

**Strategic and Continuous School Improvement Plan  
for Southwood Jr./Sr. High School  
2023-2024 School Year**



*Submitted by:*  
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## **School Profile**

The staff of Southwood Jr/Sr High School is committed to providing all students with the opportunities necessary to maximize their learning potential. Since we believe that this is a shared responsibility between the home and school, Southwood Jr/Sr High School has adopted the following Mission Statement:

*A partnership of students, educators, parents, and community is committed to providing a positive educational environment characterized by high expectations for success. Students will be taught to be active life-long learners, functioning cooperatively and independently in a changing world.*

### **Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports**

*Respect, Responsibility, and Personal Best*

### **Metropolitan School District of Wabash County Vision, Mission, and Tagline MSD**

#### **Mission**

Inspiring a community of learners to discover and achieve their passion and potential.

#### **MSD Vision**

Innovators and thinkers who are successful in life and enrich the lives of others

#### **We are . . .**

Creative problem solvers

Driven to take initiative and ready to roll up our sleeves and get the job done Resilient and  
unafraid to fail. . . Try--Fail--Learn--Try again!

Self-reliant

Ethical, honest, and trustworthy

#### **Tagline**

Dream Big and Work Hard

## **The District & Demographics**

The Metropolitan School District of Wabash County serves families in Wabash County and the townships of Lagro, Liberty, Noble, Paw Paw, and Waltz. It occupies a 394 square mile area in Wabash County. It includes the small towns of LaFontaine, Lagro, Lincolnville, Roann, Speicherville, and Urbana. Four major state highways, State Road 13, State Road 15, State Road 24 and State Road 124 provide quick, convenient access to Huntington, Marion, North Manchester, and Wabash. The larger cities of Anderson, Muncie, Fort Wayne and Warsaw are within an hour's drive.

Southwood Jr./Sr. High School (hereafter referred to as Southwood) services most of Wabash County south of the Wabash River. It is part of the Metropolitan School District of Wabash County. The school corporation is governed by an elected school board, which consists of five members, one from each of three districts and two at-large.

The area served by Southwood has a heritage as a rural farm community. The student population is mainly rural with some students coming from small towns and the south edge of Wabash. The Southwood attendance area is serviced by one K-5 elementary school and one 6th-12th junior/senior high school. The junior high (6th-8th grades) share the same building with the high school (9th-12th).

The mobility of the student body has increased during the past years, but is still stable when compared to the school population in other areas of the state. Approximately 92.3% of our students are Caucasian, 4.3% Hispanic, 2.3% multi-racial, 0.5% Asian, and 0.5% Black/African-American. 39.4% of the school population are defined as economically disadvantaged. Approximately 12.5% of the population are students with disabilities.

## **Safety**

The students and staff have SNAP/ID cards that identify them and are used to purchase food in the cafeteria or check out materials in the Media Center. The ID cards are also used to access various parts of the building that are locked during the day. To further emphasize the importance of staff wearing the ID card, they are required for entrance into the building and also operate the copy machine.

Cameras are placed strategically inside and outside the school to monitor the halls and school grounds. Parents and students can electronically submit anonymous tips about bullying or other issues of school safety to Southwood High School administration. Teachers monitor the halls between classes and the parking lot before and after school. Additionally, the school district hires two full-time school resource officers who split duties south and north.

## **The Junior/Senior High Program**

Southwood Jr/Sr High School tailors its educational program to individual student needs. It strives to impart the values, knowledge and skills which the maturing student needs for educational, occupational, and personal success. As of August 2023, Southwood Junior/Senior

High School has 460 students in attendance. Southwood's small enrollment encourages close rapport between students and teachers. Frequent opportunities arise for informal counseling by teachers, and an excellent formal counseling service also assists students with personal problems and future plans. The Metropolitan School District of Wabash County offers extensive special services to meet the educational needs of children with physical, intellectual, social or emotional differences. These services involve instruction in classrooms, homes, and hospitals.

Frequently occurring special needs are served through individualized programs for exceptional children. These programs ensure a free and appropriate education providing flexibility, atmosphere, environment and opportunities for the pupil to experience success in reaching his/her maximum potential. The goal of these programs is to prepare each child to become a successful, independent citizen. Low-incidence special needs are fulfilled through the Wabash-Miami Area Program for Exceptional Children.

Southwood Jr/Sr High School exhibits many educational features of which its faculty, students, parents, and community can be justifiably proud. The warm caring attitude of the faculty, support staff, and administration, coupled with the supportive attitude of the parents, provides an environment in which students can achieve maximum personal growth.

