



Walkerton Elementary School

805 Washington Street

Walkerton, IN 46574

Phone: 574-586-3186

Fax: 574-586-3280

Principal- Dr. Patrick Fuller

Secretary- Sharon Harasewicz

Treasurer- Jodi Park

Counselor- Rich Stauffer

Walkerton Elementary School PL-221 School Improvement Plan 2022-2025

Updated: September 2023
2023-2024 Academic School Year



Dr. Patrick R. Fuller
Principal

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Corporation Number: 7150

School Number: 7457

Grades: PK-6

Enrollment: 595



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Christopher Winchell, Superintendent

Christian Mattix, President, Board of School Trustees

Amanda Smith, Jeremy Merrill – Co-Presidents, JG Education Association

Dr. Patrick R. Fuller, Principal

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Walkerton Elementary School Improvement Team

Principal

Dr. Patrick R. Fuller

Co-Chair

Sara Haluda
Bethany Laizure

Staff Member

Tracy Perry
Rich Stauffer
Amy Weiss

Parent/Community Member

Jodi Park
Leah Richards
Kiersten Tyner

Certified Staff

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Degree/License</u>	<u>Years' Experience</u>
Fuller, Patrick	Principal	Doctorate	14
Biernacki, Ali	Kindergarten	Bachelors	5
Hinton, Diane	Kindergarten	Bachelors	20
Kopacz, Sarina	Kindergarten	Masters	11
Walker, Emily	Kindergarten	Bachelors	26
Haluda, Sara	1 st	Bachelors	8
Horner, Korey	1 st	Bachelors	5
Mattke, Amber	1 st	Bachelors	10
Patterson, Brooke	1 st		
Cole, Beata	2 nd		
Ennis, Lindsay	2 nd	Bachelors	6
Hoppe, Andrea	2 nd	Bachelors	15
Sonner, Madison	2 nd	Masters	5
Hayes, Pamela	3 rd	Masters	32
Kalucki, Taylor	3 rd	Bachelors	6
Laizure, Bethany	3 rd	Masters	24
Willis, Anna	3 rd		
Bogard, Jeniece	4 th	Masters	10
Crone, Gail	4 th	Masters	18
Reese, Ryan	4 th	Masters	24
Groves, Casey	5 th	Bachelors	7
Perry, Tracy	5 th	Bachelors	11
Wilsey, Kristy	5 th	Masters	18
Cuskaden, Sarah	6 th		
Hannah, Travis	6 th	Masters	28
Harness, Billy	6 th		
Hostetler, Jill	Music	Bachelors	10
Hostetler, Scott	PE	Bachelors Plus	43
Lieto, Nicolas	Band	Bachelors	8
Walter, Brendan	Art	Bachelors	3
Dreibelbis, Amanda	High Ability	Masters	15
Weiss, Amy	Title One	Masters ++	29
Russell, Holly	Interventionist	Masters	8
Brown, Stephanie	Special Education		
Chapman, Jamie	Special Education	Bachelors	7
Keldsen, Brianne	Special Education	Masters	5
Singleton, Staci	Special Education	Bachelors	6
Snyder, Kathy	Preschool	Masters Plus	39
Sturtevant, Kerrienne	Speech Pathologist	Masters Plus	3
Stauffer, Rich	Guidance Counselor	Masters Plus	20

Non-Certified Staff

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
--------------------	------------------------

Sharon Harasewicz	Secretary
Jodi Park	Treasurer
Richard Stauffer	Counselor
Kiersten Tyner	Nurse
Danielle Hockett	Media Aide
Ann Ring	Technology
Annie-Michele Laberge	Bilingual Aide
Jennifer Geyer	Kitchen Manager
LeeAnn Andert	Kitchen
Kat McNeil-White	Kitchen
Heather Pickens	Kitchen
Melody Pletcher	Kitchen
Tiffani Thompson	Kitchen
Jeanna White	Head of Maintenance
Steve McCoige	Custodian
Ehricha Sherland	Custodian
Lori Bolze	Classroom Aide
Heather Boyer	Classroom Aide
Kelli Cruz	Classroom Aide
Deanna Groves	Classroom Aide
Alexandra Heil	Classroom Aide
Robyn Kelley	Classroom Aide
Jessica Ludington	Classroom Aide
Monica Morris	Classroom Aide
Nikki Porogi	Classroom Aide
Leah Richards	Classroom Aide
Lynn Schmidt	Classroom Aide
Heather Sherman	Classroom Aide
Aimee Swiger	Classroom Aide
Janine Zoellner	Classroom Aide

Mission and Belief Statements

WES Mission Statement: *Our mission is to provide a welcoming, collaborative, and unifying community. Our goal is to ensure a safe and creative environment for all learners to achieve their full potential.*

All Students Are...

