

2020-2021 District Support Plan

Marion School District

District	Marion School District
Superintendent	Dr. Glen Fenter
Superintendent Email	gfenter@msd3.org
Superintendent Phone	870-739-5100

ARKANSAS READY FOR LEARNING PLAN:

Ready for Learning Expectations		District Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the continuity of teaching and learning by providing: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a guaranteed and viable curriculum that includes: 	<p>Parents of students in the Marion School District will have two options for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year; blended learning and virtual learning. These two options are explained thoroughly in the following documents:</p> <p>MSD Blended (in-person) Learning Plan: Blended</p> <p>MSD Virtual (online) Learning Plan: Online</p> <p>Curriculum maps have been developed under the guidance of our school improvement specialist and her team of instructional facilitators for all core content areas including essential standards. In addition, common assessments have been established. Curriculum maps and common assessments are reviewed regularly in PLC meetings. The curriculum maps and common assessments will be used for our students who are learning both on-site and virtually.</p> <p>On-site students will do RTI during specific times designated in their daily schedules. Virtual students will be monitored using diagnostic assessments and RTI will be administered through their learning paths in Edmentum and Reading Horizons.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ blended learning (K-12), and 	<p>With blended learning, students will learn content through face to face, in-classroom instruction with their teachers utilizing Google Classroom or Seesaw depending on the grade level of the child.</p>

		Students will learn how to use these digital learning systems by participating in lessons face to face to prepare for possible school closure. In the event the district has to pivot to virtual learning, students will be held accountable for their assignments while at home. Work will be graded, and attendance will be taken daily.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ diagnostic assessments (K-8) 	Diagnostic assessments will begin during the first nine weeks of the fall semester for students in grades K-12. DIBELS and Renaissance (Star) will be used for K, 1, 2 and Edmentum will be used for grades 3 - 12.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify how to address unfinished learning from the prior year by using: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Arkansas Playbook: ● Planning for Re-engagement 	The Marion School District has created a <i>Return to School Plan</i> to help communicate what school will look like at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. You can find MSD's Return to School Plan here .
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● district-developed resources 	<p>The district's top priority as students return to on-site instruction is to identify any "unfinished learning" from the 2019-2020 school year. The following have been put in place to help identify areas of need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MSD has made significant expenditures to provide every student with an age-appropriate Chromebook or Ipad that will become an important addition to our instructional plans. ● The district's team of facilitators surveyed grade levels and individual teachers to see where on-site instruction stopped in March of 2020. ● The district's team of facilitators have worked with teams in all buildings to create power standards and curriculum maps and have plans to resume the work as soon as school begins. ● For local assessments the district will use DIBELS, Renaissance (Star) for K, 1, 2 and Edmentum for 3 - 12 for assessments. District facilitators will meet with teams in each building for data assessment and to help teachers use the data to drive instruction.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Utilize a Learning Management System 		The Marion School District will utilize Seesaw for grades K-2 and Google Classroom for grades 3-12.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Schedule teacher training for how to use the LMS 		MSD August Professional Development Schedule
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Schedule teacher training for blended learning (delivery of instruction) 2020-21 PD Schedule 		MSD August Professional Development Schedule School Specific PD

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide support for parents and students Family and Community Engagement Plan Support Parent Page on DESE Website 	<p>Parents can access the district and schools' Parent and Family Engagement Plans Here.</p> <p>The Marion School District has created a <i>Return to School Plan</i> to help communicate what school will look like at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. You can find MSD's Return to School Plan here.</p> <p>Parents and students have access to various training resources on effective technology use. Resources are added as needed. This information can be found on the district's website under the COVID-19 information and here.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a communication plan for interacting with parents, students, and the community 	<p>The district and school will continue to communicate with parents, students, and the community as outlined in each Parent and Family Engagement Plan. An additional Communication Plan has been created to assist in communications related to COVID-19. This plan can be found here.</p>

The following waivers were requested through submission of the Assurance and Application for Arkansas Ready for Learning:

[See Table 1](#) for explanation of waivers with text of statutes, rules, and standards for accreditation.