## **Academics**

The school day is divided into seven forty-seven-minute periods including a lunch period that is divided into three twenty-five-minute periods. Additionally, each student attends a homeroom period. While board policy requires each student to be in class a minimum of five class periods a day, most of our high school students are in class for six instructional periods. Students may choose to take seven classes. All courses figure in the GPA and AP courses are weighted. The grading system is on a twelve-point scale with A+ = 12.

The school year is divided into two eighteen-week semesters, and each semester has two nine-week grading periods. Teachers are expected to make weekly updates to Skyward regarding student grades. Important event information is shared with parents on various social media outlets and through email. Additionally, parents can request to have announcements sent to them via email.

The English, mathematics, science, and social studies departments each have chairpersons. There are also two at-large department chairpersons. Each subject area, in conjunction with the principal and corporation chief academic officer, is responsible for formulating, updating, and evaluating curriculum. A variety of classes are offered, including college prep and vocational classes. Southwood offers advanced placement classes, dual credit courses, opportunities for work-based internships, and enrollment at Heartland Career Center. Students with special needs are serviced through the Wabash-Miami Area Program for Exceptional Children. At Southwood we provide services for the LD and MIMD programs.

For the 2023-2024 school year, grade level teams consist of 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade, 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grade, and 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade level teams. This format gives teachers more input and awareness of the students they

work with in classrooms. From those meetings, parent contacts are made, information is shared, and educators collaboratively decide on the best course of action to help individual students.

Additionally, F-list reports are compiled every week to analyze student progress. Homeroom teachers work as accountability partners to assist any homeroom student on the F-list in achieving academic success. For students with mental health needs, Southwood has partnered with Parkview, Bowen Center, and 4County.

Our students have many opportunities to participate in interscholastic competition, both academically and athletically. Students may participate in interscholastic competition in English, mathematics, and agriculture. Fine arts competitions include art, instrumental, and vocal contests. Team sports include the following: baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, softball, tennis, track, volleyball, and wrestling. Southwood also has a robotics club and Esports club. Students have participated in a number of competitions and host competitions at Southwood High School.

### **Description of Curriculum**

Southwood High School offers four types of diplomas: a General Diploma, a Core 40 Diploma, Technical Honors Diploma, and an Academic Honors Diploma. Students are made aware of the different diplomas, and are encouraged to work towards completion of the Core 40 Diploma, Technical Honors Diploma, or Academic Honor Diploma.

Although small, the high school offers a number of elective courses. Southwood High School students may also enroll in career and technical education courses through the Heartland Area Career Center in Wabash.

7<sup>th</sup> grade students participate in a wheel class that rotates every quarter. They are exposed to curricula from agriculture, industrial arts, art, and world languages and cultures. Junior high students who choose to participate in band or choir do not have a study hall. All students take an introductory business class for a semester during 8<sup>th</sup> grade. At that time, students are exposed to career choices that may relate to their interests and skills. When students matriculate to high school, they are required to take Preparation for College and Careers. This course allows students to extend their career exploration from their eighth-grade business class. They also research future employment options. During a student's later school years (grades 11 and 12), students can take assessments to guide them to a career in their interest area. Students are also given opportunities to job shadow. Our Work-Based Learning Program offers students the opportunity to do an internship in a career field of their choosing.

Southwood Jr/Sr High School offers a variety of courses and activities for students interested in a challenging academic experience. During the instructional day, advanced placement courses are offered in several subjects, including math, English, social studies, and science.

Teachers use a variety of instructional strategies to integrate the Indiana Academic Standards in lesson development. These strategies include, but are not limited to, the following: performance-based instruction, standards based grading, flipped classroom instructional strategy, cooperative

learning, modeling, kinesthetic activities, project-based learning, technology integration, and traditional teaching methods.

## **School Plan for a Safe and Disciplined Learning Environment**

Southwood Jr/Sr High School currently has several items in place that contribute to its safe and disciplined learning environment. They are as follows:

### **1. Metropolitan School District of Wabash County Junior/Senior High Student Handbook**

The handbook is given to each student in digital form on the school-assigned laptop at the beginning of the school year and is also be posted on the high school web site ([www.msdbc.k12.in.us](http://www.msdbc.k12.in.us)). It includes what the school expects from students, guidelines for student conduct, and the discipline policy with discipline grid. The discipline grid lists infractions and the specific disciplinary action that will occur for each infraction.

This helps students, teachers, staff, and parents know what to expect when an infraction occurs and helps contribute to a safe and disciplined learning environment.

