



John Wood Elementary School
Merrillville Community School Corporation

Title 1 School-Wide School Improvement Plan

2019 - 2022

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[Documentation of Support by Teachers](#).....

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Schoolwide Plan Components – Checklist		
	Required Components of a Title I, A Schoolwide Plan	LEA Review
1	A comprehensive needs assessment of the whole school	p. 4
2	Implementation of schoolwide reform strategies that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Provide opportunities for all children to meet proficient and advanced levels of student academic achievement ▫ Use effective methods and instructional strategies that are based on scientifically based research that strengthens the core academic program ▫ Increases the amount of learning time ▫ Includes strategies for serving underserved populations ▫ Includes strategies to address the needs of all children in the school, but particularly low achieving children and those at risk of not meeting state standards ▫ Address how the school will determine if those needs of the children have been met ▫ Are consistent with and are designed to implement state and local improvement plans, if any 	p. 9
3	Highly qualified teachers in all core content area classes	p.13
4	High quality and ongoing professional development for teachers, principals, and paraprofessionals	p.14
5	Strategies to attract high-quality teachers to this school	p.15
6	Strategies to increase parental involvement, such as literacy services 6a. Description how the school will provide individual academic assessment results to parents 6b. Strategies to involve parents in the planning, review, and improvement of the schoolwide plan	p.16
7	Plans for assisting preschool children in the transition from early childhood programs such as Head Start, Even Start, Early Reading First, or a state-run preschool program	p.18
8	Opportunities and expectations for teachers to be included in the decision making related to the use of academic assessment results leading to the improvement of student achievement	p.19
9	Activities and programs at the school level to ensure that students having difficulty mastering proficient and advanced levels of the academic achievement are provided with effective, timely additional assistance	p. 9 p. 21 p. 29
10 10a.	Coordination and integration of Federal, State and local funds; and resources such as in-kind services and program components List programs that will be consolidated under the schoolwide plan (if applicable)	p.19

Description of the School

John Wood Elementary School is located on 15 acres in eastern Ross Township in a suburban setting in the city of Hobart. Our school has a population of 325 children. The facility was first occupied in 1962, and four building improvements have been made. In 1963, four classrooms were added, in 1968, nine classrooms were added, and in 1982, there was a general remodeling plus the addition of a library and a gymnasium. Another renovation began in April 2005. Updated facilities as well as adding 8 new classrooms and an all-purpose room highlighted the renovation.

Our school is a traditional elementary school where children in grades PreK-4 receive instruction in individual classrooms, heterogeneously grouped. All children receive instruction utilizing technology through the use of student ipads and/or the three computer labs, which are equipped with enough terminals for individual work and are networked for easy accessibility of programs. A computer is also available in the classroom for teacher use.

John Wood has specialists in the areas of art, music, physical education, reading, special education, English as a Second Language, and speech. John Wood also houses a classroom for students who have been identified with emotional disabilities . We also have two kindergarten/first grade classrooms for students who have been identified with autism. In addition, our media aide works with all children at least once a week using the corporation-wide media curriculum. Other support services include a social worker, instructional/behavior aide, and teacher aide. Some students also receive direct services from the special education teachers and paraprofessionals. John Wood houses an after-school day care program called Adventure Club and an early childhood program for pre-school aged students who are identified with a range of disabilities. Our school also has an in-house cafeteria and full-time custodial care.

Mission and Vision Statement: Merrillville School Corporation

Vision: Every Child. Every Day. Whatever It Takes.

Mission Statement

- Creates quality learning experiences by setting standards that engage students to reach their highest potential.
- Provides learning environments that are enhanced through meaningful relationships that give students a global perspective
- Empowers students to believe they can be successful

Mission Statement: Wood School

Together with parents and community, the John Wood team shall provide a safe learning environment and prepare students to be productive, tolerant and respectful citizens by fostering individual development and striving for highest academic achievement.

Comprehensive Needs Assessment

Academic Data ISTEP 2017-2018 Math Results

Grade 3: Mathematics Standards % Mastery			Grade 4: Mathematics Standards % Mastery		
ISTEP Standard	ISTEP Spring 2017	ISTEP Spring 2018	ISTEP Standard	ISTEP Spring 2017	ISTEP Spring 2018
#1-Number Sense	69.57	66.67	#1-Number Sense	87.04	84.44
#2-Computation	65.22	69.05	#2-Computation	74.07	84.44
#3-Algebraic Thinking/Data Analysis	67.39	66.67	#3-Algebraic Thinking/Data Analysis	77.78	82.22
#4-Geometry/Measurement	69.57	66.67	#4-Geometry/Measurement	75.93	80.00
#5-Mathematical Process	63.04	69.05	#5-Mathematical Process	50.00	82.22

ISTEP 2017-2018 Language Arts Results

Grade 3: English/Language Arts Standards % Mastery			Grade 4: English/Language Arts Standards % Mastery		
ISTEP Standard	ISTEP Spring 2017	ISTEP Spring 2018	ISTEP Standard	ISTEP Spring 2017	ISTEP Spring 2018
#1-Reading Literature	84.78	69.05	#1-Reading Literature	87.04	73.33
#2-Reading Nonfiction and Media Literacy	86.96	76.19	#2-Reading Nonfiction and Media Literacy	87.04	77.78
#3-Writing Genres, Writing, and Research Process	89.13	76.19	#3-Writing Genres, Writing, and Research Process	90.74	77.78
#4-Writing: Conventions of	89.13	73.81	#4-Writing: Conventions of	90.74	80.00

Standard English			Standard English		
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**2018-2019 New ILearn Assessment

