



# Comprehensive Needs Assessment 2023 - 2024 School Report



**Richmond County  
Merry Elementary School**

## 1. PLANNING AND PREPARATION

### 1.1 Identification of Team

The comprehensive needs assessment team consists of people who are responsible for working collaboratively throughout the needs assessment process. Ideal team members possess knowledge of programs, the capacity to plan and implement the needs assessment, and the ability to ensure stakeholder involvement. A required team member's name may be duplicated when multiple roles are performed by the same person. Documentation of team member involvement must be maintained by the LEA. Watch the [Planning and Preparation webinar](#) for additional information and guidance.

#### Leadership Team

	Position/Role	Name
Team Member # 1	Principal	Brandi James
Team Member # 2	Assistant Principal	Tamara Thomas
Team Member # 3	Instructional Coach	Melissa Elrod
Team Member # 4	Counselor	Stephanie Mack
Team Member # 5	Augmented Teacher	Kristin Garrett
Team Member # 6	Teacher	Cenise Milton
Team Member # 7	MTSS Facilitator	Lashondra Randolph

#### Additional Leadership Team

	Position/Role	Name
Team Member # 1		
Team Member # 2		
Team Member # 3		
Team Member # 4		
Team Member # 5		
Team Member # 6		
Team Member # 7		
Team Member # 8		
Team Member # 9		
Team Member # 10		

# 1. PLANNING AND PREPARATION

## 1.2 Identification of Stakeholders

Stakeholders are those individuals with valuable experiences and perspective who will provide the team with important input, feedback, and guidance. Required stakeholders must be engaged in the process to meet the requirements of participating federal programs. Documentation of stakeholder involvement must be maintained by the LEA. Watch the [Planning and Preparation webinar](#) for additional information and guidance.

### Stakeholders

	Position/Role	Name
Stakeholder # 1	Augusta Rotary Club	David Bullington
Stakeholder # 2	Amanda Peacock	St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church
Stakeholder # 3	Parent	Cenise Milton
Stakeholder # 4	Parent	Shanice Coleman
Stakeholder # 5	Parent	Taura Mitchell
Stakeholder # 6		
Stakeholder # 7		
Stakeholder # 8		

How will the team ensure that stakeholders, and in particular parents and/or guardians, were able to provide meaningful input into the needs assessment process?	Stakeholders/Parents are invited to Parent/Community input revision meetings to provide input of how they would like to see the school grow in the areas of academics, engagement, and involvement.
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## 2. DATA COLLECTION ANALYSIS

### 2.1 Coherent Instructional System

Analyze the LEA's data (including sections 2.6) and answer the guiding questions to determine existing trends and patterns that support the identification of instructional needs. Complete a data-informed self-rating for each Georgia School Performance Standard (GSPS). See the [Coherent Instructional System webinar](#) for additional information and guidance.

#### Coherent Instruction Data

<b>Curriculum Standard 1</b> -Uses systematic, collaborative planning processes so that teachers share an understanding of expectations for standards, curriculum, assessment, and instruction		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	<p>A systematic, collaborative process is used proactively for curriculum planning.</p> <p>Nearly all teachers or groups of teachers, support staff, and leaders within the school have common expectations for standards, curriculum, assessment, and instruction.</p>	
<b>2. Operational</b>	<p>A systematic, collaborative process is used regularly for curriculum planning.</p> <p>Most teachers or groups of teachers within the school have common expectations for standards, curriculum, assessment, and instruction.</p>	✓
<b>3. Emerging</b>	<p>A collaborative process is used occasionally for curriculum planning.</p> <p>Some teachers or groups of teachers within the school have common expectations for standards, curriculum, assessment, and instruction.</p>	
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	<p>A collaborative process is rarely, if ever, used for curriculum planning.</p> <p>Few, if any, teachers or groups of teachers within the school have common expectations for standards, curriculum, assessment, and instruction.</p>	

## Coherent Instruction Data

<b>Curriculum Standard 2</b> -Designs curriculum documents and aligns resources with the intended rigor of the required standards		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	Curriculum documents (e.g., lesson plans, unit plans, performance tasks, curriculum maps, scope, and sequence documents, guides) that are aligned with the intended rigor of the required standards are the products of a systematic, collaborative process.  These curriculum documents and resources are used and continuously revised by teachers and support staff to ensure an alignment with the intended, taught, and tested standards.	
<b>2. Operational</b>	Curriculum documents (e.g., lesson plans, unit plans, performance tasks, curriculum maps, scope and sequence documents, guides) have been designed, and resources are aligned with the intended rigor of the required standards.  These curriculum documents and resources guide the work of teachers and instructional support staff.	✓
<b>3. Emerging</b>	Curriculum documents and resources exist, but they are not complete in all content areas or grade levels or lack the intended rigor of the required standards.	
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	Few, if any, curriculum documents and resources exist to support the implementation of the intended rigor of the required standards.	

<b>Instruction Standard 1</b> -Provides a supportive and well -managed environment conducive to learning		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	A supportive and well-managed environment conducive to learning is evident throughout the school.  Students consistently stay on-task and take responsibility for their own actions.	
<b>2. Operational</b>	A supportive and well-managed environment conducive to learning is evident in most classrooms.	
<b>3. Emerging</b>	A supportive and well-managed environment conducive to learning is evident in some classrooms.	✓
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	A supportive and well-managed environment conducive to learning is evident in few, if any, classrooms.	

## Coherent Instruction Data

Instruction Standard 2 -Creates an academically challenging learning environment		
1. Exemplary	Nearly all teachers create an academically challenging, learning environment (e.g., higher-order thinking skills and processes, active student engagement, relevance, collaboration).  Students consistently work independently and in teams to solve real-world problems that require advanced effort, decision-making, and critical and creative thinking.	
2. Operational	Most teachers create an academically challenging, learning environment (e.g., higher-order thinking skills and processes, active student engagement, relevance, collaboration).	
3. Emerging	Some teachers create an academically challenging learning environment.	
4. Not Evident	Few, if any, teachers create an academically challenging learning environment.	✓

Instruction Standard 3 -Establishes and communicates clear learning targets and success criteria aligned to curriculum standards		
1. Exemplary	Nearly all teachers establish and communicate clear learning targets and success criteria aligned to the required curriculum standards. Learning targets are evident throughout the lesson and in student work. Articulation of the learning targets is consistent and pervasive among like content areas and grade levels.	
2. Operational	Most teachers establish and communicate clear learning targets and success criteria aligned to the required curriculum standards.  Learning targets are evident throughout the lesson and in student work.	
3. Emerging	Some teachers establish and communicate clear learning targets and success criteria aligned to the required curriculum standards.	✓
4. Not Evident	Few, if any teachers establish clear learning targets and success criteria aligned to the required curriculum standards.	

Instruction Standard 4 -Uses research based instructional practices that positively impact student learning		
1. Exemplary	Nearly all teachers pervasively demonstrate a repertoire of highly effective, research-based instructional practices that positively impact student learning (e.g., providing feedback, cooperative learning, advance organizers, questioning techniques, similarities and differences, reinforcing effort, goal setting, summarizers, graphic representations, reciprocal teaching).	
2. Operational	Most teachers demonstrate a repertoire of effective, research-based instructional practices that positively impact student learning (e.g., providing feedback, cooperative learning, advance organizers, questioning techniques, similarities and differences, reinforcing effort, goal setting, summarizers, graphic representations, reciprocal teaching).	
3. Emerging	Some teachers demonstrate a repertoire of effective, research-based instructional practices that positively impact student learning.	✓
4. Not Evident	Few, if any, teachers demonstrate a repertoire of effective, research-based instructional practices that positively impact student learning.	

## Coherent Instruction Data

<b>Instruction Standard 5 -Differentiates instruction to meet specific learning needs of students</b>		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	<p>Nearly all teachers differentiate instruction (e.g., using flexible grouping, making adjustments, providing choices based upon readiness levels, interests, or needs) to meet the specific learning needs of students.</p> <p>Nearly all teachers plan and implement multiple means of representation, engagement, action, and expression to meet the learning needs of students (UDL).</p> <p>Remediation, enrichment, and acceleration are pervasive practices.</p>	
<b>2. Operational</b>	<p>Most teachers differentiate instruction (e.g., using flexible grouping, making adjustments, providing choices based upon readiness levels, interests, or needs) to meet the specific learning needs of students.</p> <p>Most teachers plan and implement multiple means of representation, engagement, action, and expression to meet the learning needs of students (UDL).</p>	
<b>3. Emerging</b>	Some teachers differentiate instruction to meet the specific learning needs of students.	✓
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	Few, if any, teachers differentiate instruction to meet the specific learning needs of students.	

<b>Instruction Standard 6 -Uses appropriate, current technology to enhance learning</b>		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	The use by staff members and students of appropriate, current technology to enhance learning is an institutional practice (e.g., facilitate communication, collaboration, research, design, creativity, problem-solving).	
<b>2. Operational</b>	Most staff members and students use appropriate, current technology to enhance learning (e.g., facilitate communication, collaboration, research, design, creativity, problem-solving).	
<b>3. Emerging</b>	Some staff members, students, or both use appropriate, current technology to enhance learning.	
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	Few, if any, teachers demonstrate a repertoire of effective, research-based instructional practices that positively impact student learning.	✓

## Coherent Instruction Data

Instruction Standard 7 -Provides feedback to students on their performance on the standards or learning targets		
1. Exemplary	Nearly all teachers use the language of the standards or learning targets to provide students with specific, timely, descriptive feedback on their performance.  Nearly all teachers systematically elicit diagnostic information from individual students regarding their understanding of the standards or learning targets.	
2. Operational	Most teachers use the language of the standards or learning targets to provide students with specific, timely, descriptive feedback on their performance.	
3. Emerging	Some teachers use the language of the standards or learning targets to provide students with specific, descriptive feedback on their performance.	✓
4. Not Evident	Few, if any, teachers use the language of the standards or learning targets to provide students with feedback on their performance, or the feedback that is provided is not specific, timely, or understandable.	