- ...expected to learn.
- ...inspired to excel.
- ...expected to demonstrate mastery of basic skills.
- ...expected to be respectful.
- ...expected to become lifelong learners.

We Believe...

- Every student will have the opportunity to reach his or her highest level of personal success.
- Every student learns best when instructional practice is varied and accommodates individual learning styles.
- Every student achieves through applying new skills, being fully engaged in classroom situations and developing higher levels of thinking.
- Parents/guardians are vital to the success of every student.
- In attracting, hiring, developing, and retaining highly effective employees.
- All personnel are valued contributors to student achievement.
- Our school is the focal point of the Walkerton Community.
- Our school effectively communicates with our community.
- Responsible budgeting and financing maximizes the educational investment in each student.
- Well maintained facilities enable the school corporation to offer exemplary programs.
- Every student and staff member deserves a safe school environment protected from violence, bullying, and substance abuse.

We Value:

- A rigorous, diversified curriculum that includes meaningful literacy activities.
- Technology is viewed as an essential tool for students, staff, and the community to enhance thinking, learning, and life skills.
- Extra-curricular and co-curricular programs that enhance the educational experience of every student.
- Long range financial planning to safeguard the community's investment in education.
- Safe and well maintained school facilities **that** promote student learning and are sources of pride for our community.
- A positive school and community relationship.

WES Goals and Strategies:

- 1) Motivate **all students** to realize their growth potential**
 - a. Utilize incentive programs to motivate students
 - b. Communicate with parents regarding student potential and need for parental support
 - c. Promote a positive and enthusiastic climate and culture
- 2) Attract, develop, and retain highly effective personnel**
 - a. Support staff with effective professional development
 - b. Market accomplishments of WES
 - c. Promote a positive and enthusiastic climate and culture
- 3) Maintain a culture of WES Pride**
 - a. Celebrate successes to indicate unity and foster a team culture
- 4) Provide a safe and supportive school environment**
 - a. Establish a support system for students who need assistance
 - b. Diligently train all staff in the implementation of school safety
- 5) All students engage in challenging and appropriate instruction to maximize achievement**
 - a. Continue to assess instructional strategies that engage learners
 - b. Engage teachers in the practice of purposeful planning, rich curriculum development, and effective teaching strategies.
- 6) Develop an academic plan that maximizes educational opportunities**
 - a. Develop a three year plan with prioritized needs
- 7) WES provides comprehensive and effective communication**
 - a. Maintain up to date student database and parental interface
 - b. Utilize ongoing communication with parents regarding school related programs, activities and achievement that includes weekly **principal newsletters** and a social media presence.

School Overview

History and Context

- **History-** Walkerton Elementary School is located in Walkerton, Indiana. It is one of four schools within the John Glenn School Corporation. Our school serves kindergarten through sixth grade. Our sister elementary school, North Liberty Elementary, is located in North Liberty. Urey Middle School services grades seven and eight. John Glenn High School houses grades nine through twelve. The middle school and high school are both located in Walkerton. A unique feature of the John Glenn School Corporation is that boundary lines include townships from **four counties: LaPorte, Marshall, St. Joseph, and Green**. The counties are located in the northern third and western half of the state.
 - Walkerton, Indiana is a small community located in St. Joseph County. It is an incorporated town of 1.5 square miles. Major cities, such as Chicago and South Bend are within an hour to ninety minute drive. Manufacturing, agriculture, service industries, and some recreational facilities are the main employment opportunities for its residents.
- **Building Maintenance-** Walkerton Elementary School was built in 1959 with major room additions and renovations done in 1976, 1988, and 2000. Other renovations down to the building were the following: Outside windows were replaced in the summer of 2021, an office remodel was done in the summer of 2021, LED lighting was installed in all of the hallway, classroom, cafeteria, and gymnasium in the summer of 2020 and 2021, and new carpet was installed in the hallways in the summer of 2022. **Future plans beginning in 2023 include the replacement of the HVAC systems in each classroom, a bathroom remodel in the 4th and 5th grade hallway, and a new entryway at the front of the building.**