2018-2019 ELA ILEARN		
Grade	DNP	PASS%
3	48.9	51.1
MCSC Average	59.5	40.5
State Average	53.7	46.3
4	39.4	60.6
MCSC Average	54.7	45.3
State Average	54.2	45.8

2018-2019 Math ILEARN		
Grade	DNP	PASS%
3	28.9	71.1
MCSC Average	43.8	56.2
State Average	41.3	58.7
4	24.2	75.8
MCSC Average	45.5	54.5
State Average	46	54

Spring 2019 IREADY Math % of Student Proficiency by Grade

Grade	% On or Above Level	% Below Level
Kindergarten	57	43
First Grade	45	55
Second Grade	52	48
Third Grade	54	46

Fourth Grade	70	30
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Fall 2019 IREADY Math % of Student Proficiency by Grade

Grade	% On or Above Level	% Below Level
Kindergarten	100	0
First Grade	85	15
Second Grade	68	32
Third Grade	70	30
Fourth Grade	77	23

Spring 2019 IREADY Reading % of Student Proficiency by Grade

Grade	% On or Above Level	% Below Level
Kindergarten	48	52
First Grade	49	51
Second Grade	46	54
Third Grade	48	52
Fourth Grade	40	60

Fall 2019 IREADY Reading % of Student Proficiency by Grade

Grade	% On or Above Level	% Below Level
Kindergarten	100	0
First Grade	88	12
Second Grade	68	32
Third Grade	70	30
Fourth Grade	67	23

Attendance Data

In studying the attendance data over two years, the data show that intentional and purposeful plans need to be in place to raise the overall attendance rate. Data is tracked by grade, by month, and the monthly averages for both years are shown below. An action plan and goal were developed to target the low percentages.

Month	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
September	97.41	97.70	96.89
October	95.99	96.93	96.71
November	96.11	95.90	96.07
December	94.82	95.21	95.30
January	95.86	95.57	95.27
February	94.22	96.55	95.39
March	93.99	96.04	97.25
April	96.02	97.23	96.47
May	95.51	95.68	97.51
Total School Year	95.66	96.43	96.32

Behavior Data

The number of suspensions, both in school and out, were reduced significantly during the 2016-2017 school year. Continuing to find ways to reduce suspensions in order to help students achieve greater success is a priority in the current plan. This year's plan focuses on reducing the number of students as well.

	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Conference with Parent	20	4	11	20
Bus Suspension	23	4	7	16
Combination Lunch/Recess Detention			38	108
In-school Suspension	5	17	9	43
Out of School Suspension	27	58	56	68
Lunch Detention	118	84	15	64
Recess Detention	475	180	185	161
Isolation	43	10		
Student Conference				24
Parent Call				22
Time Out				13
Writing Assignment				2

An analysis of the 2018 data led to the following observations and conclusions:

Successes

- Our third and fourth grade ILEARN scores are above the state average for Math and ELA in both grades.

Areas of Weakness

- The number of students suspended out of school went up significantly.

Implementation of Schoolwide Reform Strategies: Focus Area: English/Language Arts

School: John Wood Elementary School				
The following is based on a Comprehensive Needs Assessment Data Dashboard that disaggregated data by subgroups and focus areas.				
June 2020 MEASURABLE OUTCOME: The number of students passing the state assessment will increase by 5%.				
Focus Area	ISTEP+/ILEARN ELA Proficiency			
Root Cause	ELA historical data shows that proficiency is not consistent over time.			
Data Based Rationale	<p>Third grade data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2014-2015 78.7% pass rate ● 2015-2016 81.6% pass rate ● 2016-2017 87% pass rate ● 2017-2018 77.78% pass rate ● 2018-2019 51% proficiency rate ** NEW ILEARN TEST <p>Fourth grade data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2014-2015 83.3% pass rate ● 2015-2016 84.8% pass rate ● 2016-2017 90.7% pass rate ● 2017-2018 82.92% pass rate ● 2018-2019 56% proficiency rate **NEW ILEARN TEST 			
Research-Based Goal	Teachers are provided professional development that enables them to continuously reflect, revise, and evaluate their classroom practices to improve learning outcomes in both a structured collaborative setting and individually			
Evidence-Based Intervention	<p>Description: The Marzano high leverage elements will be a direct focus during classroom observations.</p>	<p>Core Component (if applicable)</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Safe Learning Environment <input type="checkbox"/> Technology <input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Instruction <input type="checkbox"/> Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Parent Participation <input type="checkbox"/> District Level		
Targeted Group (for focused data analysis)	<p>Choose all that apply</p> <input type="checkbox"/> F/R Lunch <input type="checkbox"/> SPED <input type="checkbox"/> ELL <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnicity <input type="checkbox"/> High-Risk			
Professional Development Plan				
Action Steps	Description of Action	Person Responsible	Evidence of Success	Date to Evaluate
Marzano Evaluation Tool has been altered to focus on High Yield Strategies	Focused evaluations will include certain High Yield Strategies.	Administration	Data for the frequency of observed High Yield Strategies will increase in iObservation	Monthly
Data meetings by grade level with teachers	Grade levels will meet with coach or administrator to evaluate data and growth	Teachers, coach, administration	Small group and differentiated instruction	Monthly

Implementation of Schoolwide Reform Strategies: Focus Area: Mathematics

The following is based on a Comprehensive Needs Assessment Data Dashboard that disaggregated data by subgroups and focus areas.

June 2020 MEASURABLE OUTCOME: The number of students passing the state assessment will increase by 5%.

