

Hill City Elementary School

School Improvement Plan At-a-Glance 2020-2021

Overarching Need 1: Students are not reading on grade level.

Goal 1: In FY20 students will demonstrate a 3% increase in ELA on the Georgia Milestones, increasing from 39% to 42% of students in levels 3 and 4.

Action Step 1: Implement a rigorous, balanced literacy program. Hill City Elementary will implement structured instructional practices within a guided reading format in grades K-4. Regular and special education teachers will conduct a book study of Jan Richardson's: *The Next Steps Forward in Guided Reading* in grade level professional learning communities. Individualized-targeted instruction will be addressed through focused student conferencing within the Growing Readers framework. The academic coach will provide professional learning and instructional support in each area of the balanced literacy block to facilitate coherent instruction. iRead will be used to provide individualized practices that will ensure students master foundational skills such as phonemic awareness, phonics, and fluency, while building essential comprehension skills in grades kindergarten through second grade. Sound Sensible will be used for building phonemic awareness in Kindergarten and Saxon Phonics will be used in grades K-2 for phonics instruction.

Action Step 2: Contracted Services, paraprofessionals and tutors: Provide targeted small group instruction to the most at-risk students with an additional person through contracted services.

Action Step 3: Increase parent engagement in a culture of literacy. The school staff will offer semester Parent Academies, monthly make-and-take nights, take-home literacy bags, Community Storytime, and will provide parent flyers to increase parent capacity to help students at home with literacy.

Action Step 4: Create responsive and nurturing classrooms that enhance literacy instruction. The school staff will implement Mindset management techniques to support the literacy instructional environment.

Overarching Need 2: There is a lack of conceptual understanding of mathematical concepts.

Goal 2: FY20 students will demonstrate a 3% increase in Math on the Georgia Milestones, increasing from 71% to 74%.

Action Step 1: Create lessons to develop conceptual understanding. Teachers will plan lessons in Professional Learning Community meetings; lessons will be scaffolded to build conceptual understanding focused on the rigor embedded in the content standards and will include the Standards of Mathematical Practice. Lessons will include the use of the Georgia Frameworks and Exemplars and when appropriate the use of manipulatives and pictorial representations to ensure rigor and content mastery. Teachers will continue personalized learning using USA Test Prep, IXL, Dreambox, STAR Math, Accelerated Math, and other web-based programs. Small group targeted instruction will be provided to the most at-risk students through contracted services. Lessons will integrate SAMR to enhance multimedia project-based learning. The Academic Coach will provide professional learning, modeling, and support in all K-4 classrooms as needed. The Academic Coach will collaborate with teachers to improve instructional quality, develop common assessments, and pacing guides. Staff will attend out-of-district training in content and pedagogy as part of the work of an ongoing Professional Learning Community to develop math lessons.

Action Step 2: Increase parent engagement. Teachers and staff will continue to share information with parents on tips for Math strategies/games to use with their child(ren) at home to continue to develop conceptual understanding. We will provide families with monthly flyers including math strategies to practice at home and provide upcoming Kindergarteners with transition kits. The kits will assist in building foundational math skills and conceptual understanding.

For a complete copy of the School Improvement Plan or if you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Halko at jenniferhalko@pickenscountyschools.org or by phone at 706-253-1880.