

## ***Media Release***

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

LaGrange, GA., January 6, 2023 – Every week until the end of the 2022-2023 school year, The Troup County School System will highlight a Professional Learning Community from a different school.

The goal of the Professional Learning Communities is to meet regularly and discuss standards-based approaches, common assessments, student work, student-level data, interventions, and instructional improvement strategies.

This week's highlight is **Ethel Kight Elementary School, written by Candace McGhee, Principal of EKES.**

#### **EKES Spotlight:**

Taylor Hill, Taylor McCray, Leanne Moore, Ashley Towler, and Veronica West are members of the 1st-grade team at Ethel W. Kight Elementary School. These teachers are committed to improving students' foundational skills in reading by engaging in PLCs. After administering the Foundations Unit Assessment, the team works collaboratively to analyze student data. Additionally, the team meets during common planning throughout the week to discuss students' overall academic performance and make informed decisions that positively affect student outcomes of grade-level standards.

#### **What do these teachers do in PLCs?**

At the end of a Foundations instructional unit, each teacher administers a formative unit assessment to their class. Afterward, they complete a Foundations Data Tracker to monitor their student's mastery of instruction. The teachers group students based on the data analysis within the categories of exceeding standards, meeting standards, progressing towards standards, and not meeting standards. The five teachers schedule and participate in a collaborative meeting with the administrators in attendance. Teachers identify data trends among individual students, classes, and grade levels during the collaboration. A plan of action is created to provide intervention and enrichment opportunities for students based on 80% mastery.

#### **Is it working?**

The work the 1st-grade teachers complete in the collaboration has benefited the students and teachers. The 1st-grade teachers feel they are growing professionally as they commit to the work of identifying data trends, clarifying misconceptions, and intervening early with action steps to address the specific needs of their students. Witnessing all the team members share in the decision-making to regroup students for review and extension speaks volumes about their work for our students.

## **About Troup County School System**

Troup County School System is an accredited educational system with over 12,200 students in grades K-12. TCSS does offer a free Pre-K program at each elementary school. The system is comprised of eleven elementary schools, three middle schools, three high schools, one college and career academy, and one alternative learning center. Students within the school system are taught a rigorous and relevant curriculum that helps them make college and career choices beyond graduation. The system 2022 graduation rate is 85.9 percent. To learn more about Troup County School System, visit [troup.org](https://troup.org) and the Troup County School System Facebook page.

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