

# Longfellow Elementary School

## School Accountability Report Card

### Reported Using Data from the 2013-14 School Year

#### Published During 2014-15

Every school in California is required by state law to publish a School Accountability Report Card (SARC), by February 1 of each year. The SARC contains information about the condition and performance of each California public school. Under the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) all local educational agencies (LEAs) are required to prepare a Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), which describes how they intend to meet annual school-specific goals for all pupils, with specific activities to address state and local priorities. Additionally, data reported in an LCAP is to be consistent with data reported in the SARC.

- For more information about SARC requirements, see the California Department of Education (CDE) SARC Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/sa/>.
- View this SARC online at the school and/or LEA Web sites.
- For more information about the LCFF or LCAP, see the CDE LCFF Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/lc/>.
- For additional information about the school, parents and community members should contact the school principal or the district office.

## About This School

### Contact Information (Most Recent Year)

School Contact Information	
<b>School Name</b>	Longfellow Elementary School
<b>Street</b>	6005 South Magnolia Ave.
<b>City, State, Zip</b>	Whittier, CA, 90601
<b>Phone Number</b>	562.789.3180
<b>Principal</b>	Dr. Lily Torres
<b>E-mail Address</b>	LTorres@whittiercity.net
<b>Web Site</b>	<a href="http://www.whittiercity.net">www.whittiercity.net</a>
<b>CDS Code</b>	19651106023667

District Contact Information	
<b>District Name</b>	Whittier City Elementary School District
<b>Phone Number</b>	562.789.3000
<b>Superintendent</b>	Dr. Ron Carruth
<b>E-mail Address</b>	<a href="mailto:rcarruth@whittiercity.net">rcarruth@whittiercity.net</a>
<b>Web Site</b>	<a href="http://www.whittiercity.net">http://www.whittiercity.net</a>

## School Description and Mission Statement (Most Recent Year)

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Elementary School is located in Whittier City, a quaint suburb 12 miles southeast of Los Angeles. Our partnership of dedicated teachers, staff, parents, and community members strive to serve as role models and empower our students to become life-long learners and productive citizens. During the 2014-15 school year, twenty-three full-time teachers, Kindergarten through Grade Five, provide instruction to approximately 615 students, 28% of which are English Language Learners. Our teaching faculty is comprised of 19 General Education teachers, one Resource Specialist (RSP) and three Special Day Teachers (SDC). Our students benefit from additional school staffing which includes: one part-time school counselor, one part-time speech pathologist, one part-time school psychologist, one part-time instructional coach and two part-time, credentialed, hourly support teachers (for a portion of the year).

Longfellow School's mission is to ensure that all students learn the academic standards and social skill necessary to succeed in their next level of education. Teachers, staff, parents, and the community will work collaboratively to educate, support and challenge our students in a safe and nurturing environment.

### Student Enrollment by Grade Level (School Year 2013-14)

Grade Level	Number of Students
Kindergarten	110
Grade 1	104
Grade 2	99
Grade 3	83
Grade 4	103
Grade 5	118
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>617</b>

### Student Enrollment by Group (School Year 2013-14)

Group	Percent of Total Enrollment
Black or African American	1.5
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.6
Asian	0.2
Filipino	0.2
Hispanic or Latino	82.2
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.0
White	4.7
Two or More Races	0.2
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	70.2
English Learners	25.1
Students with Disabilities	9.7

## A. Conditions of Learning

### State Priority: Basic

The SARC provides the following information relevant to the Basic State Priority (Priority 1):

- Degree to which teachers are appropriately assigned and fully credentialed in the subject area and for the pupils they are teaching;
- Pupils have access to standards-aligned instructional materials; and
- School facilities are maintained in good repair.

### Teacher Credentials

Teachers	School			District
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2014-15
With Full Credential	24	23	23	264
Without Full Credential	0	0	0	1
Teaching Outside Subject Area of Competence (with full credential)	0	0	0	0

### Teacher Misassignments and Vacant Teacher Positions

Indicator	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Misassignments of Teachers of English Learners	0	0	0
Total Teacher Misassignments *	0	0	0
Vacant Teacher Positions	0	0	0

Note: "Misassignments" refers to the number of positions filled by teachers who lack legal authorization to teach that grade level, subject area, student group, etc.

\* Total Teacher Misassignments includes the number of Misassignments of Teachers of English Learners.