Waivers	Explanation for waivers the district chooses to use. For any left blank, the district has chosen not to use.
Ark. Code Ann. 6-17-117 (Non Instructional duties - only for the purpose of implementing ADH requirements and guidelines regarding health and safety)	The Marion School District realizes the flexibility given through these approved waivers during the 2020-2021 school year and will implement each individual waiver as the need arises. District administrators continue to focus on the safety of teachers, staff, and school bus drivers as they will be our "front line" workers and will implement waivers as needed to maintain their protection.
Ark. Code Ann. 6-17-204(b) (Teacher contracts - only for the purpose of adopting model policies necessary to implement the Arkansas Ready for Learning Model)	The Marion School District realizes the flexibility given through these approved waivers during the 2020-2021 school year and will implement each individual waiver as the need arises. District administrators continue to focus on the safety of teachers, staff, and school bus drivers as they will be our "front line" workers and will implement waivers as needed to maintain their protection.
Ark. Code Ann. 6-17-205(b)(2) (Teacher contracts - only for the purpose of adopting model policies necessary to implement the Arkansas Ready for Learning Model)	The Marion School District realizes the flexibility given through these approved waivers during the 2020-2021 school year and will implement each individual waiver as the need arises. District administrators continue to focus on the safety of teachers, staff, and school bus drivers as they will be our "front line" workers and will implement waivers as needed to

	maintain their protection.
Ark. Code Ann. 6-17-2304(b) (Classified employee policies - only for the purpose of adopting model policies necessary to implement the Arkansas Ready for Learning Model)	The Marion School District realizes the flexibility given through these approved waivers during the 2020-2021 school year and will implement each individual waiver as the need arises. District administrators continue to focus on the safety of teachers, staff, and school bus drivers as they will be our “front line” workers and will implement waivers as needed to maintain their protection.
Ark. Code Ann. 6-17-2305(c)(2) (Classified employee policies - only for the purpose of adopting model policies necessary to implement the Arkansas Ready for Learning Model)	The Marion School District realizes the flexibility given through these approved waivers during the 2020-2021 school year and will implement each individual waiver as the need arises. District administrators continue to focus on the safety of teachers, staff, and school bus drivers as they will be our “front line” workers and will implement waivers as needed to maintain their protection.

The following waivers apply only on days, or portions of days, when technology-based approaches are the primary instructional delivery, for specific groups of students that are receiving their instruction primarily through technology-based approaches, or for staff providing instruction primarily through technology-based approaches, or if necessary to implement ADH requirements or guidelines:

Waivers	For the waivers you choose to use, explain what that looks like in the district.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ark. Code Ann. 6-16-102(a)(1) through (a)(5)(E)(i)(b), and (c) (School Day) Standard for Accreditation 1-A.4.2 and 1-A.4.3 (School Day) 	The Marion School District realizes the flexibility given through these approved waivers during the 2020-2021 school year and will implement each individual waiver as the need arises. District administrators continue to focus on the safety of teachers, staff, and school bus drivers as they will be our “front line” workers and will implement waivers as needed to maintain their protection.
Ark. Code Ann. 6-17-111(a) (Duty-free lunch)	The Marion School District realizes the flexibility given through these approved waivers during the 2020-2021 school year and will implement each individual waiver as the need arises. District administrators continue to focus on the safety of teachers, staff, and school bus drivers as they will be our “front line” workers and will implement waivers as needed to maintain their protection.