Instruction Standard 8 -Establishes a learning environment that empowers students to actively monitor their own progress		
1. Exemplary	Nearly all students use tools (e.g., rubrics, checklists, exemplars) to actively monitor their own progress.  Nearly all students develop a sense of personal responsibility and accountability by engaging in record keeping, self-monitoring, sharing, exhibiting, and self-reflection.	
2. Operational	Most students use tools (e.g., rubrics, checklists, exemplars) to actively monitor their own progress.	
3. Emerging	Some students use tools to actively monitor their own progress.	✓
4. Not Evident	Few, if any, students use tools to actively monitor their own progress.	

Instruction Standard 9 -Provides timely, systematic, data -driven interventions		
1. Exemplary	Nearly all students are provided timely, systematic, data-driven interventions to support their learning needs.  Interventions are designed to meet the needs of each student. The effectiveness of those interventions is consistently monitored and adjustments are made.	
2. Operational	Most students are provided timely, systematic, data-driven interventions to support their learning needs.	
3. Emerging	Some students are provided extra assistance or needed support in a timely manner.	✓
4. Not Evident	Few, if any, students are provided extra assistance or effective support in a timely manner.	



## Coherent Instruction Data

Assessment Standard 1 -Aligns assessments with the required curriculum standards		
1. Exemplary	Nearly all assessments are aligned with the required curriculum standards. Assessments are reviewed during the school year to ensure alignment.	
2. Operational	Most assessments are aligned with the required curriculum standards.	✓
3. Emerging	Some assessments are aligned with the required curriculum standards.	
4. Not Evident	Few, if any, assessments are aligned with the required curriculum standards.	

Assessment Standard 3 -Uses common assessments aligned with the required standards to monitor student progress, inform instruction, and improve teacher practices		
1. Exemplary	Teachers consistently use common assessments aligned with the required standards in nearly all content areas, grade levels, or both for diagnostic, summative, and formative purposes.  The data from the common assessments are analyzed down to the item level, and the results are used to inform instruction and improve teacher practices.	
2. Operational	Teachers use common assessments aligned with the required standards in most content areas to monitor student progress, inform instruction, and improve teacher practices.	
3. Emerging	Teachers use some common assessments aligned with the required standards in a few content areas with a limited amount of data analysis to monitor student progress, inform instruction, or improve teacher practices.	✓
4. Not Evident	Teachers use few, if any, common assessments to monitor student progress, inform instruction, or improve teacher practices.	

Assessment Standard 4 -Implements a process to collaboratively analyze assessment results to adjust instruction		
1. Exemplary	Teachers extensively use a systematic, collaborative process to analyze assessment results. Instruction is consistently adjusted based on the analysis of assessment results across all content areas, grade levels, or both.	
2. Operational	Teachers regularly use a collaborative process to analyze assessment results. Instruction is routinely adjusted based on the analysis of assessment results.	
3. Emerging	Teachers occasionally use a collaborative process to analyze assessment results. Instruction is sometimes adjusted based on the analysis of assessment results.	✓
4. Not Evident	A collaborative process to analyze assessment results does not exist. Instruction is rarely, if ever, adjusted based on the analysis of assessment results.	

## Coherent Instruction Data

<b>Assessment Standard 5</b> -Implements grading practices that provide an accurate indication of student progress on the required standards		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	The grading practices used by teachers across nearly all content areas, grade levels, or both, consistently provide an accurate indication of student progress on the required standards.	
<b>2. Operational</b>	The grading practices used by teachers in most content areas, grade levels, or both provide an accurate indication of student progress on the required standards.	✓
<b>3. Emerging</b>	The grading practices used by teachers in some content areas, grade levels, or both provide an accurate indication of student progress on the required standards.	
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	The grading practices used by teachers rarely, if ever, provide an accurate indication of student progress on the required standards.	

## 2. DATA COLLECTION ANALYSIS

### 2.2 Effective Leadership

Analyze the LEA's data (including sections 2.6) and answer the guiding questions to determine existing trends and patterns that support the identification of leadership needs. Complete a data-informed self-rating for each Georgia School Performance Standard (GSPS). See the [Effective Leadership webinar](#) for additional information and guidance.

#### Effective Leadership Data

Leadership Standard 1 -Builds and sustains relationships to foster the success of students and staff		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	Administrators consistently build and sustain relationships to foster the success of students and staff.  The school staff is fully engaged in relationship building through collaboration, internal and external communication, and building trust with staff, students, families, and community stakeholders.	
<b>2. Operational</b>	Administrators regularly build and sustain relationships to foster the success of students and staff.	✓
<b>3. Emerging</b>	Administrators sometimes build relationships to foster the success of students and staff.	
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	Administrators seldom, if ever, build relationships to foster the success of students and staff.	

Leadership Standard 2 -Initiates and manages change to improve staff performance and student learning		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	Administrators, the school leadership team, and other teacher leaders initiate and sustain change to improve staff performance and student learning.  Administrators, the school leadership team, and other teacher leaders create a sense of urgency for change and effectively communicate a common vision.	
<b>2. Operational</b>	Administrators and the school leadership team initiate and sustain change to improve staff performance and student learning.  The principal provides an appropriate balance of pressure and support to manage the change process for desired results.	✓
<b>3. Emerging</b>	Administrators initiate change to improve staff performance and student learning but do not sustain the change, remove barriers, or both.	
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	Administrators initiate few, if any, changes that impact staff performance and student learning.	

## Effective Leadership Data

<b>Leadership Standard 3</b> -Uses systems to ensure effective implementation of curriculum, assessment, instruction, and professional learning practices		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	<p>The principal and other school leaders continually use systems to ensure effective implementation of curriculum, assessment, instruction, and professional learning practices.</p> <p>The principal and other school leaders have a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the best practices for curriculum, assessment, instruction, and professional learning.</p>	
<b>2. Operational</b>	The principal and other school leaders often use systems to ensure effective implementation of curriculum, assessment, instruction, and professional learning practices.	✓
<b>3. Emerging</b>	The principal and other school leaders occasionally use systems to ensure effective implementation of curriculum, assessment, instruction, and professional learning practices.	
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	The principal and other school leaders rarely, if ever, use systems to ensure effective implementation of curriculum, assessment, instruction, and professional learning practices.	

<b>Leadership Standard 4</b> -Uses processes to systematically analyze data to improve student achievement		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	Extensive, comprehensive processes, including root cause analysis, are used consistently to analyze data (e.g., multiple sources of data: classroom, grade level, departmental, and subgroup, perception data) to improve student achievement.	
<b>2. Operational</b>	Numerous processes are used frequently to analyze data (e.g., multiple sources of data: classroom, grade level, departmental, and subgroup, perception data) to improve student achievement.	
<b>3. Emerging</b>	Some processes are in place and used occasionally to analyze data to improve student achievement.	✓
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	Few, if any, processes are in place to analyze data to improve student achievement.	

<b>Leadership Standard 5</b> -Builds leadership capacity through shared decision-making and problem-solving		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	<p>Extensive structures exist for staff to engage in shared decision-making and problem-solving and to build their leadership capacities.</p> <p>Administrators collaborate consistently with staff members to gather input.</p>	
<b>2. Operational</b>	Numerous structures exist for staff to engage in shared decision-making and problem-solving and to build their leadership capacities.	
<b>3. Emerging</b>	Some structures exist for staff to engage in shared decision-making, problem-solving, or both.	✓
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	Few, if any, structures exist for staff to engage in shared decision-making or problem-solving.	

## Effective Leadership Data

<b>Leadership Standard 6</b> -Establishes and supports a data-driven school leadership team that is focused on student learning		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	<p>A highly effective, proactive, and data-driven school leadership team is focused on student learning.</p> <p>The leadership team addresses nearly all areas of student and staff learning and school leadership, including the development, implementation, and regular monitoring of the school improvement plan.</p>	
<b>2. Operational</b>	<p>A data-driven school leadership team is established with stakeholder representation (e.g., core and non-core teachers, certified support staff) and is focused on student learning.</p> <p>The school leadership team meets regularly and uses norms and protocols to work effectively and efficiently.</p>	✓
<b>3. Emerging</b>	The school leadership team is established and has some stakeholder representation but is focused chiefly on school operations rather than student learning.	
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	A school leadership team does not exist or does not have adequate stakeholder representation.	

<b>Leadership Standard 7</b> -Monitors and evaluates the performance of teachers and other staff using multiple data sources		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	<p>Monitoring the performance of teachers and other staff through observations, surveys, data, and documentation is consistent and comprehensive, resulting in highly accurate performance evaluations.</p> <p>A comprehensive system is in place to provide teachers and staff with ongoing, accurate, timely, detailed, descriptive feedback related to their performance.</p> <p>Administrators use the evaluation process to identify role models, teacher leaders, or both.</p>	
<b>2. Operational</b>	<p>Monitoring the performance of teachers and other staff regularly occurs using data or documentation, generally resulting in accurate performance evaluations.</p> <p>Teachers and staff receive accurate, timely, descriptive feedback related to their performance.</p>	✓
<b>3. Emerging</b>	<p>Monitoring the performance of teachers and other staff is inconsistent, incomplete, or lacks data or documentation, sometimes resulting in inaccurate performance evaluations.</p> <p>Teachers and staff receive some descriptive feedback related to their performance.</p>	
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	<p>Monitoring the performance of teachers and other staff rarely occurs or often results in inaccurate performance evaluations.</p> <p>Teachers and staff receive little or no descriptive feedback related to their performance.</p>	

## Effective Leadership Data

Leadership Standard 8 -Provides ongoing support to teachers and other staff		
1. Exemplary	A comprehensive support system that is timely and targeted to individual needs is provided to teachers and other staff.	
2. Operational	Most support provided to teachers and other staff is targeted to individual needs.	✓
3. Emerging	Some support provided to teachers and staff is targeted to individual needs.	
4. Not Evident	Support to teachers and staff does not exist or is not targeted to individual needs.	