### Core Academic Classes Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers (School Year 2013-14)

Location of Classes	Percent of Classes In Core Academic Subjects	
	Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers	Not Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers
This School	100.00	0.00
All Schools in District	99.80	0.20
High-Poverty Schools in District	99.80	0.20
Low-Poverty Schools in District	0.00	0.00

Note: High-poverty schools are defined as those schools with student eligibility of approximately 40 percent or more in the free and reduced price meals program. Low-poverty schools are those with student eligibility of approximately 39 percent or less in the free and reduced price meals program.

### Quality, Currency, Availability of Textbooks and Instructional Materials (School Year 2014-15)

Year and month in which data were collected: September 2014

Whittier City School District's policy and practices are designed to ensure that each student has access to standards based instructional materials. The state wide adoption of the Common Core Standards has prompted our district to update our materials to ensure students have access to Common Core standards based curriculum. Our last adopted curriculum and materials for Language Arts, Math, Social Science and Science are aligned with the 1997 standards and approved by the State Board of Education. However, the approval of new Common Core State standards led to our decision to purchase "bridge" instructional material that align with the Common Core State Standards. Currently, all teachers in grades K-8 have math curriculum that supports the teaching of the new math standards; Elementary grades are currently using Eureka Math curriculum, which includes student workbooks for all students and Teacher's Editions, while Middle School is using College Preparatory Math (CPM). The CPM curriculum includes student workbooks and Teacher's Edition. In addition to math curriculum, all Elementary grade teachers and Middle School English Language Arts, Science and Social Studies teachers have received Units of Study writing curriculum designed to support the teaching of the new writing types outlined in the Common Core State Standards. All teachers have received funds to purchase additional materials to align to the Common Core English Language Arts.

A process is in place for schools to order materials at the beginning of each school year for all students. In addition, there is a process to order additional materials throughout the year to address the changing needs of their student population, and on an “as needed” basis. Each school site is responsible for notifying district staff when new students register for classes so appropriate materials can be ordered.

Our school complies with the Williams Law; every child has an appropriate textbook for all academic subjects requiring textbooks. Students are allowed to take their textbooks home for study after school when needed. The school uses district and categorical funds to provide supplemental materials for the classrooms including classroom library books, as well as materials for intervention and ELD.

Finally, WUSD has an established and thorough process for examining new adoption materials as they become available. As the District moves towards the implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), the District will use that process to examine, explore, pilot and adopt new curriculum materials aligned with the CCSS, with input and feedback from teachers, administrators and parents.

<b>Core Curriculum Area</b>	<b>Textbooks and Instructional Materials/ Year of Adoption</b>	<b>From Most Recent Adoption?</b>	<b>Percent of Students Lacking Own Assigned Copy</b>
<b>Reading/Language Arts</b>	Houghton Mifflin Reading, A Language of Literacy, (2002)  Adoption Year 2003	Yes	0
<b>Mathematics</b>	Harcourt Math, Harcourt School Publishers, (2002)  Adoption Year 2002	Yes	0
<b>Science</b>	Delta Education, Foss Program, 2008  Adoption Year 2008	Yes	0
<b>History-Social Science</b>	Houghton Mifflin, Harcourt Reflections (2007)  Adoption Year 2006	Yes	0

**School Facility Conditions and Planned Improvements (Most Recent Year)**

Longfellow Elementary School offers a safe and secure campus where students, staff and visitors are welcomed. In 2013, Longfellow School had a new roof installed and the front office was modernized. A new electronic marquee was installed in the fall of 2014. The school is fully air-conditioned and provides up-to-date facilities and adequate space for students and staff. Longfellow Elementary is comprised of a kindergarten area, library, large multipurpose room and 32 classrooms. The school also enjoys a spacious playground with swings, a slide and play bars, as well as grassy fields for running, sports and games. A team of 2 custodians (1-day and 1-night) ensures that classrooms, restrooms and campus grounds are kept clean and safe. A scheduled maintenance program is administered by the Whittier City School District to ensure that all classrooms and facilities are maintained appropriately. Longfellow School has been identified as a Williams school and has been inspected to ensure that the school complies with the William's requirements.

