
Converse School Improvement Plan

Executive Summary 2018-19



Address: 1602 Townline Avenue | Phone: 608-361-2100 | Grades: K4 - 3rd | Principal: Ms. Vicky Hamilton

Program Focus

Converse Elementary is proud to be the recipients of the “Wisconsin School of Recognition Award” for 7 consecutive years from the Department of Public Instruction. This is an award for schools that have demonstrated consistent success in improving student learning and achievement. Schools that have received the Wisconsin Schools of Recognition award for a minimum of three are invited to apply.

1. Teaching and learning, as demonstrated through:

- Delivery of Balanced Literacy within our classrooms
- Tiered reading interventions for our students
- The development of Essential Learning Targets in literacy and math
- A structured curriculum map followed throughout the district
- Co-taught classrooms (Paraprofessionals)
- Effective integration of technology with the curriculum

2. Decision-making and accountability, as demonstrated through:

- Grade-level Professional Learning Communities
- Teachers have Common Planning Time
- Student Intervention Team meetings
- Tools utilized to effectively collect, analyze, and share student data

Visiting parents and visitors will have the opportunity to directly observe classroom instruction, collaboration meetings, and intervention groups. The day's agenda will also include presentations and opportunities to debrief with visiting community members. Activities and materials will be individually tailored to the goals and objectives of visiting community members.

School Vision / Mission

The mission of our school is to provide each student with the opportunities to grow academically, emotionally, and socially in partnership with our families and community stakeholders. Our main focus is student achievement driven by data analysis. In order for us to provide the best instructional practices for our students, we must continue to grow as a Converse team. We will work together and support one another as we focus on Family Engagement, RtI, PBIS, Second Step, Early Learning Targets, authentic assessments that drive instruction, and the Common Core State Standards.

Strengths in 2017-2018 (Math, Literacy, Learning Environment)

Literacy: In 2015-2016 Converse's mean scores are consistently above the NWEA norm mean average across grade levels for reading. Relative to performance across the School District of Beloit, Converse also continues to perform above the district mean average scores in 2015-2016. In 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 Kindergarten performed about the National Mean.

Math: Converse's mean scores continue to be consistently above the NWEA norm mean average across grade levels for math for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017. Relative to performance across the School District of Beloit, Converse also continues to perform above the district mean average scores in 2015-2016 and 2016-2017.

Learning Environment: Our Behavior Specialist has focused on obtaining resources to assist students and families in the following ways: by providing food for students to take home in backpacks on the weekend and clothing/hygiene products. Converse is also using a sociogram that detects those students, that maybe new to our school or displaying trouble finding a friends at school or on the playground. This tool help assist them with finding a friend. She started this sociogram in second grade and she has continued to our other grade groups. We are all working together to create a positive learning environment by addressing students' and their families social/emotional needs.

Progress in 2017 - 2018 (Math, Literacy, Learning Environment)

Literacy: Converse saw an increase in writing points from the beginning to the end of the year. One of our students in 2nd grade won the "Grand Prize in Scholastic"

Math: Our scores show growth in Math on the Forward Exam and MAPS in math.

Learning Environment: Converse designed a new testing environment for MAPS and the FORWARD exam. Our entire school is shut down and there are no interruptions. We have some students moved out of the classroom for small group testing to minimize the distractions for those students.

Areas for Growth for 2018-2019 (Math, Literacy, Learning Environment)

Literacy:

- First grade students were below the Ntnal and District mean across the board for 2016-2017.
- Second grade Black students were below the National and District mean in 2015-2016 and 2016-2017.
- Third grade Hispanic students were below the National and District mean in 2015-2016 and 2016-2017.

Math

- Both Blacks and Hispanics third graders scores improved from 2015-2016 to 2016-2017.
- Both Blacks and Hispanics first graders scores improved from 2015-2016 to 2016-2017.

Learning Environment:

- We are strengthening our PTO to involve our families more this year in planning and decision making.

Primary Goals for 2018-2019 (Math, Literacy, Learning Environment)

Math: Second Grade students will receive instruction/exposure to Go Math-Problem Solving/Application on a daily basis to improve higher order thinking skills (using MAPS fall, winter, and spring assessments to monitor and re-assess teaching strategies). MAP scores of students in the Low Average moving to Average range will increase by 5% by the end of the year. This goal will address the CCSS in Operations and Algebraic Thinking.

