

## **Update of Winchester, NH School-wide Title I plan**

Winchester, NH is a small, rural community in the southwestern corner of Cheshire County. The demographic information is from the 2010 census. An update isn't available of more current information. Winchester's population is approximately 4,341. In the 2005 census the town's per capita income earnings were \$16,000 and the medium household income for 4 is \$37,000. Ten percent of the families who reside in Winchester are below poverty level. The town has an unemployment rate of 4.3%.

Winchester School district has one school that has students from pre-kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The population of the school is 409 students, 39 teachers, a part-time superintendent, a principal, an assistant principal, a guidance counselor, social worker, psychologist, adjustment counselor, and 40 paraprofessionals. We have a Sped Director for out of District placement and one for coordinating in school Special Education, a nurse, OT, PT and speech. We have a Reading Specialist, a librarian, and an ESOL teacher, as well as an Alternative Education program for some of our high school age students. We provide free breakfast and lunch to all our students through the CEP grant.

## **Comprehensive Needs Assessment**

A complete needs assessment hasn't been completed in a few years. Staff members met to update information written in our last plan during the 2015-2016 school year. We have enlisted the help of our RTI team to work on this throughout this year. We met once a month and part of every meeting we reviewed information in the plan and had an evaluation of the year's progress in the spring which we invited parents to attend. Even though we have parent curriculum nights throughout the year, we are planning meetings where parents can give more direct suggestions, ask questions and give their input to our Title I program. They will be scheduled after the curriculum nights are scheduled.

Our assessment results show that we are making progress with student achievement but as always, we can improve more. We are using research-based curriculum and have lots of support and resources available. We provide a safe, secure environment for students. We have many events that involve parents and the community. We also have a free pre-school and a before and after school ACCESS program to students who wish to attend.

Our Title I staff consists of 5 certified teachers. We concentrate our staff on the primary grades to help students reach benchmarks as early as possible. We have 2

full time teachers working primarily with grades K-2, 2 full time teachers working primarily with grades 3-6, and one LLI teacher for grades 3-6. Some of the staff crosses grade levels as needs arise.

We use the information from our academic assessments to drive our instruction. We have purchased a progress monitoring tool that will help us more specifically target students' needs and help them meet the Common Core requirements.

As students are registered, the office staff will notify teachers of any inadequate housing situation that would put a student in the homeless or migratory status. Then as a grade level team with other support staff, we will evaluate how each student may require extra support from our Title I resources.

### **Identify the Research- Proven Instructional Strategies Adopted in your SWP**

Grades K-6 use the Fountas and Pinnell literacy benchmark system for baseline assessments 3 times a year. The Aimsweb assessment system will also be used to assess beginning, middle and end of the year reading and math skills, and will be used as a progress monitoring tool.

Our literacy curriculum consists of Lively Letters, Words Their Way, Fountas and Pinnell Phonics Kits, Guided Reading, and various online resources. All grades have access to our leveled book closet with books of all genres. In addition to these school wide resources, Title One also implements several literacy interventions with LLI for grade K-6, Pioneer Valley leveled literacy program and other guided reading groups.

Our mathematics curriculum is made up of teacher-created units using various research-based programs. Some of these include Engage NY modules, Eureka Math, parts of Everyday Math, and other online resources. Recently all math teachers trained with Math Solution consultants in order to improve teaching methods and learn new strategies. Title One has also started using the Bridges Math program in some of their interventions.

### **Instructional Support for Children Experiencing Difficulties Mastering the Standards**

We decided that restructuring our Title I staff would help us reach struggling students earlier in their academic life. We provide more literacy interventions in grades K-2. The rest of our staff is spread evenly throughout grades 3-6. Results from assessments given in the classroom and Aimsweb data are used to form groups of students who require more time and extra instruction. Every grade has a PLC meeting at least once a month where classroom teachers, Special Education

teachers, Title teachers, and administration meet to discuss progress of struggling students and what will be the plan to meet their individual needs. Many extra groups are done on a pull-out basis. Once students are in a small place away from distractions, more intensive instruction and learning can take place. We are trying to work on having more push-in groups. This will require extra collaboration with classroom teachers and schedules.

### **Parent Involvement**

We vary these activities from year to year so that we are able to capture the interest of both parents and students. Some of the things we have done recently have been: a family stem-night with science activities, family BBQ to kick off the school year, Casino math night, and Dessert- Literacy night. Read- Across-America week consists of several activities that are done during school and shared with parents at evening events. We often partner with our PTA to sponsor evening events. At each of these events we share Title I information, and resources to help parents with academic and social-emotional issues they may experience with their students. We always conduct an end of the year survey in order to gather parent feedback and suggestions for our Title One services.

### **Professional Development**

Professional development is integrated into the school year calendar. At several times a year we have daylong sessions where the students are not present and topics of interest and need are shared with the staff. Administration and the Curriculum Coordinator assess and then develop sessions on topics such as; grading systems, brain based learning and other topics of interest. We have several early release days each year that are used for PD on topics the administration has found the staff is in need of. Individuals attend workshops and conferences throughout the year to better their teaching and learning.

### **Preschool Transition**

Winchester has a free preschool program for three and four year olds. We are closely aligned with the progress of students and are aware of students' needs. Speech and other services are provided, as the need becomes apparent. We also have a Head Start and a Learning Center in town that helps met the needs of the preschool population. Again, our own preschool teacher has made connections with

these other local settings. Children in need of services are identified and are provided services. The transition to our school's Kindergarten is a smooth one with family sessions in the spring and summer.

