

# **District Update**

## ***Progress toward Goals***

March 14, 2023

# Vision

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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 Goals, 2022-23

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- 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.



# Academic Initiatives

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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

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## 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

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## Enrichment Programs

- SOAR program/opportunities
- Coding opportunities in STEAM coding classes
- School-wide contests and opportunities (Spelling Bee, Science Fair Night, STEAM Family Night, writing contests, etc.)
- Extension and enrichment activities/resources in the classroom
- FLEX period with student choice
- Bayberry lunchtime enrichment groups



# Academic Initiatives

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## After-School Clubs and Activities

- Community Outreach
- Student Council
- Photography Club
- Peer Leaders
- Basketball
- Track and Field
- Softball/Baseball
- Intramurals
- Honor Band
- Select Choir
- Math Club
- Algebra Club
- Adventure Club
- Coloring Confidence Program
- Coding & Robotics
- Chess Club
- STEAM Club
- Environmental Club
- TREP\$ Club
- World Culture Club



# Academic Initiatives

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## Field Trips

- The Historic Village at Allaire (8th Grade - US History)
- Rutgers Science Explorer Bus (6 - 8th Grades - STEAM & Science)
- Somerset Patriots (6th Grade - Mathematics)
- 911 Museum & Memorial (8th Grade - Social Studies)
- Intrepid Air & Space Museum (8th Grade - Science & Social Studies)
- Battery Conservancy (7th Grade - Science & STEAM)
- Turtle Back Zoo & Crayola Experience (K STEAM)
- Doyles Farm (1st Science/Social Studies)
- Morris Museum (2nd Science)
- Environmental Education Center (3rd Science)





# Academic Initiatives

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## Professional learning

- Innovative Designs for Education (IDE) consultants
  - Whole school training on best practices in executive functioning and student achievement
  - Personalized coaching for teachers
  - 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 monitoring
  - Crisis Prevention Institute Training: non-violent crisis intervention techniques



# Academic Initiatives

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## 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



# Academic Initiatives

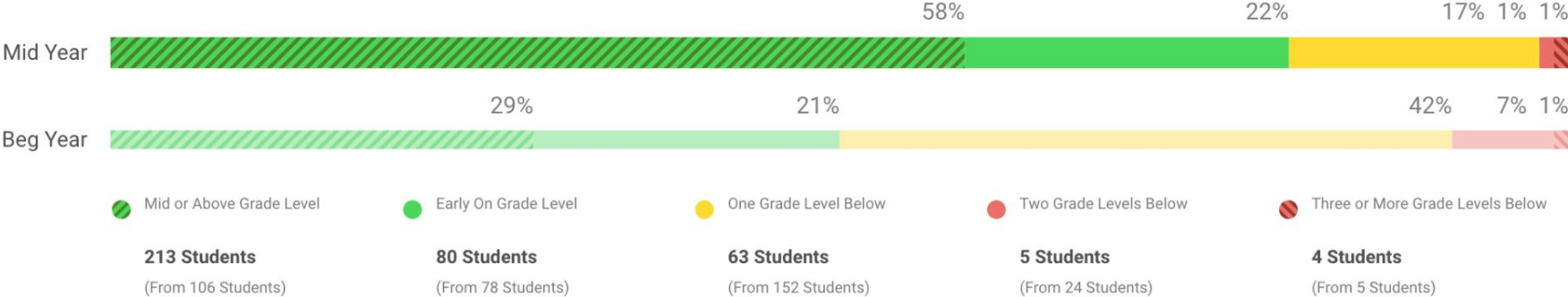
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## Academic Strategies aligned with Personalized Learning Approach

- PLC Team Meeting - data analysis, goal setting
  - Job-embedded professional development
- 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*



