

School Improvement Plan
Elsie Wadsworth Elementary School
Griffith Public Schools
2023-2024

511 IAC 6.2-3-4

I. Description

Wadsworth Elementary is one of two elementary schools in Griffith. Wadsworth is now in its fourth year as a PreK through second grade building. The school was originally built in 1960. In March of 2002, a two-year renovation project was completed on the building. During the renovation, a new gym and media center were added. An updated technology infrastructure was installed, bringing the Internet to the computer lab (which is no longer in existence) and throughout the building. The classrooms, cafeteria and kitchen were renovated resulting in an educational environment that is modern, bright, and inviting. The exterior of the building was updated with new landscaping, benches, and sidewalks. Additional parking areas were added to accommodate staff and visitors. A couple of years ago, LED lights were added throughout the school and parking lots. During this past Fall, Wadsworth's new HVAC system was completed. This summer, the rest of the building will have freshly painted classrooms and new flooring (which was completed). Due to the increasing enrollment here at Wadsworth, plans are in place to add twelve more classes and a new road that will be built behind Wadsworth. This new road will accommodate and expedite a more conducive and efficient flow of traffic, especially during morning drop off and afternoon pick up. An additional staff parking lot will also be added. May of 2023, renovation began. To accommodate our upcoming expansion, seven modular trailer units will be arriving mid-summer and will continue to be on campus until our renovation is completed. Six classrooms of Second grade will be housed in modular units or pods. One extra unit will be available for the potential need of an additional hire that may need to take place (in which we did a last-minute hire for this past school year). Pods will continue to house seven second grade classrooms.

Most of the students at Wadsworth walk to school or are dropped off by their parents. However, due to building reconfigurations GPS has provided more bus service to our students. We educate approximately 470 students.

All of the staff at Wadsworth are essential to the success of our school. We have a school librarian who is a licensed teacher. This past year another full-time secretary was added for attendance purposes. Five employees comprise the cafeteria staff, many parent volunteers helped throughout the school year as well and will continue to do so. We employ one full-time maintenance employee during the day and two custodians after school hours. Three playground aides supervise our children during lunch-time recesses. They will continue to work at Wadsworth for the upcoming school year. An additional recess has been added to each teacher's schedule. Students receive a daily lunch/recess break of forty-five minutes in length, who are supervised by workers/aides. These staff members will also be returning for the upcoming school year. A RN is also on site each day to tend to our students' medical needs. We are also very fortunate to have a full-time school counselor in our building Monday-Friday. Special education case manager and full-time speech pathologist are also on staff. For the upcoming school year, another SRO and a Director of Security have been hired amongst our district.

The teaching staff of Wadsworth is stable but growing. A few have spent their entire teaching career at GPS. Wadsworth currently has one ECD PreK class. Due to our renovation, another ECD class will be housed at our partnering 3-5 building. Once renovation is complete, both ECD classes will return to Wadsworth (with the goal of adding additional preschool classes as well). ECD classrooms will also have paraprofessional support. Mid-year another K-2 Intense class with paraprofessional support was added and will remain. Additionally, we have seven Kindergarten classes. We have eight first grade sections (which include K/1 and a High Ability class). As previously stated, eight sections of Second grade will be needed for next year (which includes one High Ability class). Two LRE teachers, Three Title One teacher (one added for next year), One Social-Emotional teacher and one ELL teacher (with one para) work with students who qualify. Students also participate in one special each day of which are forty-five minutes in length. These specials include PE, Music, Art, STEAM and Library. These licensed Special Area teachers are housed at Wadsworth full time and will continue to be. Elementary buildings are also fortunate to have Assistant Principals who assist the principal, especially with discipline issues and upheld/support our positive climate/culture. Grade level leaders were also incorporated mid-year this past school year and will continue. For the upcoming school year, Curriculum/Tech coaches have been added to every building at GPS.

Wadsworth will continue to follow the “inclusion model” (push in for Title One, Special Education and ELL services). “Pull out” services will occur for those students most in need.

We have a few students who are performing above or below their peers. We accommodate these students through several programs including RTI, PBIS/PSDI, High Ability, Title One programs, tutoring and summer school opportunities. Utilizing NWEA data is used to monitor achievement gaps (more specifically by providing more intense targeted small group instruction).

II. Mission/Vision/Beliefs

Wadsworth Elementary School Mission

The mission of Elsie Wadsworth Elementary School is to provide for each student positive learning opportunities, challenging educational goals, and models of respect and responsibility while nurturing our students within a safe environment.

Wadsworth Elementary School Vision

We envision our school as a place where we:
Develop academically successful students.
Prepare our students for college and career readiness.
Provide a safe environment for all students.
Promote respect and responsibility.