Literacy: Third Grade students will increase MAP scores by a 5% from Low Average to Average and Average to High Average in the area of Vocabulary: Acquisition and Usage (using MAPS fall, mid-year, and spring assessments) by the end of Spring 2019.

Learning Environment: Our testing environment is completely locked down. The leadership team meet to work out the schedule. Communications go out to parents via: DOJO, Office all call, and a MEMO home. Reminders go out several days before the testing time and on the day before testing begins. We do not allow interruptions of our testing environment of any kind unless for an EMERGENCY.

At the beginning of the school year we focus on behaviors in our entire building. By addressing PBIS early we are able to then focus on learning in the classroom. Our behavior specialist has implemented several positive practices, such as: the kindness cookies for (Kindness that can't be overlooked) Captain Compassion for (Bullying Month). Converse is using a sociogram that detects those students, that may not have friends at school or on the playground. We help them find a friend. We started in second grade and it has been continued to our other grade groups it is a great tool.

Converse will improve the implementation of social emotional learning by effectively implementing evidence-based practices that will be monitored to measure the impact of student behavior on the school climate as measured by observational, survey and discipline data.

Key Strategies for 2018-2019 (Math, Literacy, Learning Environment)

Literacy:

- To distribute ELL students across two classrooms instead of using a single classroom or a double. We are focusing on reducing the concentration of language learners in 3rd grade to increase their reading level.
- 3rd Grade Team will analyze the data after each MAP window to make informed decisions and direct instruction.
- Use the MAPS strands to focus on closing the gaps in our intervention band for 3rd graders.
- Use DesCartes Vocabulary (MAP's vocabulary) packet, focus on positional words, prefixes, suffixes, synonyms, antonyms, homophones, idioms and pronoun agreement.

Math

- Students who do not show understanding of the Go Math daily lesson, will receive small group guided math instruction (On Your Own) along with reteaching to reinforce foundational skills.
- Students who do show understanding will complete "On Your Own" and Problem Solving/Application independently.
- Discussion will occur with all students after exposure to the Problem Solving/Application for each lesson.
- Teachers will use the MAP strands to differentiate groups to focus on areas of weakness.

Learning Environment:

- During the months of September / October, Converse Staff will focus on encouraging positive student behaviors in the following ways: SIT (Student Intervention Team) meetings will focus on students whose behaviors negatively impact learning. At SIT meetings, school staff and parents will develop informal / formal behavior plans for students with behavioral needs in order to focus on creating a positive classroom / school culture that is conducive to learning.
- Starting in the fall of 2018, the Behavior Specialist (new position) at Converse will focus on working with students whose behavior negatively impacts their learning. The goal is for the behavior specialist to meet with students, develop goals with students and support student learning.
- In addition, the behavior specialist has focused on obtaining resources to assist students and families in

the following ways: provide food for students to take home in backpacks on the weekend and clothing / hygiene products for students. The Behavior Specialist has worked to create a positive learning environment by addressing students' friendships and social / emotional needs. Students identified friends and the Behavior Specialist developed a grid that indicates which students have not been identified as having friends at school. Addressing student's social / emotional needs enhances the learning environment for all students.

Professional Learning for 2018-2019 (Math, Literacy, Learning Environment)

- Go Math
- Math Coaches on Tier one instruction for teachers
- Reading Specialist will coach staff on writer's workshop and reading workshop
- New Science Curriculum
- New Social Studies Curriculum pilot
- Converse First Grade Team will pilot (New Phonics) with the Merrill first grade team
- Math and Reading interventionist
- Our Behavior Specialist
- Using interventions and Enrichments for appropriate students
- Conference Opportunity for New Teacher
- Common Planning Times
- Bi-weekly PLC's
- Leadership Team meetings
- Behavior Flow Chart

Family and Community Engagement for 2018-2019

Grandparents Day, Winter Sing, Dr. Martin Luther King awards Assembly and Parent Night. Converse is offering our parents and students a Math and Reading Night at the same time to maximize the amount of parents. This will be the first time Converse has offered both subjects at the same time. Parents are notified several weeks in advance via: DOJO, Office all call, and a MEMO home. Reminders are also sent home a week prior to the event. The staff keeps a log of who attends each event. The staff gives feedback on the success of the event by talking to the parents.