# i-Ready Diagnostic, Winter 2023 Reading, Grades K-4



# i-Ready Diagnostic, Winter 2023 Reading, Grades K-2

Grade		Overall Grade-Level Placement					
Grade K	Mid Year		64%	23%	13%	0%	0%
	Beg Year		17%	26%	57%	0%	0%
Grade 1	Mid Year		69%	17%	14%	0%	0%
	Beg Year		31%	17%	52%	0%	0%
Grade 2	Mid Year		54%	18%	23%	5%	0%
	Beg Year		23%	19%	38%	20%	0%

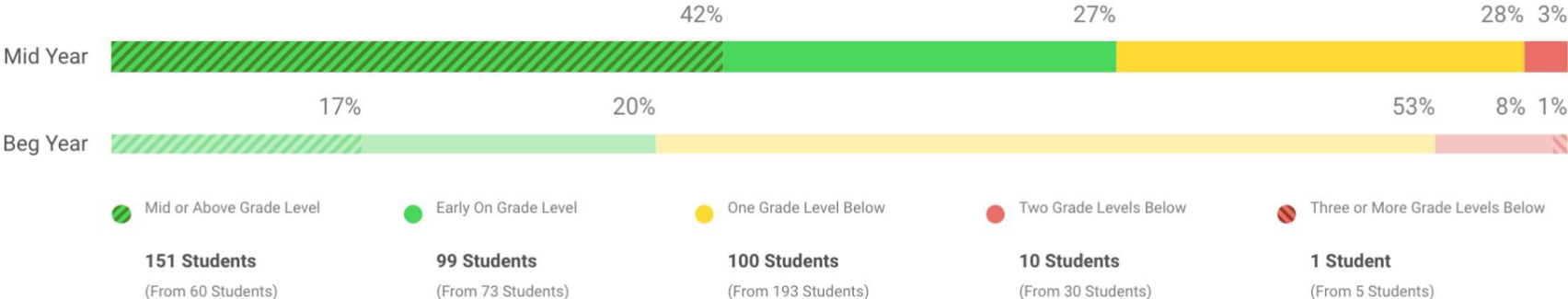


# i-Ready Diagnostic, Winter 2023 Reading, Grades 3-4

Multi		Overall Grade-Level Placement					
Grade 3	Mid Year		59%	28%	10%	1%	1%
	Beg Year		39%	30%	18%	10%	3%
Grade 4	Mid Year		47%	23%	26%	0%	4%
	Beg Year		37%	14%	42%	3%	4%



# i-Ready Diagnostic, Winter 2023 Math, Grades K-4



# i-Ready Diagnostic, Fall 2022 Math, Grades K-2

Grade		Overall Grade-Level Placement					
Grade K	Mid Year		64%	19%	17%	0%	0%
	Beg Year		23%	15%	62%	0%	0%
Grade 1	Mid Year		59%	16%	26%	0%	0%
	Beg Year		19%	16%	60%	5%	0%
Grade 2	Mid Year		31%	30%	35%	4%	0%
	Beg Year		9%	16%	57%	18%	0%



