WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE 1 2 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 3 Tuesday, October 24, 2023 4 Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative M/H School 5 6:30 p.m.

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The videoconferencing link was published several places including on the meeting agenda.

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Present: Dennis Golding, Brianne Lavallee, Alex LoVerme, Matt Mannarino, Tiffany Cloutier-Cabral (6:35pm), Darlene Anzalone, Geoffrey Allen (online until 7:43pm), Diane Foss (online), Jonathan Lavoie

Superintendent Peter Weaver, Business Administrator Kristie LaPlante, Principal Tom Ronning and Associate Principal Bridgette Fuller, Assistant Principal Katie Gosselin, Director of Student Support Services Ned Pratt, Technology Director Nicholas Buroker, Curriculum Coordinator Samantha Dignan, and Clerk Kristina Fowler

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CALL TO ORDER

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Chairman Golding called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

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PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE II.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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III. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

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OLD BUSINESS IV.

i. **SRO**

The Superintendent reviewed we have 146 responses on the survey which closes on October 27. We will put together and present the results at the first meeting in November. He will include this in his Superintendent's report.

ii. **Boilers**

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The Superintendent reports Mr. Erb is working on 2 estimates and has been working on a 3rd. He has been following up on wood and propane pellets. He is getting estimates and cost structures. He believes it may be completed before Thanksgiving. A question was raised if wood is used can ESSER funds still be used. Superintendent believes we can use it but need to figure that out. Whichever direction we go we need to be sure, it is still useful in that project as it is about \$200,000. Mr. Erb confirms we do have one in and the other 2-3 are pending and there is nothing we can do. We have run the school on 2 before and the building won't freeze in the winter.

iii. **Tennis Courts**

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The Superintendent reported we are waiting for fence and surface work. The site work has been done and there has been no change since the last report out. We want to have part of the fence torn down we need to pour concrete. It has been hard to get into the queue but we are hopeful to have it done before the ground freezes. Mr. Erb added, we are shooting to get the poles redone and the cracks, we are hopeful to have it done before the ground freezes but the question is will we get the surface done before spring, it is being painted and may not be done until spring.

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Architect iv.

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v. Vacancies

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vi. **B-wing Bathrooms**

The Superintendent reviewed there is no change with this. The commercial toilets are on back order and the dividers are on order.

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V. **BOARD CORRESPONDENCE**

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a. Reports

i. Business Administrator's Report

Ms. LaPlante reports she attended the Budget Committee meeting prior to the Board meeting. It has been a busy few months. The DOE 25 has been submitted to the State of NH; the form is going around to members for signature and will be uploaded to the DRA tomorrow. They vet our revenues and will work with the towns to set the tax rates. It was due on September 1; it was delayed with approval by the State of NH by 30 days so that we could get the first round budget out. We got an additional 16day delay approved as well. She spoke of having some great people working in our district such as food service staff. Without

this staff working to the extent they do, these kids would not be set up for success. We have vacancies in food service; it is a nationwide issue. Our Food Service Director, Megan Nantel thought outside of the box and we put it out to district employees to come in the afternoon to do prep work that way the food service staff could just come in and start cooking the food. It has been working out and relieves the stress. Ms. Nantel has been here for 3 months, and is a great fit and asset to the district. Ms. LaPlante is proud of the work Ms. Nantel has been doing and meeting our staff more than half way. A question was raised about using the FACS students to help with food prep and maybe turn that into some kind of home economics credit. Ms. LaPlante responded we did talk about that but the stalling point is making sure Ms. Nantel is on solid ground before we add more. Ms. Lavallee commended the food service department. She knows how hard it is even when they are fully staffed. She also recognized how difficult it has been and is open to any suggestions they may have to think outside the box. She thanked them for all they do.

ii. Director of Student Support Services Report

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Mr. Pratt reported this report is a precursor to the budget presentation. He thinks it is important that everyone try to spend more time on what we can do as opposed to going over raw numbers. He went to the Budget Committee meeting tonight to be sure there was no miscommunications. He talked about what the direct increase is \$303,850 (25.4%). Special Education tuition is up \$129,000 (30.6%); we have a student who is in a program that is very expensive. We have a student who we may or may not be assuming responsibility for as of 2024. It is a complex situation and we are working through it. The school psychologist line is increasing \$56,100 (32.1%), speech/language therapist is increasing \$56,000 (23.9%), the reading specialist is increasing \$47,800 (42.3%) and there are smaller increases for physical therapy and occupational therapy. He noted that we build our budgets ahead of time, ahead of July 1, which is disconcerting as a SPED director. It is worse for grants as we don't know the grant amounts until long after that. For this year's budget, he mentioned that when he got the initial grant read, we were down \$48,000 without an explanation from the DOE. He called them to find out what is going on. They told him he was the only person who called about it. That went on for 2-3 weeks and no call was received. We got a memo from the DOE saying it was mistake. This is not the first time. He believes they are foreshadowing what was happening for FY 24. He thinks we are looking at a \$50,000-\$80,000 reduction. He would be happy if that doesn't' happen but has spoken to colleagues around the country and they are all feeling the same way. He has transferred \$134,000 out of the grant and put it into this year's budget proposal. If we do get a cut of \$80,000 and he doesn't do that he would have to come to the Board and town to ask for \$80,000. The actual increase is about \$169,216 and much of that has to do with tuition. He wanted to lay the groundwork for the budget presentation and will work the next week weeks on continuing to dive deep into the grants and speak with his colleagues to see if there is any indication on what would happen. He will continue to review his budget for any changing needs as his department continuously changes and look at other strategies he may be able to use to reduce the SPED budget. As far as this year's budget proposal, the increases are due to mostly SPED and he wanted to be transparent about that.

iii. Curriculum Coordinator's Report/iReady Data Presentation

Ms. Dignan gave an iReady data presentation, the presentation can be found with the minutes. She informed the group that the SAS (Statewide Assessment System) scores are embargoed and will share those along with the SAT's (Scholastic Assessment Test) when they un-embargo the data which hopefully will be in November or December. She reviewed each slide, including a timeline, historical data, NH SAS timeline and what has been done to improve scores. She spoke of continuing to take the journey in small steps to make growth and improvement. She reviewed the cycle for continuous improvement and the iReady benchmark-testing window, September 2023, January 2024 and May 2024. After each time teams meet and analyze the data and what plans we need for students. The iReady scale was reviewed and what the colors indicate. Darker red indicates students are 3 or more years below grade level, red indicates 2 years below grade level, yellow indicates students are 1 year below grade level which is OK because you have not had that years instruction yet, light green indicates on grade level and dark green indicates mid-grade level or above grade level. She has national data for K-8 and NH K-8 to compare to K-8 iReady data. They (iReady) still do not offer the HS piece to compare, that is why it is not listed. In HS math, the slide shows fall 2023, grades 9-10 with the percentages of students in each band. The data shows that more than 50% of our students are scoring 2 or more grade levels behind at this point in the year. Fall, 2023, grades 6-8 math slide, compares iReady, NH scores and national scores by grade. Twenty-four percent of the 6th grade is at or above grade level, 50% are ready for grade level material and are exactly where they should be. Overall, we have a larger percentage of students ready to learn grade level material than the state or the nation. In 7th grade, our students are close to aligning with all the other 7th graders who take iReady. In 8th grade, they are out performing the state and nation as far as students ready to receive grade level instruction. In grades 2-5 math, almost across the board we are out competing the nation and state. Kindergarten to 1st grade, we are with the state or around the state and nation. She noted it is impossible to score 2 grade levels below Kindergarten. Grades 6-8 in reading, we are out performing the state and nation. She added these are bands you would expect to see mid-year. Kindergarten to 1st grade we are either out performing or are around the state or nation. She reviewed some historical data for math of essentially the same students from 9th grade to 10th grade. To clarify, she looked at last year's 9th grade who are now in 10th grade noting there problem remains that some students leave and some come in therefore it is not exactly the same students but it is that grade level. Ms. Lavallee commented that it would be interesting to see the same students' scores for apples to apples comparison. Ms. Dignan compared how students now in 10th grade scored last year (9th grade) compared to this year on iReady math assessment. This group did better in the fall of 2022. Doing the same comparison with last year's 8th graders now 9th graders, this group has more students on or above grade level than they did at this point last year however the amount of students scoring 3 or more grade levels below increased as well. She spoke of things changing in HS math, you get all the domains when you come into 9th grade and your focus is algebra, the questions are heavier on algebra than before and in the 10th grade, the focus and standards are geometry. These are some of the things we are looking at. The same comparison using last year's 7th grade, now 8th grade shows they are scoring relatively the

