

LaCrosse High School
School Improvement Plan
2020-2023

Submitted by:
Brian McMahan, Principal

Board Approved
September 17th, 2020

(1) Introduction:

(A) Narrative description of the school, the community, and the educational programs.

LaCrosse School is a school in southern LaPorte County, serving an area with a population of 2773. Current enrollment is 108 students (9-12). The school building was constructed in 1915 and the gymnasium was constructed in 1947. Agriculture is the main land use in this mostly rural district. While agriculture and trucking are the major local employers, a large number of people commute to work in other communities. Economically, the area is middle to lower income. In 2019-2020, thirty-six percent of our students received free or reduced lunches. The community is close-knit and evokes a strong feeling of family.

LaCrosse School is developing strong strands of curriculum for college bound students and career bound students. College bound students are given the opportunity to earn over 24 college credits with some of the classes being taught by college professors on the LaCrosse campus. All students participate in field trips to universities, colleges, manufacturing facilities and industrial settings to broaden their knowledge base about possible careers available to them. Students can attend vocational classes through a cooperative program and can also participate in a work/study program to explore their career interests.

LaCrosse School continually updates the technology throughout the school. Our network utilizes 20Mb access speed, classrooms are equipped with projectors and cameras. The school maintains a wireless network throughout the building and the computer to student ratio is 1-to-1 with every student utilizing a Chromebook. Teachers are using Chromebooks and MacBooks. The school is using Google Classroom as a learning management platform. This allows the school to communicate effectively with students who miss school due to illness. Also, teachers are using the Zoom platform for virtual students or remote learning in the classroom.

All students are individually monitored for progress toward ISTEP and graduation requirements. If they fall behind, interventions are put into place to accelerate their learning. Plato software is utilized for remediation and acceleration purposes.

Other improvements include:

1. High School students have the opportunity to enroll in dual credit courses and also to take college courses through the Professor on Loan program through Ivy Tech. Currently, students have the opportunity to graduate with over 24 college credits. High School students have the ability to earn college credit through our A.K. Smith Career Center cooperative in Michigan City.

2. Communication with students and parents is enhanced due to the use of School Messenger, Harmony, a student management software, the Remind App, and Google Classroom. Push notifications are encouraged for parents to receive continual updates regarding student grades, attendance and discipline.
3. The school added an Agricultural Education curriculum, offering students the opportunity of four courses in the strand. The school also developed an FFA chapter in order to offer additional career exploration for our students. The classes have been well received by the students and the FFA chapter is very active.
4. The school has added a Leo Club. The Leo Club is a branch of our local Lions Club that includes high school students. The Leo Club is very active in our community.
5. The school is in the second year of Computer Science courses. The school will add a third class next school year to create a graduation pathway for students in Computer Science.

(B) Description and location of curriculum.

The chart in appendix A lists the course offerings, the written curriculums are on-site, and notes if the curriculum meets the state standards and if anticipated revisions are needed. A copy of each curriculum is available in the school library. In addition, students have the opportunity to enroll in virtually any Advanced Placement course they desire via distance learning.

(C) Titles and descriptions of assessment instruments to be used in addition to Indiana statewide testing for educational progress plus (ISTEP+)

In addition to evaluating ISTEP and ECA scores, LaCrosse Schools utilize the following assessment tools: SAT scores, PSAT scores, ACT scores, ASVAB scores, and NWEA scores.

The SAT measures the verbal and mathematical ability of high school students preparing to enter college. These scores also allow 2 year and 4 year universities to admit or decline admittance to students.

The PSAT test gives younger students at the high school level the opportunity to “practice” taking the SAT. It also provides juniors with the opportunity to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program.

The ACT test is another college assessment tool that measures ability in math, reading, English, science.

The ASVAB is an assessment tool to determine qualification for enlistment in the United States Armed Forces.

The NWEA is an assessment tool to learn strengths/weaknesses of students in Reading, Writing, and Math.

(2) Statement of mission.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide a caring, secure educational environment which recognizes individuality and develops respectful, confident and productive citizens, possessing positive character traits and basic skills for lifelong learning. LaCrosse School provides a technology rich environment that encourages students to reach their true potential as active, responsible, independent, lifelong learners and productive citizens. The Career Success Partnership of Tri-Township CSC provides every student with age appropriate career information and experiences that enable students to make informed choices based on these opportunities.

(3) Summary of data

(A) Data, including graphs, from the annual performance report.

