichment groups



Academic Initiatives

After-School Clubs and Activities

- Additional math-related clubs (Math Club and Algebra Club)
- Adventure Club
- Additional contests and events for existing clubs
- Coloring Confidence Program



Academic Initiatives

Field Trips

- The Historic Village at Allaire (8th Grade - US History)
- Rutgers Science Explorer Bus (6 - 8th Grades - STEM & Science)
- Somerset Patriots (6th Grade - Mathematics)
- Turtle Back Zoo (K Science)
- Doyles Farm (1st Science/Social Studies)
- Trailside Nature & Science Center (2nd Science)
- Environmental Education Center (3rd Science)
- Liberty Hall Museum (4th Social Studies)



Academic Initiatives

Professional learning

- Innovative Designs for Education (IDE) consultants
 - Whole school training on best practices in executive functioning and student achievement
 - Personalized coaching for 11 teachers at Valley View
 - Online access to MyQPortal library of instructional resources
 - Self-paced online learning experiences (PLE) focused on individualized learning
- Response to Intervention training
 - Implementing effective RTI process and high impact interventions
 - Developing targeted goals based on assessment data and frequent progress monitoring
 - Crisis Prevention Institute Training: non-violent crisis intervention techniques



Academic Initiatives

Professional Learning

- Danielson Framework for Teaching 2022
 - Online and in-person training for teachers and administrators
- NextMark Training
 - Recognizing and addressing student mental health in the classroom
- Marco Polo Training (PK)
 - Personalized videos and family engagement
- Data analysis to inform instruction
- ParaEducator training for paraprofessionals



Communication Strategies

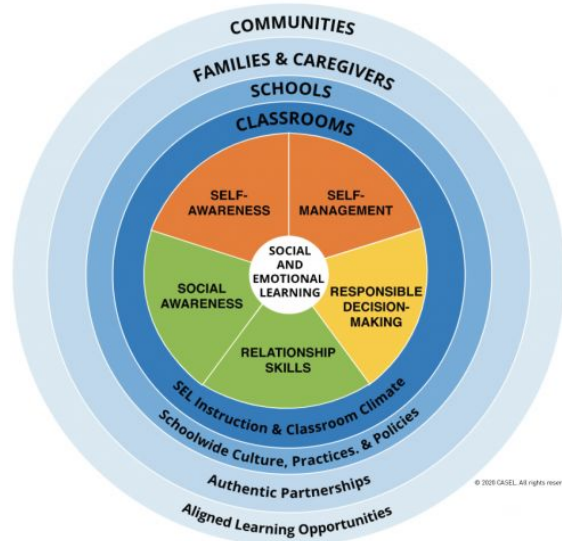
How are we enhancing and diversifying strategies for communicating with our community?

- New website (anticipated rollout in November)
- Twitter accounts for district, special services department, and each school
- Weekly district newsletter with community events
- Regular communication from schools through email



Wellness in a Culturally Vibrant Community

How are we strengthening social-emotional wellness of students and staff and continuing to promote a culturally vibrant, inclusive school community?



Wellness

Valley View Students

- Classrooms
 - Fostering a Culture of Inquiry and Collaboration
 - Self-monitoring, goal setting, and reflection
 - Flexible classroom setting
- Mountaineer Mondays
 - Small groups with one teacher for their VV career
 - Community building
 - Second Step lessons
 - Spirit activities
- 5th Grade
 - Guidance lessons
 - Digital citizenship lessons



Wellness

Valley View Staff

- Mindful Monday Activities
- Taking Care of You (professional development)
- Health and Wellness Club
- Monthly SEL calendars: Optimistic October
- Monthly themed breakfasts - Sunshine Club
- Resources/training to assist students (Suicide prevention resources)



Wellness

Bayberry Students

- Weekly Second Step lessons with reinforcement throughout the week
- Building Classroom Community - Responsive Classroom
- Building School Community
 - All-school meetings, School-wide events
 - Healthy habits theme for Red Ribbon Week
 - Morning announcements
- Guidance lessons based on needs of students/classes
- Baxter, Therapy Dog
- Increase in physical education for K & PK
- Increased access to guidance counselor



Wellness

Bayberry Staff

- Responsive Classroom training
 - Morning meeting, building connections, combining social skills with brain-smart engagement techniques and positive behavioral supports
- Health and Wellness Committee
 - Staff wellness events - Yoga for teachers, Painting Party
- Monthly breakfast hosted by staff for staff



Culturally Vibrant, Inclusive School Community

Valley View

- Monthly recognition (Hispanic Heritage, Women's History, Black History, etc)
- Restorative Discipline training
- Social-issue assignments infused into multiple subjects



Culturally Vibrant, Inclusive School Community

Bayberry

- School Culture and Climate Committee
 - Plan events and share resources with staff
- Celebration of diverse cultures and groups throughout the school year
 - Morning announcements, guest readers, integrated lessons
 - Parents and students share holiday traditions with class
- PTO Cultural Arts Assemblies
- Inclusive clubs, extracurricular activities and enrichment opportunities
- Culturally diverse resources
- Training for paraprofessionals



Culturally Vibrant, Inclusive School Community

Recruiting, Hiring, and Training

- Job fairs (CJ PRIDE)
- Broader advertising
- Internships for college and university students
- Watchung IDEA
- NJASA Leadership Diversity Committee (Superintendent)
- NJASA PD-Seminar Committee (Superintendent)
- Increased staff diversity: 50% of new hires since July 1, 2021.
- Raised percentage of diverse staff to 21% from 13% since September 2020.



New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC)

How are we preparing for and leading the district through the QSAC monitoring process?

State monitors districts on a three-year cycle.