same as last fall scores. Grades 6th to current 7th grade increased the percentage of students who are in the dark red by almost double. The 5th grade to current 6th grade shows this group increased the percentage of students on or above grade level from last fall. Grade 4 to 5th grade decreased the percentage of students in 2 different reds and increased the percentage of students in 2 greens from last fall. The 3rd to 4th grade you can see fall to fall more students in the greens and a decrease in the yellow and in 2nd to 3rd they have a similar trajectory with decreases in red. The 1st to 2nd grade decreased the percentage of red and increased both yellow and green. Kindergarten to 1st grade are similar to where they were last fall to this fall. The next few slides are comparing the same as before but in reading. The same grade level fall testing last year to this year's, fall testing. Last year's 9th grade to 10th grade this year shows there is a large percent that shifted to the red zone. The 8th to 9th grade both reds have increased from fall to fall. The 7th to 8th grade remained similar from fall to fall but the percentage of students in deep green has almost double from last fall. The 6th to 7th grade percentage of students in both greens increased from 23%-33%. The 5th to 6th grade is what you would expect to see in January, they had a big jump. Grade 4th to 5th shows the percentage of students in deep red had switched which implies the students that were 3 or more grades below last fall have decreased and are closer to being on grade level. The 3rd to 4th grade has significantly decreased in red and increased in yellow. Grade 2 to 3 is similar to the 6th grade where you would expect to see this graph in January. Grade 1st to 2nd has increased a little in red but the percentage of green has increased also. Kindergarten to 1st grade shows a larger percentage of student in the red and the dark green categories. She reviewed that they met and talked about what we are doing as a district and at each school. New teachers were provided iReady training prior to school starting. Staff from iReady met with leadership teams from both schools and there was tailored training at the October 6 professional development (PD) day. A rubric was developed and shared with teachers at their pre-observation conference. They plan to review our supervision and evaluation document this year. FRES had their first round of data meetings. Data was triangulated and student action plans were developed. In May meetings were held with staff working with students in grades that transition from one building to another. The Curriculum Committee met and developed goals for the year and are using our data to make informed decisions regarding curriculum. Math workshops were held this summer, teachers and building administrators will continue to attend 3 additional PD workshops regarding math this year. Teachers at WLC met and discussed different vocabulary programs in their PLC's which will be presented to the Curriculum Committee at their next meeting. Principal Fuller reviewed specifics for LCS/FRES. The elementary schools sending teachers met with the receiving teachers to review and analyze data together. Students were offered Summer Academy based on recommendations coming out of the data meetings, LCS staff utilized data from the Developmental Indicators for the Assessment of Learning (DIAL) differently this year to inform their class placement. Four of the 12 teachers are currently enrolled in the LETRS for teachers training and 3 teachers are beginning the process to join. FRES has curated an accelerated learner pilot program which includes 5th graders attending 6th grade classes. Some of the things at WLC that Principal Ronning reviewed are that when you look at high stakes assessments we look at the way we are taking exams and make sure we give exams that are similar to the rigor of the tests. We are offering algebra classes. The Homework Club meets in the library and teachers are available to come and help students. The MS is working on developing interdisciplinary units. We are telling students if they are 2 years below grade level and their parents. That has not been done here before. Ms. Erickson has provided planning lessons so students can work and improve making sure our questions look similar to the SAT so when that when students look at those types of questions they are not fearful and rather saying I can't they say I can. We are looking at the curriculum alignment. In 8th grade math, it ends up being several different units and then when they get to 9th grade it is basically just algebra and in 10th it is geometry. We are holding a SAT prep night on November 29. Parents will get information. We will talk to parents about what they can do to help their kids be more successful. Students are told this test is the best version of yourself and proving I have the academic excellence to move forward. Students need to know it is important and they can't take it over. Students ask if they can take it again if they fail, the answer is no. He notes a lot is happening across WLC and teachers are really working hard to move forward and now having these conversations they are looking forward to parent/teacher conferences coming up. Ms. Lavallee voiced appreciation for the amount of information parents are getting, it is a significant difference. It will take time to change a culture. She spoke of the importance of the assessments and students asking if they can take them over. She read about the idea remediation and building that into a culture can be a detriment to students in the end as in real life, we don't get a do over and if you continue to do that on a regular basis there can be repercussions. She asked if it something Principal Ronning has looked at. Principal Ronning confirms they have and when he came onboard, we talked about what assessments look like, there are some you cannot remediate and they tell the kids that they cannot take them again. If you got a 65, that is your score. We will give you the tools to be successful but when you come to the table, you have to be ready. Ms. Lavallee asked if there are things we can do to help parents as education changes rapidly and there can be a disconnect. Things like the SAT prep night is great. Mr. LoVerme spoke of many years the students being able to take tests over. He asked if the MS students need parental permission to go into the HS. Principal Ronning confirms yes we have a conversation with the parent about it. Mr. LoVerme asked if there was a way to take a grade out if the student is not trying because it is hurting the student and the district. Principal Ronning responded if it is the NH SAT, once it is done the state scores it we can't take it out. With iReady testing when you look at the national norms the thought process is we are not the only district who have students that didn't test well and it should be consistent with other schools. He understands the frustration that it can be difficult to see those results. Mr. LoVerme asked regarding college credit earned here if Principal Ronning had done research on which colleges will accept those credits. Principal Ronning spoke the he has not for this school but the running start program you get transcripts that go with the student to college and what will transfer depends on what college and what credits they will take. Ms. Anzalone spoke that it would be helpful if PowerSchool could show upcoming assignments, as Google Classroom is confusing. It would be helpful for students as well as a "to do list" to keep them organized vs. it being scattered in Google Classroom. Principal Ronning agreed. Ms. Dignan gave an overview of what the teachers are saying in each building such as using our data to drive our instruction, targeted instruction, providing interventions for all

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students, data meetings, using the science of reading to drive reading instruction, high expectations and rigor, vocabulary instruction everywhere, Title I services, and 1:1 conferences for students regarding their testing scores and interdisciplinary unit work. Assistant Principal Gosselin spoke of a new version of W.I.N. Teacher feedback was that 45 minutes was too much screen time. They now have a more flexible approach, Tuesdays and Fridays for 20 minutes each and on Wednesday, they have PSAT and SAT test prep. Previously you would have either My Path or test prep, just because you scored below and needed My Path shouldn't mean you don't get SAT prep. Ms. Dignan provided some additional bonus information from Summer Academy. She reviewed how many students were invited to attend and how many accepted and attended. She reviewed the math data incoming 1-5 graders showing the number of students who went up or maintained none went down. In reading, incoming 1-5 graders and the numbers of student who went up, maintained and 3 went down. At WLC, she noted we had 3 students attend the Summer Math Academy and all 3 went up a grade level. Chairman Golding questioned how 7 students can be 2 plus grade levels behind in the 1st grade. Ms. Dignan responded it is a percentage, 7% so about 2 students and she questioned that as well. She will send that question to iReady. Chairman Golding spoke of being encouraged by the data and encouraged that WLC is starting to have student accountability for their grades and not just the teachers and parents. Appreciation was voiced for Ms. Dignan and the team.

Ms. Dignan reported PD day was held on October 6, which was fun and different as there were a lot of activities going on depending on what you needed. There was training in CPI and CPR from our in district staff trainers, Nearpod training, iReady came and gave tailored support and Principals Ronning and Fuller did presentations based on what each building needed. New teachers had their second meeting which had a "choose your own adventure" this year, trying to offer two different choices for teachers to go to, IEP and 504 or family engagement. In curriculum, FRES teachers continue to review and update their competencies and making sure the report card aligns. WLC is upping the rigor in classrooms and assessments. November 29 is the SAT night offered to parents of students in grades 8-11 on PSAT, SAT and how we can all work together. She completed classroom observations at LCS and FRES. These were amazing, it was nice being in the all of their classrooms, all were engaged in pre-conference and post conferences. We talked about a rubric and what we are looking for and when you meet with Principal Fuller some things she will be looking for. The Professional Development Committee met and left with homework reviewing the Master Plan and any updates that are needed. The Curriculum Committee met looking into ELA. She explained what CPI training is, deescalating techniques, the different levels of frustration and what you can do to deescalate things and the last resort if it is unsafe what you do. Mr. Lavoie spoke of hearing from a student that may or may not be true, but is it possible for a student to skip class and be allowed to wander into any classroom they feel like attending at that moment and the teacher does nothing about it. He wanted to bring that to administrations attention. Are students allowed to not attend a class they should be in? Principal Ronning confirms that is not allowed and will speak with Mr. Lavoie. Chairman Golding commented that it is nice to see some of the PD that is offered such as IEP, 504 and CPI training.

VI. 7:00 PM JOINT SESSION BOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE SESSION

Present: Jeff Jones, Leslie Browne, Adam Lavallee, Bill Ryan, Charlie Post, Caitlin Maki, Jonathan Vanderhoof, Jennifer Bernet, and Michelle Alley

The joint session started at 7:09pm.