Ark. Code Ann. 6-17-114 (Planning time)	The Marion School District realizes the flexibility given through these approved waivers during the 2020-2021 school year and will implement each individual waiver as the need arises. District administrators continue to focus on the safety of teachers, staff, and school bus drivers as they will be our “front line” workers and will implement waivers as needed to maintain their protection.
Ark. Code Ann. 6-17-211 (Employee leave)	The Marion School District realizes the flexibility given through these approved waivers during the 2020-2021 school year and will implement each individual waiver as the need arises. District administrators continue to focus on the safety of teachers, staff, and school bus drivers as they will be our “front line” workers and will implement waivers as needed to maintain their protection.
Ark. Code Ann. 6-17-812(a)(2) (Class size)	The Marion School District realizes the flexibility given through these approved waivers during the 2020-2021 school year and will implement each individual waiver as the need arises. District administrators continue to focus on the safety of teachers, staff, and school bus drivers as they will be our “front line” workers and will implement waivers as needed to maintain their protection.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DESE Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load, Sec. 3.00 and 4.01 through 4.03 	The Marion School District realizes the flexibility given through these approved waivers during the 2020-2021 school year and will implement each individual waiver as the need arises. District administrators continue to focus on the safety of teachers, staff, and school bus drivers as they will be our “front line” workers and will implement waivers as needed to maintain their protection.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DESE Rules Governing Student Special Needs Funding, Sec. 4.03.2 through 4.03.2.1 	The Marion School District realizes the flexibility given through these approved waivers during the 2020-2021 school year and will implement each individual waiver as the need arises. District administrators continue to focus on the safety of teachers, staff, and school bus drivers as they will be our “front line” workers and will implement waivers as needed to maintain their protection.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DESE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards and Body Mass Index for Age Assessment Protocols in Arkansas Public Schools, Sec. 7.10.1 and 7.10.2 	The Marion School District realizes the flexibility given through these approved waivers during the 2020-2021 school year and will implement each individual waiver as the need arises. District administrators continue to focus on the safety of teachers, staff, and school bus drivers as they will be our “front line” workers and will implement waivers as needed to maintain their protection.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard for Accreditation 1-A.5 	The Marion School District realizes the flexibility given through these approved waivers during the 2020-2021 school year and will implement each individual waiver as the need arises. District administrators continue to focus on the safety of teachers, staff, and school bus drivers as they will be our “front line” workers and will implement waivers as needed to maintain their protection.

DISTRICT SUPPORT PLAN FOR LITERACY

(Required for schools receiving Level 3, 4, or 5 support) [Link Plan in Indistar.](#)

Explain the needs assessment process used to identify the focus of the school level improvement plan(s). [PLAN]

A needs assessment was conducted by a team of Marion School District staff in order to identify the focus of school level improvement plans. This needs assessment took into account the unexpected pivot to virtual learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. The focus was spotlighted on who was learning, who was not learning, what we are going to do about it when our students return to campus or if virtual learning continues. A link to our Needs Assessment Summary can be found [here](#).

District Literacy Plan	
(1) Goals for improving reading achievement throughout the district	<p>Goal 1: Marion School District students identified as “in need of support” in reading on the ACT Aspire in grades 3-10 will decrease by 5% annually.</p> <p>Goal 2: Marion School District students identified as “ready” in reading on the ACT Aspire in grades 3-10 will increase by 1% annually.</p> <p>Goal 3: Marion School District students identified as “exceeding” in reading on the ACT Aspire in grades 3-10 will increase by 1% annually.</p> <p>Goal 4: By May, 2021, 100% of schools in Marion School District will have a data driven PLC meeting at least once a month that will drive classroom instruction.</p>
(2) Prioritization of funding, including without limitation enhanced student achievement (ESA) state categorical funds to improve reading achievement throughout the district.	Per our needs assessment, a decision was made to use the majority of our CARES Act funding to purchase technology devices for every student in the district in order to prepare for the pivot of virtual learning. CARES Act funds will also be used to help with the lack of internet infrastructure that the district faces. Cradle Points will be placed throughout the district at central locations for student use. ESA funds and other federal funds are set aside specifically for the intent of improving reading achievement throughout the district. Specific actions taken by the district to improve reading achievement is outlined below.