Current Building Climate

- **Staffing Statistics-** The Walkerton Elementary School staff consists of **40 certified and 30 support** staff serves our 594 students. **The staff maintains four full-day kindergarten sections, four sections of first grade, four sections of second grade, four sections of third grade, and**

three sections of fourth, fifth grade, and sixth grade. Our Head Start classroom and JESSE Preschool classroom are located at St. Patrick's Church in Walkerton; however, we share staff to help accommodate those students.

- **Specialized Staff-** Staff include a Principal, Guidance Counselor, High Ability Coordinator, Title One Director, teachers of music, band, art, physical education, special education teachers, interventionist, a speech pathologist, an EL aide, an occupational therapist, and a building tech facilitator. An instructional assistant has been trained to service students in the media center: This assistant is under the supervision of the high school media specialist.
 - A total of 14 part and full time aides assist students in the classrooms, resource rooms, and Minds in Motion program. Other staff members include the nurse, two secretaries, three custodians, and two full-time and four part-time cafeteria personnel.
- **Socio-Economic and Special Needs Programming-** Walkerton Elementary School is a working class community where many parents are employed in shift work industries as well as salary based socio-economic groups. Walkerton Elementary School goes beyond the school day to meet the needs of its students by providing a before and after school care program through the local Boys and Girls Club and by providing a breakfast program through the federal government.
 - Current enrollment at Walkerton Elementary School is 594 students for the 2023-2024 school year: Student population usually fluctuates between 580 to 600 students.
 - There are 148 students who are considered out of district transfers for the 2023-2024 school year, equating to roughly 24.9% of our student body.
 - There are 335 students who utilize the free and reduced lunch program for the 2023-2024 school year, equating to roughly 56% of our student body.
 - A bilingual aide assists students with their EL needs and for parental assistance and translations. Teachers have received some training regarding EL students. Every EL student who qualifies will receive an ILP with direct reference to their WIDA scores and goals.

Educational Programming

- **Curriculum**- Walkerton Elementary School is committed to providing an academic program that develops each child to his or her fullest potential. A strong teaching staff, standards based curriculum, Response to Intervention, High Ability programs, and remediation before, during, and after the school day provide students with academic skills and support needed for success. Additionally, the school district is committed to early intervention by providing full day kindergarten and a Pre-K program.
 - Walkerton Elementary School has adopted the Indiana Academic State Standards. We utilize the iReady curriculum which provides individualized curriculum to each student in both ELA and Math. Our curriculum includes a ninety minute reading block for Kindergarten through sixth grade classes.
 - **In 2020**, Walkerton Elementary School hired a licensed Interventionist to help remediate students, and employed a third special education teacher to lower the caseload numbers K-6.
 - **RAZ Kids**- Provides comprehensive leveled reading resources for students with hundreds of eBooks offered at 29 different levels of reading difficulty.
 - **Xtra Math**- online math fact fluency program that helps students develop quick recall and automaticity of their basic math facts
 - **Foundations**- prevention program to help reduce reading and spelling failure.
- **Technology Integration**- Opportunities to integrate technology into the curriculum are encouraged and varied throughout grades K-5. Chromebooks are distributed for students in grades 3-6 and iPads for students K-2: Online state assessments and our iReady assessments are done in the classrooms. All classrooms have access to the internet for research and online resources. **All classrooms Kindergarten through 6th Grade utilize ActivBoard technology.** Document camera technology is used in each classroom to enhance instruction.
- **Response to Intervention (RTI)** - In order to identify the needs of our students and to ensure their success, Response to Intervention (RTI) is used at Walkerton Elementary School from grades K-6. RTI integrates assessment and intervention within a multi-level prevention system to maximize student achievement and to reduce student academic issues in both ELA and Math. With RTI, Walkerton Elementary School is able to identify students at risk for poor learning outcomes, monitor student

progress, provide evidence-based interventions and adjust the intensity and nature of those interventions depending on a student's responsiveness, and identify students with learning disabilities or other disabilities.

