

Willow Creek Elementary School

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT UPDATE | FEBRUARY 24, 2025

Meet our school improvement team

- Megan Biehl (2nd grade teacher)
- Jen Eugea (social worker)
- Cassie Graff (Instructional Coach)
- Sabrina Hector (music teacher)
- Danielle Hernandez (Interventionist)
- Kathy Keogh (6th grade teacher)
- Gia MacKenzie (Learning Behavior Specialist)





Our mission & vision

INSPIRING EDUCATION AND INNOVATION

In partnership with family and community, Woodridge School District 68 will provide a comprehensive educational foundation for all children in a safe, caring environment, preparing them to be productive, responsible, and successful members of society.





Learning intentions for tonight

Learning Target

- We are learning to understand Willow Creek's school improvement plan.

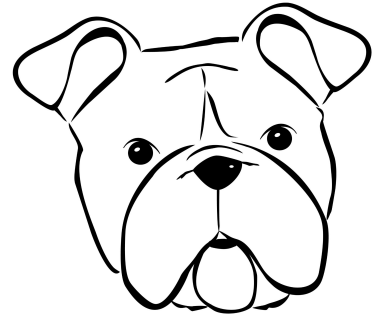
Success Criteria

- I can explain the Willow Creek SIP goals for the 2024-25 school year.
- I can identify the different ways Willow Creek is highlighting their accomplishments.

School improvement goals

METHODS AND MOTIVATION

- In an effort to achieve collective efficacy, we are looking to maximize common planning time between grade-level teachers and co-teachers, and allow for professional flexibility to complete planning tasks using best practice instructional designs.
- Coach students in recognizing the physical signs of strong emotions, identifying those emotions, and navigating situations by choosing appropriate responses.

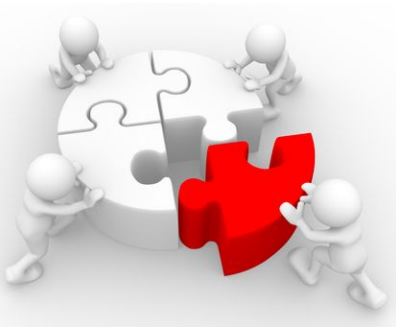


Rationale for SIP goals

METHODS AND MOTIVATION

Collective Efficacy

Maximizing common planning time ensures that teachers and co-teachers can collaborate effectively, share expertise, and align on strategies to meet student needs, which strengthens collective efficacy.



"When we use our collaboration time well, we build the confidence that we can overcome any challenge together."

Notice, Name, Navigate

Coaching students to recognize and manage their emotions equips them with essential self-regulation skills, fostering a positive learning environment and improving their ability to handle challenges.



Collective Efficacy

THE WHY

- Hattie's Visible Learning scale measures the impact of educational practices on student achievement, showing how different teaching methods or other factors help students learn. Anything above 0.4 being a proven way to make a real difference.
- We use collective efficacy as a school goal because John Hattie's research in *Visible Learning* identifies it as the most impactful factor on student achievement, with a high effect size of 1.57, placing it well within the zone of desired effects.