### **2. Metropolitan School District of Wabash County Crisis Response Guide**

The response guide is given to all teachers and staff. It covers how to handle various emergency situations such as bomb threats, earthquakes, fires, and guns or weapons. Teachers and staff are reminded at the beginning of the school year to review its contents.

### **3. Telephones in All Classrooms**

Telephones and emergency call buttons were installed in classrooms to give teachers immediate access to the school office in case of emergencies. The systems are tested and maintained so that they are guaranteed to be in proper working order.

### **4. Enforced Pass Policy**

Southwood Jr/Sr High School has established guidelines for visitors. These guidelines are strictly enforced. There is a sign posted at every entrance to the building requiring visitors to check into the school office. In addition, all entry doors are locked during school hour with the exception of the main entrance by the school office. The school uses the Raptor System to ensure visitors are vetted and safe to enter the building.

### **5. Security Cameras/SNAP Cards/Online Messaging Service**

Multiple security cameras have been installed in the building. There are currently cameras on, twenty-four hours a day, to monitor various parts of Southwood Jr/Sr High School building and campus. These cameras are placed in strategic locations throughout the school building to help maintain and provide for a safe and disciplined learning environment. Students and staff have SNAP/ID cards that identify them and are used to purchase food in the cafeteria or check out materials in the Media Center. The ID cards are also used to access various parts of the building that are locked during the day and serve as the access to the photocopying machines. An online messaging service allows students and parents to anonymously send messages to school administrators about issues of concern. Additionally, students are encouraged during class meetings and throughout the year to send messages to school administration if they have concerns.

## **Technology**

Southwood Jr/Sr High School has various types of technology available for both staff and student use. Southwood Junior/Senior is a 1:1 school. Starting the 2020- 2021 school year, students and staff were issued iPads. Teachers receive both iPads and MacBook Airs. All devices are networked and have e-mail capability and Internet access for improved communication between administration, staff members, students and parents.

Additionally, many different kinds of software are pre-loaded on these laptops for student educational use. Safety and security are very important at SHS. To achieve a safe and secure cyber-environment, the school employs various software programs (e.g., Apple Classroom, Human Monitoring System) to monitor student activity.

The school has a technology assistant who is capable of helping staff and students. The coordinator is available to help an entire class or individuals as the case may be. The business department offers a wide range of classes that teach students differing aspects of technology.

The school staff has received training on the computer and many of the software programs available. Training was provided by the school corporation when the network was installed. As new staff is hired, training is provided by the Technology Assistant.

## **Parent Communication & Involvement**

Various modes of notification are used to communicate with students and parents. Doctor's notes, legal appointments, etc., are required for justification of excused absences. Communication modes include mailed letters, Student Information System – Skyward, phone calls, e-mails, and face-to-face meetings.

Parents are encouraged to take a proactive role in their students' learning and experience at Southwood. Parents have the opportunity to participate in the athletic booster club, field trips, and special events.

## **Professional Development Plan**

Our vision, as a staff, for the professional development program is to help students reach their maximum potential. It is our intent that the Southwood Jr/Sr High School faculty will pursue research of instructional programs that utilize a wide array of teaching methods.

Differentiated instruction will enable us as teachers to more effectively assist all students in learning, meeting standards and obtaining the necessary skills. Our vision includes engaging all faculty members in the investigation and participation of trials, usage, and reflection of alternative methods of teaching. We will investigate both discipline-specific and interdisciplinary methods of teaching. We will proceed through this in the hope of meeting the individual needs of a wider range of students. We seek to create an environment that fosters the exchange of ideas.

## **Professional Development Program Goals**



We have four goals for our Professional Development Program: improve school climate and student engagement, integrate technology, and continue to focus on the most important aspects of our school-wide model of teaching and learning. The school seeks to improve student behavior and school climate by working towards these goals:

1. Disciplinary referrals/day rate of 3
2. 97% attendance
3. 95% graduation rate

As a result of reaching this goal we would like to see student behavior improve, student relationships improve, and more student success. These things would improve teacher and student satisfaction.

Another goal of our program is to continue to integrate technology into our curriculum. We would like for time to be provided to the teachers to not only learn how to use the updates but also figure out how best to integrate the technology into existing curriculums. This would enable teachers to effectively utilize the technology in their instruction. We will continue to utilize the different learning styles of the students, which should lead to increased student satisfaction. In summary, we would like keep looking toward our vision of helping students reach their maximum potential. We hope to do this by building improving school climate and integrating technology.

### **Staff Involvement in Continuous Learning**

Teachers will be given time throughout the school year to work on developing, revising, and ameliorating curriculum maps. The PBIS Committee is made up of several teachers, and two administrators who will meet on a regular basis (at least monthly) to discuss our progress toward our goals. Staff and students will receive regular updates on our progress.