- Each student at Walkerton Elementary School is monitored within the RTI process. In Tier I, all students receive direct whole group instruction in the general education classroom setting. The teacher assesses the skills of all students using assessments and observation. In Tier II, students receive three (3) days of 15-20 minute small group or individual instruction. In Tier III, students received five (5) days of 15-20 minute small group or individual instruction. RTI documentation is completed digitally via Google Drive. This allows the RTI Team to have immediate access to students' progress data at all times: This digital process is an effective way to share data and communicate across academic levels. When students move to a new grade, RTI information is shared with the upcoming teacher. This allows the individualized RTI process to be continued easily from one school year to the next.
- **Remediation Services-** Walkerton Elementary School is a school wide Title program. All students are eligible for services. All students K-3 benefit with additional class aides and small groups. Small group instruction is implemented throughout the day by instructional aides. After-school tutoring and study groups are available for remediating students who need time beyond the school day. Summer school instruction is also an option for students who need help beyond the school year.
- **School Safety-** Walkerton Elementary School creates a safe and secure environment for all staff and students. Fire drills are conducted each month as required by the state of Indiana: Additional drills conducted throughout the year are The Great Shake Out, monthly Lockdown Drills (Hard and Soft), twice daily exterior door checks, and reunification drills. Teachers inform the students about proper procedures and responses. A map of the school and an exit plan is posted in each classroom. The Crisis Plan outlines procedures for fire/storm drills and other safety issues. Copies of the Crisis Plan are located in the media center, the staff lounge, and the administrator's office.
 - Doors remain locked throughout each school day. To gain access to the building, visitors must communicate via a two-way intercom system. Once admitted, visitors report to the office and sign in.
 - There is a camera system that monitors both inside the building

and the exterior of the building, including the playground, hallways, and front entrance.

- The corporation shares a resource officer to patrol the halls and assure building safety.
- Radio communication is maintained with all recess aides when outside.
- **Safe Learning Environment**- Walkerton Elementary School is committed to providing both students and staff with a safe and healthy school environment conducive to learning and teaching. Walkerton parents and students receive the Walkerton Elementary Student Handbook, which contains the School Board and building policies, rules, and procedures. This document can also be viewed digitally on our website. Policies, rules, and procedures are geared toward student safety.
 - Walkerton Elementary School has a Guidance Counselor whose duties include, but are not limited to:
 - Conflict management
 - Social and home issues
 - Safety issues
 - 504 Liaison
 - Monitor and enforce attendance policies
 - Red Ribbon Program
 - Drug Awareness
- **Student Achievement Assessments**- A variety of assessments are used to measure student achievement:
 - **ILEARN**- Third, fourth, and fifth grade students take the state ILEARN in the spring. This test assesses student achievement in the areas of Language Arts and Math. Additionally, the fourth and sixth grade students are tested in the area of Science, and the fifth grade students are tested in the area of Social Studies.
 - **IREAD-3**- Grade three reading assessment developed in accordance with state legislation. IREAD-3 is designed to measure foundational reading skills based on Indiana Academic Standards through grade three. In March 2023, 2nd Grade students were given the IREAD-3 assessment, with plans to continue this practice at Walkerton Elementary as long as it is made available through the IDOE.
 - **iReady** - Teachers use iReady diagnostic and pre/post-test for both ELA and Math. Students are placed in flexible groups and may be moved according to needs. Students who are determined to have needs in the areas of special education or high abilities are placed in programs to meet these needs.