### School Facility Good Repair Status (Most Recent Year)

School Facility Good Repair Status (Most Recent Year)				
Year and month in which data were collected: November 2014				
System Inspected	Repair Status			Repair Needed and Action Taken or Planned
	Good	Fair	Poor	
<b>Systems:</b> Gas Leaks, Mechanical/HVAC, Sewer	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	
<b>Interior:</b> Interior Surfaces	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	
<b>Cleanliness:</b> Overall Cleanliness, Pest/ Vermin Infestation	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	
<b>Electrical:</b> Electrical	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	
<b>Restrooms/Fountains:</b> Restrooms, Sinks/ Fountains	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	
<b>Safety:</b> Fire Safety, Hazardous Materials	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	
<b>Structural:</b> Structural Damage, Roofs	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	
<b>External:</b> Playground/School Grounds, Windows/ Doors/Gates/Fences	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	

### Overall Facility Rating (Most Recent Year)

Overall Rating	Exemplary	Good	Fair	Poor
	[ ]	[X]	[ ]	[ ]

## B. Pupil Outcomes

### State Priority: Pupil Achievement

The SARC provides the following information relevant to the Pupil Achievement State Priority (Priority 4):

- Statewide assessments (i.e., California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress and its successor the Standardized Testing and Reporting Program);
- The Academic Performance Index; and
- The percentage of pupils who have successfully completed courses that satisfy the requirements for entrance to the University of California and the California State University, or career technical education sequences or programs of study.

### California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress / Standardized Testing and Reporting Results for All Students in Science (Three-Year Comparison)

Subject	Percent of Students Scoring at Proficient or Advanced (meeting or exceeding the state standards)								
	School			District			State		
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
<b>Science (grades 5, 8, and 10)</b>	49	47	40	58	53	53	60	59	60

Note: Science assessments include California Standards Tests (CSTs), California Modified Assessment (CMA), and California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA). Scores are not shown when the number of students tested is ten or less, either because the number of students in this category is too small for statistical accuracy or to protect student privacy.

**California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress Results by Student Group in Science (School Year 2013-14)**

Group	Percent of Students Scoring at Proficient or Advanced
All Students in the LEA	53
All Student at the School	40
Male	43
Female	38
Black or African American	
American Indian or Alaska Native	
Asian	
Filipino	
Hispanic or Latino	39
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	
White	
Two or More Races	
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	32
English Learners	17
Students with Disabilities	
Students Receiving Migrant Education Services	

Note: CAASPP includes science assessments (CSTs, CMA, and CAPA) in grades 5, 8, and 10. Scores are not shown when the number of students tested is ten or less, either because the number of students in this category is too small for statistical accuracy or to protect student privacy.

**Standardized Testing and Reporting Results for All Students (Three-Year Comparison)**

Subject	Percent of Students Scoring at Proficient or Advanced (meeting or exceeding the state standards)								
	School			District			State		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
English-Language Arts	45	44	42	49	55	52	54	56	55
Mathematics	53	52	50	49	56	55	49	50	50
History-Social Science				41	44	45	48	49	49

Note: STAR Program was last administered in 2012-13. Percentages are not calculated when the number of students tested is ten or less, either because the number of students in this category is too small for statistical accuracy or to protect student privacy.

**Academic Performance Index Ranks (Three-Year Comparison)**

API Rank	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Statewide	3	2	3
Similar Schools	2	2	2

Note: For 2014 and subsequent years, the statewide and similar schools ranks will no longer be produced.

### Academic Performance Index Growth by Student Group (Three-Year Comparison)

Group	Actual API Change		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
All Students at the School	13	-1	2
Black or African American			
American Indian or Alaska Native			
Asian			
Filipino			
Hispanic or Latino	14	3	-10
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander			
White			
Two or More Races			
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	11	-1	6
English Learners	-2	22	-3
Students with Disabilities			

Note: "N/D" means that no data were available to the CDE or LEA to report. "B" means the school did not have a valid API Base and there is no Growth or target information. "C" means the school had significant demographic changes and there is no Growth or target information.

### State Priority: Other Pupil Outcomes

The SARC provides the following information relevant to the Other Pupil Outcomes State Priority (Priority 8):

- Pupil outcomes in the subject areas of English, mathematics, and physical education.

### California Physical Fitness Test Results (School Year 2013-14)

Grade Level	Percent of Students Meeting Fitness Standards		
	Four of Six Standards	Five of Six Standards	Six of Six Standards
5	25.4	16.7	7.9

Note: Percentages are not calculated when the number of students tested is ten or less, either because the number of students in this category is too small for statistical accuracy or to protect student privacy.

## C. Engagement

### State Priority: Parental Involvement

The SARC provides the following information relevant to the Parental Involvement State Priority (Priority 3):

- Efforts the school district makes to seek parent input in making decisions for the school district and each schoolsite.