The data has been reviewed by the entire staff and evaluated for areas of improvement. The data indicates that the schools are performing at or above expected performance levels and above state averages in most areas and in most years.

ISTEP+10 Test	2015-2016		2016-2017		2017-2018		2018-2019	
	LaCrosse	State	LaCrosse	State	LaCrosse	State	LaCrosse	State
ELA	50%	59%	50%	60.5%	52.2%	46%	77.3%	62.4%
Math	46.4 %	34.6%	46.7%	36.8%	38.6%	26%	26.7%	35.3%

(B) Data related to performance indicators other than those included in the annual performance report.

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The ASVAB is an assessment tool to determine qualification for enlistment in the United States Armed Forces.
The NWEA is an assessment tool to learn strengths/weaknesses of students in Reading, Writing, and Math. It will be taken three times throughout the year.

(C) Other Information and Educational Programming and Learning Environment

LaCrosse Schools also provide the following educational programs:

- Vocational Programs – provided through a county cooperative system.
- Job Shadowing – provides each high school student with the opportunity to explore various careers in the workplace.
- AST – individualized tutoring for high school students in various areas.
- Work/Study programs – opportunities for students to explore career choices in depth.
- Cadet Teaching- opportunities for students to work in our elementary school helping students

LaCrosse School is able to offer small class sizes with an average student to teacher ratio of 13:1. This ratio allows for individual attention and a personalized education.

(4) Conclusions about the current educational programming, derived from an assessment of the current status of educational programming, including the following:

A. Information about how the school's curriculum supports the achievement of Indiana academic standards.

The current curricula of LaCrosse Schools have been assessed according to the following criteria:

- Curriculum on site
- State Standards available
- Curriculum meets state standards
- Anticipation of curriculum revision

The information compiled can be found in appendix A.

B. Information about how the school's instructional strategies support the achievement of Indiana academic standards.

At LaCrosse School, we strive to provide a positive educational environment that meets the needs of all students. Our small classes provide an optimal student to teacher ratio. Teachers utilize a variety of instructional strategies ranging from the Socratic method to student-oriented investigative projects. Students are offered the opportunity to indulge in culturally-enriching experiences by means of field trips, student exchange programs, and guest speakers. Students of varying abilities are provided the opportunity to meet their individual needs through the utilization of remediation (ISTEP), computer based instruction and tutoring. Teachers have created different ways for students to learn remotely through research of online resources.

C. Assessment of student achievement based on ISTEP+ and other assessment strategies.

LaCrosse Schools are dedicated to using assessment data in the improvement of student instruction. In addition to End of Course Assessments, student achievement is assessed through the following:

- SAT
- PSAT
- ACT
- ASVAB
- NWEA

The use of these programs provides an accurate measurement of student achievement to use for enrichment and remediation.

D. Parental participation in the school.

LaCrosse School offers many opportunities for parental involvement and participation in the educational process. Specific opportunities include:

- Foreign Exchange Program
- Tutoring
- Extra-Curricular Activities
- Concerts & Art Exhibits
- Parental Chaperoning
- Attendance Committee
- Textbook Adoption

- Sponsorship of Fundraising Activities

E. Technology as a learning tool

LaCrosse School is dedicated to utilizing technology as a learning tool. A technology specialist is on staff to assist teachers in implementation of technological resources. Every student is issued a ChromeBook for use in the classroom and to use at home. Each discipline has software available to supplement teaching/learning resources. Technology is also used as a means to communicate student achievement to parents through the use of Harmony software, which makes students' assignments, homework and grades accessible online. Scanners, digital cameras, digital presenters and LCD projectors are also available for student/teacher use. The Zoom platform is being used for synchronous learning for remote learners.

F. Safe and disciplined learning environment

LaCrosse School uses the following techniques to ensure a safe and disciplined learning environment:

- Access into the school is restricted to two doors during the school day. Each entrance is covered by a video camera monitored in the office and a staff member must buzz the visitor in. Visitors are required to check in at the main office.
- Monthly fire drills are conducted.
- Severe weather drills are conducted.
- A lockdown procedure is in place and drills conducted.
- A school counselor is available for peer mediation.
- Because of our optimal student to teacher ratio, student misbehavior is kept at a minimum. A tiered program is in place to deter inappropriate behavior.