- **Parental Participation**- Teachers utilize phone conversations, email, Class Dojo, individualized meetings, and Parent Teacher Conferences in October. Parents are also given access to weekly update online reports of student scores, attendance, and disciplinary actions through Harmony.
 - Walkerton Elementary School benefits from parental involvement through an active Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Programs include but are not limited to a Book Fair, Fun Fair, Field Day, and a series of Family Fun Nights.
- **Test Descriptions**
 - Kindergarten through Second Grade- Progress monitoring is used for all kindergarten, first and second grade students using bi-weekly assessments that correlate with the reading program. iReady Math and Reading Assessments are given three times each year, and Foundations is used for unit assessments. Incoming Kindergarten students are given a screener in the month of April to assess their readiness. Second Grade students will continue to be administered the IREAD-3 in March as long as it is made available through the IDOE.
 - Kindergarten through Sixth Grade- The iReady Reading and Math assessment tests are given to kindergarten through sixth grade students. Third, fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students take the ILEARN test. The IREAD-3 assessment is administered to all students in grade three. Kindergarten through sixth grade also do the textbook comprehensive reading and math tests.
 - Additional Testing- Students that are experiencing difficulty are referred for further evaluation and testing through the Title One program and the interventionist. Students are referred to the RTI Team for further testing to determine target areas for remediation. Instruments used are the Dibels, CORE, GMADE, Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test, and Woodcock Reading Test. The CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test) is used to determine eligibility in grades K, 2, & 5. Dyslexia Information (KG-2) all students are screened and the number of at-risk students is posted on school website. The IDOE approved Dyslexia screeners utilized are iReady, the Arkansas Rapid Screener, and/or Words Their Way.

Summary of Data

Attendance Rate

<u>Year</u>	<u>Walkerton Elementary School (IDOE Code #7457)</u>
2022-2023	60.6%
2021-2022	93.1%
2020-2021	79.6%
2019-2020	84.3%
2018-2019	60.6%

IREAD-3

<u>Year</u>	<u>Ratio</u>	<u>Passing</u>	<u>Not Passing</u>
2022-2023	69/73	94.5%	5.5%
2021-2022	62/74	83.8%	16.2%
2020-2021	60/66	90.9%	9.1%
2019-2020	DNC	DNC	DNC
2018-2019	60/69	86.9%	13.1%

ILEARN (2020-2021) - ELA

2020-2021					
<u>Grade</u>	<u>Tested</u>	<u>Below</u>	<u>Approaching</u>	<u>At</u>	<u>Above</u>
3 rd	66	15	14	21	16
4 th	53	18	14	13	8
5 th	72	17	18	27	10
Total	191	50 (26.2%)	46 (24.1%)	61 (31.9%)	34 (17.8%)

ILEARN (2020-2021) -Math

2020-2021					
<u>Grade</u>	<u>Tested</u>	<u>Below</u>	<u>Approaching</u>	<u>At</u>	<u>Above</u>
3 rd	66	11	9	21	25
4 th	53	11	18	19	5
5 th	72	18	19	19	16
Total	191	40 (20.9%)	46 (24.1%)	59 (30.9%)	46 (24.1%)

ILEARN (2020-2021) - Science and Social Studies

2020-2021					
<u>Grade</u>	<u>Tested</u>	<u>Below</u>	<u>Approaching</u>	<u>At</u>	<u>Above</u>
4 th	53	18	11	15	9
5 th	72	26	14	24	8

ILEARN (2021-2022) - ELA

2021-2022					
<u>Grade</u>	<u>Tested</u>	<u>Below</u>	<u>Approaching</u>	<u>At</u>	<u>Above</u>
3 rd	75	14	23	26	12
4 th	70	19	16	18	17
5 th	54	9	11	23	11
6 th	74	23	14	27	10
Total	273	65 (23.9%)	64 (23.4%)	94 (34.4%)	50 (18.3%)

ILEARN (2021-2022) - Math

2021-2022					
<u>Grade</u>	<u>Tested</u>	<u>Below</u>	<u>Approaching</u>	<u>At</u>	<u>Above</u>
3 rd	75	12	21	19	23
4 th	70	12	11	29	18
5 th	54	9	8	30	7
6 th	74	20	25	21	8
Total	273	53 (19.4%)	65 (23.8%)	99 (36.3%)	56 (20.5%)

ILEARN (2021-2022) - Science and Social Studies

2021-2022					
<u>Grade</u>	<u>Tested</u>	<u>Below</u>	<u>Approaching</u>	<u>At</u>	<u>Above</u>
4 th	70	15	15	15	25
5 th	54	14	9	17	14
6 th	74	19	28	18	9