### Opportunities for Parental Involvement (Most Recent Year)

Parents and other community members are integral partners in accomplishing our school vision and mission. We believe that through these partnerships, all children will acquire the foundations of an enriching education and the social qualities and character traits needed to be responsible citizens and contributing members in our society. Our school welcomes and encourages parents to visit, volunteer, attend parent education sessions and to provide input for decision-making. This year, parents are expected to volunteer on campus for 10-20 hours.

Along with parent committees and councils (i.e. School Site Council, PTA, ELAC, Author's Academy Advisory Committee, Parent Leadership Team meetings), there are myriad school events that parents can volunteer and attend. Parents also have the opportunity to attend our yearly Harvest Festival in the fall, our Family Night in the spring, the Read Across America Community Read-in, school beautification days, Tea with Torres, PAWS Parent Workshops, Technology Days, student orientations, guided tours, Back to School Night, Trimester Awards ceremonies, Student of the Month assemblies, Winter program, Organic Garden Club, and more.

To further enhance our parental engagement, this year we are training a Parent Leadership Team comprised of school personnel and parents to serve as a forum to discuss, brainstorm and give input on ways to positively impact student achievement and improve their child's educational experience.

Finally, Longfellow Elementary School houses the District's Parent Room, where DELAC, ELAC, parenting classes, and other parent meetings take place. Throughout the school year, a variety of parent education sessions are offered with our partnership with Pro Whittier. Topics are selected based on an annual parent needs assessment conducted at School Site Council and ELAC meetings. The topics range in scope but are appropriate for parents of elementary school children.

### State Priority: School Climate

The SARC provides the following information relevant to the School Climate State Priority (Priority 6):

- Pupil suspension rates;
- Pupil expulsion rates; and
- Other local measures on the sense of safety.

#### Suspensions and Expulsions

Rate	School			District			State		
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
<b>Suspensions</b>	5.5	2.3	0.6	5.3	3.2	2.6	5.7	5.1	4.4
<b>Expulsions</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1

Note: The rate of suspensions and expulsions is calculated by dividing the total number of incidents by the total enrollment x 100.

#### School Safety Plan (Most Recent Year)

In addition to providing an enriching educational experience, Longfellow is committed to the safety and security of each student. To maintain these conditions which contribute to the best possible learning environment, the School Safety Plan includes the following elements:

1. **School Crime Assessment:** Longfellow provides compiled school crime information each month for the California Safe School Assessment as mandated by the State of California. This information is analyzed at each school site to determine what steps may be taken to reduce incidents of crime.
2. **Child Abuse Reporting:** Teachers and other school employees are required by law to report any cases of suspected child abuse or child neglect. Reports are investigated by the Department of Social Services to determine if any follow-up on the report is necessary.
3. **Disaster Procedures:** In order to ensure the safety of students and school personnel, the school safety committee has created a comprehensive Disaster Preparedness Plan which is reviewed on a yearly basis.
4. **School Discipline/Character Development:** Longfellow has embraced the Caring Schools Community program in order to support our school-wide discipline plan and character development. Through the lessons embedded in the program we hope to communicate high standards/expectations and to hold students accountable for their behavior. The discipline plan is given to every student and reviewed in student assemblies, such as the NED Show or classroom presentations. Staff members consistently enforce the school-wide standards.
5. **Procedures to Notify Teachers of Dangerous Pupils:** If a student is deemed dangerous because of behavior at school or behavior outside of school which has been dealt with by county juvenile authorities, the teacher(s) of the student will be promptly notified of the status of the student.
6. **Sexual Harassment Policy:** Longfellow strictly adheres to district policies which prohibit sexual harassment or discrimination of any kind. The sexual harassment policy is distributed to each student at the beginning of the school year, and employees are advised of their duty to take prompt action if they become aware of any incidents of sexual harassment.

7. **School-wide Dress Code:** Longfellow believes that a clearly defined dress code contributes to a positive school environment. The primary standards for student dress and grooming include that the student should be neat and clean at school, and the student should not wear clothing that compromises safety or modesty or that is disruptive to the educational process. To this end, Longfellow School has a uniform policy for all students. Parents may request a uniform waiver request prior to the start of school.
8. **Safe and Orderly Environment:** Longfellow believes a safe and orderly environment is necessary to ensure a positive learning experience for all students. Regular supervision of students is the core of creating and maintaining a safe and orderly environment. Teachers, administrators, campus supervisors and parent volunteers consistently supervise and interact with students to reinforce behavioral expectations and safety standards.

