

Current DESE Quarterly Support

Submitted: Dr. Phong Tran, Superintendent, Marvell-Elaine School District

Academics

Since the last update, Marvell-Elaine has been highly active. We successfully obtained a \$5,000 Learning Collective Forward Arkansas grant to improve literacy systems for families and students in the community, as well as the Perkins Innovation and Modernization grant to broaden access to career-connected high school programs for more students. Additionally, two elementary teachers have completed their RISE training, focusing on grades 3rd and 6th. Furthermore, several of our elementary and high-school students placed in the Phillips County Art and Lyrics Contest. Marvell-Elaine students have shown consistent growth since the beginning of the school year, as demonstrated by the NWEA and DIBELS assessments. Below are the results of these assessments.

NWEA Assessment Results in Math and Reading.

Grade	Math Growth	Reading Growth
3 rd	93%	87%
4 th	56%	60%
5 th	55%	83%
6 th	83%	61%
7 th	83%	33%
8 th	79%	71%

Note: Percentage identifies the total percent in that grade that showed growth from beginning of year (BOY) assessment to middle of year (MOY) assessment

DIBELS Assessment

GRADE	LNF Growth	Av. Growth	PSF Growth	Av. Growth	NWF CLS	Av. Growth	NWF WWR Growth	Av. Growth	ORF Growth	Av. Growth
K	100%	19 letters	100%	14 sounds	100%	21 sounds	45%	2.4 words	NA	NA
1	100%	25 letters	75%	9.7 sounds	88%	20 sounds	75%	6.5 words	NA	NA
2	NA	NA	NA	NA	85%	14.5 sounds	54%	1.1 words	85%	21 wpm
3	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	92%	22 wpm
4	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	100%	36 wpm
5	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	73%	18 wpm
6	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	36%	-1.3 wpm

GRADE	DIBELS ORF Growth	Ave. Growth
7	83%	11 wpm
8	80%	10 wpm
9	80%	14.25 wpm
10	83%	18 wpm
11	73%	9.37 wpm

Note: Percentage identifies the total percent in that grade that showed growth from beginning of year (BOY) assessment to middle of year (MOY) assessment.

Student Support

We have placed a strong emphasis on the inaugural ATLAS writing assessment by focusing specifically on the hamburger method, a structured approach to writing. This method has shown remarkable results, with significant progress noted in students' writing skills since its implementation. To further support our students' success, we have hired additional math and literacy interventionists. They are actively involved in the ATLAS blitz, a targeted effort to prepare students thoroughly for the final ATLAS assessment.

Additionally, we have leveraged the ATLAS data bank extensively to ensure our students are well-prepared for the upcoming assessments scheduled for May. This includes utilizing assessment data to identify areas of strength and areas needing improvement, allowing us to tailor our instructional strategies accordingly. However, despite these efforts, we acknowledge that there is still much more work to be done to ensure our students reach their full potential.

Finally, during a recent professional Learning Community (PLC) session at our elementary campus, specifically focusing on grades 4th through 6th, teachers took an innovative approach by inviting students to share their perspectives. This collaborative effort aimed to gain valuable insights into how the integration of manipulatives and technology can enhance engagement and instructional practices in the classroom.

Teachers facilitated an open dialogue with students, encouraging them to express their thoughts, experiences, and preferences regarding the use of manipulatives and technology during learning activities. Students enthusiastically shared their feedback, highlighting the positive impact of hands-on manipulatives and interactive technology tools on their engagement, understanding, and retention of concepts. Teachers actively listened to students' insights, taking note of their suggestions, preferences, and recommendations for incorporating manipulatives and technology effectively into instructional practices. This collaborative exchange allowed teachers to gain a deeper understanding of students' learning styles, preferences, and needs, enabling them to tailor their teaching approaches to better meet the diverse learning needs of their students.

Overall, the inclusion of students in the PLC session provided a unique and valuable perspective, enriching professional discussions and contributing to the continuous improvement of teaching and learning practices at our elementary campus.

Finally, we are also implementing a comprehensive support initiative for students in grades 7 to 10, which includes Saturday tutorial sessions. These sessions are specifically designed to reinforce foundational concepts and skills, ensuring that students are well-prepared for the upcoming ATLAS test. The tutorials provide targeted assistance to students who may require additional support in mastering key concepts in math. Our goal is to empower students with the knowledge and skills they need to excel academically and succeed in their assessments.