Planning and Organization Standard 1 -Shares a common vision and mission that define the school culture and guide the continuous improvement process		
1. Exemplary	<p>A common vision and mission have been collaboratively developed and communicated to nearly all stakeholders.</p> <p>The culture of the school has been deeply defined over time by the vision and mission, which are updated as needed.</p> <p>The daily work and practices of staff consistently demonstrate a sustained commitment to continuous improvement.</p>	
2. Operational	<p>A common vision and mission have been developed through a collaborative process and communicated to most stakeholders.</p> <p>The vision and mission define the culture of the school and guide the continuous improvement process.</p>	
3. Emerging	A common vision and mission have been developed by some staff members but have not been effectively communicated so that they guide the continuous improvement process.	✓
4. Not Evident	A common vision and mission have not been developed or updated or have been developed by a few staff members.	

## Effective Leadership Data

<b>Planning and Organization Standard 2</b> -Uses a data-driven and consensus-oriented process to develop and implement a school improvement plan that is focused on student performance		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	<p>A school improvement plan has been developed using a data-driven and consensus-oriented process with input from nearly all stakeholders.</p> <p>The plan includes appropriate goals and strategies with a strong focus on increasing student performance.</p> <p>This process and plan consistently guide the work of the school staff.</p>	
<b>2. Operational</b>	<p>A school improvement plan has been developed using a data-driven and consensus-oriented process with input from most plan stakeholders.</p> <p>The plan includes appropriate goals and strategies with a focus on increasing student performance.</p>	✓
<b>3. Emerging</b>	<p>A school improvement plan has been developed with input from some stakeholders.</p> <p>The school improvement plan is based on incomplete data analysis with limited focus on student performance.</p>	
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	An up-to-date, data-driven school improvement plan focused on student performance is not in place.	

<b>Planning and Organization Standard 3</b> -Monitors implementation of the school improvement plan and makes adjustments as needed		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	<p>The goals and strategies of the school improvement plan are continually monitored by administrators, the school leadership team, and teacher leaders to evaluate the impact on student performance.</p> <p>Ongoing adjustments are made based on various performance, process, and perception data.</p>	
<b>2. Operational</b>	<p>The goals and strategies of the school improvement plan are regularly monitored by administrators and the school leadership team to evaluate the impact on student performance.</p> <p>Adjustments are made to the plan, as needed, based on the analysis of data.</p>	
<b>3. Emerging</b>	The goals and strategies of the school improvement plan are occasionally monitored by administrators.	✓
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	The goals and strategies of the school improvement plan are rarely, if ever, monitored.	

## Effective Leadership Data

Planning and Organization Standard 4 -Monitors the use of available resources to support continuous improvement		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	<p>The use of available resources (e.g., personnel, time, facilities, equipment, materials) to support continuous improvement is consistently monitored.</p> <p>School schedules and processes are designed to make effective use of personnel, time, materials, and equipment.</p>	
<b>2. Operational</b>	The use of available resources (e.g., personnel, time, facilities, equipment, materials) to support continuous improvement is frequently monitored.	✓
<b>3. Emerging</b>	The use of available resources to support continuous improvement is inconsistently monitored.	
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	The use of available resources to support continuous improvement is rarely, if ever, monitored.	

Planning and Organization Standard 5 -Develops, communicates, and implements rules, policies, schedules, and procedures to maximize student learning and staff effectiveness		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	<p>Rules, policies, schedules, and procedures are developed with stakeholder input, effectively communicated, and consistently implemented throughout the school to maximize student learning and staff effectiveness.</p> <p>These rules, policies, schedules, and procedures are consistently reviewed and revised as needed.</p>	
<b>2. Operational</b>	<p>Rules, policies, schedules, and procedures are developed, communicated, and implemented throughout the school to maximize student learning and staff effectiveness.</p> <p>These rules, policies, schedules, and procedures are periodically reviewed and systematically revised as needed.</p>	✓
<b>3. Emerging</b>	Rules, policies, schedules, and procedures are developed but are not effectively communicated or are implemented inconsistently across the school.	
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	<p>Rules, policies, or procedures are not developed, are poorly communicated, or are ineffectively implemented.</p> <p>In some cases, rules, policies, schedules, or procedures are out of date or have become barriers to student learning or staff effectiveness.</p>	



## Effective Leadership Data

<b>Planning and Organization Standard 6</b> -Uses protocols to maintain the school campus and equipment providing a safe, clean, and inviting learning environment		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	<p>Protocols (e.g., safety drills, tornado drills, inclement weather plans, current crisis plan, school-wide safety plan, maintenance protocols, facility-use protocols, functional custodial schedules) are used extensively to maintain the school campus and equipment providing a safe, clean, and inviting learning environment.</p> <p>A proactive maintenance process is in place, and repairs are completed in a satisfactory and timely manner, when needed.</p>	
<b>2. Operational</b>	<p>Protocols (e.g., safety drills, tornado drills, inclement weather plans, current crisis plan, school-wide safety plan, maintenance protocols, facility-use protocols, functional custodial schedules) are used to maintain the school campus and equipment providing a safe, clean, and inviting learning environment.</p> <p>The school and campus are clean, well-maintained, inviting, and safe.</p>	✓
<b>3. Emerging</b>	<p>Protocols are sometimes used to maintain the school campus and equipment.</p> <p>The school and campus are partially clean, maintained, and inviting, but some safety issues exist.</p>	
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	<p>Protocols do not exist or are rarely, if ever, used to maintain the school campus and equipment.</p> <p>The school and campus are not clean, maintained, or inviting, and safety issues exist.</p>	

## 2. DATA COLLECTION ANALYSIS

### 2.3 Professional Capacity

Analyze the LEA's data (including sections 2.6) and answer the guiding questions to determine existing trends and patterns that support the identification of professional capacity needs. Complete a data-informed self-rating for each Georgia School Performance Standard (GSPS). See the [Professional Capacity webinar](#) for additional information and guidance.

#### Professional Capacity Data

Leadership Standard 5 -Builds leadership capacity through shared decision-making and problem-solving		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	Extensive structures exist for staff to engage in shared decision-making and problem-solving and to build their leadership capacities.  Administrators collaborate consistently with staff members to gather input.	
<b>2. Operational</b>	Numerous structures exist for staff to engage in shared decision-making and problem-solving and to build their leadership capacities.	
<b>3. Emerging</b>	Some structures exist for staff to engage in shared decision-making, problem-solving, or both.	✓
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	Few, if any, structures exist for staff to engage in shared decision-making or problem-solving.	

Professional Learning Standard 1 -Aligns professional learning with needs identified through analysis of a variety of data		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	Professional learning needs are identified and differentiated through a collaborative analysis process using a variety of data (e.g., student achievement data, examination of student work, process data, teacher and leader effectiveness data, action research data, perception data from students, staff, and families).  Ongoing support is provided through differentiated professional learning.	
<b>2. Operational</b>	Professional learning needs are identified through a collaborative analysis process using a variety of data (e.g., student achievement data, examination of student work, process data, teacher and leader effectiveness data, action research data, perception data from students, staff, and families).	✓
<b>3. Emerging</b>	Professional learning needs are identified using limited sources of data.	
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	Professional learning needs are identified using little or no data.	

## Professional Capacity Data

Professional Learning Standard 2 -Establishes a culture of collaboration among administrators and staff to enhance individual and collective performance		
1. Exemplary	Administrators and staff, as a foundational practice, consistently collaborate to support leadership and personal accountability and to enhance individual and collective performance (e.g., construct knowledge, acquire skills, refine practice, provide feedback).  Teachers conduct action research and assume ownership of professional learning processes.	
2. Operational	Administrators and staff routinely collaborate to improve individual and collective performance (e.g., construct knowledge, acquire skills, refine practice, provide feedback).	✓
3. Emerging	Administrators and staff sometimes collaborate to improve individual and collective performance.	
4. Not Evident	Administrators and staff rarely collaborate to improve individual and collective performance.	

Professional Learning Standard 3 -Defines expectations for implementing professional learning		
1. Exemplary	Administrators, teacher leaders, or both consistently define expectations for the implementation of professional learning, including details regarding the stages of implementation and how monitoring will occur as implementation progresses.	
2. Operational	Administrators, teacher leaders, or both regularly define expectations for the implementation of professional learning.	✓
3. Emerging	Administrators, teacher leaders, or both occasionally define expectations for the implementation of professional learning.	
4. Not Evident	Administrators, teacher leaders, or both rarely, if ever, define expectations for the implementation of professional learning.	

## Professional Capacity Data

Professional Learning Standard 4 -Uses multiple professional learning designs to support the various learning needs of the staff		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	Staff members actively participate in job-embedded professional learning that engages collaborative teams in a variety of appropriate learning designs (e.g., collaborative lesson study, analysis of student work, problem solving sessions, curriculum development, coursework, action research, classroom observations, online networks).  Professional learning includes extensive follow-up with descriptive feedback and coaching.	
<b>2. Operational</b>	Staff members actively participate in professional learning, most of which is job-embedded, which includes multiple designs (e.g., collaborative lesson study, analysis of student work, problem-solving sessions, curriculum development, coursework, action research, classroom observations, online networks) to support their various learning needs.  Professional learning includes follow-up with feedback and coaching.	✓
<b>3. Emerging</b>	Some staff members are engaged in professional learning that makes use of more than one learning design to address their identified needs.	
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	Staff members receive single, stand-alone professional learning events that are informational and mostly large-group presentation designs.	