Five areas of accountability

- Instruction and Program
- Fiscal Management
- Governance
- Operations
- Personnel



New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC)

Action Steps

- Review and analyze accountability standards
- Collect and organize artifacts and evidence of compliance
- Attend information sessions offered by county education office
- Form committee (meets monthly)
- Complete District Performance Review Self-Assessment (to be approved at November board meeting and submitted by November 15)
- Comply with requests from county education office and remediate any deficiency
- Site visit by county scheduled for February 14, 2023



Previous Initiatives

Personalized Learning Approach

- Meeting students where they are.
- Developing student self-awareness and agency.
- Teachers using data to design appropriate challenges for students.
- *i-Ready* creating individual paths for enrichment and practice in skill-building based on diagnostic performance.
- SOAR teachers using results to assist teachers in classroom.
- A culture inspiring student curiosity and developing passion for learning.



Previous Initiatives

Designed to Promote Academic Achievement and Learning Acceleration (2021-22)

- Math and Language Arts Workshop classes added to Valley View taught by content/grade level teachers with students working on current assignments.
- Districtwide Pursuit of Excellence After-School Program (added to the fall/winter season and enhanced summer program). Students worked on areas identified as gaps or needing reinforcement.
- Developed extension and enrichment activities for teacher use in the classroom.
- Continued Second Step lessons taught by each content-area teacher.
- Continued professional learning for staff (Nextmark Training).



Previous Initiatives

Advancing instruction toward design thinking and problem solving at Valley View

- Teaching and learning process (Culture of Inquiry and Collaboration)
- After-school clubs (Robotics)
- Field trips
- Trashion Show
- TREP\$ Marketplace
- Science Fair
- Battle of the Books
- Geocaching at Watchung Lake



Previous Initiatives

Advancing instruction toward design thinking and problem solving at Bayberry

- Teaching and learning process (Culture of Inquiry and Collaboration)
- After-school clubs (Chess club)
- Shady Spot Challenge
- Buoyancy
- Hurricane House
- Spacecraft Landing - National Space Day
- Virtual Breakout Rooms with Breakout EDU - Problem Solving
- Inventioners App
- G Suite Activities



Previous Initiatives

VV Spring STEM Field Trips

- The Battery Conservancy (Battery Park, NY)
- Food systems and climate change
- Intrepid Sea, Air, & Space Museum (NYC)
- The Great Swamp Watershed (Morristown)
- Identify aquatic inhabitants and water quality
- Somerset Patriots Stadium (Bridgewater)
- Statistics and mathematics in baseball

BB Spring Field Trips

- Turtleback Zoo
- Trailside Nature Center
- Environmental Education Center
- Liberty Hall Museum



Previous Initiatives

Valley View Student Wellness and Social-Emotional Learning

- D.A.R.E. Program
- Assemblies - Dr. Mykee Fowlin, Harlem Wizards, & Author Visit
- Day of Giving - Give back to the school, the community, and self
- Move Up Day
- Second Step lessons (resolving conflicts, taking responsibility for actions)
- Spirit activities
- Digital citizenship lessons
- School counselor lessons

Valley View Staff

- Trauma Toolkit for Educators
- Health & Wellness Club
- Monthly SEL calendars
- Monthly themed breakfasts - Sunshine Club
- Restorative Practices Faculty Book Discussion



Previous Initiatives

Bayberry Wellness and Social-Emotional Learning

- Teachers continuing weekly SEL lessons (AI's Pals & Second Step)
- Integrated with other subject areas
- Pilot of Little Spot of Feelings in Kindergarten
- Guidance Services
- Lessons based on needs of students/classes
- Lunch Social Skills Groups during recess
- Drop-in counseling and scheduled sessions
- All-school assemblies
- Spirit Days
- School Transitions - Kindergarten Visitation, Fourth-Grade Orientation at Valley View



Previous Initiatives

Planning for 2022-23 School Year with Emphasis on Personalized Learning Approach

Using data to inform instruction, including *i-Ready* diagnostic, in-class formative assessment, instructional feedback, summative assessment

Professional learning for personalized approach as district and school PD goals

Enrichment activities to create appropriate challenges

SOAR enrichment activities and instruction

Exploring scheduling options and strategies for intervention and enrichment

Districtwide Pursuit of Excellence After-School Program



Previous Initiatives

For more comprehensive information on our district's previous initiatives, please feel free review our [District Update on Goals Presentation, 6-9-22](#) on our [District Goals](#) webpage.



Next Steps

Academic Strategies aligned with Personalized Learning Approach

- FLEX
 - Intervention and enrichment period
- Math and Language Arts Workshop classes
 - Taught by content/grade level teachers
 - Enhanced data analysis to identify students strengths and weaknesses
- Districtwide Pursuit of Excellence After-School Program
 - Enhanced summer program
 - Students work on areas identified as gaps or needing reinforcement
 - Additional resources that connect to *i-Ready*



Next Steps

Communication Strategies

- Continue customizing website
- Begin using Twitter as a means of communication
- Continue weekly newsletter
- Continue regular school communication
- Parent informational sessions
 - Curriculum
 - Title I/ESL
 - HIB



Next Steps

Wellness

- Continued Second Step lessons taught by each content area teacher
- Continued professional learning for staff
- Staff SEL Buddies
- Continued celebration of diverse groups as school spirit events and embedded within our curriculum



Next Steps

Culturally Vibrant, Inclusive Community

- Continued celebration of diverse groups as school spirit events and embedded within our curriculum
- Student assemblies and author visits
- Continued review of supplemental resources and curricular units
- Continued professional learning opportunities



Next Steps

NJQSAC

- Continue preparing and organizing artifacts and evidence
- Committee to meet monthly
- October meeting to review DPRs
- Address any deficiency



Next Steps

Progress reports at future board meetings

- February
- June