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a. FY 2024-2025

i. Prior Follow Up

Chairman Jones reviewed we have a new budget, with an increase of 2.99%. The committee had a good discussion. They are not asking for deeper cuts now. The target is zero but it is reasonable to move forward at this point. We will continue from here but still looking for places where we can cut, add or whatever that may be. He wanted to be clear about that. He asked for any Budget Committee or School Board comments. None heard. Ms. LaPlante informed the group she has provided information on unexpended funds and overspent funds back to 2019 and what made up the large categories.

ii. LCS/FRES

Principal Fuller reviewed the lines in the FRES budget. The proposed draft 2 is at \$85,162, an increase of \$10,789. A question was raised why Mystery Kits were removed from the budget. Principal Fuller explained we use Mystery Science and had purchased the kits previously. We really just need to replace the materials vs. purchasing the entire kit which is more expensive. A question was raised if there are new items. Principal Fuller explained we are shifting from a balance literacy approach to a structured literacy approach, which is in line with the science of reading. It is a new curriculum for this year for particular grades. It is listed as curriculum ELA and the cost is approximately \$24,000, it includes the decodable readers. She confirms the annual cost would be about \$4,177 after the initial cost. She confirms there is nothing else removed other than the Mystery Kits. Mystery Science and social studies curriculum is not too expensive and is grouped together with the ELA curriculum. Principal Fuller was asked how the ELA curriculum was chosen. Principal Fuller responded this is just the price of a program that is in line with our phonics program. The selection is made from the Curriculum Committee who has a whole process for that. The decision has not been made yet. They do range in price but the 2 she is looking at are in the same ballpark. It was suggested when we are cutting things such as a rug from the budget we keep a list of those items so that if there is funding available the list can be reviewed for possible purchases. There was no objection to this. Principal Fuller reviewed the LCS budget, which is at \$15,225 an increase of \$139. She noted we have removed the outdoor shed since we now have a storage container we do not need to purchase another for outdoor equipment, which was a big reduction. She spoke of removing an activity kitchen as they are hoping to seek another avenue to purchase this. She was asked if we are on a good cycle for replacement furniture. Principal Fuller spoke of the kitchen being 25 years old and we paused on it and decided if we had to cut somewhere it would be here. It is a wooden kitchen set, it is pretty expensive and shipping is expensive. It is just under \$800. A question was raised if it is something that could be donated through the town. Principal Fuller spoke that this is the avenue they were thinking about. Mr. LoVerme spoke of it being ridiculous to cut that out and we should be focusing on the dollars and not the pennies. He suggests it be put back into the budget. We need to get things replaced and fixed.

iii. WLC MS/HS

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Principal Ronning passed out an additional document showing the decreases and increases. When he created the budget, he reviewed the 2022-2023 budget and this year's budget. In 2023-2024 budget, the current expenditures are \$195,388 and the remaining balance is \$119,078. The current proposed draft 2 is at \$293,866, a decrease of \$22,657. He listed any items that are up or down if at or over \$1,000. They looked at past expenditures and reviewed all the lines. He based decreases based on the actuals. The HS field trips were decreased by \$3,000 because the information he has is that there has been \$5,000 budgeted but there has not been a DC trip in the last few years. He has left \$2,000 in which will go toward the senior class trip. In the guidance department, \$1,500 has been removed based on historical expenditures. Printing was increased by \$1,000 because we want to start putting banners up the drive way and posters in the halls for school spirit. We want to have photos of alumni, the class of and what their profession is. We believe kids need to know that coming to this school matters and want to put these in the halls to promote what has happened here historically. The administration travel line has allowed the principal and assistant principal to go to conferences. In order to be responsible to the district and taxpayers we have decreased that.

iv. Athletic Director

Athletic Director, Cam Taber was present and reviewed his budget. A document showing decreases and increases at or over \$1,000 was shared. He spoke of when he was hired the job listing said we want someone who has the ability to do big things in a small school. He spoke of teaching math, health, physical education and all else, he is doing here. He has looked through the budget and areas where we can increase school pride and safety for athletes. He spoke of the "yawn" category those are the things that have to happen regardless. He proposes to decrease field maintenance and upgrades (regarding practice soccer field in the outfield of the baseball field) and keep the money in for smaller projects such as when away teams come here they can say Wilton is a good place to play. We have a place to welcome them and to show them we are serious, smaller projects that help in safety and pride. As they have more time, we can look at bigger projects. A decrease of \$5,000 is for officials and police. We have one less varsity team, that doesn't need to be that high. Police coverage is only necessary if we had a problem with another team. We did have a historical issue with another team and he believes that has improved by being here, being present and greeting the parents etc. It was a pleasant experience and he doesn't think we need police at every single varsity game. General supplies was level funded but we might need more ice packs. Mr. Lavallee agrees we do need more or an ice machine although that is likely expensive. Mr. Taber agrees. Mr. LoVerme commented he has one and offers it. Mr. Taber spoke of ice packs and med kits, we can't anticipate that need but may need more in a year, we have to be prepared. Uniforms was decreased by \$4,500, there isn't a list of what jerseys we replace and when. He has gone through as many as he can and identified a schedule of 1 or 2 sports per year depending on how they are looking. We ordered soccer and girls' varsity basketball this year, next year MS basketball and track. He notes he is aware track recently got new uniforms but he feels they need to be replaced; we do not need flashy ones but need to show up with ones that represent our school and that we can take pride in our school and show a little bit about ourselves. Athletic Director dues and fees has increased because the NHIAA has increased their fees. He spoke of the Hall of Fame falling into the school pride category. If we want people to come in and show up, we need to bring back those who represented our school. He spoke about transportation and decreasing that line by \$5,000. He reports based on what we have had to deal with in the fall with great coaches and the principal having to drive the van it is more of a reality moving forward that we may not have it covered. We also had money in there to have every team to make it to the championship game, which is not the reality. A question was raised regarding the reduction in field maintenance and if we would still have the same service as we do now. Mr. Taber responded it is more on the upgrade side, like adding things like turning the outfield into a practice soccer field. He confirms maintenance for the track is in the budget. He added he has made sure no one can put chairs on that track. A question was raised that it appears we pushed back the backboard pulleys. Ms. LaPlante confirms we have one that we have to address due to safety and she envisions looking at that in April if we have unspent funds. A question was raised regarding the softball field not being ready last year and one reason was from damage done during soccer practice. What has been done this year to prevent it and is that why we have to upgrade the field. Mr. Taber responded he understands the extra money was to turn the outfield into a softball field. He didn't think it was good practice to have a varsity team practice on a soccer field. We came up with a plan to minimize damage to the soccer field; the softball field was barely used this year. It should not be an issue based on that in the fall and moving forward. There was discussion on the difficulty of finding coaches. Mr. Taber was asked if there are any recommendation regarding the stipend coaches receive. Mr. Taber responded that he does have the exact numbers but has spoken to some other AD's and they have shared data how much they pay their coaches. At NHIAA, there were less than 10 who have been in the position for 25 years. Most around the table say we don't pay them enough. They cannot sacrifice the time because the pay is not much. If you look at wages vs. time they put in, we are barely paying them minimum wage. In the fall, we only had 1 coach apply for soccer. He would be happy to look at how the stipends could be more competitive. Ms. Lavallee asked him to put that together. Discussion included that timing was worse than the issue of money. It needs to be a teacher or someone who is retired. It eliminates anyone who has a job. Ms. Anzalone questioned regarding the DC trip and maybe that needs to be added to the MS. Principal Ronning noted there is money in the budget for this year that could go to help that trip. Mr. LoVerme voiced he hopes research was done on why they didn't go to DC before cuts were made. He believes it would negatively affect the students. He recommends it be put back in and make sure the kids go on the trip this year, whether 8, 9, or 10th grade. He hopes the line for PD is because you are doing virtual PD because he believes you need to stay up on education. Discussion was had regarding wanting to do a boys bullpen. It was suggested that there be a girl's bullpen. Mr. Taber spoke that

because of the mechanics of pitching you don't need it for softball, you need a flat surface for that therefor it would not be necessary. Mr. LoVerme spoke of being "pro-female" sports. He remembers female sports coming 2nd to boys in this district. He recommends uniforms being on a 4-year rotation. He noted he has a commercialized ice machine he would give. Discussion was had regarding the girls playing a full season against JV teams. Mr. Taber noted there were a number of girls who didn't feel comfortable on a JV team. He spoke to all the girls, they were happy with that, and it built a good momentum to play. He believes it has positively affected the kids. A question was raised when we have to stop using the van. Superintendent responded we do not at this time. Mr. LoVerme wants to see the increase for proposed coaches stipends for the next meeting, every coach should be doubled at minimum. Discussion was had regarding the baseball field fence having damage to it. Mr. Taber confirms there is some money in this budget to add a gate at the top of the soccer field and he has talked to some people about making some fixes. There are large openings that he is looking to address in the current budget. A question was raised if he could look at obtaining a grant for lighting the field at night. A question was raised if the gym windows have been replaced. Ms. LaPlante responded she could talk about that when we get to facilities. We have 2 quotes and are getting 1 more finalized, it is actively being managed. Chairman Jones commented that he had been approached by a community member to get banners for the fields that can be more visible, since they are thinking of banners it may be another idea. Principal Ronning added the PTO is already working on it. A question was raised what tables were removed from the budget. Principal Ronning said it was in there last year, similar to the tables we are sitting at but they were not earmarked for anyone. He asked the teachers and no one had a need. Appreciation was voiced for Mr. Taber coming to present his budget, it is a testament to our school for him to come and sit before the Board. He did a great job. Mr. Taber spoke that this is first time in a setting like this and he is glad to be here and do it in the future. He taught in Florida previously and this has been an amazing experience, he is happy to be here. A question was raised if a quote was received for the practice field. Mr. Erb confirms that Chris Carter is working on that. Mr. Vanderhoof noted he thinks the quote is off and wondered if it should be on a warrant article.

v. Curriculum Coordinator

Ms. Dignan spoke of looking at PD and the way we were funding it. We did a lot more train the trainer model. This is the 2nd year of iReady and she doesn't see us needing another year with them. With CPI, we have staff trained to do that etc. She took the funding out for those things. We may need to put funds back in but for next year we can take it out. That was the biggest thing she removed. There was also about \$7,400 that was moved from her budget because it is paid out in salary wages. The curriculum budget is at \$7,105, a decrease of \$16,096. She clarifies that we share our Title I funds with High Mowing and if there is any left that could be used for some of those services. She spoke of what it has been used for in the past, such as artisan residence program, bringing in outside PD, book studies, and the mentoring program comes from there. She was asked about conferences and if she attends. She does not know why it is not showing expended as she thought she had over expended it. She does look for free conferences to attend as well.