Focus Area	ISTEP+/ILEARN Math Proficiency	
Root Cause	Math historical data shows that proficiency is not consistent over time.	
Data Based Rationale	<p>Third grade data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2014-2015 68.1% pass rate ● 2015-2016 63.3% pass rate ● 2016-2017 67.4% pass rate ● 2017-2018 69% pass rate ● 2018-2019 71% proficiency rate**NEW ILEARN TEST <p>Fourth grade data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2014-2015 79.2% pass rate ● 2015-2016 70.2%pass rate ● 2016-2017 81.5% pass rate ● 2017-2018 90.09% pass rate ● 2918-2019 70% proficiency rate**NEW ILEARN TEST 	
Research-Based Goal	Teachers are provided professional development that enables them to continuously reflect, revise, and evaluate their classroom practices to improve learning outcomes in both a structured collaborative setting and individually	
Evidence-Based Intervention	<p>Description: The Marzano high leverage elements will be a direct focus during classroom observations.</p>	<p>Core Component (if applicable)</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Safe Learning Environment <input type="checkbox"/> Technology <input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Instruction <input type="checkbox"/> Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Parent Participation <input type="checkbox"/> District Level
Targeted Group (for focused data analysis)	<p>Choose all that apply</p> <input type="checkbox"/> F/R Lunch <input type="checkbox"/> SPED <input type="checkbox"/> ELL <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnicity <input type="checkbox"/> High-Risk	

Professional Development Plan

Action Steps	Description of Action	Person Responsible	Evidence of Success	Date to Evaluate
Marzano Evaluation Tool has been altered to focus on High Yield Strategies	Focused evaluations will include certain High Yield Strategies.	Administration	Data for the frequency of observed High Yield Strategies will increase in iObservation	Monthly
Data meetings by grade level with teachers	Grade levels will meet with coach or administrator to evaluate data and growth	Teachers, coach, administration	Small group and differentiated instruction	Monthly

Implementation of Schoolwide Reform Strategies: Focus Area: Attendance

School: John Wood Elementary School				
The following is based on a Comprehensive Needs Assessment Data Dashboard that disaggregated data by subgroups and focus areas.				
June 2020 MEASURABLE OUTCOME: If Wood Elementary consistently uses multiple forms of data to monitor attendance and follows the MCSC attendance protocols then Wood students will achieve a 97% plus attendance rate.				
Focus Area	Attendance			
Root Cause	A targeted population of students exhibit chronic absenteeism.			
Data Based Rationale	In the 2018-2019 school year, Wood elementary had an average attendance rate of 96.32%.			
Research-Based Goal	A specific schedule and process are used to monitor processes.			
Evidence-Based Intervention	Description: The Merrillville School Corporation attendance/truancy policy Merrillville Truancy Court	Core Component (if applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safe Learning Environment <input type="checkbox"/> Technology <input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum <input type="checkbox"/> Instruction <input type="checkbox"/> Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Parent Participation <input type="checkbox"/> District Level		
Targeted Group (for focused data analysis)	Choose all that apply <input type="checkbox"/> F/R Lunch <input type="checkbox"/> SPED <input type="checkbox"/> ELL <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnicity <input type="checkbox"/> High-Risk			
Professional Development Plan				
Action Steps	Description of Action	Person Responsible	Evidence of Success	Date to Evaluate
Run attendance data weekly and analyze unexcused absences & tardies	Each Friday, attendance team will meet to analyze student absences and tardies.	Attendance secretary, social worker, administrator	Consistency and running reports and analysis of data	Weekly
Following MCSC truancy program with fidelity.	Parent contact prior to 5 days of unexcused absences, letter sent at 5 days of unexcused absences, referral to truancy court after 9 days of unexcused absences	Attendance secretary, social worker, administrator	Documentation of letters and conferences	Weekly

Implementation of Schoolwide Reform Strategies: Focus Area: Behavior

School: John Wood Elementary School				
The following is based on a Comprehensive Needs Assessment Data Dashboard that disaggregated data by subgroups and focus areas.				
June 2020 MEASURABLE OUTCOME: Decrease disciplinary referrals in the third trimester by 1%.				
Focus Area	Behavior			
Root Cause	Disciplinary referrals increased by 30 in the third trimester.			
Data Based Rationale	Referrals in the 2017-2018 school year: Trimester 1: 160 Trimester 2: 153 Trimester 3: 183	Referrals in the 2018-2019 school year: Trimester 1: 115 Trimester 2: 231 Trimester 3: 279		
Research-Based Goal	Teachers hold high expectations for all students academically and behaviorally as evidenced in their practice.			
Evidence-Based Intervention	Description: PBIS Restorative Practices	Core Component (if applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safe Learning Environment <input type="checkbox"/> Technology <input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum <input type="checkbox"/> Instruction <input type="checkbox"/> Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Parent Participation <input type="checkbox"/> District Level		
Targeted Group (for focused data analysis)	Choose all that apply <input type="checkbox"/> F/R Lunch <input type="checkbox"/> SPED <input type="checkbox"/> ELL <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnicity <input type="checkbox"/> High-Risk			
Professional Development Plan				
Action Steps	Description of Action	Person Responsible	Evidence of Success	Date to Evaluate
Monthly PBIS committee meetings to monitor discipline data	School PBIS committee will meet monthly to analyze and discuss referrals and ways to decrease them	PBIS committee	Committee meeting minutes HUG data	Monthly
Schoolwide PBIS initial and refresher training	Staff will review PBIS with all students to go over expectations in all areas of the building	Staff	Students will participate in training	Monthly
New Student Orientation	New students and parents will receive information regarding PBIS and behavioral expectations	Teachers, administration	Percentage of parents/students in attendance	Monthly
90 minute teacher meeting	All staff will meet to go over initiatives and data to drive strategies to implement in the upcoming year	Administration/ Staff	Teachers will be informed on behavior matrix and expectations	Monthly