Professional Learning Standard 5 -Allocates resources and establishes systems to support and sustain effective professional learning		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	Extensive resources (e.g., substitute teachers, materials, handouts, tools, stipends, facilitators, technology) and systems (e.g., conducive schedules, adequate collaborative time, model classrooms) are allocated to support and sustain effective professional learning.  Opportunities to practice skills, receive follow-up, feedback, and coaching are provided to support the effectiveness of professional learning.	✓
<b>2. Operational</b>	Adequate resources (e.g., substitute teachers, materials, handouts, tools, stipends, facilitators, technology) and systems (e.g., conducive schedules, adequate collaborative time, model classrooms) are in place to support and sustain professional learning.	
<b>3. Emerging</b>	Some resources and systems are allocated to support and sustain professional learning.	
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	Few, if any, resources and systems are provided to support and sustain professional learning.	

## Professional Capacity Data

Professional Learning Standard 6 -Monitors and evaluates the impact of professional learning on staff practices and student learning		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	Monitoring and evaluating the impact of professional learning on staff practices and increases in student learning occurs extensively.  Evaluation results are used to identify and implement processes to extend student learning.	
<b>2. Operational</b>	Monitoring and evaluating the impact of professional learning on staff practices and student learning occurs routinely.	✓
<b>3. Emerging</b>	Monitoring and evaluating the impact of professional learning on staff practices occurs sporadically.	
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	Monitoring and evaluating the impact of professional learning on staff practices occurs rarely, if ever.	

## 2. DATA COLLECTION ANALYSIS

### 2.4 Family and Community Engagement

Analyze the LEA's data (including sections 2.6) and answer the guiding questions to determine existing trends and patterns that support the identification of needs related to family and community engagement. Complete a data-informed self-rating for each Georgia School Performance Standard (GSPS). See the [Family and Community Engagement webinar](#) for additional information and guidance. Visit Georgia's Family Connection Partnership's [KIDS COUNT](#) for additional data.

#### Family and Community Engagement Data

Family and Community Engagement Standard 1 -Creates an environment that welcomes, encourages, and connects family and community members to the school		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	The school has a well-established, inviting learning environment that welcomes, encourages, and connects family and community members to the school.  Numerous opportunities are given to family members to become actively engaged in school-related events and improvement efforts as participants, event managers, and workers.	✓
<b>2. Operational</b>	The school has created an environment that welcomes, encourages, and connects family and community members to the school.	
<b>3. Emerging</b>	The school has made some progress toward creating an environment that welcomes, encourages, and connects family and community members to the school.	
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	The school has not created an environment that welcomes, encourages, or connects family and community members to the school.	

Family and Community Engagement Standard 2 -Establishes structures that promote clear and open communication between the school and stakeholders		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	Extensive structures that promote clear and open communication between the school and stakeholders have been effectively established and implemented.  Structures are continuously monitored for reliable and interactive communication.	
<b>2. Operational</b>	Most structures that promote clear and open communication between the school and stakeholders have been effectively established and implemented.	✓
<b>3. Emerging</b>	Some structures that promote clear and open communication between the school and stakeholders exist.	
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	Few, if any, structures that promote clear and open communication between the school and stakeholders exist.	

## Family and Community Engagement Data

<b>Family and Community Engagement Standard 3</b> -Establishes relationships and decision-making processes that build capacity for family and community engagement in the success of students		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	<p>A wide variety of relationships and collaborative decision-making processes (e.g., business partnerships, school councils, parent or family organizations, academic and extra-curricular booster clubs, civic organizations, tutoring services, post-secondary partnerships) are pervasive in promoting student success and well being.</p> <p>Expectations for family and community engagement are embedded in the culture and result in stakeholders being actively involved in decision-making.</p>	
<b>2. Operational</b>	Numerous relationships and decision-making processes (e.g., business partnerships, school councils, parent or family organizations, academic and extra-curricular booster clubs, civic organizations, tutoring services) effectively build capacity for family and community engagement in the success of students.	✓
<b>3. Emerging</b>	Limited relationships and decision-making processes have been initiated by the school to build capacity for family and community engagement.	
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	Relationships and decision-making processes for families and the community are non-existent, or those that do exist contribute minimally to student success.	

<b>Family and Community Engagement Standard 4</b> -Communicates academic expectations and current student achievement status to families		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	<p>The school staff provides families with ongoing, detailed academic expectations and/or graduation status (e.g., four-year graduation plans, syllabi, academic advisement protocols).</p> <p>Extensive communication related to the current achievement level of individual students is provided (e.g., progress reports, student-led parent conferences, report cards, reading level reports, state test reports, school-based assessment reports, online reporting system).</p>	
<b>2. Operational</b>	<p>The school staff communicates academic expectations and/or graduation status (e.g., four-year graduation plans, syllabi, academic advisement protocols) throughout the year.</p> <p>Regular communication related to the current achievement level of individual students is provided (e.g., progress reports, parent conferences, report cards, reading level reports, state test reports, school-based assessment reports, online reporting system).</p>	✓
<b>3. Emerging</b>	<p>The school staff communicates some academic expectations at the start of the year.</p> <p>Some communication related to the current achievement level of individual students is provided.</p>	
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	<p>The school staff does little to inform families of academic expectations.</p> <p>Little, if any, communication related to the current achievement level of individual students is provided.</p>	

## Family and Community Engagement Data

<b>Family and Community Engagement Standard 5</b> -Develops the capacity of families to use support strategies at home that will enhance academic achievement		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	The school continually develops the capacity (e.g., parent training, lunch and learn, make-it and take-it) of families to use support strategies at home that will enhance academic achievement.	✓
<b>2. Operational</b>	The school frequently develops the capacity (e.g., parent training, lunch and learn, make-it and take-it) of families to use support strategies at home that will enhance academic achievement.	
<b>3. Emerging</b>	The school occasionally develops the capacity of families to use support strategies at home that will enhance academic achievement.	
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	The school seldom, if ever, develops the capacity of families to use support strategies at home that will enhance academic achievement.	

<b>Family and Community Engagement Standard 6</b> -Connects families with agencies and resources in the community to meet the needs of students		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	The school has a systematic process in place to connect families with an array of agencies and resources (e.g., Y-Clubs, after-school programs, health and counseling services, community service agencies, civic organizations, tutoring services) to meet the needs of students.	✓
<b>2. Operational</b>	The school regularly connects families to agencies and resources in the community (e.g., Y-Clubs, after-school programs, health and counseling services, community service agencies, civic organizations, tutoring services) to meet the needs of students.	
<b>3. Emerging</b>	The school sometimes connects families to agencies and resources in the community to meet the needs of students.	
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	The school does little to connect families with agencies and resources in the community to meet the needs of students.	



## 2. DATA COLLECTION ANALYSIS

### 2.5 Supportive Learning Environment

Analyze the LEA's data (including sections 2.6) and answer the guiding questions to determine existing trends and patterns that support the identification of needs related to a supportive learning environment. Complete a data-informed self-rating for each Georgia School Performance Standard (GSPS). Student subgroups with a count of less than 15 are denoted by "TFS" (too few students). See the [Supportive Learning Environment webinar](#) for additional information and guidance.

#### Supportive Learning Environment Data

Instruction Standard 1 -Provides a supportive and well-managed environment conducive to learning		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	A supportive and well-managed environment conducive to learning is evident throughout the school.  Students consistently stay on-task and take responsibility for their own actions.	
<b>2. Operational</b>	A supportive and well-managed environment conducive to learning is evident in most classrooms.	✓
<b>3. Emerging</b>	A supportive and well-managed environment conducive to learning is evident in some classrooms.	
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	A supportive and well-managed environment conducive to learning is evident in few, if any, classrooms.	

Instruction Standard 2 -Creates an academically challenging learning environment		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	Nearly all teachers create an academically challenging, learning environment (e.g., higher-order thinking skills and processes, active student engagement, relevance, collaboration).  Students consistently work independently and in teams to solve real-world problems that require advanced effort, decision-making, and critical and creative thinking.	
<b>2. Operational</b>	Most teachers create an academically challenging, learning environment (e.g., higher-order thinking skills and processes, active student engagement, relevance, collaboration).	
<b>3. Emerging</b>	Some teachers create an academically challenging learning environment.	✓
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	Few, if any, teachers create an academically challenging learning environment.	

## Supportive Learning Environment Data

<b>Instruction Standard 8</b> -Establishes a learning environment that empowers students to actively monitor their own progress		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	Nearly all students use tools (e.g., rubrics, checklists, exemplars) to actively monitor their own progress.  Nearly all students develop a sense of personal responsibility and accountability by engaging in record keeping, self-monitoring, sharing, exhibiting, and self-reflection.	
<b>2. Operational</b>	Most students use tools (e.g., rubrics, checklists, exemplars) to actively monitor their own progress.	
<b>3. Emerging</b>	Some students use tools to actively monitor their own progress.	✓
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	Few, if any, students use tools to actively monitor their own progress.	

<b>School Culture Standard 1</b> -Develops, communicates, and implements rules, practices, and procedures to maintain a safe, orderly learning environment		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	Rules, practices, and procedures that maintain a safe, orderly learning environment are proactively developed, communicated, and consistently implemented across the school.  These rules, practices, and procedures are continually monitored and revised as needed.	
<b>2. Operational</b>	Rules, practices, and procedures that maintain a safe, orderly learning environment are developed, communicated, and implemented.	✓
<b>3. Emerging</b>	Rules, practices, and procedures are developed and communicated but are ineffective or inconsistently implemented across the school.	
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	Rules, practices, and procedures that maintain a safe, orderly, learning environment are not developed nor updated or are poorly communicated.	