Human Capital

Since the last report, we have made significant strides in enhancing our team by adding seven new members to our staff. Among these additions, we are pleased to have on-boarded four highly skilled interventionists who bring a wealth of expertise in supporting our students' academic growth and development. Additionally, we have expanded our custodial team by welcoming two dedicated staff members who play a vital role in maintaining a clean and safe environment for our students and staff. With these new additions, our total staff count now stands at 49 members.

Family and Community Engagement

Since our last report, we have made significant strides in enhancing family engagement and community involvement at our school. One of our notable achievements was the successful hosting of our first-ever Black History Month show, where both our elementary and high school students showcased their talents and performances for their families. This event marked a milestone as it was the first performance the school has organized for families in the past four years, fostering a sense of unity and pride within our school community.

In addition to the Black History Month show, we also conducted our annual school report meeting with parents. During this meeting, we discussed various important topics including the school's current ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) score, our progress in terms of academic growth, and the strategies we are implementing to support our students in preparing for their first ATLAS test. We provided detailed information to parents on how they can actively participate and assist their children in preparing for this assessment, fostering a collaborative approach between home and school.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce that we will be hosting our first elementary and high school literacy night for our families. This event, which will be the first of its kind in the past four years, aims to promote literacy skills and a love for reading among our students and their families. It will provide a platform for interactive learning activities, workshops, and resources that will benefit our students' educational journey and strengthen family-school partnerships.

Overall, these initiatives reflect our commitment to fostering a supportive and engaging school environment where families are actively involved in their children's education and where students are empowered to reach their full potential.

Facilities and Transportation

The district has recently undergone a comprehensive assessment to identify various projects crucial for enhancing the quality and safety aspects of our campus. This assessment included a thorough safety audit, highlighting areas in need of improvement. We are actively addressing these identified needs by utilizing funds obtained from a state-wide safety grant. These funds are instrumental in our efforts to bolster the safety protocols on campus, not only against external threats but also in mitigating unnecessary accidents that could occur within the campus premises. The primary objective is to create a secure environment conducive to optimal learning experiences for our students.

Additionally, we are working diligently to address necessary facility upgrades within our athletic department. These upgrades are designed to proactively prevent potential accidents while also

considering the potential positive impact they could have on our student enrollment numbers in the years to come. By enhancing our athletic facilities, we aim to attract more students and provide them with top-notch facilities for sports and physical activities.

Furthermore, the district has initiated the bidding process for a significant HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) project. This project is of utmost importance as it will provide a much-needed upgrade to our current HVAC system. The upgraded system will not only improve the overall climate control within our buildings but also address many of the concerns related to air quality, temperature regulation, and energy efficiency. This improvement is essential in maintaining a quality learning environment for our students and ensuring their comfort and well-being while on campus.

Regarding the Elaine campus, the process of demolishing and removing four buildings is currently ongoing. The district has issued a bid for this demolition project, with the bidding process set to conclude on April 25th. Once a bid is selected, the demolition work will commence promptly. Additionally, the district is actively working on a strategic plan to potentially donate the vacant land resulting from the demolition to the city of Elaine. This planned donation is part of our commitment to contributing to future community growth and development in collaboration with local authorities and stakeholders.

Overall, these initiatives underscore our dedication to continually improving and maintaining a safe, functional, and conducive learning environment for all students within our district.

Fiscal Governance and District Operations

The district is proud to report notable improvements in the fiscal governance and operational aspects of our school district. Our dedicated district staff, along with the support of Friendship Education Foundation (FEF) Arkansas and Arkansas Public School Resource Center (APSRC), have diligently worked to enhance day-to-day procedures. These efforts have successfully addressed many of the deficiencies highlighted in previous audit filings. As a result, the district's current fiscal condition is robust and sustainable, providing all the necessary resources for our students to thrive and succeed.

This year, we have maximized resources such as curriculum enhancements, technological advancements, and intervention services to cater to the specific growth needs identified from previous year testing results. The strategic utilization of these resources has already yielded significant growth in mid-year testing outcomes, showcasing the positive impact of our investments in student learning and development.

To ensure ongoing financial accountability and transparency, the district's finance office conducts quarterly financial reviews with the DESE Fiscal Support and Services Unit. These reviews serve as a proactive measure to address any emerging needs promptly and to maintain a financially healthy environment conducive to optimal educational outcomes.

However, teacher recruitment and retention remain ongoing challenges within the district. We recognize the critical importance of attracting and retaining quality educators to ensure a high-quality education for our students. As part of our ongoing efforts, we are actively exploring

various strategies to incentivize and attract talented teachers to relocate to the Marvell-Elaine School District. These efforts are essential in fostering a nurturing and supportive learning environment that empowers both students and educators to excel.