Highly Qualified Paraprofessionals Information

<u>HQ Information</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>
Para Pro	Jennifer Hill	Instructional/Behavioral Aide	8/22/16
Bachelors	Carlita Echols	Elementary Library Coordinator	8/25/04
Para Pro	Mary Langer	Title I Aide	11/10/14

Highly Qualified Teacher Information

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>LICENSE SUBJECT</u>	<u>EXP. DATE</u>	<u>License #</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
Gates	Bridget	general elementary (reading endorsement 1-6 ⅞ nd)	life	1205667	REM READING
Shalla	Michele	general elementary	8/3/2028	1205664	KDG
Timmerman	Barbara	music: choral, general and instrumental (all grade major)	6/24/2021	1115837	GEN MUS
Farver	Laurie	Rules 2002/ elementary/primary	8/4/2020	1530736	Grade 3
Pace	Sarah	general elementary; reading; kindergarten	3/22/2023	1081435	Grade 1
Vlassopoulos	Morgan	Early Childhood, General Elementary and Kindergarten	6/9/2022	1546354	Grade 4
Anderson	Stacie	Rules 2002 elementary/intermediate	5/22/2020	1608390	KDG
Matthews	Rose	Rules 2002 Elementary	6/4/2023	1611980	Grade 1
Carney (Grattan)	Lauren	Rules 2002: Elementary/ Intermediate/Primary	7/16/2023	1619926	Grade 2
Mahy	Margaret	Rules 46-47 General Elementary	3/26/2023	1408443	Grade 3
Battista	Thomas	Rules 2002- Health REPA CTE FACS & PE	6/8/2021	1568217	PE/Health
Welsh	Amber	REPA Inst. Initial Elementary Generalist P-3	5/27/2021	10099733	Grade 1
Foster	Michelle	Rules 46-47-General Elementary-1-6	8/17/2019	1345936	Grade 2
Scott	Elizabeth	REPA Elementary Generalists	7/8/2022	10142336	Kindergarten
Guzman	Ann	English major, Senior High/Junior Middle School, ESL Minor K-12	7/7/2019	1422135	ESL
Fairbairn	Jennifer	Elementary/Intermediate Generalist	6/12/29	1553520	Dean/Art
Marshall	Alaina	Elementary/Intermediate Generalist	8/11/21	1564274	Grade 2
Jongsma	Jamie	Elementary/Intermediate	7/8/21	10040444	Grade 4

		Generalist			
Cseke	Joan	Elementary/Intermediate Generalist	11/4/23	1601485	Grade 3

Professional Development

Merrillville Community School Corporation (MCSC) is devoting professional development programs in support of data driven decision making in order to drive curriculum and instructional decision making with alignment of all systems. This work will support the implementation of data driven decision making at the classroom, school and district levels. This work will drive curriculum and instructional alignment.

Wood Professional Development Calendar 2019-2020

Wood	Grade K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Art	Music	PE
08/29/19	Marzano							
9/5/19	ILEARN/Dy slexia with Coaches							
09/12/19	ILEARN/ IREADY					Fieler	Fieler	Fieler
09/19/19	Antibullying, McKinney Vento, Mandated Reporting							
9/26/19	PLC 101- Norms, ELA Playbook cross check					Fieler	Fieler(Reinh art)	Fieler
10/03/19	Guzman ELL							
10/10/19	PLC Math Playbook					Iddings	Iddings	Iddings
10/17/19	Collaboratio n vs. Cooperation , Strategies vs. Resources							
10/24/19	Strategy Speed dating					Iddings	Iddings (Reinhart)	Iddings
10/31/19								
11/07/19	PTC Prep	PTC Prep	PTC Prep	PTC Prep	PTC Prep	PTC Prep	PTC Prep	PTC Prep

11/14/19	PTC	PTC	PTC	PTC	PTC	PTC	PTC	PTC
11/21/19						Miller	Miller	Miller
12/05/19								
12/12/19						Miller	Miller	Miller
01/09/20								
01/16/20						Salk	Salk	Salk
01/23/20								
01/30/20						Salk	Salk	Salk
02/06/20								
02/13/20						Wood	Wood	Wood
02/20/20								
02/27/20						Wood	Wood	Wood
03/05/20								
03/12/20						Fieler	Fieler	Fieler
03/19/20								
03/26/20						Iddings	Iddings	Iddings
04/09/20								
04/16/20						Miller	Miller	Miller
04/23/20								
04/30/20						Salk	Salk	Salk
05/07/20								
05/14/20						Wood	Wood	Wood

Plan to Attract Highly Qualified Teachers

The Merrillville Community School Corporation attracts qualified teachers by:

- Attending Job Fairs
- Working with Colleges and Universities to host and recruit student teachers
- Providing opportunities for observing and student teaching placements
- Advertising in local and national publications.

In addition, the Corporation incorporates a multi-tiered application, interview and evaluation process that strives to initially select the most qualified individuals from the pool of available candidates. Once employed the Corporation offers continued support to new staff members which includes:

- An orientation week prior to the start of the year
- New teacher staff development

- The assignment of a mentor

District Teacher Mentoring Program

Teachers new to the Merrillville School Corporation are assigned a mentor and attend mentor training designed and presented by the Northwest Indiana Educational Service Center. The Mentor program is a two-year program that prepares individuals to meet certification requirements in the State of Indiana. A portfolio, from the individual's content area, is one of the culminating requirements of the program. In addition, all teachers are involved in professional development sessions utilizing a positive behavior in schools (PBIS) approach to support instructional efforts.