VISIBLE LEARNING
A SYNTHESIS OF OVER 800 META-ANALYSES
RELATING TO ACHIEVEMENT

"Reveals teaching's Holy Grail"
The Times Educational Supplement



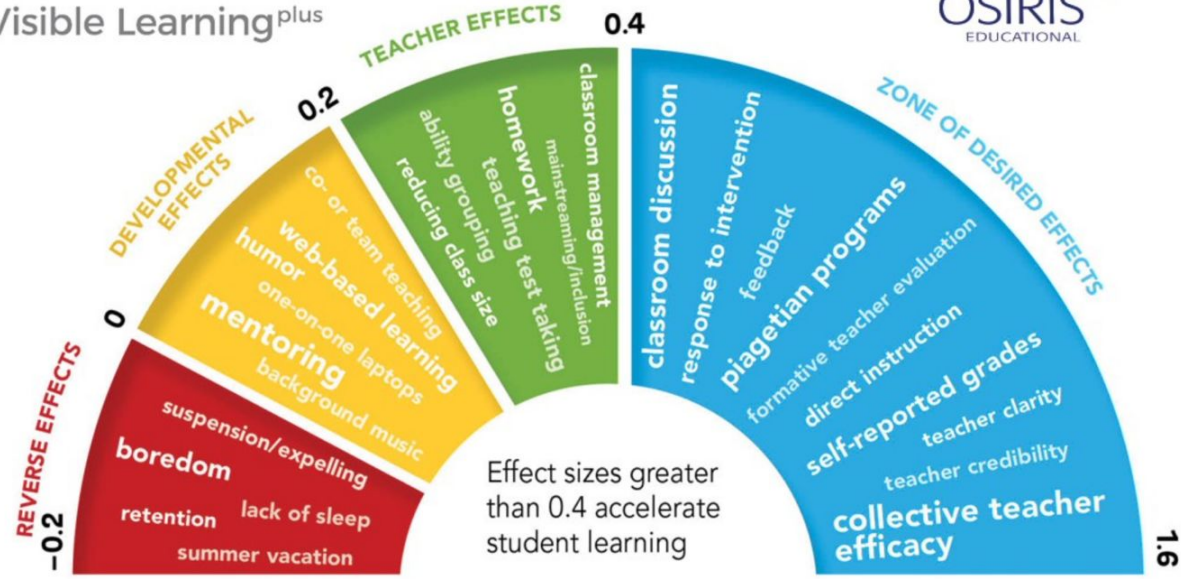
Collective Efficacy

ZONE OF DESIRED EFFECTS

CORWIN

Visible Learning^{plus}

OSIRIS
EDUCATIONAL



Collective Efficacy

THE HOW

- Impact Teams
- Revised master schedule
- Focused SIP days and Monday meetings
- Data analysis with multiple data points
- Strong working relationships
- Growth mindset culture
- Access to plethora of resources

The Impact of Impact Teams

SOME RESULTS

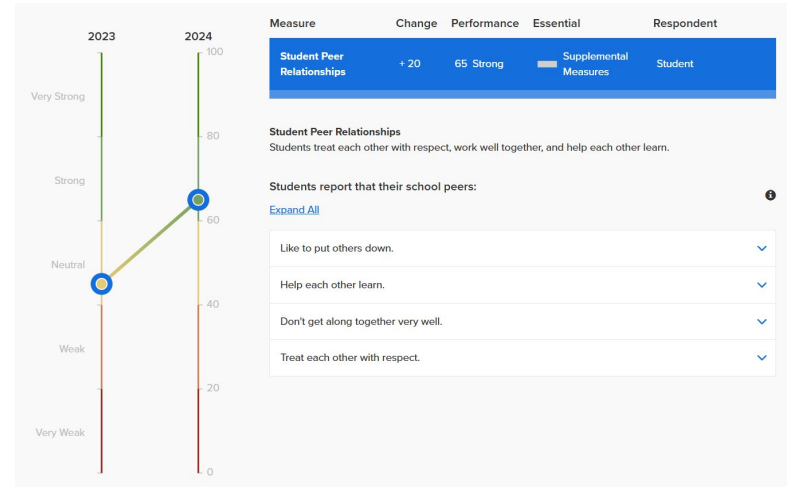
- Data analysis through the Teach, Measure, Learn cycle
- Refining instruction
- Valued collaboration and discussion of differentiation
- Success sharing of instructional strategy implementation
- More structured time with specialists (EL, LBS, gifted, etc.)



Bulldog Bunch

WHY AND RESULTS

- 5Essentials survey
- Promoting cross-grade relationships at WC
- Supports F in FOCUS: Form strong caring relationships with and between students
- Older students connect with and mentor younger students



Service projects

STUDENT COUNCIL AND OTHERS



Holiday Cards



Food Drive

Sharing the Love



Veterans Day



Hydroponic Flex Farm

6TH GRADE

Learning to source food from a sustainable hydroponic farm helps students create a hyperlocal food system and teaches them how doing this frees them from the constraints of the existing supply chain.

This unique experience not only enhances student engagement but provides them with a unique opportunity to experience the impact they have by creating for others.



Hydroponic Flex Farm

HEAR FROM STUDENTS

"It was a great opportunity to grow lettuce in the class especially since I have never grown anything! I'm glad I was a part of growing food to donate. It was so fascinating seeing the lettuce grow day by day and each day **I was so excited to donate it so it could help other people!**" -Joshua

"One of my favorite parts of the experience was watching the lettuce grow. I liked taking care of the lettuce. Our teacher would pick one person to put the nutrients in and refill the water. My least favorite part was when we pulled them out to see all the roots coming out; they felt slimy and snake-like!" -Olivia

"It was such a cool process to grow lettuce inside our classroom. I had fun coming into school every Monday and seeing how it grew. I was amazed at how fast it grew and the fascination it brought to my eyes. It was a wonderful opportunity and **I am grateful to be able to help our community!**" -Taylor

"It was interesting to learn about how the system works and how much it takes to grow lettuce. From understanding the essential vitamins to learning about the correct water intake of water, it was a fun process. **The overall enjoyment of the project came from our collective curiosity.**" -Wyatt



Transitions program

SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTION

- K-3 students focused on intensive social skills and communication instruction
- Maintain academic pacing/rigor while extending time in general education classroom
- Teachers, families, and related service providers working together to support students' individualized needs
- The goal: maximize independence and involvement in general education
- High success rate back into general education classroom



Learning intentions for tonight

HOW DID WE DO?

- I can explain the Willow Creek SIP goals for the 2024-25 school year.
- I can identify the different ways Willow Creek is highlighting their achievements.

BULL DOGS



Thank You!

QUESTIONS?

