

WRSD Elementary Instructional Supports

Since 2015-16, the Board of Education and Administration has worked closely to monitor class-sizes and enrollments in the elementary schools in order to institute sustainable supports that enhance our students' educational experience. The list below highlights some of the measures taken to reclaim underutilized space, add more staff, and improve the delivery of instruction and services throughout our elementary schools. The District will continue to keep a close eye on our schools to ensure the effective delivery of our educational program.

School Year	Measure	Impact
2015-16	Added one special education teacher to each elementary school (Total 4)	The addition of the special education teachers at each elementary school affords the opportunity for WRSD to increase inclusive education through a co-teaching model.
2016-17	Added one special education teacher to each elementary school (Total 4)	The addition of the special education teachers at each elementary school affords the opportunity for WRSD to increase inclusive education through a co-teaching mode and effectively doubles the elementary special education staff from two years prior. This year the district partnered with Montclair State University to provide direct support and professional development in co-teaching models and strategies to maximize the teaching and learning experience..
	Provided non-mandated classroom aides in Kindergarten where class-sizes exceed 21 students (7 aides were added) and changed Board policy accordingly.	The addition of non-mandated classroom aides afforded the classroom teacher additional supports to be able to assist students in the learning environment.
	Created and hired a full-time Literacy Coach position	The dedicated and shared position focuses on job-embedded professional development to enhance the delivery of instruction in reading and writing across the district.
	Implemented WordlyWise and provided all K-1 teachers with Orton Gillingham Multisensory Training to support reading, spelling, and writing for all students	Made curricular and instructional enhancements to our word study, spelling, reading and writing for ALL students and invested in professional development for existing and new staff in this research-based best practice.
	Purchased classroom leveled libraries and reading assessment system	The purchase accompanied the elementary revision of the English Language Arts curriculum and implementation of Readers and Writers workshop in 2017-18.

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2017-18	Using data from the district's demographic study and functional capacity analysis, classrooms were reclaimed allowing for the addition of sections to accommodate the overflow across all schools resulting in hiring four additional teachers.	The consolidation of multiple resource rooms was made possible through the multi-year investment in co-teachers beginning in 2015-16, thus freeing up space for additional sections. The phased-in relocation of the district's self-contained LLD program also allowed for an additional section to be added.
	Hired two additional elementary school counselors	The dedicated school counselor at each elementary school will provide daily, direct, and consistent support for health and wellness. The counselors also free up the principals to provide additional support and monitoring of classroom instruction.
	Hired shared assistant principal	The shared administrative resource provides dedicated support to K-5 curriculum and instruction. The addition of the administrator will also assist the principals in supporting and monitoring classroom instruction.
	Expanded the provision of non-mandated classroom aides to first grade where class-sizes exceed 23 students (2 aides will be added) and changed Board policy accordingly.	The addition of non-mandated classroom aides affords the classroom teacher additional supports to be able to assist students in the learning environment.

Summary:

- 12 full-time certificated positions and 7-9 aides added to the annual budget (salaries & benefits) to support academics and wellness.
- Curricular enhancements provide enhanced opportunities to provide differentiated instruction in reading and writing.
- Addition of elementary school counselors provides access to dedicated social and emotional supports on a daily basis.