## Supportive Learning Environment Data

<b>School Culture Standard 2</b> -Establishes a culture of trust and respect that promotes positive interactions and a sense of community		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	<p>Extensive evidence (e.g., positive and respectful interactions, appreciation of diversity, tolerance, understanding) exists that a culture of trust and respect has been established.</p> <p>A pervasive commitment to promoting positive interactions and a sense of community is evident.</p>	
<b>2. Operational</b>	<p>Evidence (e.g., positive and respectful interactions, appreciation of diversity, tolerance, understanding) exists that a culture of trust and respect has been established.</p> <p>A sustained commitment to promoting positive interactions and a sense of community is evident.</p>	✓
<b>3. Emerging</b>	<p>Some evidence exists that a culture of trust and respect has been established.</p> <p>A limited commitment to promoting positive interactions and a sense of community is evident.</p>	
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	<p>Little or no evidence exists that a culture of trust and respect has been established.</p> <p>Unresolved conflicts interfere with a sense of community.</p>	

<b>School Culture Standard 3</b> -Establishes a culture that supports the college and career readiness of students		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	<p>Extensive evidence (e.g., advisement, career counseling, transition coaching, high expectations) exists that the beliefs and practices of the school support the college and career readiness of students.</p> <p>The school culture supports addressing individual achievement needs and strengths to prepare students for success.</p>	
<b>2. Operational</b>	Evidence (e.g., advisement, career counseling, transition coaching, high expectations) exists that the beliefs and practices of the school support the college and career readiness of students.	
<b>3. Emerging</b>	Some evidence exists that the school supports the college and career readiness of students.	✓
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	Little or no evidence exists that the school supports the college and career readiness of students.	

## Supportive Learning Environment Data

School Culture Standard 4 -Supports the personal growth and development of students		
1. Exemplary	The school staff consistently provides a comprehensive system of support (e.g., counseling, mentoring, advisement, coaching, goal setting, time management, problem solving) to maximize the personal growth and development of nearly all students.	
2. Operational	The school staff regularly provides support (e.g., counseling, mentoring, advisement, coaching, goal setting, time management, problem solving) to enhance the personal growth and development of students.	✓
3. Emerging	The school staff sporadically supports the personal growth and development of students.	
4. Not Evident	The school staff does little to support the personal growth and development of students.	

School Culture Standard 5 -Recognizes and celebrates achievements and accomplishments of students and staff		
1. Exemplary	<p>The school community consistently recognizes and celebrates the achievements and accomplishments of students and staff.</p> <p>The celebrations are publicized within the school and to the community and support the culture of the school.</p>	
2. Operational	The school community regularly recognizes and celebrates the achievements and accomplishments of students and staff.	✓
3. Emerging	The school community periodically recognizes or celebrates the achievements or accomplishments of students and/or staff.	
4. Not Evident	The school community rarely, if ever, recognizes or celebrates the achievements or accomplishments of students or staff.	

## Supportive Learning Environment Data

<b>Planning and Organization Standard 1</b> -Shares a common vision and mission that define the school culture and guide the continuous improvement process		
<b>1. Exemplary</b>	<p>A common vision and mission have been collaboratively developed and communicated to nearly all stakeholders.</p> <p>The culture of the school has been deeply defined over time by the vision and mission, which are updated as needed.</p> <p>The daily work and practices of staff consistently demonstrate a sustained commitment to continuous improvement.</p>	
<b>2. Operational</b>	<p>A common vision and mission have been developed through a collaborative process and communicated to most stakeholders.</p> <p>The vision and mission define the culture of the school and guide the continuous improvement process.</p>	✓
<b>3. Emerging</b>	A common vision and mission have been developed by some staff members but have not been effectively communicated so that they guide the continuous improvement process.	
<b>4. Not Evident</b>	A common vision and mission have not been developed or updated or have been developed by a few staff members.	

## 2. DATA COLLECTION ANALYSIS

### 2.6 Data Analysis Questions

Analyze the LEA's data and answer the guiding questions to determine existing trends and patterns that support the identification of demographic and financial needs. Student subgroups with a count of less than 15 are denoted by "TFS" (too few students).

<p><b>What perception data did you use?</b> [examples: student perceptions about school climate issues (health survey, violence, prejudice, bullying, etc.); student/parent perceptions about the effectiveness of programs or interventions; student understanding of relationship of school to career or has an academic plan]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● health surveys</li> <li>● student surveys</li> <li>● teacher/personnel surveys</li> <li>● parent surveys of programs and/or interventions</li> <li>● panorama benchmark screener/SEL</li> <li>● Student Council</li> <li>● Teacher/Student feedback</li> <li>● School Compact</li> </ul>
<p><b>What does the perception data tell you?</b> (perception data can describe people's knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, perceptions, competencies; perception data can also answer the question "What do people think they know, believe, or can do?")</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The parents agree they want their children to have opportunity for the best education in the best environment</li> <li>● Panorama tells us the students feel supported by staff; they believe they can improve their achievement; and how they are building and maintaining relationships with their peers, and staff.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What process data did you use?</b> (examples: student participation in school activities, sports, clubs, arts; student participation in special programs such as peer mediation, counseling, skills conferences; parent/student participation in events such as college information meetings and parent workshops)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Participation of Counseling Sessions</li> <li>● Participation Rate of Parent workshops</li> <li>● parent participation in conferences, workshops, trainings</li> <li>● students/parent participation in events</li> </ul>
<p><b>What does the process data tell you?</b> (process data describes the way programs are conducted; provides evidence of participant involvement in programs; answers the question "What did you do for whom?")</p>	<p>What did you do for Whom?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Parent attendance at events increased greatly</li> <li>● students enjoyed recognition events for their achievement</li> <li>● Numerous opportunities for students to participate in school activities, Field Day, Performances</li> </ul>

What achievement data did you use?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● iReady Math &amp; Reading Diagnostic</li><li>● GMAS</li></ul>
What does your achievement data tell you?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● iReady results, 65% of students were 1 or More grade levels below.</li><li>● Over 50% of students scored Beginning/Developing both Reading and Math GMAS</li></ul>
What demographic data did you use?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Preliminary Sub group EOG Data</li></ul>
What does the demographic data tell you?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● SWD are struggling in GMAS content areas and are a big percentage of the scores</li><li>● The Black/Non Hispanic Subgroup accounted for the majority of the GMAS testing score; and SWD accounted for 27% of that subgroup</li></ul>

### 3. NEEDS IDENTIFICATION AND ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS

#### 3.1 Strengths and Challenges Based on Trends and Patterns

Read the trends and patterns summaries from each section of the data analysis process. Use the information in these summaries to complete 3.2 and 3.3. Using the summaries in 3.1 and other local data, describe the strengths and challenges or answer the guiding questions for each program. Include strengths and challenges related to: a) general program implementation, and b) students and adults involved in or affected by the program. Focus on strengths and challenges that will assist in the identification of needs during 3.2. Watch the [Identifying Need webinar](#) for additional information and guidance.

##### Strengths and Challenges Based on Trends and Patterns

<p><b>Coherent Instructional:</b> Summarize the coherent instructional system trends and patterns observed by the team while completing this section of the report. What are the important trends and patterns that will support the identification of student, teacher, and leader needs?</p>	<p>Most of the indicators were ranked as "<b>Emerging</b>" The following areas of Coherent Instructional Systems were ranked as "<b>Operational</b>"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Curriculum Standard 1- Uses systematic, collaborative planning processes so that teachers share and understanding of expectations for standards,</li> <li>● Curriculum Standard 2- Designs curriculum documents and aligns resources with the intended rigor of the required standards</li> <li>● Assessment Standard 1- Aligns assessments with the required standards</li> <li>● Assessment Standard 5- Implements grading practices that provide accurate indication of student progress</li> </ul> <p>The areas of challenges or "<b>Emerging</b>" indicate that monitoring, collaboration, providing timely-systematic data-driven interventions; learning environments that empower student active self monitoring, less than most of the teachers demonstrate a repertoire of effective practices, only some of the teachers differentiate instruction,...</p>
<p><b>Effective Leadership:</b> Summarize the effective leadership trends and patterns observed by the team while completing this section of the report. What are the important trends and patterns that will support the identification of student, teacher, and leader needs?</p>	<p>Some structures exist for staff to engage in shared decision-making, problem-solving, or both. Staff and stakeholders will be given the opportunity through surveys, fireside chats, exit tickets - to guide decision making processes.</p>
<p><b>Professional Capacity:</b> Summarize the professional capacity trends and patterns observed by the team while completing this section of the report. What are the important trends and patterns that will support the identification of student, teacher, and leader needs?</p>	<p>Some structures exist for staff to engage in shared decision-making, problem-solving, or both. Staff and stakeholders will be given the opportunity through surveys, fireside chats, exit tickets - to guide decision making processes.</p>