Name of School(s)	Support Requested	District Support	Strategy Code
Herbert Carter Global Community Magnet School, Marion Visual and Performing Arts Magnet School, Marion Math, Science and Technology Magnet School, Marion Junior High School & Marion High School	Train all teachers in the science of reading.	Training began during the summer of 2018. Ongoing training has continued to include all district teachers and new teachers to the district. Training is provided by the Instructional Facilitators.	1: safe/collaborative 2: effective instruction 3: viable curriculum 2 & 3
Herbert Carter Global Community Magnet School, Marion Visual and Performing Arts Magnet School, Marion Math, Science and Technology Magnet School, Marion Junior High School & Marion High School	Reading Horizons will be used in classrooms at each elementary school and in critical reading classes at Marion Junior High School and Marion High School.	Instructional Facilitators will make classroom observations throughout the school year.	1, 2, & 3
Herbert Carter Global Community Magnet School, Marion Visual and Performing Arts Magnet School, Marion Math, Science and Technology Magnet School, Marion Junior High School & Marion High School	Local interim assessments will be given to all students.	District School Improvement Specialist and Instructional Facilitators will oversee the planning of interim assessments given three times a year.	1, 2, & 3
Herbert Carter Global Community Magnet	Provide professional development to teachers	The District's School Improvement Specialist	1, 2, & 3

School, Marion Visual and Performing Arts Magnet School, Marion Math, Science and Technology Magnet School, Marion Junior High School & Marion High School	throughout the school year.	and her team of Instructional Facilitators will oversee PD given to teachers during in-service, throughout the school year, during PLC meetings, and at teacher requests.	
Marion Junior High School & Marion High School	Critical Reading Classes will be taught at the 7th grade and 10th grade.	Classes were put in place during the 2019-2020 school year and will continue.	2 & 3
Herbert Carter Global Community Magnet School, Marion Visual and Performing Arts Magnet School, Marion Math, Science and Technology Magnet School, Marion Junior High School & Marion High School	Increase community communication about the importance of reading for all ages.	Parent Facilitators will share communication about reading at least once a month to the parents and community.	1, 2, & 3
Herbert Carter Global Community Magnet School, Marion Visual and Performing Arts Magnet School, Marion Math, Science and Technology Magnet School, Marion Junior High School & Marion High School	Blended learning opportunities will be researched to determine the best options for the students in our district.	School Improvement Specialist for Online Learning will research best strategies for blended learning.	1, 2, & 3
Herbert Carter Global Community Magnet School, Marion Visual and Performing Arts Magnet School, Marion Math, Science	Use local assessments to identify areas of "unfinished learning" of our students.	District School Improvement Specialist and Team of Instructional Facilitators will guide teachers through the process of addressing unfinished	1, 2, & 3

and Technology Magnet School, Marion Junior High School & Marion High School		learning from the spring of 2020.	
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Explain how the district will monitor the fidelity of implementation of the school-level improvement plan(s). [DO]

In order to support the district goals, Marion School District has reorganized in order to prioritize efforts to ensure classroom instruction focuses on the Science of Reading in all schools in every classroom. As a result of this effort one district level school improvement specialist oversees a team of instructional facilitators and interventionists. The instructional facilitators work primarily with classroom teachers and the interventionists work with students. For the 2020-2021 school year the district has placed a school improvement specialist in charge of Blended Learning and Online Learning. This team of school improvement specialists, instructional facilitators, and interventionists are key to help support the principal and monitor the fidelity of each school-level improvement plan.

The team of instructional facilitators is made up of five staff members. This team studies data and provides professional development to teachers in areas of need based on the Science of Reading. Two of the instructional facilitators are R.I.S.E trainers. During the 2018-2019 school year faculty and staff of the Marion School District started attending professional development on-site in R.I.S.E. Training was held over the summer months, Saturdays and during the school year. These trainings continue during the summer of 2020 as we aim to train all faculty and staff members. All staff were required to do at least 15 hours of professional development on Arkansas Ideas on the Science of Reading.

Seven certified interventionists provide interventions for students with characteristics of dyslexia or students at-risk in literacy. Three of the interventionists are considered dyslexia specialists and screen students for Level 2 characteristics of dyslexia. One interventionist is piloting a Tier 3 math intervention program with an emphasis on prevention for K-3 students.