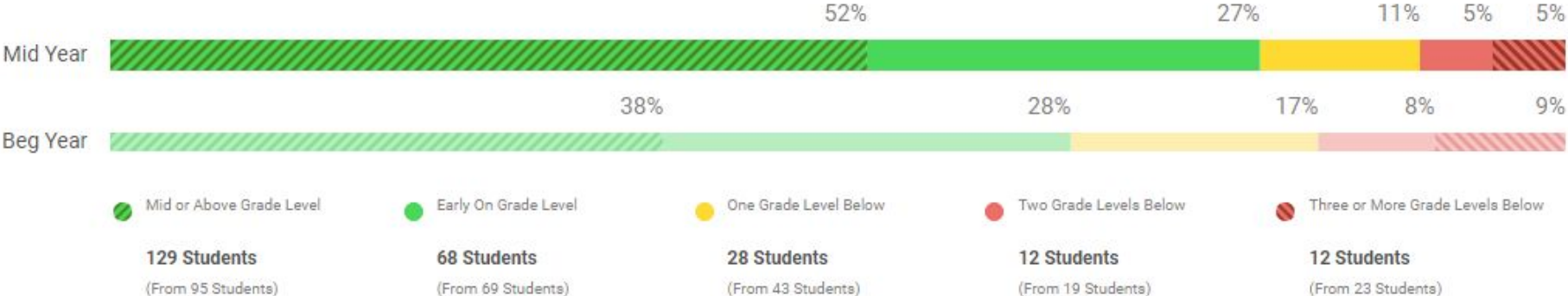


# i-Ready Diagnostic, Fall 2022 Math, Grades 3-4

Multi		Overall Grade-Level Placement					
Grade 3	Mid Year		21%	41%	34%	3%	1%
	Beg Year		8%	21%	58%	8%	4%
Grade 4	Mid Year		35%	31%	27%	6%	0%
	Beg Year		22%	32%	32%	10%	3%



# i-Ready Diagnostic, Winter 2023 Reading, Grades 5-8

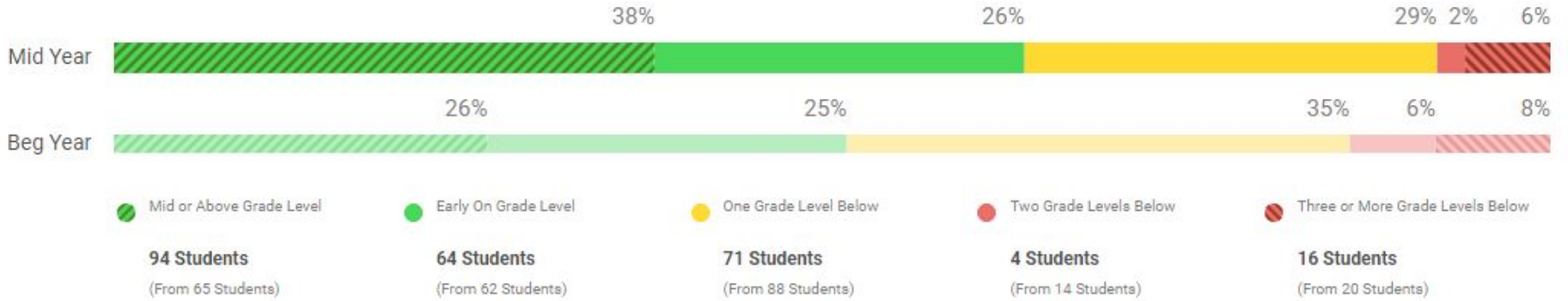


# i-Ready Diagnostic, Winter 2023 Reading, Grades 5-8




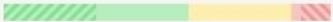




Grade 5	Mid Year		44%	27%	19%	10%	0%
	Beg Year		27%	33%	22%	16%	2%
Grade 6	Mid Year		59%	20%	9%	5%	6%
	Beg Year		41%	27%	13%	8%	13%
Grade 7	Mid Year		40%	38%	13%	3%	6%
	Beg Year		35%	29%	18%	4%	13%
Grade 8	Mid Year		67%	22%	2%	2%	7%
	Beg Year		52%	20%	17%	2%	9%



# i-Ready Diagnostic, Winter 2023 Math, Grades 5-8



# i-Ready Diagnostic, Winter 2023 Math, Grades 5-8

Grade 5	Mid Year		37%	24%	35%	2%	3%
	Beg Year		21%	24%	41%	8%	6%
Grade 6	Mid Year		41%	28%	22%	3%	6%
	Beg Year		28%	28%	31%	3%	9%
Grade 7	Mid Year		28%	31%	31%	0%	10%
	Beg Year		25%	25%	34%	6%	10%
Grade 8	Mid Year		48%	19%	26%	2%	6%
	Beg Year		31%	22%	35%	6%	6%



