



2023-2024 Phase One: Executive Summary for
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2023-2024 Phase One: Executive Summary for Schools

Walker Early Learning Center
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Description of the School

Describe the school's size, community/communities, location, and changes it has experienced in the last three years. Include demographic information about the students, staff, and community at large. What unique features and challenges are associated with the community/communities the school serves?

Walker Early Learning Center serves a population of approximately 400 students in preschool and kindergarten each year. The student population at WELC has a very low socioeconomic status and is located in the heart of Wayne County. Low socioeconomic background, in combination with low education levels of adults in our community, has direct impact on our current students' academic achievement. Students living in poverty is prevalent in this community. There are a significant number of students whose primary caregivers are separated or divorced and are living in joint households. This presents many social/emotional and academic challenges. There is an overwhelming number of opioid addictions within the county. Within the last three years, the community has faced challenges such as limited exposure to learning opportunities and social/emotional development due to the global pandemic associated with Covid-19.

School Stakeholders





Identify and describe the school's stakeholder groups. How does the school ensure stakeholder involvement and engagement in the improvement planning process?

WELC's most important stakeholders are the students themselves! Other stakeholders include families and guardians; teachers; administrators; custodians; secretaries; other school staff; business owners; religious leaders; social service providers; law enforcement officers; and neighbors. We strive to operate from a common mission and vision.

Our internal stakeholders work hard to ensure that our students and school is successful. We take pride in continually working to improve and provide the best opportunities for our students and staff. Clear consistent communication between stakeholders is a priority. We utilize a Google Hub for all communication sharing at WELC. This is a one stop for important information from curriculum to resource links. All committee teams, leadership meetings, PLC agendas/notes, and meeting calendars are housed within the hub. We seek to provide continual collaboration with our external stakeholders within the community through curriculum supplementation, attendance initiatives, social emotional development, and parent involvement. Our site base council members serve as a liaison between the school and voice for our community. Clear, transparent communication is our goal for all stakeholders. We utilize web-based social media platforms, school communication platforms, staff/parent/student handbooks, and community advertising as communication avenues.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment Name

-  [23-24 WELC Emergency Management Plan](#)
-  [23-24 WELC Faculty Handbook](#)
-  [23-24 WELC Student Handbook](#)
-  [WELC 23-24 Calendar of Events](#)

School's Purpose

Provide the school's purpose statement and ancillary content such as mission, vision, values, and/or beliefs, including the year in which they were last reviewed or revised. Describe how the school embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students and how stakeholders are involved in its development.

Our school vision is to "Open a World of Possible" for each student at Walker Early learning Center. Walker Early Learning Center envisions a world where every child has hope, feels loved, valued, and given the opportunities to develop the skills and confidence to achieve success. Our school is committed to providing a world class education to all of our students. This purpose/mission drives all our instructional endeavors. The primary focus of our instruction is providing a well-rounded educational experience that meets each of our students' needs. This includes a 90-minute uninterrupted core literacy block, reading intervention structure that includes multi-tiered levels of support that target students working below benchmark, and implementation of a research-based mathematics curriculum. The 90-minute literacy block includes Heggerty (Phonemic Awareness Skills), research based explicit and systematic phonics program (Reading Horizons), and an ELA background component which builds background knowledge and vocabulary (Core Knowledge Language Arts). We are embedding The Writing Revolution strategies into our instruction to support students early writing skills. By utilizing these curricula, we have shifted our literacy instruction from a balanced literacy approach to a Science of Reading approach. This year, all teachers will implement Amplify Science within the classroom, which has proven to be rigorous and engaging. This program is hands on. In addition to academic components, we provide our students with an intentionally structured social/emotional curriculum (Second Step). To support our social/emotional endeavors, we staff a full-time school counselor and we house a mental health therapist from an outside agency that assists targeted students with parental permission. Our family/community events portray this same mission (family learning nights, book buddy check out, & Learning from the Start Nights). We have our own Family Resource and Youth Services Center housed within our school. With this program, we help families and students. The program addresses the physical/social needs of families so that when children come to school they are ready to learn. (Examples include: backpack program, assistance with Learning from the Start and Little Cardinal Academy). They are not only a huge support system for the families and students, but have build a continuity between

teachers and home. They conduct numerous home visits. Our purpose is to give our community/students the best beginning education possible while also giving them a nurturing and safe environment in which to learn. Our community struggles with the issue of 'importance' of education and we feel it is one of our jobs to educate the community on why early childhood education is of the utmost importance in our community. In years past, we received numerous Preschool Partnership Grants, and the Circle Grant, which partners with early childhood. This program is imperative to the success of our schools' program.

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Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement

Describe the school's notable achievements and areas of improvement in the last three years. Additionally, describe areas for improvement that the school is striving to achieve in the next three years.





Walker Early Learning Center has made great efforts to provide effective, high quality, research-based instruction. We have most recently invested funding into an expanded decodable reader section of our library. We have provided onsite training for explicit phonics instruction, assessments, groupings, & best instructional practices. WELC received the Read to Achieve Grant (RTA Grant) for the 23/24 school year. The monies from this grant have gone into hiring a full time Reading Specialist to help our most intensive students. We have implemented a phonics and phonological awareness program to ensure equitable success for EL students and intervention students. We have also purchased Sound City to ensure that phonemic awareness gaps are closed for EL students. Also, Wayne County is in the continuation of the Striving Readers Grant from the 2020-2021 school year, with this grant WELC has provided professional development in literacy instruction that is embedded throughout the school year. The Striving Readers Grant has also provided resources to focus on gap areas, as described in the CSIP. Funding through this grant helped to purchase a rigorous, developmentally-appropriate writing professional development (The Writing Revolution). Our district has also implemented iReady for reading and math, which included a diagnostic screener that will also differentiate instruction and practice for each student based on academic levels. This year, four kindergarten teachers are also piloting Ready Math, a comprehensive math program. After analyzing student profiles, an area of concern for all students was phonological awareness. After much research, WELC has invested in Reading Horizons, Heggerty Phonological Awareness, and this year will also be implementing 95 Percent Group Phonological Awareness lessons to support students in early reading foundational skills.

Additional Information

Provide any additional information you would like to share with the public and community that were not prompted in the previous sections.

Walker Early Learning Center strives to help all children achieve at high levels and prepare them for the future by striving to enhance the development of the whole child: physically, socially, emotionally, and cognitively. We understand the importance of instilling and encouraging a growth mindset early on. We are constantly looking for ways to better meet the needs of our young learners. Our job is a journey of learning and growing in our profession. We will never be satisfied until we find that one thing that will help that one student that looks to us for help.

Attachment Summary

Attachment Name	Description	Associated Item(s)
 <u>23-24 WELC Emergency Management Plan</u>		.
 <u>23-24 WELC Faculty Handbook</u>		. .
 <u>23-24 WELC Student Handbook</u>		. .
 <u>WELC 23-24 Calendar of Events</u>		.