Per district policy, each school has a School Leadership Team in place that meets twice monthly. A standing agenda item once a month will be student data. Data will come from ACT Aspire, K-2 DIBELS, K-2 STAR testing, 3-10th grade Edmentum(three times a year) and the monitoring of Reading Horizon data. Student data information will trickle down to school PLCs in order to drive instruction and implement instructional routines. The K-6 magnet schools have created master schedules that allow for common planning time with teachers. Marion Junior High School and Marion High School have PLC meetings with teachers according to each teacher's schedule.

For the third year, Marion School District has chosen to use Reading Horizons at the three elementary schools. Additional information about Reading Horizons can be found here:

<https://www.readinghorizons.com/reading-method/reading-research/>

Literacy curriculum for the district:

K-6 utilizes Reading Horizons for phonics and reading instruction. Pearson Reading Street is used for literature and writing components. At the secondary level, Holt literature anthologies as well as selected novels are used for literature. Grammar and writing instruction are incorporated into literature studies.

According to our Spring, 2019 ACT Aspire data, it was clear that our students are losing ground at the 9th grade level. As a result, the Marion School District hired a school improvement specialist for Marion Junior High School to address this issue. This SIS will work closely with Marion High School's SIS and the team of instructional facilitators and interventionists to focus on this gap in achievement.

Marion School District will continue to offer critical reading classes at both the 7th and 10th grade levels. This is another stop gap implementation in order to identify the students that are two or more years below grade level and provide intensive reading instruction to the identified students. Three teachers who have demonstrated effectiveness were chosen to teach the critical reading classes. These three teachers have also started R.I.S.E training.

ESA funds, CARES Act funds and Title I funds support all of our efforts as we focus on the Science of Reading.

Explain how the district will evaluate the school-level improvement plan for progress. This explanation should include clearly defined expectations. [check]

Marion School District will monitor the fidelity of the implementation of the school-level plans by reviewing the plans on a regular basis during District Leadership Team Meetings. The district holds monthly District Leadership Team Meetings. At these meetings, the team will review school plans and offer guidance of district expectations. Ongoing monitoring will also take place at the school level. The district's instructional facilitators monitor classroom instruction in literacy at least once a month looking for classroom practices and procedures gained from R.I. S. E. training. Instructional facilitators share information with building principals and school improvement specialists each month. Building principals and school improvement specialists at the building levels also monitor classroom instruction as outlined in the Record of TESS/LEADS Educator Evaluation Rating Rotation and additional district observation protocols.

The district will evaluate the school-level improvement plans for progress by creating a School Improvement Support Team. This School Improvement Support Team will consist of the director of federal programs, the two district level school improvement specialists and the school improvement specialists from Marion Junior High School and Marion High School. This School Improvement Support Team will meet with each school principal and the Indistar Process Manager several times a year. An End of the Year Evaluation will take place at each school in the district in order to evaluate the outcomes of their school plan. Dates of these meetings will be posted in Indistar for each school. Once the school has documented the evaluation process of their plans, a meeting will be held with the school principal, Indistar Process Manager and the School Improvement Support Team in order to discuss the evaluated outcomes of the school plan. This meeting will take place in May. A report from all schools will be reviewed during the District Leadership Team meeting in June.

Rubric for district support plan (for information only):

Status	Support Plan [plan]	Monitoring Timeline and written expectations [do]	Evaluation timeline and expectations [check]
Approved	<p>Systems are examined and supports are identified that will ensure full implementation of the evidence based practices at the school level.</p> <p>District literacy plan addresses goals and prioritization of funding.</p>	Monitoring the timeline is explicit and written expectations are clear.	Evaluation timeline is explicit and written expectations are clear.
Needs Improvement	<p>Support plan does not address the identified needs of the schools and district.</p> <p>No support plan submitted.</p>	Monitoring timeline and written expectations are not provided or need clarity.	Evaluation timeline and written expectations are not provided.