Chairman Jones thanked everyone who presented tonight. He acknowledged it was not easy and they asked the business administrator to prepare the budget early. We appreciate you and what went into it. He thanked everyone. Mr. Vanderhoof spoke based on his comment earlier about using unspent funds for things like rugs etc. he recommends to keep track of things that are spent using unspent funds. We would have that data going forward so we would what the true cost is of what was purchased with money left over.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read. Superintendent called out all the phone numbers and names joined in the meeting asking if they wanted to comment.

Ms. Mary Golding gave kudos to the food service staff; they do such a great job. She welcomed Ms. Nantel aboard. She commented that Ms. Dignan provided a lot of data. She thanked the Board for working so hard, they are amazing.

VIII. BOARD BUDGET DISCUSSION

Ms. Anzalone reiterated wanting the DC trip to be included. She is a parent of an 8th grader and the cost is over \$1,200 which is a lot of money. She wants as many kids to be able to go as possible. Principal Ronning confirms there is money in the budget this year to help defray the cost. Ms. Lavallee thanked Ms. LaPlante for getting the new budget to them in just 2 weeks; she worked with building staff and administration to get this done which was amazing. She is happy with the number; it is a good middle ground. She notes not being super happy about a flat budget but had to do more research. We did return quite a bit of funds to taxpayers. She wanted to point out a lot of those savings came from salary and benefits as we had hired some younger teachers (lower on salary scale). We also had a lot of vacancies that we didn't fill and we should continue to try to fill those. She appreciated Mr. Pratt's report, having worked in SPED years ago she knows how that is such a large variable. We are asking SPED to develop a budget based on the student's needs next year and that changes on a frequent basis. It is hard to have a solid number and she appreciates that he was able to speak to that in a way people can understand. A lot of the IEP that have to be carried out will not be discussed until the spring and they still may change after that. She thanked Mr. Pratt for all his hard work. Chairman Golding commented that at another meeting he had said he wanted to be around 2.5%, he is happy with 2.99% and thinks it is acceptable and should pass. Ms. LaPlante spoke that 2.99% seems very convenient and that is just luck not a target. It is not us trying to reach and appeasable number. When she looked at the funds we didn't spend, unspent funds, over the last 5 years. It is in line and what makes it more shocking is the value of it. We have a \$14,000,000 budget. We are not returning an

incredibly large percent of the budget, it just appears that way. Chairman Golding commented, great job getting it down. Ms. Foss spoke of forwarding the Board the last Budget Committee's minutes. She added it has been discussed when the Budget Committee voted for a flat budget, that it was with the idea that if the School Board and school had things in the budget that sent it over a zero percent they would consider it as long as there was an appropriate reason to do so and if everyone has a chance to look at it. She noted that she was a little late getting to the Budget Committee meeting and Ms. LaPlante was doing her typical professional job of explaining funding and why it is like that. She is grateful for what she does for us.

IX. POLICIES

a. 3rd Read

i. GBEBA-Staff Dress Code

Ms. Lavallee reviewed there have been no new changes to this policy. It is the 3rd reading. She asked for any questions or comments. None heard.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to approve policy GBEBA-Staff Dress Code as written.

Voting: via roll call vote, seven ayes, one nay from Mr. LoVerme, motion carried.

ii. IKFA-Early Graduation

Ms. Lavallee reviewed there no changes made since the last reading. She asked Mr. LoVerme if he approved of the previous changes made to the policy as he had requested those. There was no objection heard.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. LoVerme to approve policy IKFA-Early Graduation as written. Voting: via roll call vote, seven ayes, one nay from Chairman Golding motion carried.

X. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

A MOTION was made by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral and SECONDED by Ms. Lavallee to approve the minutes of October10, 2023 as written.

Voting: via roll call vote, all aye, motion carried.

XI. YTD REPORTING

Ms. LaPlante reviewed that she was asked to do a YTD report a little earlier than she would typically do it. She reviewed we do not encumber all of our funds at the start of the school year; we would lose control over our purchases. We are sitting at 15% of unspent funds, which is where she would expect to be. We have locked up our heavier costs. We have several teachers and para vacancies. She hopes to by the next meeting to better define what makes up the unspent wages and benefits portion. She was asked if we are over budget on anything. Ms. LaPlante confirms we are, the track project was \$15,000 over budget, which is significant. That is the heaviest right now. If you look through the report, there are ebbs and flows with wages and benefits. We still have almost a million dollars unspent. That is what we are looking at now. We are looking at \$92,000 that was not budgeted for the school psychologist for the mental health program down at FRES. That savings appears on the wages and benefits side of the budget. She would be happy to answer any questions whether it be the Board, Budget Committee or public.

XII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

i. Budget Liaison

Ms. Foss reported she has no new information to report having already given an overview of the meeting.

ii. Negotiations

Ms. Anzalone reported the committee met with the WLCTA Association on October 16. They reviewed the Board's position and the WLCTA had a couple additions, which will be discussed later this evening.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read. Superintendent called out all the phone numbers and names joined in the meeting asking if they wanted to comment.

Ms. Mary Golding commented that Ms. LaPlante is amazing, she rattles off answers so quickly and of course to the Board, thank you so much for everything you do. Have a wonderful evening everyone.

XIV. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Cloutier-Cabral commented the reports are nice as usual. Ms. Dignan has been telling us since the beginning we would see this change incrementally and we have.

Mr. Lavoie thanked Ms. Dignan for a good job tonight. He spoke of a comment at the last board meeting. Although he doesn't agree in the way it was presented, there was some discussion of NHSBA dues we have to pay. He feels there could be an easy

- solution if we put it as a warrant article perhaps to fund it from town taxpayer money only and move it into a separate account, the money would come from that different account. He asked Ms. LaPlante if we are able to open up a bank account. Ms.

 LaPlante will look into this. Mr. Lavoie feels it may be an easy solution to make someone happy. He doesn't agree how it was presented but feels it may be an easy fix.
- 436437 Ms. Anzalone commented that she is anxious to see the SRO survey results.
- Mr. Mannarino commented that Mr. Taber gave a good presentation on athletics. He did a good job and that is the first time we have seen a presentation on athletics that in depth since he has been here.

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 - Chairman Golding commented that he appreciates Ms. Dignan and the team for doing all that data work. He loves seeing the data and is encouraged by seeing it all. He voiced that he would appreciate administration, staff and public really read the minutes of the meeting so that if they have questions they will have that knowledge and we can give them appropriate answers.

XV. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (C)

A MOTION was made by Mr. LoVerme and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to enter Non-Public Session to review the non-public minutes, discuss a personnel matter RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (B) (C) at 9:05pm.

Voting: via roll call vote, all aye, motion carried.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board entered public session at 9:49pm.

A MOTION was made to seal the non-public session minutes by Mr. LoVerme and SECONDED by Ms. Anzalone. Voting: all aye, motion carried.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

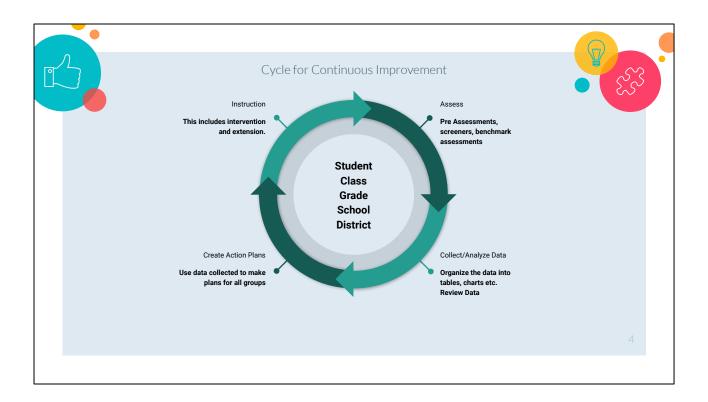
A MOTION was made by Mr. Mannarino and SECONDED by Ms. Anzalone to adjourn the Board meeting at 9:50pm. Voting: all aye, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Kristina Fowler

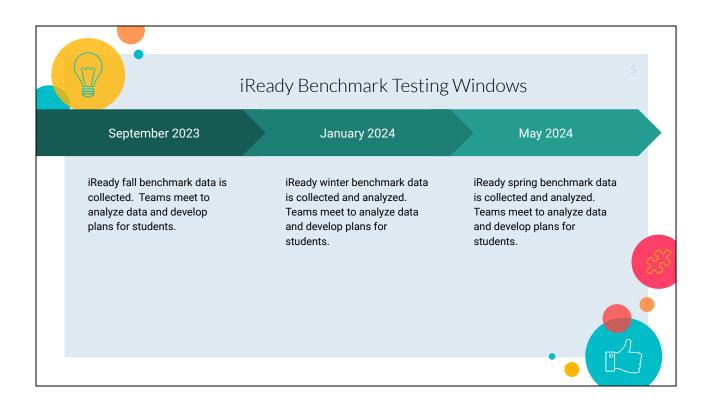




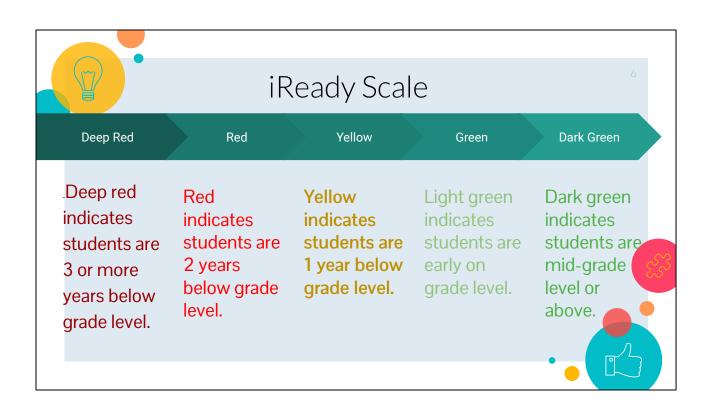
This quote is here to remind us that as we continue this journey of continuous improvement, it does not happen overnight. We are making small steps all the time to make improvements for our students, classes, grades, schools, and district.