Teacher Mentoring Program

The Wood administrator meets with all teachers every Thursday afternoon from 2:15-3:15 PM to provide professional development opportunities and strategies for instructional improvements. Professional Learning Communities have also been created within the building that allow the staff opportunities to meet, mentor, share ideas, study student data, and strategize on how to improve student achievement. Additional opportunities for in-school mentoring include working with the school's coach. If required, release time is provided for new teachers to observe grade level and/or reading staff. Each teacher new to Wood is paired with a veteran teacher, and they attend a monthly support meeting.

Wood's Parental Participation

- The Parent-Teacher Organization provides many opportunities to involve parents:
 - Monthly meetings occur where parents and teachers are able to discuss upcoming events and fundraisers
 - Family bingo, movie, and game nights have taken place
 - The PTO sponsors several fundraisers throughout the year
- Parent Resources are available through our school library to provide parents literacy and math resources.
- The social worker reaches out to parents regarding attendance and concerns that come up at school. She offers resources to parents as needed.

Additional Parental Activities

Listed below are some of the additional activities that involve parents of Wood Elementary Students.

- School-Family Compact - This compact outlines school, parent and student responsibilities.
- Wood Family Involvement Policy - This policy outlines opportunities for family involvement. Both the compact and family involvement policy are distributed to families in August for their review and signed copies are collected.
- Homework Information - Homework assignment sheets and/or notebooks go home on a daily basis.
- Teacher Letters & Calendars- Teacher letters/calendars go home informing parents of projects, events and schedules in the classroom on a monthly basis
- School Newsletters
- Open House/Back to School Night - Parents are invited to learn about daily routines and expectations in their child's classroom. This takes place at the beginning of the school year.
- Title I Annual Meetings - Meetings offered at three times of the day will be held no later than October 1st of each school year. In addition to being informed of Wood school's participation in Title I and family's rights to be involved, families will receive written information about the Title I Program that includes:
 - Information about Title I programs such as an explanation of the selection process and samples of tests used to determine eligibility for Title I service
 - A description and examples of the curriculum and materials used to improve reading and math skills

- o Forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and how schools are identified for improvement
- o Clarification of proficiency levels students are expected to meet
- o Family rights to request meetings to participate in decisions relating to the education of their child
- o Online resources & support at <http://www.mvsc.k12.in.us/titlei>
- A Title I Family Fun Night, held no later than December 1st of each school year. This training session will give families helpful ideas to assist in the education of their children at home. Topics will provide assistance in understanding the State's academic standards and may include one or more of the following; Phonics and Decoding Skills, Vocabulary Development, Comprehension, Fluency, Math Facts, Technology & Internet Resources
- Parent Volunteers* - Parents volunteer for field trips, class projects/centers in the classroom, Field Day, PTO sponsored events. *Parents and volunteers must now go through criminal history/background check participation.
- E-mails to parents
- Phone calls to parents
- Parents support school fundraising efforts.
- Via John Wood's [website](#), parents receive communication via Skyward, and school messenger.

Parental Notification of Individual Academic Assessment Results

- Trimester Report Cards (Every 12 weeks) available on Skyward
- Progress Reports every 6 weeks available on Skyward
- Communication of ILEARN/IREAD results will be sent to each student's home
- An optional parent conference regarding results will be offered to any parents needing further explanation.
- November Parent/Teacher Conferences
- All parents have access to Skyward. This electronic record contains all students' data in real time and can be checked by a parent.
- In the SWP parents are encouraged to be actively involved to improve Language Arts and Math achievement for their children.

Parental Involvement in Revision of the Schoolwide Plan

- Parents will be informed in the fall of the plan, through a school brochure. New parents will be given the brochure as they arrive to our school. Information will be provided to parents in their language.
- Parents will be continuously informed of our school's progress of the plan at PTO meetings throughout the school year.
- Parents will complete a parent survey at the end of the school year, to help us assess the current plan. The results of the survey will contribute to revisions we make in the plan for the next school year.
- Parents will be invited to a Spring Parent Input Meeting to discuss parent input. At this meeting, an agenda will be created to outline the step by step review of the schoolwide plan. Sign in sheets will be collected as a record of parent attendance and minutes will be taken to document participation.

ECD to K and 4th to 5th Grade Transition Plans

Students who are transitioning from ECD to K are afforded:

- The opportunity to visit their new school.
- Transition conferences are held for SPED students who are transitioning to Kindergarten.
- Wood holds Kindergarten Round-Up and Parent/Student Orientation days.
- At registration, families receive a *Kindergarten Welcome Packet* containing educational resources and supplies to help prepare their child for Kindergarten.
- Head Start and area preschools are invited to participate in Kindergarten Round-up and to set up transition meetings with the Kindergarten teachers.
- A representative from the district presents at monthly Head Start Parent University events to provide training and distribute educational resources and supplies to help prepare children for Kindergarten.
- We have a standard process for the transferring of information in the cumulative folders between levels.

Students transitioning from 4th to 5th grade are afforded:

- 4th grade students will be visited by the Merrillville Intermediate School administration in the Spring.
- Fourth grade students are identified for ELL, G/T and SPED programs prior to the transition to Merrillville Intermediate School.
- Parents are informed of the curricular and co-curricular offerings at Merrillville Intermediate School.
- We have a standard process for the transferring of information in the cumulative folders between levels.
- Back to school orientation is held in the summer prior to the school session.

Opportunities for Staff to Be Included in Assessment Decisions

At Wood, certified teachers participate in analysis of student achievement data in small groups. Each grade level has weekly collaboration meetings to discuss assessments. This information is utilized to discuss improvement of student achievement and to analyze student assessment data and use this information to create flexible remediation and enrichment groups for both Math and Language Arts. Our action plans address weekly collaboration time for each grade level team of teachers. The staff also participate in school data meetings every other Thursday during the designated professional development. Grades 2-4 will also be giving common prompts in both reading and math once a month during the second semester. These will be scored collaboratively in order to plan instructional next steps.

