

Union County/College Corner Joint School District Corporation #7950

Union County Middle School School #8206

School Improvement Plan

2022-2023

STATUTES AND RULES TO BE WAIVED

None at this time

DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF CURRICULUM

Copies of the corporation curriculum are located in digital form on the curriculum shared drive. Copies can also be accessed electronically for all teachers to use. All curriculums are aligned with the Indiana Academic and College and Career Readiness Standards established by the Indiana Department of Education. As revisions of the standards occur, alignment continues to be examined and reevaluated as needed.

TITLES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS TO BE USED

Union County Middle School administers the Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress (ILEARN) in the spring of each school year in grades 6, 7, and 8.

The middle school will also administer NWEA as a formative assessment three times during the school year. These assessments are designed to indicate student proficiency in math and language arts. The tests are aligned to the ELA and math standards. The overall intent of administering these assessments is to identify student deficiencies and give teachers the opportunity to focus on instructional strategies in content areas of need and to measure student growth and progress within and across grades. This is accomplished through the school wide response to intervention (RTI) program that provides remediation for students who need it. The Indiana Standards Tool for Alternate Reporting (ISTAR) is administered to assess growth with students that have been identified with severe cognitive disabilities.

Additional assessments include the use of IXL for math and ELA programs that are specifically designed to assist in matching student achievement gaps with appropriate learning activities as well as classroom unit assessments. These additional assessments are critical for the school's RTI program. "The 6 + 1 Traits of Writing" is a model used to monitor and evaluate student writing throughout the school year. This will be presented to all subject area teachers to be used in writing across all subject areas.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Communication between teachers and parents is made through written notes, mid-term and nine-week grade reports, weekly newsletters, phone calls, emails, social media, and web pages. Several teachers have web pages or utilize social media to provide weekly assignments, important notices and dates, study tips and any other information that the teacher wishes to share. Parents have access to all staff email addresses for individual use. UCCCJSD uses google classroom to assign and communicate assignments.

Parent conferences will be held in October to discuss individual student progress. Students are trained on how to access PowerSchool. Parents and students are encouraged to regularly check PowerSchool to monitor student grades and progress. Union County Middle School encourages parents to continue to be involved in their student's middle school career by volunteering to chaperone at socials, field trips, and classroom extension opportunities.

SAFE AND DISCIPLINED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

In 2021-2022, UCMS began implementing TBRI (Trust Based Relational Intervention). TBRI is a therapeutic model that trains caregivers to provide effective support and treatment for at-risk children. All staff were trained in this program by January of 2022. Staff new to the corporation for the 2022-2023 school year will be trained as soon as possible.

Building wide surveillance cameras record around the clock for safety and discipline management. Union County Middle School currently has 19 cameras, 7 of which have multiple sensors that allow us to combine multiple images and angles into a panoramic view that feeds into two large screen displays in the main office.

Union County/College Corner Joint School District has developed an Emergency Management Guide that is used by staff to determine protocol for a variety of emergency situations. Monthly and quarterly drills are practiced for student preparedness. The middle school has a Crisis Team that meets quarterly to review protocol and procedures. The Crisis Team also meets on an as needed basis when emergencies arise. The UCMS Crisis Team will use this information to improve school safety at UCMS.

TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES

UCMS has a one-to-one Chromebook initiative. The building has wireless Internet access as well as hard wire access in each classroom. Google classroom is fully implemented for all classrooms. All classrooms are equipped with an interactive whiteboard and most rooms have document cameras. Technology is used daily to support instructional goals and objectives. Continued focus on building wide professional development will be implemented to assist staff. In-service time, faculty meetings, and grade level professional development opportunities will be offered throughout the school year.

RESULTS OF ILEARN

2022	ELA			
	6	7	8	TOTAL
UCMS	34.2%	51.7%	54.6%	47.5%
STATE	39.0%	42.4%	43.1%	41.5%
2022	Math			
	6	7	8	TOTAL
UCMS	45.6%	42.7%	27.8%	38.1%
STATE	35.5%	31.9%	29.8%	32.4%
2022	Pass Both			
	6	7	8	TOTAL
UCMS	39.20%			
STATE	38.80%			

CULTURAL COMPETENCY

Union County Middle School recognizes the various cultures in our community. As a public school, we must achieve cultural competency by integrating knowledge about individuals and groups of people into specific practices and policies that are applied in appropriate cultural settings. Many students who attend our school are at an advantage because their teachers have their similar cultural backgrounds. Our challenge as educators is to teach and reach those students with whom we do not share the same backgrounds and/or ethnicity. As we prepare our students for their future careers and places in society, we must provide them with opportunities to grow in their knowledge and experiences in a quickly changing multicultural society. Opportunities to strengthen cultural awareness and competency include:

- Providing opportunities for students to understand differences as they relate to disabilities.
- Invite guest speakers or programs to share experiences in life, music, and art. This could include people with disabilities, people of different cultures or fine arts performers.
- Professional development activities to educate and promote culture diversity for all staff.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOALS

1. The percentage of students in grades 6, 7, 8 that will be at or above the ILEARN passing rates in English Language Arts will increase from the spring 2022 passing rates.

STRATEGIES

- Increased student practice in writing evidential summaries from text.
- All teachers will include a minimum of one open-ended or constructed response type question in all end of unit assessments.
- Continued refinement and use of the writing program – “6+1 Traits of Writing” with an increased emphasis on using expressive and detailed vocabulary in all writing activities.

- Success time and lab classes will be used to work on English Language Arts areas of need for students based on student data.
2. The percentage of students in grades 6, 7, 8 that will be at or above the ILEARN passing rate in Mathematics will increase from the spring 2022 passing rates.

STRATEGIES

- All teachers will include the use of higher order thinking activities on the depth of knowledge chart to foster problem-solving skills.
 - Success time and lab classes will be used to work on Mathematics areas of need for students based on student data.
 - ILEARN designed warm-ups will be used in all math classes.
3. Meet or exceed the state attendance rate from 2021-2022.

STRATEGIES:

- Make daily contact for all unreported absences.
- Utilize corporation attendance committee to conference with parents of children that accumulate more than 10 absences.
- Recognize perfect attendance for all at the end of the school year. (COVID documented absences will not count against students' perfect attendance as long as they make an attempt to complete missing assignments.)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- All staff will implement vocabulary and reading strategies in all classrooms.
- All staff will integrate Indiana Academic Literacy Standards into lesson plans.
- Implementation of the "6 + 1 Writing Traits" in all classes.
- Participation in professional development opportunities that are aligned to the school improvement plan.
- All staff will implement critical thinking strategies to increase student's level of problem solving and inquiry learning.
- Utilize data to increase formative assessment scores on standards based instruction.
- All staff will engage in professional development specifically targeted to trust based relational intervention.
- Parents and students are encouraged to track student progress on PowerSchool.

3 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

After examining our most recent achievement results on the spring ILEARN tests, teachers at Union County Middle School need more time to learn the nuances of the new standards and tests. Our results were not reflective of our own expectations. In comparison to the state average, which we mirror from a demographic and socio-economic standpoint, for the most part our scores were higher and significantly higher in some cases. Continued focus for improvement in Language Arts will be in the areas of the writing process, language conventions and information/non-fiction analysis, instructional practices that focus on all reading strategies will be implemented in all subject areas. Focus for improvement in mathematics will be in the areas of problem solving, measurement, and data analysis and probability.