## SCHOOL GOALS ACTION PLAN

**School Goal # 1:** By the 2023-2024 school year, at least 50% of 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students will show adequate growth in language arts on the ILEARN assessment. Southwood will demonstrate proficiency at or above the state percentage.

**School Goal # 2:** By the 2023-2024 school year, at least 50% of 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students will show adequate growth in mathematics on the ILEARN assessment. Southwood will demonstrate proficiency at or above the state percentage.

**School Goal #3:** Southwood Junior/Senior High School will achieve a 100% graduation rate and a minimum 95% attendance rate.

Professional Development Goal(s):

1. Southwood Jr/Sr High School will work to increase student engagement.
2. Southwood Jr/Sr High School will integrate technology into the curriculum.
3. Southwood Jr/Sr High School will develop curriculum maps in all courses.

**Strategic and Continuous School Improvement  
and Achievement Plan  
Southwood Jr/Sr High School**

<b>Goal 2023-2024</b>	By the 2023-2024 school year, 50% of 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grade students will show adequate growth in language arts on the ILEARN assessment and demonstrate proficiency at or above the state percentage.	
<b>Benchmark</b>	We will compare Indiana state averages for 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grade growth in ILEARN language arts to Southwood Jr./Sr. 6th-8th grade growth averages and ILEARN performance and historical school performance.	
<b>Supporting Data</b>	<b>Assessments</b>	
*ILEARN	<b>Standardized</b>	<b>Locally Developed</b>
	*6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grade ILEARN	*In class activities *Homework *Assessments *Class participation
<b>Intervention</b>	<b>Research/Best Practices</b>	<b>Resources</b>
*English 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> with inclusion *Ability grouping *Development of comprehension skills *Reading Counts *Peer tutoring *PBIS initiatives	*Indiana Academic Standards *Classroom visits/e-mail correspondences *Teacher research *Reading across the curriculum and increased reading time increases student vocabulary and reading comprehension *ILEARN remediation during homeroom for at-risk students *Math and English skill building activities	*Analysis of ILEARN results *ILEARN materials through IDOE *Indiana ELA Academic Standards

<b>Strategies</b>			
<b>Instructional</b>	<b>Parent involvement</b>	<b>Media/Technology</b>	<b>Staff Development</b>
<p>*English department will use modified rubrics periodically to assess student work</p> <p>*English department will identify group weaknesses from standardized test results and share with staff</p> <p>*Teachers will use standardized test results to make cross-curricular efforts to improve E/LA skills</p> <p>*English department will share student progress with other staff members to allow cross-curricular work on weaker skills</p> <p>*English department will integrate appropriate writing skills into curriculum</p> <p>*English department will use differentiated instruction to address the learning needs of all students</p> <p>*English department will include novels into curriculum</p>	<p>*Communication to parents via email and social media</p> <p>*Teachers will share student assessment results (strengths, weaknesses, ILEARN, yearly progress, etc.)</p>	<p>*Writing and editing will be done on the iPads</p> <p>*Students will share completed work through the use of media equipment</p> <p>*Use of computerized reading program</p> <p>*Use of Google suite and persuasive essays in cross-curricular activities to strengthen English skills across curriculum</p> <p>*Increase and maintain student use of technology for class projects and presentations</p> <p>*Increase and maintain teacher use of various technologies for alternative presentation of material</p>	<p>*Differentiated instruction/project-based learning</p> <p>*English department will attend workshops and professional development as available and applicable</p> <p>*Staff development that trains teachers to use ILEARN results for improving instruction and student learning</p> <p>*Curriculum mapping</p>

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<b>Goal 2023-2024</b>	By the 2023-2024 school year, 50% of 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grade students will show adequate growth in mathematics on the ILEARN assessment and demonstrate proficiency at or above the state percentage.		
<b>Benchmark</b>	We will compare Indiana state averages for 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grade growth in ILEARN math to Southwood Jr./Sr .6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grade growth averages and to historical school performance.		
<b>Supporting Data</b>	<b>Assessments</b>		
*ILEARN	<b>Standardized</b>		<b>Locally Developed</b>
	*6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grade ILEARN		*In class activities *Homework *Assessments *Class participation
<b>Intervention</b>	<b>Research/Best Practices</b>		<b>Resources</b>
*Students will utilize problem-solving strategies on a daily basis. *Ability grouping *Development of critical thinking skills *Peer tutoring	*Indiana academic standards *Everyday problems and relevant applications of math concepts increases student understanding *Teacher research		*Indiana math academic standards *Analysis of ILEARN results

