Wayside Schools
Real Learning Academy
2020-2021 Comprehensive Needs Assessment

Accountability Rating: Not Rated: Declared State of Disaster

Distinction Designations:
Top 25 Percent: Comparative Academic Growth
Mission Statement

Wayside Schools exists to prepare college ready, community engaged, global citizens.

Vision

We strive to grow to serve 2,500 scholars in Southeast Austin, ensuring that all Wayside graduates receive IB Diplomas and reach 100% College Acceptance, Matriculation, and Graduation.
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Comprehensive Needs Assessment

Demographics

Demographics Summary

The student race population is 6.90% African-American, 54.39% Anglo, .47% Asian, 8.31% American Indian, .16% Native American, and 2.04% two or more races. The student ethnicity population is 89.18% Hispanic and 10.82% not Hispanic. The student population is made up of 49.69% male and 50.31% female with a low socioeconomic status of 88.56% and 76.65% being identified as At Risk. 7.68% of the student population is identified Special Education, 57.99% is identified with Limited English (LEP), 32.39% of the student population is participating in the bilingual program and 9.25% is participating in the English as a Second Language (ESL) program.

The staff population is 0% African-American, 3.43% Anglo, 1.81% Asian, 69.09% Hispanic, 5.45% male and 94.54% female with an average of 6 years of experience. 100% of Highly Qualified paraprofessionals.

At REAL Learning Academy 52.71% of scholars are English Language Learner students, 33 students identified for 504 services, 8.42% of Tier III students, 54 students served though special education services (4.51%) and 3 students tested, but did not qualify for special education services.

Demographics Strengths

REAL's teacher and staff population is similar in make-up to our scholar's population.
Student Learning

Student Learning Summary

REAL Learning Academy, a B rated campus, is one of five campuses in Wayside Schools Independent School District. REAL earned its first star of distinction from TEA in the 2018 - 2019 school year for being in the top 25 percent for comparative academic growth. REAL Learning Academy serves a large population of ESL/Bilingual scholars. Each grade level having 2 bilingual classrooms and 2 monolingual classrooms.

Student Learning Strengths

Math is one of our strongest areas at REAL Learning Academy. Our scholars and teachers strive in this subject area. This year, we were hoping to show great growth on the Reading STAAR test. All benchmark tests were pointing us in the direction that our reading scores we're going to improve in multiple grade levels.

Problem Statements Identifying Student Learning Needs

Problem Statement 1: Although reading and math scores continue to improve, we have not met our goal of an A rated campus. Root Cause: Students have been out school with limited technology for virtual school since March 2020.

Problem Statement 2: Based on school wide reading data, 67% of K-5 scholars were reading below grade level on F&P reading test. Root Cause: Lack of reading curriculum and reading practices in K-5 classrooms.

Problem Statement 3: 56% of 4th graders can write on grade level per STAAR test. Root Cause: Lacking common and aligned writing curriculum for K-5

Problem Statement 4: Our 4th graders are consistently performing lower in writing than in math and reading. Root Cause: Lack of writing foundation.

Problem Statement 5: RTI (Tier 2 and Tier 3) scholars are performing 24% lower in all subject areas per STAAR test. Root Cause: Lack of intervention support.
School Processes & Programs

School Processes & Programs Summary

Recruiting and retaining high quality staff - To retain our teachers, we have a high quality coaching program. The program is designed to strengthen our classroom teachers to have high quality instruction. Our staff survey has shown that a teacher's feel empowered and supported by their instructional coach. When we do need to feel vacant spots, we attend university teacher job fairs to promote our school.

Professional Development - Every Friday, our scholars leave at 1:00 pm to allow for weekly professional development for 2 hours. The professional development scope and sequence is build every year off of our academic goals. When applicable, we bring in Region 13 trainers and other program trainers. After most professional development sessions, we provide a survey to teachers to give feedback.

Teachers, scholars and families are committed to improving student academic achievement. Scholars are taught how to create a data driven goal and how to track it throughout the school year. We have family events to celebrate when each scholar reaches big goals.

School Processes & Programs Strengths

REAL Learning Academy has many strong strengths and programs that create a sense of community on campus.

1) Every year we have many family nights where majority of our families attend; Meet the Teacher and Internation Night.

2) Teachers have process set into place to ensure constant communication with parents. We have two parent and teacher conferences every year that all parents must attend or call in.

3) Field trips are a big enrichment program at REAL Learning Academy. Every scholar takes a minimum of 2-3 field trips a year. This provides background knowledge and experiences that will translate into the classroom.

4) Math Masters and Reading Masters program have been created by REAL Learning Academy staff. It's sole purpose to push scholar's in their math and reading fluency. Every year, 80% of scholars master their grade level math and reading fluency. This then translates to the state test and the next grade level work.
5) We have a well planned PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Support) system to encourage and support desired behaviors and routines across campus.

Problem Statements Identifying School Processes & Programs Needs

**Problem Statement 1**: Enrichment and acceleration programs are limited or non-existent to REAL scholars. **Root Cause**: A lack of resources, humans and supplies, to properly implement enrichment and accelerated programs.
Perceptions

Perceptions Summary

REAL Learning Academy, a B rated campus, is one of five campuses in Wayside Schools Independent School District. REAL Learning Academy opened its doors in 2012 - 2013 and serves predominantly low-income families. REAL Learning Academy serves 650 students in grades Pre-K 3 to 5th grade. Seven years ago, 480 students were served by the campus, which is an increase of 26%. REAL earned its first star of distinguishment from TEA in the 2018 - 2019 school year for being in the top 25 percent for comparative academic growth. REAL Learning Academy serves a large population of ESL/Bilingual scholars. Each grade level having 2 bilingual classrooms and 2 monolingual classrooms.

The overall mobility rate for the campus is approximately 13.1%. The average daily attendance rate for students is 95.03%. The average daily attendance rate for staff is 98%. There are a total of 59 discipline referrals this year, which is a decrease of 51% from last year.

Perceptions Strengths

Student engagement is one of our biggest strengths at REAL Learning Academy. Every lesson that is planned by a teacher has a specific method behind it, "Get Your Teach On". Teachers want to make lessons hands-on, challenging, real-life, and applicable for the next grade level. Teachers may come dressed-up as a detective to finalize an inferencing lesson. Scholars may come dressed-up as a frog to skip jump through the hallway as an end of unit. Scholars do not want to miss a day of learning because they never know what may be happening that day. This creates a positive culture that is seen by parents and community members.

Problem Statements Identifying Perceptions Needs

Problem Statement 1: Data from Educator Handbook shows majority of behavior incidents occur in the classroom and cause loss of learning for all scholars. Root Cause: Classroom teachers implementing behavior management and SEL strategies after the incident, versus being taught first.