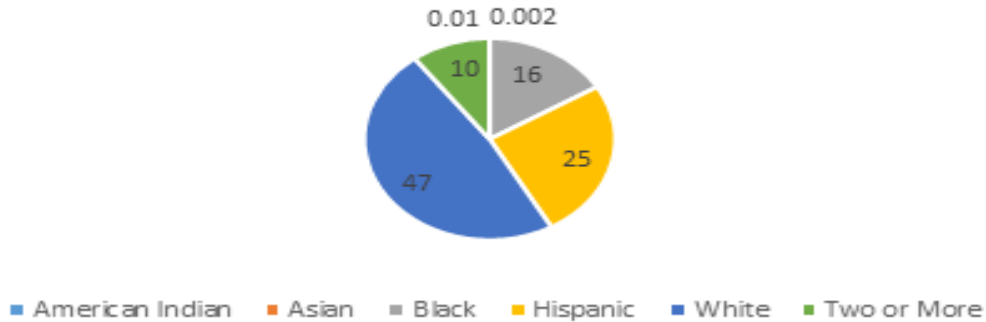
- We also offered families a DVD showcasing our Motown on Townline All School Assembly.
- We have an After School Program.
- We have many regular volunteers from the community that come in and help in various ways.
- We have a PTO that meets the first Thursday of every month.
- We are putting together a parent programming focus group.
- We are holding Trunk or Treat for families to be involved with this Fall.

Principal	Ms. Vicky Hamilton	Dual Language Immersion	No
Phone	608-361-2100	AGR	Yes
4K	Yes	Attendance Rate	95.2%
Title I	Yes	Total Enrollment	391
Report Card Score	81.5	Report Card Rating	Exceeds Expectations

2018-19 Data Profile

Demographics

Converse Demographic Percentages

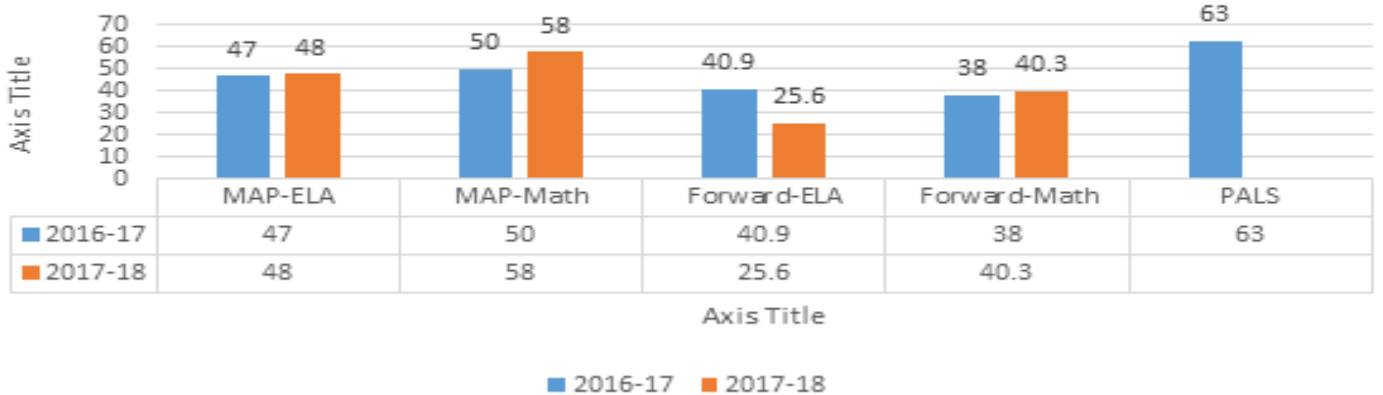


Strategic Plan Goal #1: Students – Build a school system of choice by improving student performance in a safe and diverse school atmosphere.

Teaching, Learning and Innovation

1. The number of students scoring proficient or advance in literacy will increase between 5 – 7% as measured by the Wisconsin Forward Exam each year.
2. All students will increase in math between 3-5% each year as measured by the Wisconsin Forward Exam.

Converse Elementary
Percentage of Students Proficient or Advanced



Learning Environment