Core Beliefs

We believe that all students can learn and meet the necessary Academic and Social emotional needs of all our learners. Our motto is: “Where the love of learning begins”.

III. Data

Being that we are a PreK-2 building, we do not administer ILEARN. This past year, our second graders took IREAD and will continue to do so. Nearly 70% of our second graders passed IREAD or were on track to pass. As previously stated, we will continue to dive into NWEA data (given three times a year) to make the best educational decisions for our students. Our Title One staff will also continue to benchmark our students for selection purposes by administering Dibels, Letter/Sounds, and Dyslexia screeners. RTI and PBIS data will also be reviewed monthly. This data will drive individual and school-wide academic and behavioral plans. Behavior incentives such as ticket drawings and class badges will be continued to be used next year.

“Booster” programs were also put in place for those students who earned them. These included dance parties, conga lines around the building, and extra recess.

IV. Other information

Our GPS Parent Teacher Organization (PTC) and will continue to help support our vision and mission statement. We are looking forward to promoting many incentives for students who reach their goals/benchmarks. Wadsworth will also continue with our successful Fall and Spring Book Fairs/Literacy Night and our Readathon initiative. We will also continue with our Spring STEAM night. Both Literacy and STEAM nights drew in large crowds. It is the expectation that this will continue. Once again, this past school year, Wadsworth won First place throughout our district and town for raising the most money for our Readathon program.

V. School’s curriculum and instructional strategies

The school’s curriculum and instructional strategies support the achievement of Indiana Academic standards. The curriculum and learning experiences in each class provides all students with challenging and equitable opportunities to develop learning skills, thinking and life skills. Additionally, McGraw-Hill literacy program (Wonders) has been adopted for this upcoming school year. It will be embedded into our uninterrupted 90-minute block of our Literacy Framework. This framework follows the Reader’s Workshop model and will continue with this framework for the upcoming school year and beyond. K, 1 and Title One will

continue to incorporate Heggerty for additional phonics support. Grade levels will also include 30–45-minute Language Arts block. Reveal Math is our newly adopted K-5 Curriculum that will be continued to be used. Singapore Math will be continued to be used for our High Ability programs. Second graders incorporated “Rocket Math” during second semester of this past school year and continue to do so. Seventy-Seven percent mastered their multiplication facts before entering Third grade. First grade will add “Rocket Math” starting second semester for the upcoming school year. Furthermore, upcoming Professional Development will include restructuring our Reading curriculum maps and focusing on co-teaching model with the emphasis on enhancing small group instruction.

VI. Analysis (previous data)

As previously noted in previous years, our ELA and Math scores need to remain a priority. It is evident from reoccurring previous years trend; our ELA scores are not as strong as our math scores. Our ELA will be our focus as an area that needs improvement. NWEA scores will be a driving force to adhere and monitor the growth of our students. Added support of Heggerty program will aide in enhancing phonics.

VII. Interventions

Wadsworth has interventions in place to address the weaknesses our school’s improvement goals. Our strong RTI program will continue. Additionally, Professional Development will be continued as needed. Students are identified based upon school-wide testing measures (for example NWEA). If identified to be at risk, students qualify for Title One Reading services (during a push-in program). Pullout services will also be rendered in the upcoming school year, for those students most in need. Students’ individual needs are provided with Research based instruction, such as LLI and Heggerty. Our K-2 building is also required to assess for characteristics of Dyslexia. Students who qualify will receive services (in addition to their regular Title One services).

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I Objectives

- **Language Arts Goal:** To increase our Language Arts RIT scores by 3% (from Fall to Spring as measured by NWEA growth).
- **Attendance Rate Goal:** To increase our school attendance by 3% for the upcoming year.
- **Social Emotional Goal:** To decrease office referrals by 1% for the upcoming year (which includes suspensions).

II. Improvement

As stated, ELA is our primary focus of improvement. Through a collaborative approach amongst stakeholders and comprehensive Reading framework, students will receive differentiated instruction at their instructional levels. During guided Reading block, the lowest readers will receive daily direct instruction with their classroom teacher. Students who qualify for Title One services will receive a daily double block of reading instruction by licensed Reading Specialists. “Bubble” students receive direct instruction by their classroom teacher three days a week. Higher achieving students will receive direct instruction by their classroom teacher at least one day a week. Literacy and STEAM Family nights (which includes our Book Fairs) will enhance our highly active parental community. Technology will also be used to enhance and supplement the curriculum. Apps such as Nearpod, and NWEA pathways, will be assigned for various students’ needs. Not only will Apps be used, but teachers will be expected to allow their students to become more of “creators” and problem solvers in our era of technology.