# Student Highlights

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- Emma Speeney won 2nd place in the 60 Second HorrorFest microfilm festival.
- American Mathematics Competition (AMC 10) top three finishers were Bennett Kuperman, Akshaj Kumar, and Michael Jiang.
- Alec Cholewicki represented Valley View at the 7th Annual SCLSNJ Spelling Bee Spectacular
- Isha Gidwani represented Valley View School at a Mount Saint Mary Academy Mathematics Competition
- Isha Gidwani and Hansil Patel won this year's AMC 8 Math Competition
- Emily Hauck, Konrad Kazimierski, Yelisey Kogan, and Gavin Farley were selected to join the Central Jersey Region 2 Intermediate Band
- Coding & Robotics Club students participated in the TEAMS competition
- Emily Hauck, Noa Santoro, Arianna Patel and Isha Gidwani represented Valley View at NJ Regional Future City Competition.
- Chris Atileh, Bennett Kuperman, Ryan Wen, Isha Gidwani, and Arianna Patel participated in the NJ Middle School Science Bowl and placed 8th.



# Communication Strategies

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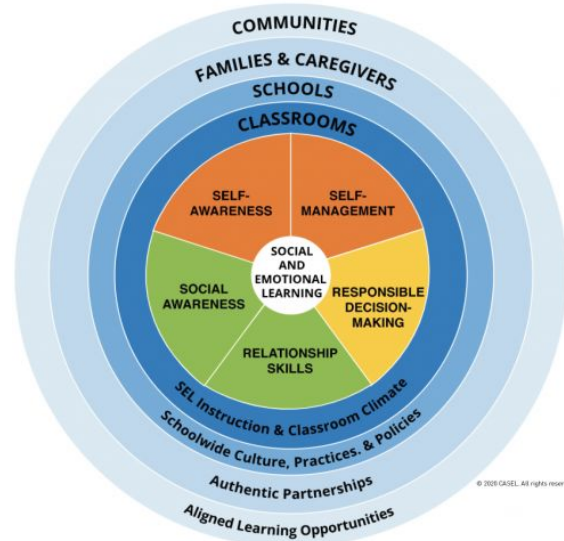
How are we enhancing and diversifying strategies for communicating with our community?

- New website launched in November
- Twitter accounts for district, special services department, and each school
- Weekly district newsletter with community events
- Regular communication from schools through email
- In-person information sessions and meetings



# 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

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## Valley View Students

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



# Wellness

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## Valley View Staff

- Mindful Monday Activities
- Taking Care of You (professional development)
- Health and Wellness Club
- Monthly SEL calendars
- Monthly themed breakfasts - Sunshine Club
- Resources/training to assist students (suicide prevention resources)
- De-Escalation Strategies



# Wellness

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## 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
  - Spirit events
  - Morning announcements
- Guidance lessons based on needs of students/classes
- Musical Theater embedded in curriculum
- Lunch groups to build social skills and friendships



# Wellness

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## 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
- Zen Room



# Culturally Vibrant, Inclusive School Community

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## Valley View

- Monthly recognition (Hispanic Heritage, Women's History, Black History, etc)
- Restorative Discipline training
- Social-issue assignments infused into multiple subjects
- Celebration & recognition of contributions, past and present from diverse groups
- Student assemblies and author visits
- Continued review of supplemental resources and curricular units



# Culturally Vibrant, Inclusive School Community

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## 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

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## Recruiting, Hiring, and Training

- Job fairs (CJ PRIDE)
- TCNJ
- Advertising
- Internships for college students
- Watchung IDEA
- NJASA Leadership Diversity Committee (Superintendent)
- NJASA PD-Seminar Committee (Superintendent)



# New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC)

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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)

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Steps taken since last report:

- Committee continued to meet
- Complied with requests from county education office
- Site visit by county occurred February 14, 2023
- Board adopts curricular document clarifications
- Administration submits proof of adoption to county office
- County office finalizes its report and sends it to Trenton
- NJ DOE issues final scoring report to district
- Final report expected later in the spring
- Expectation is that district will remain in highly performing category



# Previous Initiatives

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For comprehensive information on our district's previous initiatives, please feel free review our District Update on Goals Presentations on [6-9-22](#) and [11-3-22](#) on our [District Goals](#) webpage.



# Next Step

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Next progress report in June