Coordination of Funds:

Local Programs

Merrillville Community School Corporation provides funding for instructional coaches, classroom teachers, support staff and social workers. Title 1 funding will be used to supplement staffing needs by providing a Title I teacher and paraprofessionals. The Title I funded teacher and paraprofessionals provide small group learning opportunities in the areas of math and reading during the school day. Title 1 funds are used to extend learning opportunities including tutoring and/or summer programming. Funding will also be used to provide transportation for our extended time learning activities. Title 1 funding will be used to supplement school family involvement activities.

State Programs

School Improvement Grants and Technology grants align with our Title 1 funds. The money received from these state grants will be used to provide professional development for high leverage instructional practices as well as using technology to implement those strategies in the classroom.

Federal Programs

Title 1 funding will coordinate closely with our Title II and Title IV monies. Through our professional development, we will train teachers in high leverage instructional strategies as well as develop curriculum for both extended day learning and instructional videos and learning opportunities for our parents. Title III money will also align with our Title 1 funding to include professional development in high leverage EL strategies.

Curriculum Location and Description

The Merrillville Community School Corporation follows the Indiana Academic Standards for all academic areas including Math, Science, Social Studies, English/Language Arts, Technology, Art, Music, and Physical Education. Representation on curriculum design committees includes teachers and administrators from all levels. All Merrillville Community Schools Curriculum Maps are posted on our [district website](#) for stakeholders to view. There also detailed curriculum maps for reading and math that can be found in the MCSC Google drive. In addition to copies of the curriculum being available at our school each fall, each grade level provides parents with a timeline of when their child will be learning each standard.

Merrillville Community School Corporation Curriculum: Kindergarten through Fourth Grade

Early Childhood Development

Wood Elementary has an Early Childhood Development program that serves 32 students in two classrooms. Each classroom has one certified teacher and one paraprofessional. The program is designed to provide students with the foundational skills necessary for academic success in kindergarten. Students are assessed prior to beginning school and then at midyear and at the end of the year.

Kindergarten

This curriculum includes developmentally appropriate activities that introduce students to essential skills in language arts and mathematics. Staff provides additional experiences in a variety of other areas including: personal growth, social skills, and creativity. The curriculum is based on the Indiana Academic Standards.

Grade One through Grade Four

In grades one through four, the curriculum reflects Indiana Academic Standards for each grade level in the following areas:

- Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Social Studies
- Science/Health and Safety
- Fine Arts in Music and Visual Arts
- Physical Education

In language arts, the curriculum is delivered in a balanced approach, which includes reading instruction, student selected reading, phonics and vocabulary development, writing development, and speaking and listening skills. Mathematics includes number sense, computation, algebra and functions, geometry, measurement, and problem solving. Students are also exposed to career awareness and other practical experiences, including an introduction to the use of technology.

Assessment Instruments

- **I LEARN** will be in place this year. This state-wide assessment is given once a year to measure student progress on the Indiana State Standards for grades 3-4.
- **IREAD3** is a state-wide assessment given in March to all 3rd grade students. There is a summer assessment for students not passing the March assessment.
- **IREADY** reading and math is taken 3 times a year to monitor growth and overall proficiency. This also includes an ongoing Standards Mastery assessment. This is a short assessment given every other week.
- **DIBELS** is a school-wide assessment given three times a year that measures basic early literacy skills and reading fluency.
- **Pre-Kids** is given to kindergartners to assess kindergarten readiness skills.
- **Scholastic Reading Inventory** is a tool to determine a child's reading Lexile.
- **Benchmark Literacy** is a reading series (K-4) that provides teachers with the tools needed to benchmark or level each student's reading ability.
- **Running Records** are used to determine individual reading levels. (Fountas and Pinnell).
- **Common Formative Assessments** are district math tests designed for students to take at the end of each quarter.

Include Needs of All Learners

Merrillville Community Schools meets the needs of all learners through our high ability, Title I, special education and EL programs.

Our High Ability program is housed at Salk Elementary School for students K-4. High ability clusters are offered at each grade in each elementary school.

Students in grades K-4 are placed in appropriate instructional situations. Northwest Indiana Special Education Cooperative, or NISEC, is a special education cooperative sponsored Merrillville Community Schools and other surrounding school corporations. NISEC is responsible for meeting the provisions of IDEA and Indiana Rule Article 7, which deal with the education of students with disabilities. This includes administering, supervising, coordinating, and providing special services for all children in the Northwest Indiana area, including the students of Wood Elementary School.

General educators at Wood work with special educators to provide each student with an appropriate individualized education plan (IEP) to meet their needs. Programs provided by NISEC at Wood include: psychological evaluations; speech, language and hearing services; Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) programs, occupational and physical therapy, and related services. NISEC's Early Childhood Development Program and NISEC's Emotional Disability Program.

EL staff work in conjunction with classroom teachers to support English Language Learners as they work toward meeting goals set forth in their Individual Learning Plan. Small group pull out and push in instruction targets the areas of language acquisition and English Language Development. EL staff support classroom teachers implementation of WIDA standards into grade level content.

Safe and Disciplined Learning Environment

In order to secure a safe and disciplined learning environment, MCSC has implemented the Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) program throughout the district. The PBIS program builds capacity of schools, families, and communities to promote social and academic success of all students, including those with emotional/behavioral and other disabilities. The key focus areas of the program include: prevention- based School wide systems of positive behavior support, data-based decision-making for instruction of behavior and academics, and wraparound planning for students with complex emotional and behavioral needs and their families.