III. Curriculum/Maps (located on district website)

- **Math:** Newly adopted REVEAL (McGraw Hill) has been adopted (all K-2 students have textbooks). High Ability classrooms will continue to use Singamore Math program. Technology also enhances curriculum, as our teachers use digital components as well. Rocket Math fact program will continue for second grade. First grade will incorporate into their curriculum beginning second semester of next year.
- **Language Arts:** K-2 McGraw Hill (all K-2 students have textbooks which include leveled readers). Technology will also be used to enhance curriculum. Kindergarten teachers will continue to embed The Science of Reading best practices.

- **Digital Supplements:** Redbird (digital component of newly adopted math series) will continue to be utilized. K-2 Nearpod and Kahoot as well as various other apps, will be continued to be used to support and enhance Reading and Math curriculums.

IV. Description/Name of assessments

- NWEA- K-2 Map Fluency, K-2 Map Growth Reading/Math (benchmark used 3 times a year to measure student growth amongst the district)
- McGraw Hill Reading Growth Benchmark Test
- WIDA-ELL test (measures growth of ELL students)
- CogAt (used as a “High Ability” screener amongst our district)
- Dyslexia (Dibels screener used)
- Letter/Sounds/CVC assessments

V. Learning needs of students

Wadsworth addresses the learning needs of all students, including exceptional learners. Griffith Public Schools has developed its own unique Special Education program. At Wadsworth, we have two licensed LRE Special Education teachers whom both work collaboratively to meet the needs of our students. We will have one ECD PRE-K classe housed with us next year. The other ECD classroom will remain at other elementary building until our construction is finished. Furthermore, Wadsworth houses a 1st and 2nd grade High Ability programs. Identified students (utilizing CogAt, NWEA and teacher recommendations) from within the district are placed in the High Ability programs. Wadsworth will continue to have two High Ability classrooms, both which have an increased enrollment in the upcoming school year.

VI. Parent support

- Parent Teacher Council (PTC)
- Field trips
- Field Day
- Classroom parties
- Parent volunteers in classrooms and cafeteria

- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Family nights
- Fundraisers
- Technology/social media
- Assemblies/Awards recognition
- Meeting/conferences
- Daddy/Daughter dance
- Mother/Son event
- Winter Wonderland event
- Crown Counseling
- Community Partners
- GPD/GPS social worker liaison

VII. Safety/Discipline

- Monthly PBIS/PSDI meetings (analyzing behavior data)
- Cool-Tools/monthly Character Ed traits
- Assemblies/review school-wide Matrix/expectations bi-yearly or as needed
- Counselor
- Handbook
- Crossing guard (am and pm)
- Staff assigned (am and pm) supervision throughout the building
- Practice required drills of Tornado, Fire and Lockdown drills
- Safety bags are placed in every classroom
- Emergency cart is equipped with emergency information/supplies
- Raptor
- Tabletop discussions
- Double entry doors to office with a “buzz in” system (new camera system)
- Classroom doors are always locked (daily door audits are conducted)
- District wide radios
- Classroom postings of Fire/Tornado/Lockdown procedures
- Tornado, Fire and Lockdown drills conducted
- Safety specialist audit
- SRO officer at every building and newly hired Director of Security

- Enhanced and upgraded camera system

VIII. Technology

- Newly hired Curriculum/Tech coaches at every building in District
- District Technology Administrator and newly hired District Assistant Director
- One to one technology utilizing IPADS
- Professional development involving “in house” teachers and outside professionals, if warranted
- All Benchmark testing are administered online
- Professional Development days
- Power School/Schoology platform are used amongst corporation
- Projectors/Apple TV’s
- Apps
- Student created projects
- Oral presentations

VIII. Professional Development

Professional development initiatives are based on the needs of school/district. Three Professional Development days have been embedded within our district calendar for the upcoming school year. Additionally, teachers are required to stay after school 3 evenings for NWEA data digs.

- Technology training (new teachers and refreshers to veteran staff)
- NWEA data analysis
- Reading/Math curriculum
- Interpretation of data (academics/behavior)
- Safety
- Required state mandates of Testing Security/Suicide
- IDOE personnel, Special Education compliance
- Grade level collaboration on a weekly basis
- Co-teaching model

- Small group instruction
- Science of Reading

X. Cultural Competency

All stakeholders ensure cultural competency amongst our diverse population of students who attend Wadsworth. As a staff and community, we consciously are aware of one's worldly views and develop positive attitudes across all cultures by implementing the following initiatives (for this school year and years to come).

- PSDI/PBIS
- Title One/EL services and workshops
- Assemblies
- School Motto: Be Respectful, Be Responsible and Be Safe
- Literature/technology
- Continually build relationships with all stakeholders of staff, parents, students, community, and school board members
- Family nights/functions
- PTC board and monthly meetings
- Individual/group and classroom counseling sessions provided by our School counselor weekly/monthly and as needed