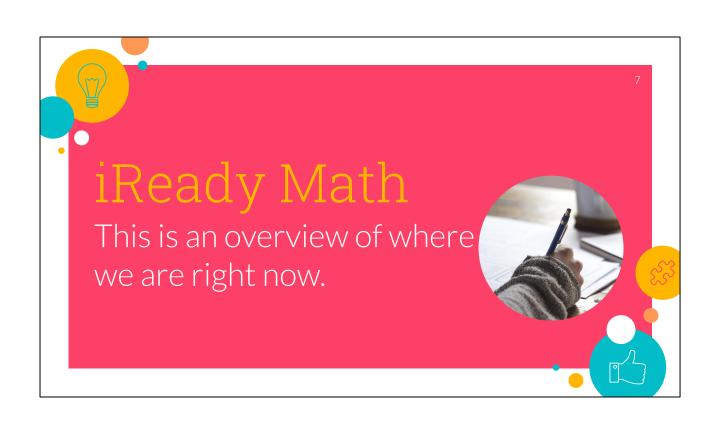
As we work through this year, our goal is continuous improvement for all. This starts with individual students and goes all the way up to the district as a whole. We are working at all levels to improve our outcomes for students.

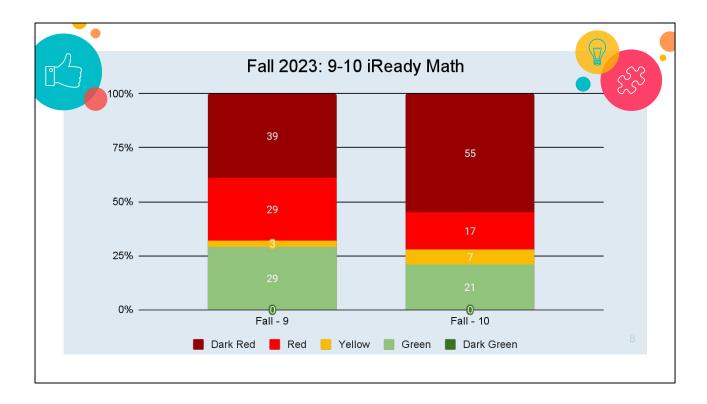


We take our iReady benchmark assessment three times a year. This year our kindergarten students took their assessment at the end of our diagnostic window so we could have data as early as possible for this group of students. This was within the recommended window from iReady which is 4-6 weeks into school for K students.

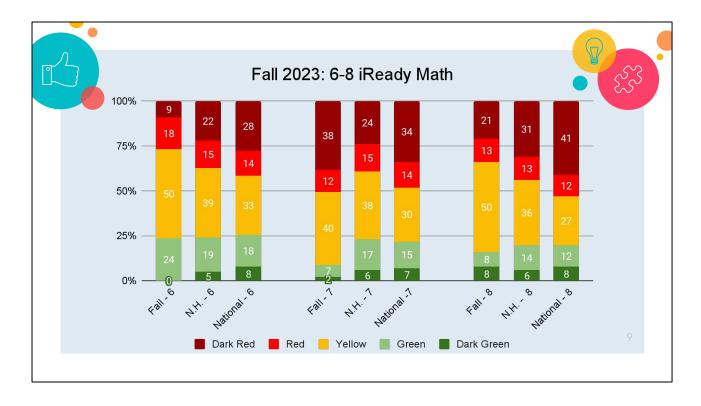


Just to review what each of our colors means. I know it has been a while, so to orient you to the colors, yellow is where most students should be scoring at this point in the year because they have not had the opportunity to access grade-level curriculum/content yet.





This is where our high school students are scoring in math right now. These numbers are the percentage of students in each band. Later, we will review how these students are doing relative to their performance last year. As you can see more than 50% of our students in 9th and 10th grade are scoring 2 or more grade-levels behind at this point in the year.



This graph has a lot of information on it, so I want to take a moment to orient you to what you are looking at. There are three sets of bars. The first set is 6th grade, second set is 6th grade, and the final set is 8th grade. Each grade has three bars for a reason. Our scores for our students are the first bar for each grade. So as you can see 24% of our students are on or above grade level in 6th grade math. For this point in the year, that means they are ahead of where they should be. 50% of our student are scoring in the yellow which means those students are ready for grade-level material and are exactly where they need to be.

What you are comparing our students to is the column directly next to us is the Year to Date New Hampshire overall scores. So overall we have a larger percentage of students ready to learn grade-level material than the state overall does.

Then that final column is the Year to Date National scores. This third column shows that a larger percentage of our sixth graders are ready to learn grade-level content than the percentage of students in the nation ready to learn grade-level content.

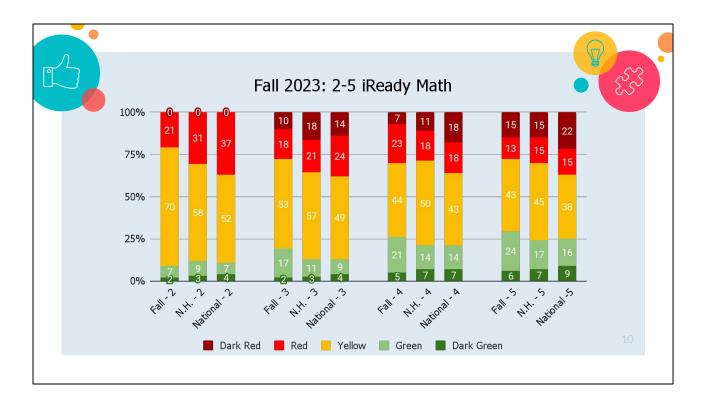
Let's take a minute to look at 7th grade. We have 49% of our student who are on, above, or ready to receive grade-level instruction. In New Hampshire, 61% of students are on, above, or ready to receive grade-level instruction and in the nation, 52% of students are on, above, or ready to receive grade-level instruction. So this shows us that our students are relatively close to aligning with all other 7th grade students who take iReady.

Finally, 8th grade. Looking at the graphs makes it pretty clear that our students are out performing the state and the nation as far as students who are ready to receive grade-level instruction.

Summer Math Academy:

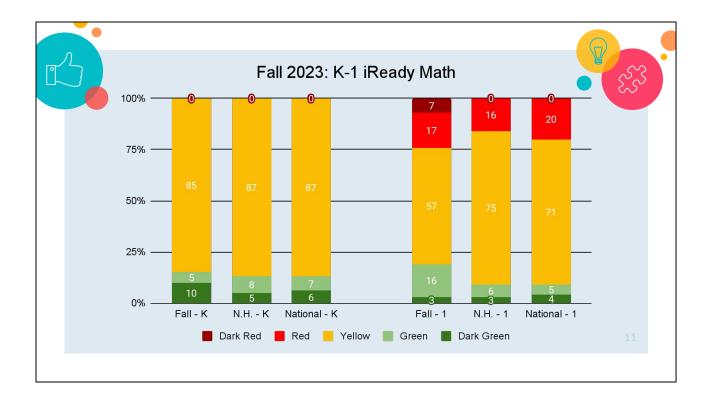
This was offered to ALL students entering into 6-12.

Only 3 students participated in Summer Math academy at WLC. All three students went up one grade-level in their iReady Math scores from May 2023 to September 2023.



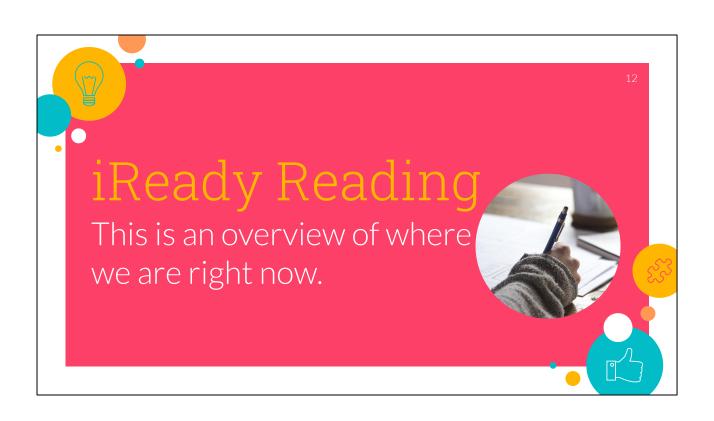
This graph is the same as the previous one for grades 2-5. Reminder, students who are in the yellow are exactly where they should be at this point in the year. They are showing that they are ready for grade-level instruction.