Wood's PBIS Leadership team meets monthly to celebrate success, solve problems, and make decisions based on analyzed data and identification of needs. The leadership team works with teachers at each grade level to place interventions in place. Interventions used are preferential seating, sticker charts, rewards, behavior plans, and mentoring. Approximately 10 students check in and out daily with an adult member to offer another layer of support to those students who need it. The PBIS teams meet at least twice each month to disaggregate data and service students and teachers within our school.

Technology as a Learning Tool

The Merrillville Community School Corporation continues toward the goal to integrate effective instructional technology to improve teaching and learning across the district. This year's activities include, but are not limited to:

- Differentiated professional development focused on learning first, technology second to include:
 - Opportunities for technology cadre members and instructional coaches to attend various technology conferences to increase their knowledge and understanding;
 - Job embedded training by both internal (coaches and cadre member) and external instructional technology experts;
 - Catalog of instructional technology training sessions held both during the school day and after hours;
 - Summer (2019) technology boot camp.

Currently, each teacher is provided with a laptop with Windows 2010 Professional, Internet access, and e-mail as well as an iPad. Each teacher also has a password-protected folder located on the school corporation main server. Along with teachers having access to their own devices, Wood School is equipped with 3 PC labs, each containing 31 student workstations, a laser printer, a scanner and a projector. Each workstation is connected to the corporation server via an Ethernet connection, providing fast access to the Internet and to the students' personal password-protected folder located on the server.

All student workstations are equipped with Windows 2000 Professional. Every student has access to an assigned iPad in all grades. These devices enhance learning and provide students with the opportunity to collaborate, communicate, create, and think critically.

Cultural Competency

The PBIS Model encourages and supports culturally responsive environments throughout MCSC. This initiative is funded by a federal special education development grant (SPDG). The PBIS-IN collects quantitative data through surveys and accesses our school data throughout the school year. The data collected is used for research purposes and associated publications and grant reports. All participant individually-identifiable information is kept confidential and protected to the fullest extent of the law. This information is useful to our school in documenting the effectiveness of our PBIS program for the school board, parents and the community. Professional development sessions throughout the year will include culturally responsive training for staff.

In the area of special education, we are not only providing resource services for individualized and small group instruction at students' levels, but we will be providing more general education classroom time to students to provide them with exposure and instruction of grade-level standards. We will be adjusting our special education schedules to accommodate this goal.

Our cultural competency goals are as follows:

- Teachers will learn information and skills that they can use in their classroom to benefit all students, including those from diverse backgrounds.
- Teachers will learn about best practices in education through research, observation and attendance at workshops and will synthesize this knowledge into their instruction.
- Teachers will collaborate with one another to improve instructional methods so that the individual learning needs of students will be met.

Appendix

John Wood Elementary School & Family Compact

The Merrillville Community School Corporation and the families of the John Wood students participating in activities, services, and programs funded by Title I and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), agree that this compact outlines how the families, the entire school staff, and the students will work together to improve student academic achievement. It is also understood that this compact indicates how the school and families will build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve the State's high standards.

School Responsibilities

1. Provide high quality curriculum and focused instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables Title I students to meet the State's student academic achievement standards as follows:
 - The school will provide small group instruction of Indiana Academic Standards that focuses on the five areas of reading: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension
 - Additional support is provided in the area of math fact fluency and problem solving strategies
2. Hold Parent-Teacher conferences during which this compact will be discussed as it relates to the individual child's achievement
 - The school will hold fall conferences as scheduled by the district. The Title I teacher will be available on this day to clarify what areas students struggle with, and how to best work to improve these skills.
3. Provide families with frequent reports on their child's progress
 - The Title I Progress Report specifying what areas need to be addressed will be distributed in January and June.
4. Provide parents reasonable access to staff
 - Teachers are available to meet with parents either before or after school and during the school day by appointment. Frequent contact via email at bgates@mjsc.k12.in.us and phone 650-5305 x. 6538 is encouraged.
5. Provide parents opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class and to observe classroom activities as follows:
 - Parents are encouraged to attend events scheduled during the school day and may volunteer and participate as described in the Merrillville Community School Corporation Elementary Handbook

Suggested Family Involvement

We, as families, will support our child's learning in the following ways:

1. Ensure students arrive at school on time and encourage good attendance
2. Review notes and information that my child brings home and make sure that homework is completed
3. Attend events hosted by the school as a way to participate in decisions relating to my child's education
4. Promote positive use of my child's extracurricular time by monitoring the amount of television my child watches

Suggestions for the Student

1. Do my classroom homework every day and ask for help when needed
2. Read at least 10-40 minutes everyday outside of school time
3. Give my family all notes, information, and tests that I receive
4. Work hard and cooperate with teachers while in school

Mrs. Alison Petralia, Principal
Mrs. Bridget Gates, Title I Teacher

Spring 2018 Parent Meeting - Revised to include parent suggestions
Spr. 18 - ESSA
Spring 2019 Parent Meeting - conferences

Wood Elementary School Family Involvement Policy



The staff at John Wood Elementary School actively works to meet the family involvement goals of Title I, build relationships, and encourage family participation in all aspects of the program. The education of children is viewed as a partnership between the school, families, guardians and other family members involved in supervising the child's learning.