**School Security**

Teachers follow a supervision schedule before school and for recess duty on the playground, helping ensure that playground rules are adhered to for student safety at all times. During lunch, Longfellow has four noon-duty aides that monitor student safety.

**Emergency Situations**

This comprehensive plan has been developed to address various emergency situations. It is our belief that students can only thrive when they feel safe from everything from earthquakes to bullies. Parents and staff members work together to identify potential hazards and take preventive measures. Regular practice drills of emergency procedures make safety a routine and allow us to get on with the business of education.

**D. Other SARC Information**

The information in this section is required to be in the SARC but is not included in the state priorities for LCFF.

**Adequate Yearly Progress Overall and by Criteria (School Year 2013-14)**

AYP Criteria	School	District
Made AYP Overall		
Met Participation Rate: English-Language Arts		
Met Participation Rate: Mathematics		
Met Percent Proficient: English-Language Arts		
Met Percent Proficient: Mathematics		

**Federal Intervention Program (School Year 2014-15)**

Indicator	School	District
Program Improvement Status	In PI	In PI
First Year of Program Improvement	2011-2012	2004-2005
Year in Program Improvement*	Year 3	Year 3
Number of Schools Currently in Program Improvement	---	8
Percent of Schools Currently in Program Improvement	---	80.0

Note: Cells with "---" do not require data.

\* DW (determination waiver) indicates that the PI status of the school was carried over from the prior year in accordance with the flexibility granted through the federal waiver process.

### Average Class Size and Class Size Distribution (Elementary)

Grade Level	2011-12				2012-13				2013-14			
	Avg. Class Size	Number of Classes			Avg. Class Size	Number of Classes			Avg. Class Size	Number of Classes		
		1-20	21-32	33+		1-20	21-32	33+		1-20	21-32	33+
K	27.3	1	3	0	22	1	4		22	1	4	
1	27.7	0	3	0	24	1	3		20	2	3	
2	28	1	2	1	21	2	2		25	1	3	
3	34.3	0	0	3	21	2	3		21	2	2	
4	33.3	0	1	2	22	2		3	21	3	1	1
5	24.6	1	4	0	26	1	1	2	23	2	1	2

Note: Number of classes indicates how many classes fall into each size category (a range of total students per class).

### Academic Counselors and Other Support Staff (School Year 2013-14)

Title	Number of FTE Assigned to School	Average Number of Students per Academic Counselor
<b>Academic Counselor</b>		
Counselor (Social/Behavioral or Career Development)	0.3	---
Library Media Teacher (Librarian)		---
Library Media Services Staff (Paraprofessional)	0.3	---
Psychologist	0.5	---
Social Worker		---
Nurse	0.3	---
Speech/Language/Hearing Specialist	0.6	---
Resource Specialist	1.0	---
Other		---

Note: Cells with "---" do not require data. One Full Time Equivalent (FTE) equals one staff member working full time; one FTE could also represent two staff members who each work 50 percent of full time.

### Expenditures per Pupil and School Site Teacher Salaries (Fiscal Year 2012-13)

Level	Expenditures Per Pupil			Average Teacher Salary
	Total	Supplemental/Restricted	Basic/Unrestricted	
School Site	\$3511.05	\$264.54	\$3246.51	\$70,868.90
District	---	---	\$3489.59	\$71,092.55
Percent Difference: School Site and District	---	---	-7.0	2.6
State	---	---	\$4,690	\$70,788
Percent Difference: School Site and State	---	---	-41.4	1.0

Note: Cells with "---" do not require data.

### Types of Services Funded (Fiscal Year 2013-14)

Whittier City School District receives ADA for students for all educational services including salaries, instructional materials, maintenance, transportation and capital expenses. In addition schools receive Categorical funds from Title I, EIA-LEP, ELAP, and Special Education.

Title 1 and EIA funding provide supplemental support for reading and math programs during and after school. In addition, these funds are used to provide teachers with release time so they can collaborate on their instructional program. Support materials for math and reading intervention are purchased with categorical funds. Other services provided through categorical funds include an office clerk for intervention and attendance monitoring, parent liaison and library clerk for three hours per day; our EIA funds are also used to fund an additional hour each day of health clerk support, our EIA/LEP funds provide our teachers with instructional materials during English Language Development and are used to support our English Language Learners throughout the school day. These funds are also used for collaboration opportunities, the after school intervention program targeted for English Learners, and for professional development.

