

# SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Watauga Elementary

2016-2017

- A. *Work to improve one of the four core areas as outlined in Objective 2 under Curriculum & Instruction in the Comprehensive Plan.*

**OBJECTIVE:** Watauga Elementary School will improve student comprehension and student achievement in all content areas with a concentrated focus on vocabulary development, fluency, and critical thinking skills.

## Strategies

- Incorporate research-based strategies to improve comprehension, fluency, phonics, vocabulary, and writing.
- Increase use of informational text with a significant emphasis on text features.
- Increase use of and analysis of poetry in language arts.  
Increase concept of word through word study with a specific emphasis on prefixes (includes instruction in Greek and Latin roots.)
- Incorporate daily summarizing modeled by the teacher in a whole group setting.
- Incorporate daily self-generated summaries from students in all content areas.
- Increase comprehension and assist students in becoming strategic readers through text structure (both fiction and non-fiction), interaction, and analysis.
- Explicitly teach fine motor skills, leading to correct letter formation in manuscript and cursive writing.
- Explicitly teach the writing process in grades PK-5 as developmentally appropriate, including the school-wide use of the 4-Square writing model.
- Provide differentiation of instruction for all students including enrichment and /or remediation.
- Provide intensive one-on-one and/or small group instruction for at-risk students.
- Increase use of graphic organizers across the curriculum, including Venn diagrams for comparing and contrasting, flow charts for sequence of events, and when/then charts for cause/effect relationships.
- Continually analyze data to determine areas of strengths and weaknesses.
- Share data with all teachers to strengthen the vertical alignment of the curriculum.
- Emphases on fluency, the speed of word recognition and text reading, with daily practice and frequent modeling by the teacher.
- Application of higher level thinking skills through questioning techniques that invite students to share their thinking as it relates to author's purpose and point of view, opportunities to compare and contrast, purposeful implementation of critical thinking skills, increased opportunities for predicting, inferring, questioning, clarifying, and summarizing.

## Indicators

- Classroom observations and evaluations
- Instruction will be defined and readjusted based on the results of data

- Accelerated Reader
- STAR Growth Report
- Interactive Achievement Results
- Standards of Learning Test Results
- CARS and STARS Use in Grades 1-5
- PALS - End of the Year Report
- Reading Recovery Levels
- Student writing samples and content area notebooks.

B. *Select one of the remaining five categories of the Comprehensive Plan and incorporate it into the School Improvement Plan.*

OBJECTIVE: Watauga Elementary School will increase students' depth of knowledge and understanding through explicit instruction and critical thinking tasks.

#### Strategies

- Incorporate cross-curricular inquiry to foster deeper learning.
- Increase the utilization of STEM activities to increase learning through cross-curricular processes and projects.
- Explicitly model critical thinking skills.
- Incorporate Super Solvers in mathematics' classrooms to increase problem-solving skills.
- Increase student use of and access to technological curriculum tools.
- Increase the use of open-ended questions during classroom instruction.
- Increase problem-solving opportunities for students.
- Increase understanding of patterns and the ability to extend patterns.
- Incorporate frequent opportunities for students to collaborate on class projects and assignments.
- Increase the use of formative assessments.
- Provide students time to brainstorm individually prior to working in a group.
- Foster classroom discussions regarding the process students used to arrive at their answers and discuss the reasons the other answers are incorrect.
- Incorporate a Problem of the Day and/or Challenge Question into daily routine.

#### Indicators

- Classroom observations and evaluations.
- Increased percentage of students achieving Pass Advanced on state assessments.
- Increased pass percentages on medium and high level questions on state assessments.
- Interactive Achievement Results
- Standards of Learning test results

C. *Choose one goal based on providing professional development in your building.*

**OBJECTIVE:** Watauga will participate in professional development to increase student achievement in all content areas with a specific focus on increasing student generated writing.

Strategies

- Teachers will participate in vertical alignment meetings, curriculum committee meetings, and peer observations.
- Teachers will incorporate Writing Skills Progression into all content area lessons with evidence of writing skills within lesson plans.
- Teachers will read and discuss relevant articles from peer-reviewed journals.
- Teachers will participate in professional development opportunities provided by staff.

Indicators

- Classroom observations, evaluations, and lesson plans
- Improved use of mechanical and technical aspects of writing.
- Summaries of vertical alignment meetings, committee meetings, and peer observation forms.
- Faculty meeting agendas
- Student assessment results

*D. Meet all local, state, regional, and federal accreditation standards.*