



John W. Gates Elementary School



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

November 17, 2025



EAST AURORA SCHOOL DISTRICT 131



SIP TEAM

Fatima Ballesteros, **Principal**
Krista Barenie, **Assistant Principal**
Jaclyn Waldvogel, **Assistant Principal**

Alei Navarette, **Kinder Teacher**
Dulce Chavez, **First Grade Teacher**
Diana Ochoa, **Second Grade Teacher**
Rhonda McFarland, **Third Grade Teacher**
Sue Cunningham, **Fourth Grade Teacher**
Sue-z Bruno, **Fifth Grade Teacher**
Tiffany Scott, **Social Worker**
Linda Contreras, **Reading Interventionist**
Laurie Zapata, **Reading Interventionist**
Sara Lojewski, **Math Interventionist**
Laurel Todas, **Instructional Coach**



Our Mission:

Our mission is to educate and empower all students to reach their full potential.



Our Vision:

Gates students, families, and staff will collaborate to provide a safe and nurturing learning environment that empowers all to achieve their personal best.



OUR CURRENT REALITY

	All Students	IEP	EL	Black	Hispanic	White	Two or More	Asian	Newcomer	Males	Females
Math Achievement (MAP)	24.05%	17.65%	20.50%	20.00%	24.22%	20.00%	50.00%	0%	12.50%	32.54%	15.70%
Math Proficiency IAR (2025)	11.4%	3.3%	9.9%	0%	11.8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	17.7	4.5%
iReady (K-8)	4.1%	2.9%	2.5%	0%	4.4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	7.7%	0.6%
Literacy Achievement (MAP)	13.20%	2.94%	6.28%	10.00%	13.04%	20.00%	50.00%	0%	3.13%	13.61%	12.79%
Literacy Proficiency (IAR)	19.6%	0%	13%	0%	20.2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	20.8%	18.2%





OUR CURRENT REALITY

	All Students	IEP	EL	Black	Hispanic	White	Two or More	Asian	Newcomer	Males	Females
Annual Daily Attendance (ADA)	93.1%	91.3%	93.1%	92.8%	93.0%	95.2%	93.8%	96.6%	94.0%	92.3%	94.0%
Chronic Absenteeism	22%	27%	22%	27%	22%	22%	0%	0%	17%	26%	16%
Referrals	7.6%	4.6%	5.9%	18.8%	6.7%	33.3%	0%	0%	12.8%	10%	4.6%



OUR FOCUS ON LITERACY:

SMART GOAL:

By the end of the 2025-2026 school year, Gates School will increase the percentage of students meeting or exceeding grade level expectations in mathematics by 5% across all reported groups/ demographics, as measured by the Spring 2026 Illinois of Readiness (IAR), compared to Spring 2025 results.



Priority Teaching Practice:

We are building teacher capacity to communicate learning expectations clearly using student-friendly language, modeling, and checking for understanding.

Teachers are delivering focused, responsive instruction that supports student engagement. Leaders are building their capacity to observe, give targeted feedback, and support teachers in refining instructional clarity and student engagement strategies. As a result, students will demonstrate increased engagement and on-task behavior, participate in class discussions, and improve assessment results.

Key Actions:



- Provide targeted professional development through staff led book studies & Kane Co ROE consultants
- Collaboratively analyze student data to identify strengths/gaps in literacy
- Display lesson objectives and regularly communicate to students in the classroom
- Post targeted vocabulary in classrooms to assist with reading and oracy
- Conduct administrative walkthroughs with instructional coach to support teachers in developing their capacity to communicate clearly with students

OUR FOCUS ON NUMERACY:



EAST AURORA SCHOOL DISTRICT 131

SMART GOAL:

By the end of the school year 2025-2026, Gates School will increase the percentage of students meeting or exceeding grade-level expectations in mathematics by 5% across all reported group/demographic, as measured by the Spring 2026 Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR), compared to Spring 2025 results.



Priority Teaching Practice:

We are building teacher capacity to communicate learning expectations clearly using student-friendly language, modeling, and checking for understanding.



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Key Actions:

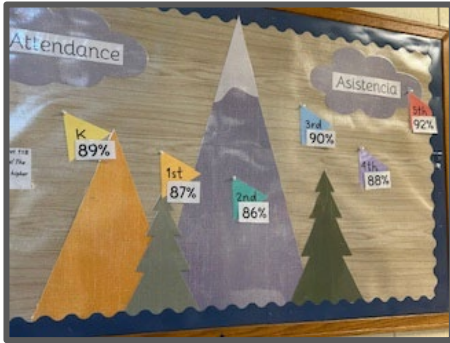
- Utilize best practices (anchor charts, checks for understanding, language supports, using formative assessments to inform instructional shifts)
- Review CFA data/team collaboration
- Daily spiral reviews (Drops in the Bucket)
- Create and implement use of word problem template for consistent application of problem solving strategies in grades K-5
- Understand scoring parameters for IAR math problems.



OUR FOCUS ON A CULTURE FOR BELONGING:

SMART GOAL:

By June 2026, Gates School will foster a culture for belonging such that we will work to maintain an attendance rate of 95% for the 2025-2026 school year.



Priority Teaching Practice:



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Key Actions:

- Implement culturally responsive relationship-building practices to reduce chronic absenteeism among all students using the Second Step curriculum
- Distribute Quarterly awards for individual students with 95% or higher attendance (certificates, pencils, & paw magnet)
- Quarterly awards for the grade level with the highest attendance
- Develop and implement an attendance intervention protocol
- Regular data collection and review by attendance committee
- Parent contacts from Gates administrators as needed



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