ILEARN (2022-2023) - ELA

2022-2023					
<u>Grade</u>	<u>Tested</u>	<u>Below</u>	<u>Approaching</u>	<u>At</u>	<u>Above</u>
3 rd	73	9	25	28	11
4 th	74	17	16	19	22
5 th	74	9	18	30	17
6 th	56	14	17	17	8
Total	277	49 (17.68%)	76 (27.44%)	94 (33.94%)	58 (20.94%)

ILEARN (2022-2023) - Math

2022-2023					
<u>Grade</u>	<u>Tested</u>	<u>Below</u>	<u>Approaching</u>	<u>At</u>	<u>Above</u>
3 rd	73	5	9	42	17
4 th	74	16	13	27	18
5 th	74	9	15	24	26
6 th	56	15	15	20	6
Total	277	45 (16.0%)	52 (19.0%)	113 (41.0%)	67 (24.0%)

ILEARN (2022-2023) - Science and Social Studies

2022-2023					
<u>Grade</u>	<u>Tested</u>	<u>Below</u>	<u>Approaching</u>	<u>At</u>	<u>Above</u>
4 th	76	20 (26%)	13 (17%)	31 (41%)	12 (16%)
5 th	72	14 (19%)	16 (22%)	17 (24%)	25 (35%)
6 th	56				

Goals

Goal 1- Writing Grades 3-6

Grades 3-6 will drop the “Below Proficiency” percentage from 19.96% to 16.00%, a decrease of 3.96%, or 10 total students in Grades 3-6

Implementation Year

- 2023-2024

Strategies

- Utilize supplemental vocabulary and comprehension materials/activities
- Write responses to nonfiction, referring explicitly to the text as a basis for the answers
- 1:1 or small group instruction
- Flexible grouping, such as daily centers or Daily 5
- Utilizing computer programs, Accelerated Reader, iReady Reading and Reading A-Z
- Cross grade level reinforcement activities, such as reading buddies
- Title One/Gen. Ed. using research based programs such as Wilson Foundations, Ready Reading, Sonday
- Progress Monitoring bi-weekly using grade level appropriate testing tools

Assessments

- iReady (grades K-6), ILEARN (grades 3-6), IREAD-3
- Reading selection tests
- Smekens Writing Professional Development

Staff Development

- Conferences that enhance teaching methods on comprehension and vocabulary
- Cooperative sharing of effective vocabulary and comprehension strategies
- In-service on vocabulary and reading comprehension instruction
- Grade level meetings to collaborate
- K-6 Ready Reading Training

Responsible Individuals

- Administrators
- Teachers
- Title One Director
- Aides

Goals

Goal 2- Overall 'Below Proficiency' Grades 3-6

Grades 3-6 will drop the "Below Proficiency" percentage from 16.25% to 14.00%, a decrease of 2.25%, or 6 total students in Grades 3-6

Implementation Year

- 2023-2024

Strategies

- Daily Math review with number sense skills
- Follow IDOE Indiana State Math Power Standards
- Khan Academy
- Xtra Math in Grades 1-6
- Prodigy

Assessments

- Ready Math - Grades K-6
- iReady - Grades K-6
- ILEARN - Grades 3-6
- Curriculum Assessments

Staff Development

- Update Curriculum Mapping
- Grade Level Meetings
- iReady training
- Grade level teacher collaboration

Responsible Individuals

- Administrators
- Teachers
- Title One Director
- Aides

Goals

Goal 3- Overall Attendance Rate

Per the IDOE GPS, overall attendance rate will increase 9.4% to 70.0% for the 2022-2023 school year from 60.6% for the 2021-2022 school year.

Implementation Year

- 2023-2024

Strategies

- 5 Day Letter, 10 Day Letter, 18 Day Letter (10%)
- Clearly stated expectations
- Parent contracts for problem students
- Home visits from Principal, Guidance Counselor, and/or Student Resource Officer (SRO)
- Daily calls to absentees
- Teacher communication

Assessments

- Quarterly percentage reports to administrator addressing needs/home visits
- Regular analysis of attendance data and absences

Responsible Individuals

- Administrators
- Teachers