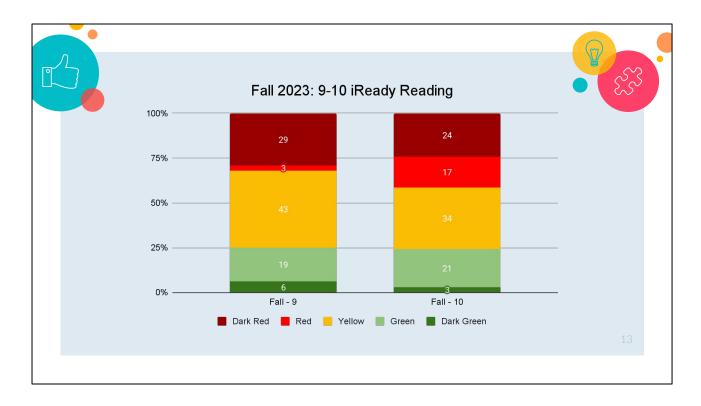
Across the board 2-5, our students are outperforming the state and national students in math.



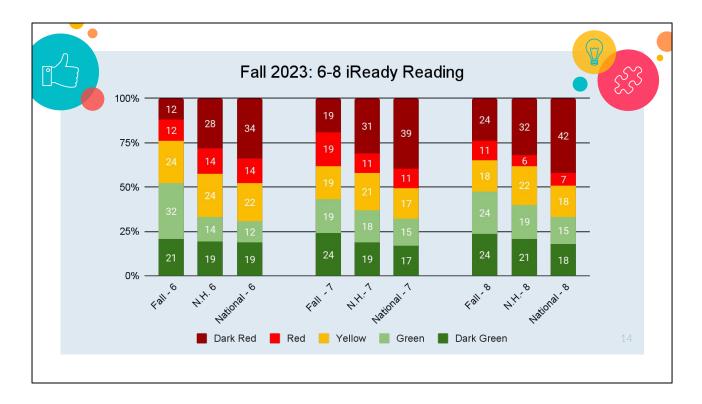
This graph is our Kindergarten and grade 1 students. You can see we still have more students on, above, or ready to receive grade-level instruction than both the state and the nation.

You will note, there are no students in K scoring in the red because it is impossible to score 2 grade-levels below in kindergarten.

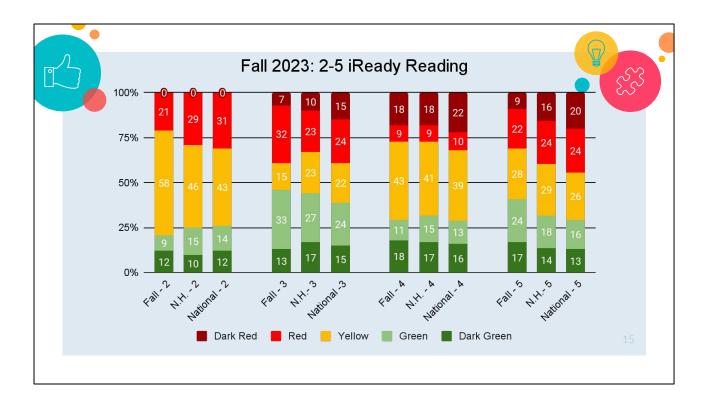




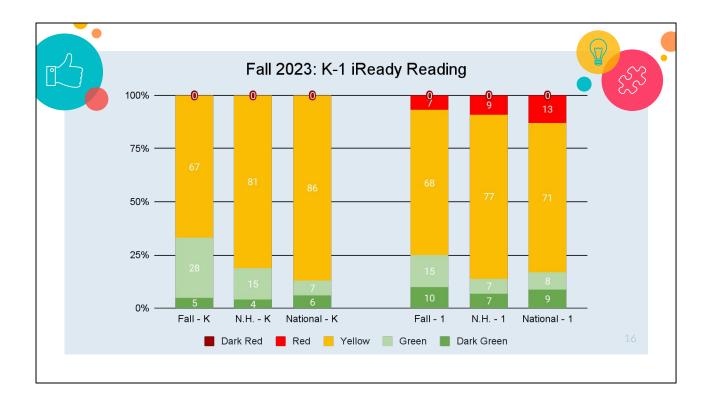
This is where our high school students are scoring in reading right now. Our reading scores are showing that 68% of our 9th grade students are on, above, or ready to receive grade-level instruction in reading. 58% of our students in 10th grade are on, above, or ready to receive grade-level instruction in reading.



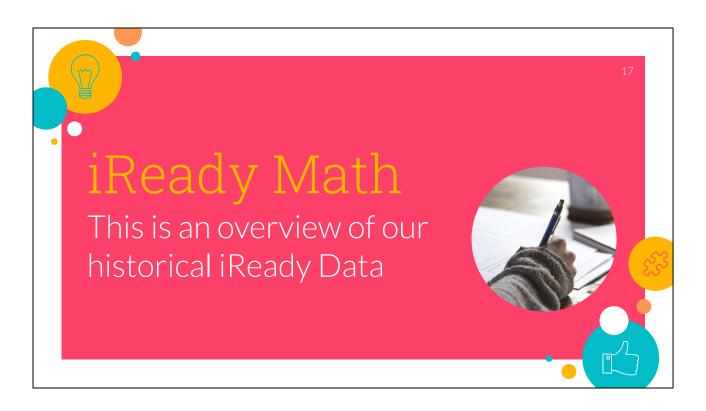
This graph mirrors the middle school math graph where the first column is our students, the second column is the Year to Date New Hampshire information, and the last column is the Year to Date National information for each grade-level. As you can see again, we are outperforming the state, and nation for our reading scores.



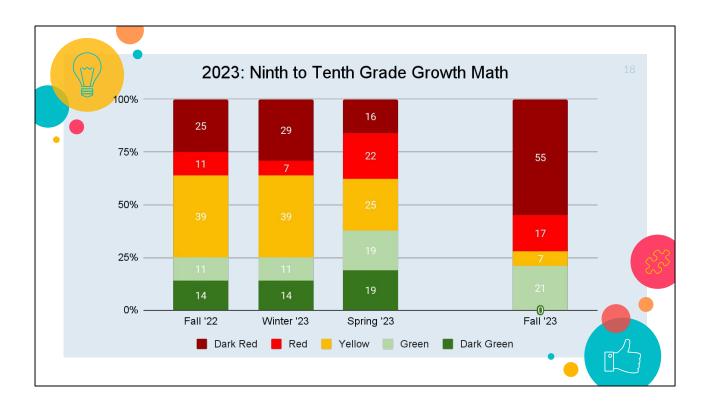
Almost across the board, more students at FRES are on, above, or ready for grade-level instruction.



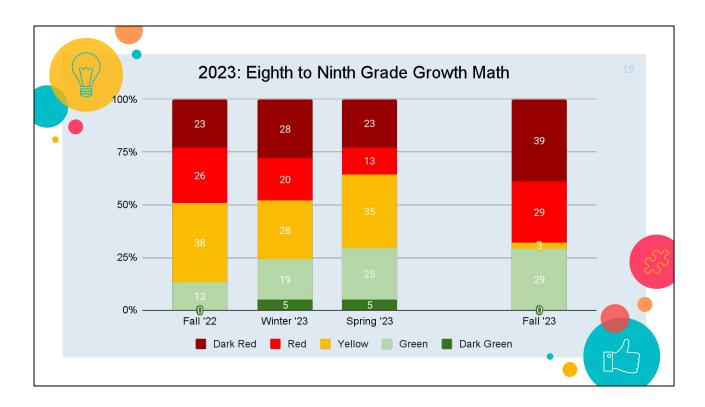
Again, a higher percentage of our K-1 student are on, above, or ready for grade-level instruction. Overall, this has happened due to the interventions we put into place last year. Teachers have worked hard to use not just iReady data, but other assessments as well to support all students making continuous improvement. We are continuing to make adjustments to our instruction based on the information provided to us by the data we have.



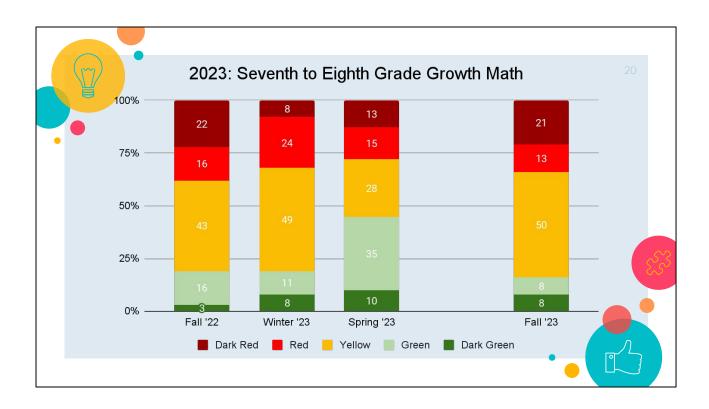
This next round of graphs is a review of the students iReady data last year, compared to this year. This data is following one particular group.



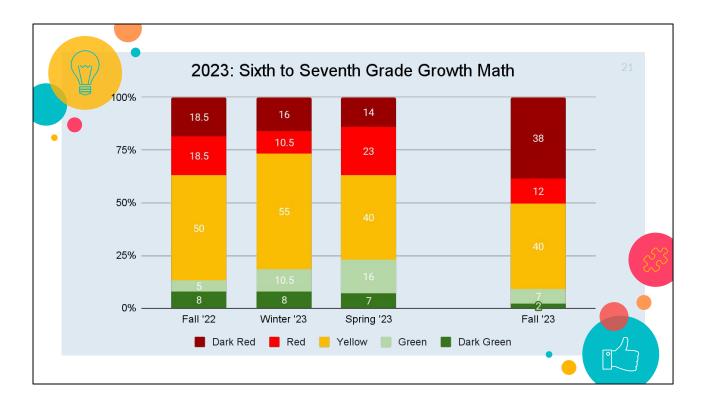
This graph is looking at our current 10th grade students and how they scored last year compared to this year on their iReady math assessment. The first three columns are last years data, and the final column is how the students scored this fall. As you can see, this group did better in the Fall of '22.