#### Teacher and Administrative Salaries (Fiscal Year 2012-13)

Category	District Amount	State Average for Districts In Same Category
Beginning Teacher Salary	\$35,336	\$41,507
Mid-Range Teacher Salary	\$65,548	\$67,890
Highest Teacher Salary	\$82,725	\$86,174
Average Principal Salary (Elementary)	\$103,309	\$109,131
Average Principal Salary (Middle)	\$107,772	\$111,937
Average Principal Salary (High)	\$0	\$109,837
Superintendent Salary	\$193,387	\$185,462
Percent of Budget for Teacher Salaries	38	42
Percent of Budget for Administrative Salaries	5	6

For detailed information on salaries, see the CDE Certificated Salaries & Benefits Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/fd/cs/>.

#### Professional Development

The fundamental goal of the Whittier City School District is to continually examine and improve our practices to ensure that all students have the best opportunities to achieve high academic standards. In order to effectively prepare our students for 21st Century college and career, classroom experiences will be designed to encourage student creativity, increase meaningful discourse and communication, and develop critical thinking skills, while providing opportunities for problem solving and collaboration. To reach these goals and close the achievement gap between high achievers and struggling students, the District's instructional priorities are to:

- Provide professional development to teachers on the new Common Core Standards and the instructional practices that support the implementation of the Instructional Shifts outlined in the CCSS;
- Enhance teachers' skill and knowledge in the integration of technology across the curriculum;
- Support teachers by providing access to timely and appropriate data on student performance;
- Provide training to develop teachers' knowledge and skill to analyze data;
- Provide opportunities for teachers to collaboratively work in grade level and/or department level teams to examine data, monitor student learning and plan instructional practices;
- Develop a comprehensive and effective "Response to Intervention" model that will support those students who are struggling academically and behaviorally;
- Provide professional development to teachers and schools leaders on how to develop, nurture and sustain effective "Professional Learning Communities"

Whittier City School District leaders understand the importance of ongoing, in-depth professional development directly connected to district and school learning goals. The focus for 2014-2015 is to introduce all elementary teachers to the Common Core Mathematics Standards and Standards for Mathematical Practices and develop an understanding of how to implement new practices for teaching mathematics. In addition, all elementary and middle school teachers will receive an in depth review of the Common Core standards for Writing as well as an introduction to the new Common Core aligned ELD Standards. Professional development will be provided to sustain and follow-up on the previous years' initiatives, which include a review of the Common Core English Language Arts Standards for teachers in grade K-8 and a review of the Common Core Math Standards for teachers in grades 6-8. Science and Social Studies teachers in grades 6-8 will learn how to develop cognitive demanding tasks that support the expectations of the Common Core Standards for Literacy and Writing. Professional Development is provided during the summer, teacher release time, after school and on Tuesday early release days

In addition to presenting on the Common Core Standards, District Instructional Coaches provide training and coaching support to enhance teachers' expertise in technology integration, lesson design, instructional planning and the tenets and practices of a PLC. To address the needs of our English Learners, teachers from each site have attended professional development in Systematic ELD to strengthen the implementation of a comprehensive approach to teaching English Language Development. This year, teams of teachers and principals from each school participated in an English Learner Shadowing to research how to effectively provide opportunities for English Learners to engage in academic discourse and content discussions throughout the school day. The District Science Coach works with teachers to implement the FOSS Science Units and to begin explore the Next Generation Science Standards.

Developing teacher leadership is a critical component of our approach to Professional Learning. Opportunities for teachers to assume leadership roles include serving as a Lead Teachers at the site and on the District Curriculum Improvement Teams (CITs ) at the District level. CIT meet to analyze and revise the District's Essential Agreements, Benchmark Assessments and Pacing Guides as well as make recommendations for improvements. Our focus on ensuring academic success for all students is supported by on-going training for all teachers and support staff on how and when to administer universal screening assessments designed to identify at risk students. Additional training is offered on how to effectively use the data gathered to implement researched based intervention materials designed to meet specific needs of struggling students.

Finally, all coaches, principals and lead teachers will receive training on leading a team of teachers using the Lesson Study cycle protocol used to deepen our knowledge of effective instructional practices as well as strengthen facilitation and observational skills to lead discussions on evidence based student learning.