## Strengths and Challenges Based on Trends and Patterns

<p><b>Family and Community Engagement:</b> Summarize the family and community engagement trends and patterns observed by the team while completing this section of the report. What are the important trends and patterns that will support the identification of student, teacher, and leader needs?</p>	<p>Of the 6 indicators in this section 3 were ranked Operational, 0 Emerging, 3 Exemplary and 0 Not Evident</p>
<p><b>Supportive Learning Environment:</b> Summarize the supportive learning environment trends and patterns observed by the team while completing this section of the report. What are the important trends and patterns that will support the identification of student, teacher, and leader needs?</p>	<p>Emerging - academically challenging environment - Leadership team will provide opportunities of professional growth to support what an academically challenging environment should look like - leadership team will monitor through peer observations</p>
<p><b>Demographic and Financial:</b> Summarize the demographic and financial trends and patterns observed by the team while completing this section of the report. What are the important trends and patterns that will support the identification of student, teacher, and leader needs?</p>	<p>A. Brian Merry is a Title I School.</p> <p>Analysis of CNA data reveals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• iReady Reading scores indicate an increase in all grades except 5th</li> <li>• iReady Math scores indicate increases in only K, 3rd grade</li> <li>• Math iReady scores were lower than ELA scores</li> </ul> <p><b>GMAS READING</b> Demographic data reveals....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (84) 53.85% of the testing population scored Below/Beginning level</li> <li>• The subgroup Black/Non Hispanic was the largest subgroup (120) of the testing population. 86.3% (114) scored Below/Beginning Learner; (18) 13.6% scored Proficient or Distinguished. This subgroup also has the largest population of SPED students.</li> <li>• SWD account for 27.7% of the testing population (36) students; 94% (32) of these students are Black/Non Hispanic</li> <li>• 100% of SWD scored Below/Beginner Level</li> </ul> <p><b>GMAS MATH</b> Demographic data reveals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 90.91% of the Black/Non Hispanic population and scored Below/Beginner Level</li> <li>• 87% (135) of the testing population scored Below/Beginner Level</li> <li>• SWD account for 27.7% of the testing population (36) students; 94% (32) of these students are Black/Non Hispanic</li> <li>• 100% of SWD scored Below/Beginner Level</li> </ul>

## Strengths and Challenges Based on Trends and Patterns

<b>Student Achievement:</b> Summarize the student achievement trends and patterns observed by the team while completing this section of the report. What are the important trends and patterns that will support the identification of student, teacher, and leader needs?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Student achievement (GMAS) in Math EOG Assessment is a significant deficit.</li> <li>● The majority of the testing population scored Below/Beginner Level in both Reading (84) 53.85% , Math (135) 87%</li> <li>● The SPED had 0% of the tested population to score Proficient/Distinguished Level</li> </ul>
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IDEA – Special Education, Economically Disadvantaged Children, and English Learners.

Using the summaries in 3.1 and other local data, describe the strengths and challenges or answer the guiding questions for each program. Include strengths and challenges related to: a) general program implementation, and b) students and adults involved in or affected by the program. Focus on strengths and challenges that will assist in the identification of needs during 3.3. Watch the [Identifying Need webinar](#) for additional information and guidance.

Strengths	<b>Strengths</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SWD scheduling</li> <li>● collaborative services</li> <li>● SWD students receiving grade level instruction</li> </ul>
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Challenges	Students in these sub groups are behind their peers academically/social emotional/Challenges
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### 3. NEEDS IDENTIFICATION AND ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS

#### 3.2 Identification and Prioritization of Overarching Needs

Use the results of 3.1 to identify the overarching needs of the LEA. Determine the priority order of the identified needs based on data, team member and stakeholder knowledge, and answers to questions in the table below. Be sure to address the major program challenges identified in 3.1. Watch the [Identifying Need webinar](#) for additional information and guidance.

##### Overarching Need # 1

Overarching Need	Improve student achievement in Math
How severe is the need?	High
Is the need trending better or worse over time?	Worse
Can Root Causes be Identified?	Yes
Priority Order	1

Additional Considerations	Strategic scheduling and considerations for SWD receiving On Grade Level Instruction
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##### Overarching Need # 2

Overarching Need	Improve student achievement in ELA
How severe is the need?	High
Is the need trending better or worse over time?	Better
Can Root Causes be Identified?	Yes
Priority Order	2

Additional Considerations	Strategic scheduling and considerations for SWD receiving On Grade Level Instruction
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##### Overarching Need # 3

Overarching Need	A systematic behavior plan
How severe is the need?	Low
Is the need trending better or worse over time?	No Change
Can Root Causes be Identified?	Yes

Overarching Need # 3

Priority Order	3
Additional Considerations	EBD Class. Novice teachers.

## 3. NEEDS IDENTIFICATION AND ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS

## 3.3 Root Cause Analysis

Select the top 2-4 overarching needs from 3.2. Conduct a separate root cause analysis (RCA) for each need. Any RCA tools and resources can be used, but suggestions are available as part of the [Identifying Need webinar](#). After describing the RCA process, complete a table for each selected overarching need.

## Overarching Need - Improve student achievement in Math

## Root Cause # 1

Root Causes to be Addressed	The lack of Tier 1 instruction
This is a root cause and not a contributing cause or symptom	Yes
This is something we can affect	Yes
Impacted Programs	IDEA - Special Education

Additional Responses	SWD schedules now support exposure to tier 1 instruction Novice Teachers
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## Root Cause # 2

Root Causes to be Addressed	Deficiencies in foundational skills/numbers and operations
This is a root cause and not a contributing cause or symptom	Yes
This is something we can affect	Yes
Impacted Programs	IDEA - Special Education Title I - Part A - Improving Academic Achievement of Disadvantaged Title I, Part A - Parent and Family Engagement Program

Additional Responses	
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**Overarching Need - Improve student achievement in ELA****Root Cause # 1**

Root Causes to be Addressed	the achievement gap is wide
This is a root cause and not a contributing cause or symptom	Yes
This is something we can affect	Yes
Impacted Programs	IDEA - Special Education Title I - Part A - Improving Academic Achievement of Disadvantaged Title I, Part A - Parent and Family Engagement Program

Additional Responses	
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**Root Cause # 2**

Root Causes to be Addressed	lack of effective reading strategies for special needs students
This is a root cause and not a contributing cause or symptom	Yes
This is something we can affect	Yes
Impacted Programs	IDEA - Special Education Title I - Part A - Improving Academic Achievement of Disadvantaged

Additional Responses	
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**Overarching Need - A systematic behavior plan****Root Cause # 1**

Root Causes to be Addressed	students sent to office for minor infractions
This is a root cause and not a contributing cause or symptom	Yes
This is something we can affect	Yes
Impacted Programs	IDEA - Special Education Title I - Part A - Improving Academic Achievement of Disadvantaged

## Root Cause # 1

Additional Responses	
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## Root Cause # 2

Root Causes to be Addressed	lack of positive behavior systems in the classroom
This is a root cause and not a contributing cause or symptom	Yes
This is something we can affect	Yes
Impacted Programs	IDEA - Special Education Title I - Part A - Improving Academic Achievement of Disadvantaged

Additional Responses	
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# School Improvement Plan 2023 - 2024



**Richmond County  
Merry Elementary School**



## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

## 1 General Improvement Plan Information

## General Improvement Plan Information

District	Richmond County
School Name	Merry Elementary School
Team Lead	Brandi James
Federal Funding Options to Be Employed (SWP Schools) in this Plan (Select all that apply)	Consolidation of Funds – Fund 150: Consolidation of State/Local and Federal Funds
Select the Funds that the LEA anticipates will be consolidated	Title I, Part A Title I, Part A Parent and Family Engagement set-aside

Factors(s) Used by District to Identify Students in Poverty (Select all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Free/Reduced meal application
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Community Eligibility Program (CEP) - Direct Certification ONLY
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (if selected, please describe below)

## 2. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOALS

### 2.1 Overarching Need # 1

#### Overarching Need

Overarching Need as identified in CNA Section 3.2	Improve student achievement in Math
Root Cause # 1	The lack of Tier 1 instruction
Root Cause # 2	Deficiencies in foundational skills/numbers and operations
Goal	By May 2024, the percentage of students performing on grade level in math will increase by 35% (140) students as measured by the Math iReady EOY Diagnostic.

#### Action Step # 1

Action Step	Engage teachers in ongoing professional learning and coaching on the best practices to implement number talks.
Funding Sources	Consolidated Funding
Subgroups	Economically Disadvantaged Race / Ethnicity / Minority Student with Disabilities
Systems	Coherent Instruction Effective Leadership Professional Capacity
Method for Monitoring Implementation	observations walk-throughs peer observations collaborative planning professional learning
Method for Monitoring Effectiveness	assessments CMAs iReady GMAS
Position/Role Responsible	James/Principal Thomas/AP Elrod/IS Randolph/MTSS Teachers
Timeline for Implementation	Monthly

## Action Step # 1

What partnerships, if any, with IHEs, business, Non-Profits, Community based organizations, or any private entity with a demonstrated record of success is the LEA implementing in carrying out this action step(s)?	
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## Action Step # 2

Action Step	Targeted Coaching Cycle Provided for teachers who struggle with tier 1 math instruction.
Funding Sources	Consolidated Funding
Subgroups	Economically Disadvantaged Race / Ethnicity / Minority Student with Disabilities
Systems	Coherent Instruction Effective Leadership Professional Capacity
Method for Monitoring Implementation	observations walk-throughs peer observations collaborative planning professional learning
Method for Monitoring Effectiveness	assessments CMAs IReady GMAS
Position/Role Responsible	Elrod/IS
Timeline for Implementation	Weekly

What partnerships, if any, with IHEs, business, Non-Profits, Community based organizations, or any private entity with a demonstrated record of success is the LEA implementing in carrying out this action step(s)?	
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## Action Step # 3

Action Step	All math teachers will plan and collaborate to develop unit plans to align with new math standards.
Funding Sources	Consolidated Funding
Subgroups	Economically Disadvantaged Race / Ethnicity / Minority Student with Disabilities
Systems	Coherent Instruction Effective Leadership Professional Capacity
Method for Monitoring Implementation	observations walk-throughs peer observations collaborative planning professional learning
Method for Monitoring Effectiveness	assessments CMAs IReady GMAS
Position/Role Responsible	James/Principal Thomas/AP Elrod/IS Randolph/MTSS Teachers
Timeline for Implementation	Weekly

What partnerships, if any, with IHEs, business, Non-Profits, Community based organizations, or any private entity with a demonstrated record of success is the LEA implementing in carrying out this action step(s)?	
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## Action Step # 4