### **High School Transition**

Attached is an e-mail that describes the many ways we prepare our students for attending Keene High School.

1. Lots of talks about the expectations of transitioning. This starts very early. We talk about what they want to do for a career and get them looking at different options.
2. I go to KHS every January to meet with all department heads and the Guidance Staff to discuss the program of studies, which is all classes in every department. It is edited every year.
3. Then KHS comes to talk with all Winchester students about expectations, classes, and everything under the sun.
4. Then the paper scheduling begins. The core teachers pick out what level the students are at in Science, Social Studies, Math and English.
5. I then sit down with each student individually and pick out their electives and other courses. They need a total of 8 credits.
6. Then the schedule is sent home for the parents to review and edit and then sent back to me. Each student/parent also gets a copy of the Program of Studies.
7. The schedule must be signed and then I meet with or talk with parents if they have specific questions about courses etc.
8. All schedules are due back to KHS in February. The scheduling process takes about a month for me to do all the schedules, make sure they are signed and filled out correctly and then dropped off at KHS.
9. There are many additional meetings at KHS and at WINCHESTER for SPED and 504 kids.
10. All students with IEP's and 504's have individual meetings at Winchester and KHS with their parents, students and case managers from Winchester and KHS to make sure their program is specialized to the IEP. There are so many SPED classes that are tailored for that specific learner. There is also a Life Skills program, Social Skills Collab for Students on the Autism Spectrum and there is a Social and Emotional Placement for kids that are coded ED.
11. Then in April, KHS guidance counselors come to Winchester to meet individually with each student. They review their schedule and get to know each student. All student will be assigned a house office and school counselor for the entire time they are at KHS.
12. In March or May Winchester Students then spend a half day at KHS to do a tour that is done by Winchester students at KHS and they also get to see firsthand all the classes and the eat lunch at the school.
13. There are then many follow up meetings throughout the rest of the year to ensure the students schedule are set for them and they are ready to go.
14. KHS sends us various screeners in Math and English to place students appropriately. Either myself or the English teacher conducts these and then sends them to KHS for review.
15. 8th graders take MAP testing to assist with scheduling placement.
16. Certain students with attend summer School at KHS.

17. There are Parent nights at KHS to let parents know what is happening and get them ready for the transition.
18. There is a Freshman Orientation day before school starts where only current 9th graders go to school and spend the day in classes and see where they are going and get on buses prior to the official first day of school.
19. The Athletic Dept from KHS comes to talk with the students about all the sport offerings and what is required. The students get to sign up for things they are interested in.
20. There are free sport physicals at KHS for students in June.
21. We conduct various field trips to visit KHS to see specific program based on the individual student. Parents attend these as well so they can see what the programs are like.
22. KHS is open all summer and parents are encouraged to show up at take a tour of the campus.
23. I send out various letters to parents to inform them of the meeting, the scheduling process etc.
24. Core teachers often take a small group of students to KHS to see specific programs. 2S. Winchester teachers communicate with their respective departments at KHS to talk about students and placement.
26. We ensure students have counseling and other related services in place.
27. The Winchester school nurse meets with the KHS nursing staff to discuss student needs and medical issues.
28. There are summer reading and enrichment programs for our students to participate in at KHS.
29. Coordinate out of district placement for students if that is deemed necessary.
30. Students tour the Cheshire Career center. When they are visiting KHS on the tour the

### **Instruction by Highly Qualified Staff**

Our school has 5 Title I staff members who are all highly qualified and certified by the state

of New Hampshire. We only hire certified teachers for all of our Title I positions. All teachers in our district are highly qualified although some are on alternate plans of acquiring their certifications. We don't have any paraprofessionals paid by Title I funds. All our paraprofessionals working in the building are highly qualified and certified by the state.

### **Extended Learning Opportunities**

When the need arises, supplemental support is given before and after school or at recess time if it is agreed upon by parents, students and staff. We have a before and after school program called ACCESS that has a session for students to work on

homework in small groups and with tutors.

**Goals for the school year 2019-2020**

1. 80% of the Winchester students will be proficient at grade level literacy standards or exceed proficiency on Fountas and Pinnell benchmarks.

Method of attainment:

Focusing more Title I teachers in the primary grades

Using data at PLC meetings to structure groups with like needs

Using the LLI system to focus on our lowest achievers

Use and continue to develop a tracing system of intervention strategies each student has received (Title I)

Continue to use research-based literacy lessons that align with the Common Core standards

2. 80% of Winchester students will be proficient at grade level math standards or exceed proficiency on Aimsweb benchmarks.

Method of attainment:

Teachers will implement knowledge and strategies they have acquired from the Math Solutions Workshops.

Using data at PLC meetings to structure groups with like needs

Use and continue to develop a tracking system of intervention strategies each student has received (Title I)

Continue to use research-based math lessons that align with the Common Core Standards

3. 80% of Winchester families will be involved in their students'

education Method of attainment:

Our School/Family/ Community/Partnership Facilitators will encourage and train staff, facilitate activities, and collect attendance/participation data on family involvement, including:

Open House

Family/School Compact

Parent/Teacher conferences

Family Community

Newsletters

Family Resources and pertinent school information posted on the school's website School events (i.e. literacy nights, math nights, etc.) that celebrate student learning

Teacher and family surveys, re-parent involvement

Transition activities (both into Kindergarten and into High School)

PTA events