



2023-2024 Schoolwide Improvement Plan

1. Provide opportunities for all children (including subgroups of students) to meet the challenging academic standards provided by New York State.

Catskill Elementary School has restructured their schedule in 2023-2024 to provide the recommended minutes for academic blocks to allow all students the opportunity to learn. These blocks allow for whole and small group instruction to occur everyday and encourages differentiation and scaffolding. Catskill Elementary School built into everyday the opportunity for teachers to collaborate with each other during grade level and/or Departmental meetings. During these meetings, teachers are encouraged to review and analyze student data to help structure and deliver instruction.

2. Use methods and instructional strategies that strengthen the academic program in school.

Catskill Elementary School collaborates with QUESTAR III Specialists in math, ELA, Science and Special Education to improve academic achievement, instruction and provide professional development in specific areas. Catskill Elementary School has implemented a new math program, Bridges in grades PK-4 and is piloting in grade 5. CES has developed a scope and sequence for phonics and phonemic awareness K-5 aligning our curriculum vertically. Our teachers have been trained in Heggerty (K-2), UOS for phonics (Grade 2) and FUNdations (3-5). We continue to use the Units of Study for reading and writing while we begin a curriculum review for ELA (year 1). We are in year 3 integrating the 21st century science standards into our curriculum and are fully immersed in the investigations to prepare our students for the grade 5 science assessments.

3. Increase the amount and quality of learning time.

Catskill Elementary School revamped the whole school schedule for 2023-2024 identifying 4 priorities to meet school goals. 1. Increase or meet the suggested minutes for core instruction for ELA and math, 2. Minimize tier 1 interruptions, 3. Create common planning time and 4.

4. Help provide an enriched and accelerated curriculum, which may include programs, activities, and courses necessary to provide a well-rounded education.

Catskill Elementary School provides multiple clubs and activities for our students.

Activities/clubs such as: chess club, lego club, drama club, business club, Cadenzas, Digital Media Club, Jr. scientists club and Jr. Ambassadors just to name a few. Catskill Elementary School has partnered with MHA of Greene County to provide students with an after school program/care. CES provides enriching opportunities during scheduled WIN time (What I Need) at each grade level. Teachers across grade levels provide enriching field trips to local places of interest such as the Thomas Cole House and the NYS Museum.

5. Address the needs of all children in the school, but particularly the needs of those at risk of not meeting the challenging academic standards, through activities which may include:

a. Counseling, school based mental health programs, specialized instructional support services, mentoring services, and other strategies to improve students' skills outside the academic areas.

Catskill Elementary School provides tiered instruction to the students utilizing a research based curriculum called Everyday Speech. The SEL curriculum is delivered by the school counselors and the classroom teachers. Weekly referral meetings are conducted to discuss the counseling needs of students as well as weekly cabinet and attendance meetings to address behavior, socio-emotional and attendance concerns. If needed, students will be provided counseling services by our counseling staff. CES also partners with an outside agency Twin County Recovery Services to support students' academic and social emotional needs. Counselors attended a Suicide Prevention Conference. Catskill Elementary School supports the communication between CES and outside agencies such as Twin County Recovery Services, GCMH and Preventative Services.

b. Implementation of a schoolwide tiered model to prevent and address problem behavior, and early intervening services, coordinated with similar activities and services carried out under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C.1400 et seq.)

Catskill Elementary School has an established, evidence based approach to support behavior. We consistently implement Positive Behavior Intervention Systems (PBIS) to support our entire student population. Additionally, we have a PBIS and SEL committee that consistently evaluates our strategies and works with our school community.

c. Professional development and other activities for teachers, paraprofessionals, and other school personnel to improve instruction and the use of data from academic assessments, and to recruit and retain teachers, particularly in high needs subjects.

Professional development opportunities for staff are consistent throughout the school year. QUESTAR III Specialists are available for staff to deliver relevant PD each day they

are in attendance. The schedule has provided the school with the opportunity to provide meaningful professional development each week if needed.

d. Strategies for assisting preschool children in the transition from early childhood education programs to local elementary school programs.

Catskill Elementary has partnered with QUESTAR III to provide a Pre-k classroom at CES to help prepare pre-k students for Kindergarten. Students in our Pre-k program are fully immersed in a school environment from the cafeteria to the nurses office. They have the opportunity to participate in special classes and walk through the hallways. Over the summer we invite all incoming kindergarteners to participate in the “Jumpstart Program” to prepare the student for Kindergarten. They have the opportunity to practice school routines, navigate the building and to begin developing relationships with school personnel and peers.