G. Professional Development

- Instructional Technology Techniques
- Anti-Bullying
- Seclusion & Restraint Training
- FERPA Training
- Internal Controls Training
- RTI
- Colleague Collaboration time is built into the daily schedule

- Harmony Training
- NWEA Training
- Coaches Concussion Training
- ISTEP+ Training
- CPI Crisis Intervention Training
- Suicide Prevention Training
- CPR Certification

(5) Student achievement objectives, derived from an assessment of the current status of educational programming, including the following:

- A. Attendance Rate – We have consistently achieved an attendance rate of 96%+ thereby remaining over the state average. We allow students seven absences during a semester and very few students approach their allowable total. When a student goes over the allotment, a committee reviews the student’s circumstances in order to reach a fair decision on the appropriateness of the absences.
- B. Percentage of students meeting academic standards under the ISTEP+ program. – Our goal is to have a twenty percent increase on our numbers from the previous year.
- C. Graduation rate – Our goal is to have 95% graduation rate at the high school level. Our goal is to increase the number of students receiving Core 40 and Academic Honors Diplomas.

(6) Specific areas where improvement is needed immediately.

- A. We will continually refine our curricula to ensure they correspond to the Indiana State Standards. As we add new classes, we want to ensure that we adopt the standards applicable for the courses. We will continually work on our curriculum maps and pacing guides for our core classes.
- B. We will improve the basic and applied math skills of our students. This continues to be a concern and our professional development has emphasized this area.
- C. We will challenge our students to succeed at the highest level at which they are capable. Staff will be trained on Growth Mindset and will encourage and use this approach with students.

- D. Students will explore possible career paths. We have succeeded in showing students new career paths and want to continue for students to view a larger picture of careers.
- E. Improve parent/school communication through phone calls, emails, social media, and newsletters.
- F. Create professional goals aligned with our school improvement plan in order to promote a growth mindset.
- G. Use professional development time for researching and implementing instructional strategies in order to meet the diverse needs of students.
- H. Learn new graduation pathways and develop implementation rubrics.

(7) Benchmarks for progress that specify how and to what extent the school expects to make continuous improvement in all areas of the education system.

- A. Students identified with low-performing math and/or ELA scores on standardized testing will be placed in a respective math/ELA lab course. Also, students will be placed in remediation groups during Student Resource Time.
- B. Students will be placed in a Student Resource Time in order to improve college and career readiness through the introduction and acquisition of important life skills.
- C. Teachers will create professional goals, one of which will be focused on Growth Mindset and its implementation with all students.

(8) Academic honors diploma and Core 40, including the following:

(A) Provisions to offer courses that allow all students to become eligible to earn the academic honors diploma.

Appropriate classes are offered at LaCrosse schools so that all students are offered the opportunity to complete the Academic Honors diploma, Technical Honors diploma and/or the Core 40 curriculum. Students have the opportunity to participate in dual credit courses, Advanced Placement courses and Vocational training including multiple certifications.

B) Provisions to encourage all students to earn an academic honors diploma or complete the Core 40 curriculum.

All students are informed and encouraged to participate in the academic honors and Core 40 programs. For example, during the scheduling process, the counselor reviews diploma opportunities and progress with each student.

(9) Proposed interventions based on school improvement goals.

Targeted professional development for teachers will be the key to the success of planned interventions. The proposed interventions based on school improvement goals are as follows:

Algebra Lab
Reading Lab
Adult Roles Course
Standardized Tests
NWEA Testing
Remediation
Pre-ISTEP Remediation
RTI (Response to Intervention)
Summer School
Growth Mindset Implementation
Math Tutoring
Spanish Tutoring

(10) Professional development that is coordinated with proposed interventions and that supports sustainable school improvement efforts.

Professional Development Plan accompanies this School Improvement Plan. The areas for improvement are:

Goal 1

The school will work hand-in-hand with The Center of Workforce Innovations to develop a career education plan for our students. This plan will include but not be limited to field trips to manufacturing facilities, work/study programs, guest speakers and convocations about careers.

Goal 2

The high school will offer dual-credit classes and strive to graduate students who have earned 24+ college credits before they leave high school.

Goal 3

The staff will become proficient in the use of different types of instructional technology ranging from using Chromebooks and the software utilized on the laptops, to videotaping classroom lessons for use in distance learning or archiving of lessons. Google Classroom will become the platform for student/teacher communication. The Zoom platform will be used for remote learning teaching.

Goal 4

The staff will utilize the Indiana standards established by the state. All courses will integrate the new standards into their curriculum.