To fulfill the requirements of family involvement, families of children enrolled in the Title I Reading program shall be invited to participate in the following events:

- ❖ Annual morning and evening meetings, held no later than October 1st of each school year. In addition to being informed of John Wood school's participation in Title I and family's rights to be involved, they will receive written information about the Title I Reading Program that includes:
 - Information about Title I programs such as an explanation of the selection process and samples of tests used to determine eligibility for Title I services
 - A description and examples of the curriculum and materials used to improve reading skills
 - Forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and how schools are identified for improvement
 - Clarification of proficiency levels students are expected to meet
 - Family rights to request meetings to participate in decisions relating to the education of their child
 - Online resources & support at <http://www.mvsc.k12.in.us/titlei/>
- ❖ A Family Fun Night, held no later than December 1st of each school year. This training session will give families helpful ideas to assist in the education of their children at home. Topics will provide assistance in understanding the State's academic standards and may include one or more of the following; Phonics and Decoding Skills, Vocabulary Development, Comprehension, Fluency, Technology & Internet Resources
- ❖ Two family teacher conferences allowing families to meet with teachers to discuss their child's progress. **Title I teacher is available to explain how to monitor student progress and understand report cards.** Suggestions will be provided to help families improve academic achievement of their

children. Individual student information is also available throughout the school year from the Wood Title I teacher, Mrs. Bridget Gates through email bgates@mvschools.k12.in.us or phone 650-5305 (Ext. 6538).

- ❖ A Spring Family Child Event, held no later than May 1st of each school year. This meeting will provide families with an opportunity to assist in the planning, review and improvement of the Title I program for the next school year. Family suggestions will also be used to determine how the Title I staff can provide useful resources in a format and language that families can understand.
- ❖ Use of the Title I Family Library. These resources will provide families ways to work with their children at home. Available materials cover the following areas: Phonics, Vocabulary, Comprehension, Fluency, Math and Writing.

To further build family involvement, Wood School will be involved in the following initiatives:

- ❖ Staff training in the value and utility of contributions of families, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with families as equal partners, implement and coordinate family programs, and build ties between families and the school.
- ❖ Coordinating and integrating family involvement strategies under Title I with strategies under other programs such as Head Start, Reading First, Parents as teachers, and Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, and State-run preschool programs.
- ❖ Other reasonable support for family involvement activities as families may request.

Spring 2018 Parent Meeting - Revised to include parent suggestions

Spr. 18 - ESSA

Spring 2019 Parent Meeting - No revisions

Title I Program Description

Reading enrichment services are provided to students in K-4 through a 3-leveled approach. The Level I reading program consists of 90 minutes of daily whole group and small group instruction delivered by the classroom teacher. It is in this setting that reading benchmark criteria are established and testing is conducted for the purpose of determining student eligibility. Level II reading instruction is provided to the students identified with reading difficulties as evidenced by a review of test data. Students receive supplemental small group instruction provided in a pull out setting for 25-30 minutes up to 5 times a week. Level III consists of additional instruction in either a pull-out or in-class setting, where students' specific areas of need are addressed. Both level II and Level III instruction are conducted by a licensed teacher or supervised paraprofessional. Results of progress monitoring and benchmarking assessments are reported to parents.

Math enrichment services are provided to students in grades 2-4 through a 2-leveled approach. The Level I math program consists of 90 minutes of daily whole group instruction delivered solely by the classroom teacher. It is in this setting that math benchmark criteria are established and testing is conducted for the purpose of determining student eligibility. Level II math instruction is provided to students identified with math difficulties as evidenced by a review of test data. These students receive supplemental small group instruction provided in a push in setting for 20-30 minutes up to 4 times a week. Level II instruction is conducted by a teacher-supervised paraprofessional.

Responsibilities of the School, the LEA, and the SEA

Responsibilities of the School

The school, Wood Elementary, will be responsible for arranging meetings with school staff, parents and the LEA to review and revise the School Improvement Plan. The school will also be responsible for implementing all aspects of the plan.

Responsibilities of the LEA

The LEA will provide feedback on the Wood's School Improvement Plan. The review process will include completion of the Schoolwide Plan Components Checklist. Guidance will be given to the principal and staff to ensure full implementation of the school improvement plan. The LEA will provide assistance to the Principal and Staff of Wood by providing sufficient Title I funds received through the SEA.

Responsibilities of the SEA

State resources from the IDOE website will be used in the schoolwide planning process. The SEA will provide technical or other assistance as requested. Assistance may include workshops, consultation with grant specialists and review of the schoolwide plan.

Documentation of Support by Teachers

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 re: Christina L Shultz 1/26/19
 ed

		Mattalia	
	Kindergarten	Elizabeth	
Sarah Pace	1st grade	Sarah Pace	
Lou C y	2nd grade	Jean Curry	9/26/19
Peggy Mahy	3rd	Peggy Mahy	9-26
Carlida Echols	4th	Carlida Echols	9/26/19
Morgan Vassopoulos		Morgan Vassopoulos	
Theresa Kato		Theresa Kato	9/26/19



IDOE School Improvement and Professional Development Corporation Level Assurance Form Superintendent / Exclusive Representative Signatures

Used ONLY When Exclusive Representative Signs Once For ALL Schools.

Corporation Number	4600
Corporation Name	Merrillville Community School Corporation

As superintendent, I verify that the individual professional development plans for all schools within the corporation align with the overall corporation's objectives, goals and expectations. (IC 20-20-31-6)

Superintendent Name (Print)	Nicholas G. Brown, Ed.S.
Superintendent Signature	
Date Signed	10-2-2019

The exclusive representative is required to demonstrate support "only for the professional development program component of the plan."

By signing this form, I demonstrate my support for the professional development programs for all schools within the corporation listed above as they have been reviewed, revised, and submitted as part of the Strategic and Continuous School Improvement and Achievement Plan. (511 IAC 6.2-3-3(10))

Exclusive Representative Name (Print)	Tina Shultz
Exclusive Representative Signature	
Date Signed	10/2/19

This signed form should be kept on file at the district office **AND** copies provided to each building principal to keep on file.

Principals will electronically assure that this form is signed and on file at the district office during the Legal Standard 1 School Improvement Plan Submission process.

It is NOT necessary to return this form to the Indiana Department of Education.