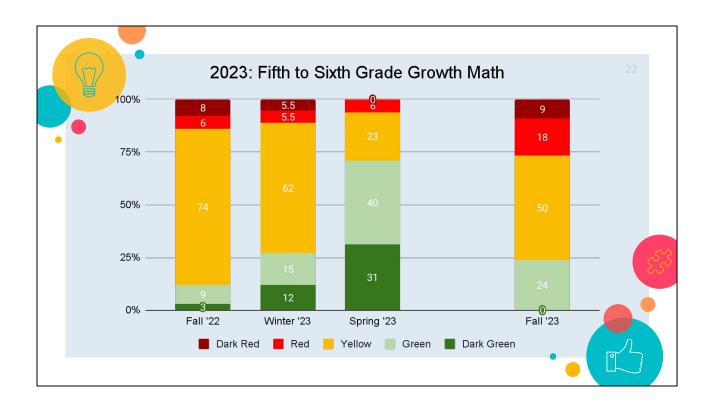
This graph is looking at our current 9th grade students and how they scored last year compared to this year on their iReady math assessment. As you can see this group has more students on or above grade level than they did at this point last year, however the amount of students scoring 3 or more grade-levels below has also increased.



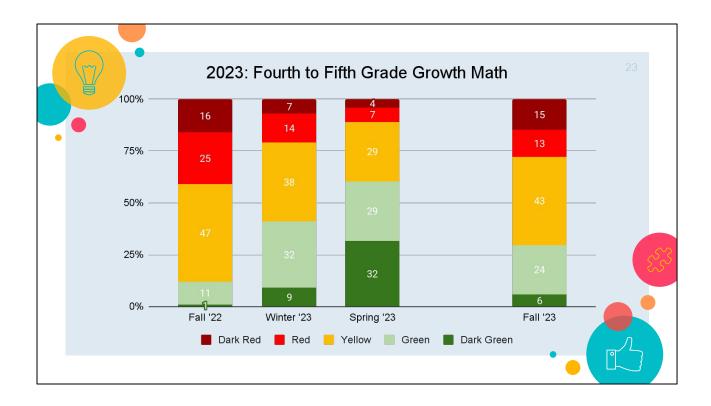
This graph is looking at our current 8th grade students and how they scored last year compared to this year on their iReady math assessment. They are scoring relatively similarly to how they scored in the fall of their 7th grade year.



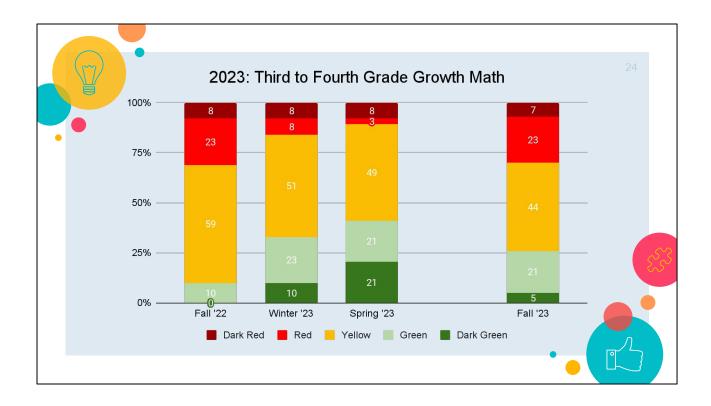
This graph is looking at our current 7th grade students and how they scored last year compared to this year on their iReady math assessment. This group has increased the percentage of students who are in the deep red by almost double.



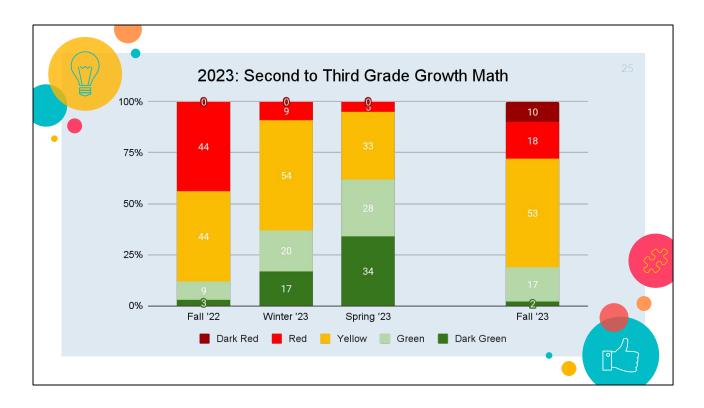
This graph is looking at our current 6th grade students and how they scored last year compared to this year on their iReady math assessment. As you can see this group of students has increased the percentage of students on or above grade-level from fall of last year.



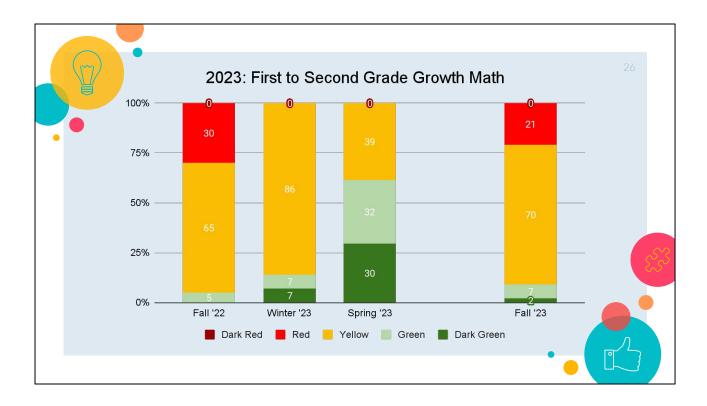
This graph is looking at our current 5th grade students and how they scored last year compared to this year on their iReady math assessment. This group of students has decreased the percentage of students in the two different reds and increased the percentage of students in the two greens from last fall.



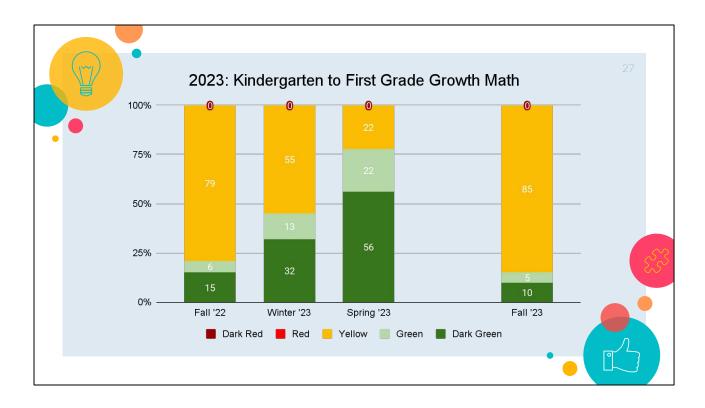
This graph is looking at our current 4th grade students and how they scored last year compared to this year on their iReady math assessment. This group of students has increased their percentage of students in both green, and decreased their percentage of students in the yellow from fall to fall.



This graph is looking at our current 3rd grade students and how they scored last year compared to this year on their iReady math assessment. The current third grade students have drastically cut the percentage of students in the red from last fall to this fall.



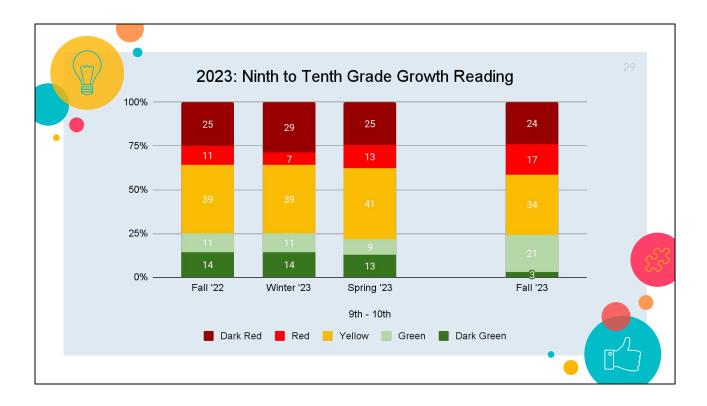
This graph is looking at our current 2nd grade students and how they scored last year compared to this year on their iReady math assessment. This group of student has again decreased the percentage of students in the red, and increased both the yellow and the green.



This graph is looking at our current 1st grade students and how they scored last year compared to this year on their iReady math assessment. This group of students is relatively the same as far as percentage of students in each color band from fall to fall.

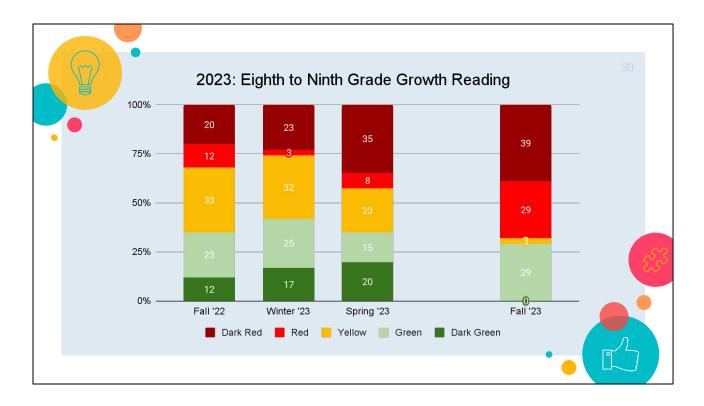


This section is designed the same way as the previous section, where it is a review of the students iReady data last year, compared to this year.