Goal 5

The staff will be encouraged to incorporate a toolbox of classroom management techniques in order to proactively minimize discipline issues.

Goal 6

Anti-Bullying efforts will be maintained throughout the school. An educational program against bullying and in assistance to victims will be further developed.

Goal 7

The staff will become knowledgeable of proper restraint and seclusion procedures and be able to implement a tiered approach when necessary.

Goal 8

The staff will continue to equip our students to be college and career ready.

Goal 9

The staff will continue to work on creating curriculum maps and pacing guides that lead to mastery of content for students.

(11) Statutes and rules to be waived.

None at this time.

(12) Three (3) year timeline for implementation, review, and revision.

**LaCrosse High School
School Improvement Plan 2018-2021
Three Year Timeline**

Goal	Persons Responsible	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
1. Improve Parent/School Communication through phone calls, emails, social media and newsletters.	Mr. McMahan Teachers	Implement Plan Review/Revise: August & April	Continue Plan Review/Revise: August & April	Continue Plan Review/Revise: August & April
2. All 9-12 teachers will continue to work on creating curriculum maps and pacing guides that teach mastery of content to our students.	Mr. McMahan Teachers	Implement Plan Review/Revise: August & April	Continue Plan Review/Revise: August & April	Continue Plan Review/Revise: August & April
3. All 9-12 teachers will create Professional Goals aligned with our School Improvement Plan in order to promote a growth mindset.	Mr. McMahan Teachers	Implement Plan Review/Revise: August & April	Continue Plan Review/Revise: August & April	Continue Plan Review/Revise: August & April
4. Teachers will use Professional Development time for researching and implementing instructional strategies in order to meet the diverse needs of students.	Mr. McMahan Teachers	Implement Plan Review/Revise: August & April	Continue Plan Review/Revise: August & April	Continue Plan Review/Revise: August & April

5. The Principal and Guidance Counselor will continue to create new Graduation Pathways and start working towards implementation of it.	Mr. McMahan Mrs. Kramer	Implement Plan Review/Revise: August & April	Continue Plan Review/Revise: August & April	Continue Plan Review/Revise: August & April
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Documentation of Support for the Professional Development Section of the Strategic and Continuous School Improvement Plan by the Tri-Township Consolidated Schools Teachers Association

As required by 511 IAC 6.2-3-3, I, as a representative of the Tri-Township Consolidated Schools Teachers Association, have reviewed and am in support of the Professional Development Section of the Strategic and Continuous School Improvement Plan for LaCrosse High School.

Signature of a representative of the Tri-Township Teachers Association

Printed name of a representative of the Tri-Township Teachers Association

Appendix A

Curriculum & Instruction

Department	Foreign Language		English					
Course	Spanish	9	10	11C	11A	12C	12A	Creative Writing
Curriculum on site	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Existing State Standards	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Meet State Standards	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Anticipate change								

Department	Science								
Course	Biology I	Biology II	Health & Wellness	Chemistry I	Chemistry II	Advanced Environmental Science	Anatomy & Physiology	Physics	Integrated Chemistry & Physics
Curriculum on site	●	●	●
Existing State Standards	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Meet State Standards	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Anticipate change									

Department	<i>Math</i>						<i>Art</i>		
Course	Algebra Enrichment	Algebra	Geometry	Algebra II	Pre-Calc/Trig	Calculus	Introduction to 2D Art	Art History	Introduction to 3D Art
Curriculum on site
Existing State Standards	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Meet State Standards	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Anticipate change									

Department	<i>Social Studies</i>					<i>Music</i>			<i>Physical Education</i>	
Course	Geography & History of the World	World History	U.S. History	Government	Economics	Band	Choir	Music History	Physical Education	Advanced P.E.
Curriculum on site
Existing State Standards	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Meet State Standards	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Anticipate change										

Department	<i>Business</i>					
Course	Computer Science Essentials	Computer Science I	Accounting I	Intro to Business	College & Career Prep	Business Law & Ethics
Curriculum on site	.	.	.	.	.	.
Existing State Standards	√	√	√	√	√	√
Meet State Standards	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Anticipate change						

Department	<i>AG Ed</i>				
Course	Animal Science	Intro to Ag	ALS Plants and Soils	Food Science	Natural Resources
Curriculum on site	.	.	.	.	.
Existing State Standards	√	√	√	√	√
Meet State Standards	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Anticipate change					