## Action Step # 4

Action Step	Teachers will implement Math fluency and problem solving stations at least 3xs a week.
Funding Sources	Consolidated Funding
Subgroups	Economically Disadvantaged Race / Ethnicity / Minority Student with Disabilities
Systems	Coherent Instruction Effective Leadership Professional Capacity
Method for Monitoring Implementation	observations walk-throughs peer observations collaborative planning professional learning
Method for Monitoring Effectiveness	assessments CMAs IReady GMAS
Position/Role Responsible	James/Principal Thomas/AP Elrod/IS Randolph/MTSS Teachers
Timeline for Implementation	Weekly

What partnerships, if any, with IHEs, business, Non-Profits, Community based organizations, or any private entity with a demonstrated record of success is the LEA implementing in carrying out this action step(s)?	
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## Action Step # 5

## Action Step # 5

Action Step	Admin team will attend the MTE National Conference for Mathematics teachers and leaders
Funding Sources	Consolidated Funding
Subgroups	Economically Disadvantaged Race / Ethnicity / Minority Student with Disabilities
Systems	Coherent Instruction Effective Leadership Professional Capacity
Method for Monitoring Implementation	observations walk-throughs peer observations collaborative planning professional learning
Method for Monitoring Effectiveness	assessments CMAs IReady GMAS
Position/Role Responsible	James/Principal Thomas/AP Elrod/IS Randolph/MTSS Teachers
Timeline for Implementation	Others : unknown until information is provided

What partnerships, if any, with IHEs, business, Non-Profits, Community based organizations, or any private entity with a demonstrated record of success is the LEA implementing in carrying out this action step(s)?	
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## 2. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOALS

## 2.2 Overarching Need # 2

## Overarching Need

Overarching Need as identified in CNA Section 3.2	Improve student achievement in ELA
Root Cause # 1	the achievement gap is wide
Root Cause # 2	lack of effective reading strategies for special needs students
Goal	By May 2024, 29% (116) of our students scoring 1 or more grade levels below as measured by the BOY diagnostic will increase by one grade level as measured by the iReady EOY Diagnostic.

## Action Step # 1

Action Step	All ELA teachers will participate in professional learning throughout the school year in the areas of: Tiered PL in Phonological Awareness, Phonics, Fluency, Vocabulary, and Comprehension
Funding Sources	Consolidated Funding
Subgroups	Economically Disadvantaged Race / Ethnicity / Minority Student with Disabilities
Systems	Coherent Instruction Effective Leadership Professional Capacity
Method for Monitoring Implementation	observations walk-throughs peer observations collaborative planning professional learning
Method for Monitoring Effectiveness	Assessments CMAs GMAS iReady
Position/Role Responsible	Elrod/IS
Timeline for Implementation	Monthly

## Action Step # 1

What partnerships, if any, with IHEs, business, Non-Profits, Community based organizations, or any private entity with a demonstrated record of success is the LEA implementing in carrying out this action step(s)?	
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## Action Step # 2

Action Step	Develop and implement an universal lesson plan template that will include an alignment of learning targets and success criteria.
Funding Sources	Consolidated Funding
Subgroups	Economically Disadvantaged Race / Ethnicity / Minority Student with Disabilities
Systems	Coherent Instruction Effective Leadership Professional Capacity
Method for Monitoring Implementation	observations walk-throughs peer observations collaborative planning professional learning
Method for Monitoring Effectiveness	Assessments CMAs IReady GMAS
Position/Role Responsible	James/Principal Thomas/AP Elrod/IS Randolph/MTSS Teachers
Timeline for Implementation	Weekly



## Action Step # 2

What partnerships, if any, with IHEs, business, Non-Profits, Community based organizations, or any private entity with a demonstrated record of success is the LEA implementing in carrying out this action step(s)?	
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## Action Step # 3

Action Step	Teachers will plan/collaborate and analyze student data after each unit.
Funding Sources	Consolidated Funding
Subgroups	Economically Disadvantaged Race / Ethnicity / Minority Student with Disabilities
Systems	Coherent Instruction Effective Leadership Professional Capacity
Method for Monitoring Implementation	observations walk-throughs peer observations collaborative planning professional learning
Method for Monitoring Effectiveness	Assessments CMAs IReady GMAS
Position/Role Responsible	James/Principal Thomas/AP Elrod/IS Randolph/MTSS Teachers
Timeline for Implementation	Monthly

## Action Step # 3

What partnerships, if any, with IHEs, business, Non-Profits, Community based organizations, or any private entity with a demonstrated record of success is the LEA implementing in carrying out this action step(s)?	
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## Action Step # 4

Action Step	Admin team will monitor intervention time and intervention plans.
Funding Sources	Consolidated Funding
Subgroups	Economically Disadvantaged Race / Ethnicity / Minority Student with Disabilities
Systems	Coherent Instruction Effective Leadership Professional Capacity
Method for Monitoring Implementation	observations walk-throughs peer observations collaborative planning professional learning
Method for Monitoring Effectiveness	Assessments CMAs IReady GMAS
Position/Role Responsible	James/Principal Thomas/AP Elrod/IS Randolph/MTSS Teachers
Timeline for Implementation	Weekly

## Action Step # 4

What partnerships, if any, with IHEs, business, Non-Profits, Community based organizations, or any private entity with a demonstrated record of success is the LEA implementing in carrying out this action step(s)?	
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## Action Step # 5

Action Step	A Merry Team will attend the GCTE conference focused on GA ELA Teachers and Leaders.
Funding Sources	Consolidated Funding
Subgroups	Economically Disadvantaged Race / Ethnicity / Minority Student with Disabilities
Systems	Coherent Instruction Effective Leadership Professional Capacity
Method for Monitoring Implementation	observations walk-throughs peer observations collaborative planning professional learning
Method for Monitoring Effectiveness	Assessments CMAs IReady GMAS
Position/Role Responsible	James/Principal Thomas/AP Elrod/IS Randolph/MTSS Teachers
Timeline for Implementation	Others : unknown until team attends

Action Step # 5

What partnerships, if any, with IHEs, business, Non-Profits, Community based organizations, or any private entity with a demonstrated record of success is the LEA implementing in carrying out this action step(s)?	
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## 2. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOALS

## 2.3 Overarching Need # 3

## Overarching Need

Overarching Need as identified in CNA Section 3.2	A systematic behavior plan
Root Cause # 1	students sent to office for minor infractions
Root Cause # 2	lack of positive behavior systems in the classroom
Goal	By May 2024, 50% (16 ) of teachers will implement an effective school-wide positive behavior management system.

## Action Step # 1

Action Step	Develop a team of teachers to help develop a school-wide positive behavior management system.
Funding Sources	Consolidated Funding
Subgroups	Economically Disadvantaged Race / Ethnicity / Minority Student with Disabilities
Systems	Coherent Instruction Effective Leadership Professional Capacity Family and Community Engagement
Method for Monitoring Implementation	observations peer observations student reflection teacher feedback parent feedback
Method for Monitoring Effectiveness	Academic Assessments Behavior Referral Data Fireside chat with teachers/students/parents
Position/Role Responsible	James/Principal Thomas/AP Elrod/IS Mack/Counselor Randolph/MTSS Teachers
Timeline for Implementation	Monthly

## Action Step # 1

What partnerships, if any, with IHEs, business, Non-Profits, Community based organizations, or any private entity with a demonstrated record of success is the LEA implementing in carrying out this action step(s)?	
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## Action Step # 2

Action Step	Merry Team will develop a school-wide positive behavior management system.
Funding Sources	Consolidated Funding
Subgroups	Economically Disadvantaged Race / Ethnicity / Minority Student with Disabilities
Systems	Coherent Instruction Effective Leadership Professional Capacity Family and Community Engagement Supportive Learning Environment
Method for Monitoring Implementation	observations peer observations student reflection teacher feedback parent feedback track behavior/SEL referral data
Method for Monitoring Effectiveness	Academic Assessments Behavior Referral Data Fireside chat with teachers/students/parents Monitor SEL data
Position/Role Responsible	James/Principal Thomas/AP Elrod/IS Mack/Counselor Randolph/MTSS Teachers
Timeline for Implementation	Monthly

## Action Step # 2

What partnerships, if any, with IHEs, business, Non-Profits, Community based organizations, or any private entity with a demonstrated record of success is the LEA implementing in carrying out this action step(s)?	
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## Action Step # 3

Action Step	Behavior Team will provide PL for teachers/students/parents have a better understanding of the school-wide behavior plan.
Funding Sources	Consolidated Funding
Subgroups	Economically Disadvantaged Race / Ethnicity / Minority Student with Disabilities
Systems	Coherent Instruction Effective Leadership Professional Capacity Family and Community Engagement Supportive Learning Environment
Method for Monitoring Implementation	observations peer observations student reflection teacher feedback parent feedback track behavior/SEL referral data surveys
Method for Monitoring Effectiveness	Academic Assessments Behavior Referral Data Fireside chat with teachers/students/parents Monitor SEL data
Position/Role Responsible	James/Principal Thomas/AP Elrod/IS Mack/Counselor Randolph/MTSS Teachers
Timeline for Implementation	Monthly

Action Step # 3

What partnerships, if any, with IHEs, business, Non-Profits, Community based organizations, or any private entity with a demonstrated record of success is the LEA implementing in carrying out this action step(s)?	
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### 3. REQUIRED QUESTIONS