<b>Strategies</b>			
<b>Instructional</b>	<b>Parent involvement</b>	<b>Media/Technology</b>	<b>Staff Development</b>
*Math department will integrate relevant math projects into all math curriculum *Math department will identify group weaknesses from standardized test results (ILEARN results) and share with staff *Teachers will use standardized test results to make cross-curricular efforts to improve math skills *Teachers will share results of student progress with other staff members to allow cross-curricular work on weaker skills *Math department will use standardized test results and teacher assessments to assist in directing students in appropriate course selection *Peer tutoring *IXL and other digital application tools	*Send home appropriate lists of Internet sites and computer software programs *Communicate to parents via email and social media *Teachers will share student assessment results (strengths, weaknesses, ILEARN, yearly progress, etc.) with parents	*Use of calculators in instruction *Use of specialized instructional software *Use of appropriate Internet sites in instruction *Use of Excel to prepare graphs *Use of various technologies to analyze data and make inferences concerning data *Increase teacher use of technology for alternative presentation of topics *Increase student use of technology for class projects	*Differentiated instruction *Teacher collaboration to develop opportunities for improving math skills across the curriculum *Alternative assessment *Staff development that involves developing strategies for motivating the unmotivated student *Training for staff to use ILEARN results for improving the teaching and learning process *Curriculum mapping

**Strategic and Continuous School Improvement  
and Achievement Plan  
Southwood Jr/Sr High School**

<b>Goal 2023-2024</b>	Southwood Jr./Sr. High School will achieve a 100% graduation rate and a minimum 95% attendance rate.		
<b>Benchmark</b>	For `22-23 SY, the graduation rate was 98% and attendance rate was 94%.		
<b>Supporting Data</b>	<b>Assessments</b>		
*State graduation records	<b>Standardized</b>		<b>Locally Developed</b>
	*DOE website		*School withdrawal records and exit interviews
<b>Intervention</b>	<b>Research/Best Practices</b>		<b>Resources</b>
*Attendance review through Skyward *PBIS recommendations *Career and technical education counseling	*Educated people improve society *Those students with a high school diploma have a greater likelihood of future success *A positive school climate that is inviting, engages students in their learning, and promotes good attendance has been shown to improve the drop-out rate		*Community Foundation

# ILEARN Historical Data 2019-2022

Percent of Students with Adequate Growth in Most Recent Year

**46.3%**  
English/Language Arts

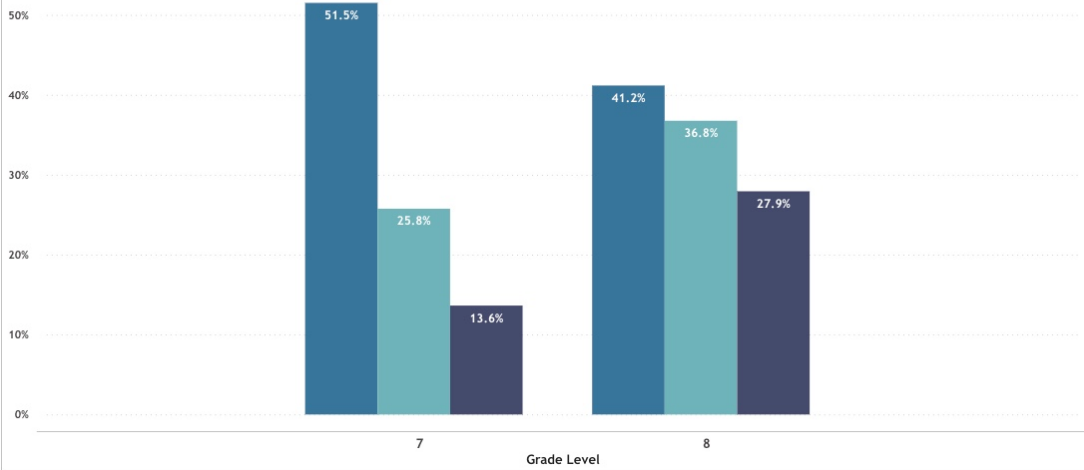
**31.3%**  
Math

**20.9%**  
English/Language Arts & Math

Percent of Students with Adequate Growth

● Percent of Students Adequate Growth ELA ● Percent of Students Adequate Growth Math ● Percent of Students Adequate Growth Math & ELA

2022



Percent of Students with Adequate Growth

● Percent of Students Adequate Growth ELA ● Percent of Students Adequate Growth Math ● Percent of Students Adequate Growth Math & ELA

2022