#### 3.1 Stakeholders, Coordination of Activities, Serving Children, and PQ

##### Required Questions

<p><b>1. In developing this plan, briefly describe how the school sought advice from individuals (teachers, staff, other school leaders, paraprofessionals, specialized instructional support personnel, parents, community partners, and other stakeholders).</b></p>	<p>Input was received from stakeholders during face-to-face meetings held in the spring along with surveys that were shared with all stakeholders. In June of 2023, the Leadership Team worked together to review last year's plan and the data (including Stakeholder surveys) for this year's plan. All Leadership Team members were involved in the evaluation of data (Annual State assessments, local screeners, local tests for mastery, and other pertinent data points). The plan will be brought back to the school for all faculty and staff to review and to share input. The plan will then be shared with school stakeholders for feedback.</p>
<p><b>2. Describe how the school will ensure that low-income and minority children enrolled in the Title I school are not served at disproportionate rates by ineffective, out-of-field, or inexperienced teachers.</b></p>	<p>The Human Resources and Federal Programs Departments of the Richmond County School System collaborate to ensure that children enrolled in Title 1 schools are not served at disproportionately high rates by ineffective, out-of-field, or inexperienced instructors. We will look at the School Improvement Dashboard equity data, which includes data factors about teacher effectiveness, experience, and background provided at the district and school level. We concentrate on identifying disparities, assessing district and school systems and programs that may have contributed to these injustices, and then adopt strategies/activities to alleviate those inequities. Our district improvement plan, which will include an equity component and improvement goals, will address the observed gaps. In addition, we assist school leaders in the scheduling process by giving statistics to help them make the best scheduling decisions for student achievement. To recruit elite talent, we conduct various career fairs, offer a virtual fair, attend college and university fairs, and use technology avenues. We also operate our Grow Your Own initiative in collaboration with our local university's Teach Richmond program. Stipends are available in high-need areas. We also used a PQ ESSA automated software to offer certification information, out-of-field status, and teacher suggestions for specific courses. The department of communication assists schools with branding and provides professional development to school interview panels.</p>

<p>3. Provide a general description of the Title I instructional program being implemented at this Title I school. Specifically define the subject areas to be addressed and the instructional strategies/methodologies to be employed to address the identified needs of the most academically at-risk students in the school. Please include services to be provided for students living in local institutions for neglected or delinquent children (if applicable).</p>	<p>The Augusta Public Library has partnered with the school system and has made it easy for students to access their resources. The School's Media Specialist has cataloged books by Lexile levels and can help students pick appropriate materials. Teachers have implemented silent sustained reading to ensure that students have at least 15 minutes of uninterrupted time each morning.</p>
<p>4. If applicable, provide a description of how teachers, in consultation with parents, administrators, and pupil services personnel, will identify eligible children most in need of services in Title I targeted assistance schools/programs. Please include a description of how the school will develop and implement multiple (a minimum of 2) objective, academic-based performance criteria to rank students for service. Also include a description of the measurable scale (point system) that uses the objective criteria to rank all students.</p>	<p>The RCSS will not have any Title I targeted assistance schools during the 2023-2024 school year.</p> <p>Targeted assistance schools may use funds received only for programs that provide services to eligible children identified as having the greatest need. In the event the district gets a targeted assistance school in the future, each targeted-assistance Title I school will create a plan to assist the school and local educational agency to meet its responsibility to provide services to all identified students in the targeted-assistance program to allow them the opportunity to meet the state's challenging academic achievement standards.</p>

### 3. REQUIRED QUESTIONS

#### 3.2 PQ, Federally Identified Schools, CTAE, Discipline

##### Required Questions

<p>5. If applicable, describe how the school will support, coordinate, and integrate services with early childhood programs at the school level, including strategies for assisting preschool children in the transition from early childhood education programs to local elementary school programs.</p>	<p>RCSS preschool students are exposed to Georgia's Bright from the Start Curriculum and the Head Start Curriculum. In the Spring of each year preschool children from early childhood programs and daycare centers visit the elementary schools. Preschoolers have an opportunity to visit and observe the school's prekindergarten and kindergarten classes. Near the end of the school year around the month of March, Pre-K students participate in a Kindergarten Round-Up which assesses them on kindergarten skills. A kindergarten orientation is also scheduled.</p> <p>Daycare Pre-K four-year olds in Head Start and RCSS Pre-K students are assessed three times per year using the Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS).</p> <p>Additionally, twice per year, four-year-olds at identified Head Start and RCSS Pre-K sites, are assessed using the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test (4th edition) (PPVT-4). To ensure a smooth transition to RCSS schools, the results of these assessments are provided to teachers, administrators and parents, and are used to track student progress, identify strengths and weakness, plan instruction, and plan for student placement in Kindergarten groups and classes.</p> <p>A handbook for parents is provided to all Kindergarten students and parents. The book provides transition suggestions for both parents and students.</p> <p>Counselors provide ideas to ready students for Kindergarten, including reading suggestions and rituals and routines that would support a successful transition.</p> <p>Kindergarten teachers spend the first two weeks of school helping with easing student anxiety.</p> <p>Counselors provide support for each class as well.</p> <p>The district also provides regular training for Pre-K teachers and paraprofessionals on needed topics such as early literacy. This would be in addition to the regular training provided by Georgia's Bright from the Start.</p> <p>Students receive books three times per year. Teachers receive instructional materials and books for their classrooms along with professional learning on early literacy and writing instruction. Lastly, L4GA funds also help fund field trips for preschool age students in addition to field trips provided by Bright from the</p>
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	<p>Start</p> <p>thus providing opportunities for students to travel beyond the confines of their neighborhoods and participate in culturally relevant experiences.</p>
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<p>6. If applicable, describe how the school will implement strategies to facilitate effective transitions for students from middle grades to high school and from high school to postsecondary education including: Coordination with institutions of higher education, employers, and local partners; and Increased student access to early college, high school, or dual or concurrent enrollment opportunities or career counseling to identify student interest and skills.</p>	<p>The CTAE Department will work closely with the Student Services Department to ensure middle school students (8th grade) and high school students (10th grade) are assessed using YouScience. This performance measure will help identify interests, natural talents, and aptitudes to assist the students in selecting a high school pathway that aligns to individual student data. Additionally, we will ensure visits by high school representatives to the feeder middle schools to share information about the various career pathways with 8th grade students, facilitate 8th grade tours to high schools, and continue to host Career Days/Fairs for both middle and high school students. During the master scheduling process, the schools are asked to schedule a feeder school visit from one grade level to the next to assist in making informed course selections. For example, schools coordinate opportunities for 5th graders to visit middle school and 8th graders to visit high school. All high schools are strongly encouraged to host a Freshman Orientation. This is an opportunity for students to learn about requirements and what to expect in high school, as well as begin to build community with their fellow classmates and reduce anxiety related to this transition. RCSS provides Dual Enrollment opportunities by partnering with several local colleges (Augusta University, Augusta Technical College, Georgia Military College, etc.) High school students have opportunities to take classes on the college campus, at their local high school or virtually. Students and parents will refer to the School Choice guide to help make the best decisions for their future. Students are made aware of these opportunities via their school counseling programs and utilization of the GAFutures website. Additional support for high schools will include recruiting business and industry partners to provide work-based learning opportunities for career awareness and exposure through Job Shadowing and Manufacturing Days, attendance/participation in the Skills Challenge and college tours through the high schools' CTSOs (Career Technical Student Organization). A new program recently approved by the Board of Education is with the Richmond County Fire Department to help seniors take the Fire Department's entrance exam. RCSS also provides summer opportunities in the Students2Work partnership to provide high</p>
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	<p>school students opportunities to work in career areas of their choice, based in part on YouScience results. During the 2023-24 school year, in collaboration with</p> <p>Columbia County School System, RCSS is embarking on creating a Junior Achievement program for 6th and 7th grade students to provide them real-life experiences to prepare them for life beyond high school and to make them aware</p> <p>of post-secondary opportunities</p>
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<p>7. Describe how the school will support efforts to reduce the overuse of discipline practices that remove students from the classroom, specifically addressing the effects on all subgroups of students.</p>	<p>In an effort to decrease class/school removal time, the district is working with school staff to offer a variety of supports and strategies. When students need time to calm down, a reflection or calming room may be used. This would include</p> <p>soft lighting and calming music or sounds. PE may include Yoga and breathing exercises to help students control themselves. Behavior Coaches were hired to work with students, parents, teachers and school administrators to implement effective practices aimed at increasing instructional time and reducing removals</p> <p>from class. District staff also partners with the Emory Autism Center, RESA, and</p> <p>GLRS for professional learning, modeling, and coaching in schools and programs</p> <p>where the data demonstrates elevated challenges with student behavior.</p> <p>District</p> <p>level Instructional Specialists are also working closely with teachers and school administrators to improve delivery of engaging instruction and alternative methods for managing classroom behavior for our students with disabilities as well as other student subgroups. MTSS Facilitators are working closely with teachers and school administrators to help students get the assistance that they need. Student engagement is an effective way to negate discipline issues. One form of engagement is ensuring that students have the use of technology within</p> <p>the classroom.</p> <p>In addition, RCSS is investing in Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), for all students. The PBIS Framework is being implemented in 31 schools</p> <p>across the district, with the remaining schools implementing "Essential Features</p> <p>of School Wide Behavior Expectations, through the lens of PBIS". The expectation</p> <p>is that over time, with training and coaching, all RCSS schools will implement the</p> <p>PBIS Framework. A PBIS District Data Team in the Office of School Climate regularly monitors discipline data for all schools and student subgroups, communicates with various stakeholders, including community members and members of the Department of Juvenile Justice, and work collaboratively with the</p> <p>CSRA RESA School Climate Specialist, to provide professional learning and coaching, to administrators, coaches and teachers. The PBIS Coaches (each PBIS</p>
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	<p>School has a coach), attend monthly meetings with PBIS Coordinator to monitor discipline practices, receive professional learning, and collaborate and action plan around best practices. The PBIS Schools hold monthly PBIS Team meetings to solve problems around discipline data and action plans to ensure continued positive outcomes. A minimum of two times a year, the District PBIS Leadership Team also hosts meetings with all stakeholders to analyze system-wide discipline data trends and create Action Plans based on data outcomes.</p>
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ADDITIONAL RESPONSES

8. Use the space below to provide additional narrative regarding the school's improvement plan.	
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