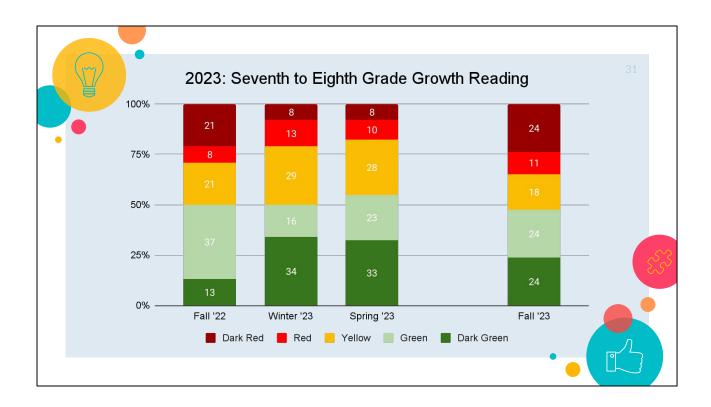


This graph is looking at our current 10th grade students and how they scored last year compared to this year on their iReady reading assessment. The first three columns are last years data, and the final column is how the students scored this fall.

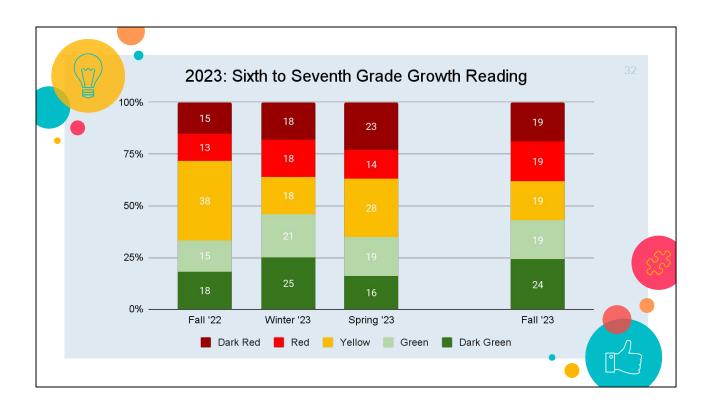
This group of students maintained the percentage of students who scored in the green, but a large percentage of students in the yellow seems to have shifted to the red, and deep red.



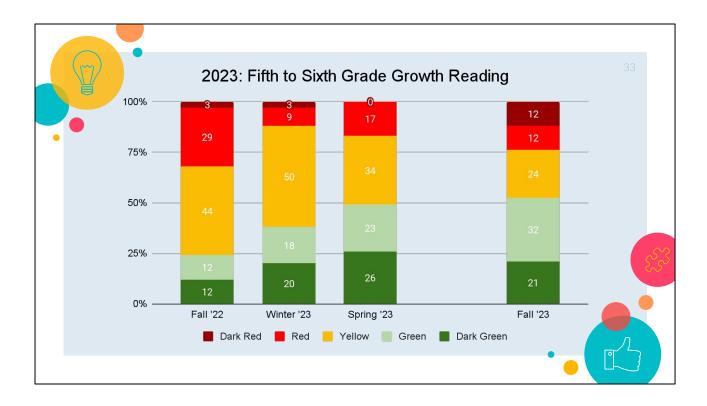
This graph is looking at our current 9th grade students and how they scored last year compared to this year on their iReady reading assessment. The percentage of students scoring in both reds have increased from fall to fall.



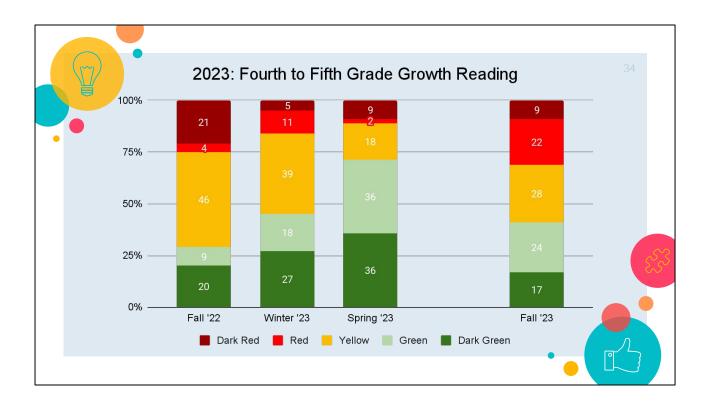
This graph is looking at our current 8th grade students and how they scored last year compared to this year on their iReady reading assessment. The percentage of students in each category have remained similar from fall to fall. However you will notice the percentage of students in deep green has almost doubled from last fall.



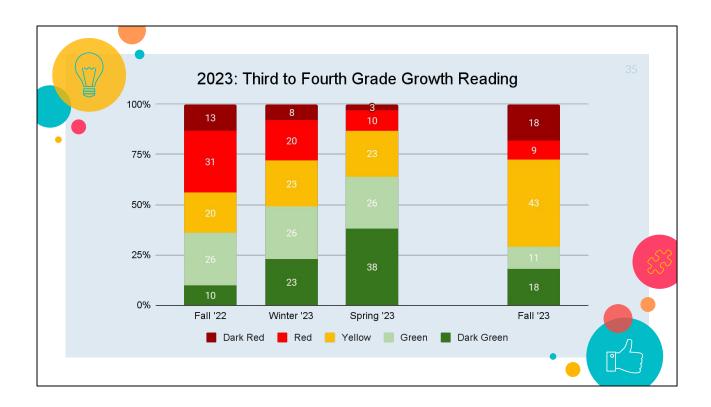
This graph is looking at our current 7th grade students and how they scored last year compared to this year on their iReady reading assessment. The percentage of students in both greens has increased from 23% to 33%.



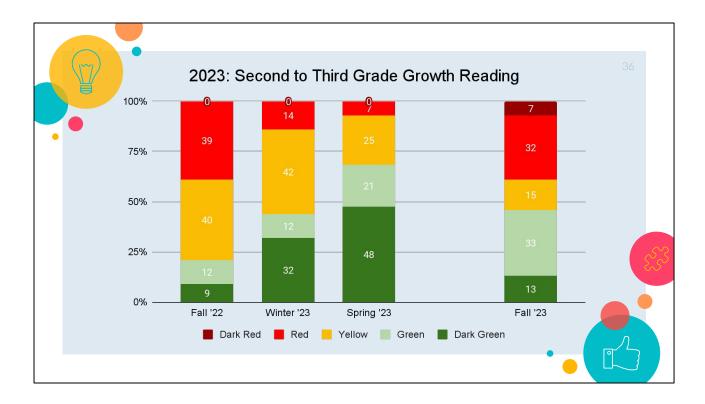
This graph is looking at our current 6th grade students and how they scored last year compared to this year on their iReady reading assessment. This group of students is particularly interesting because what they are scoring currently is what you would expect around mid-year. They have continued to grow even over the summer.



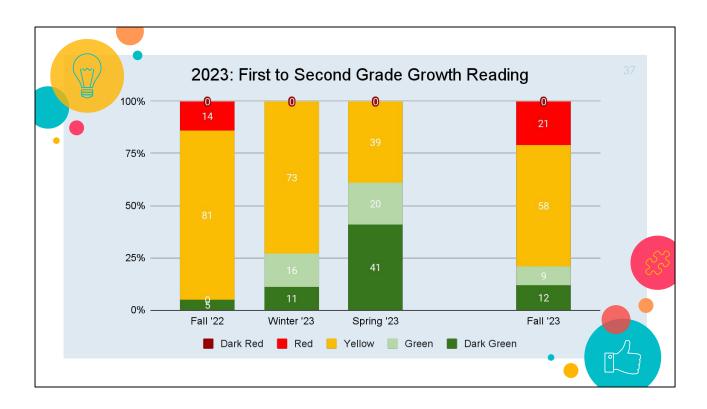
This graph is looking at our current 5th grade students and how they scored last year compared to this year on their iReady reading assessment. The percentage of students in the deep red and red have switched, which implies that the students who were 3 or more years below last fall have decreased and are now closer to grade-level.



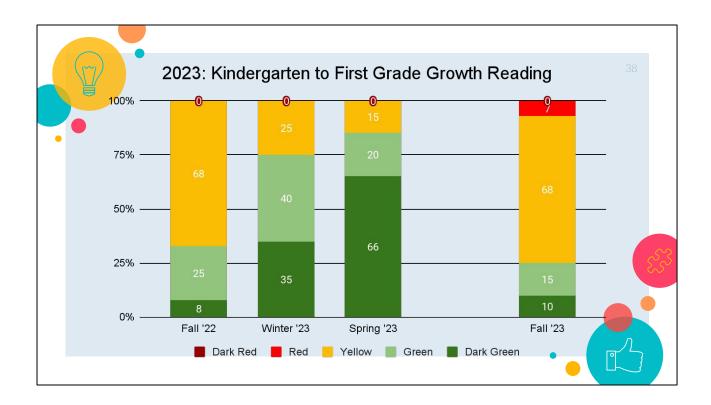
This graph is looking at our current 4th grade students and how they scored last year compared to this year on their iReady reading assessment. This group of student has cut the percentage of students in the red category from fall to fall.



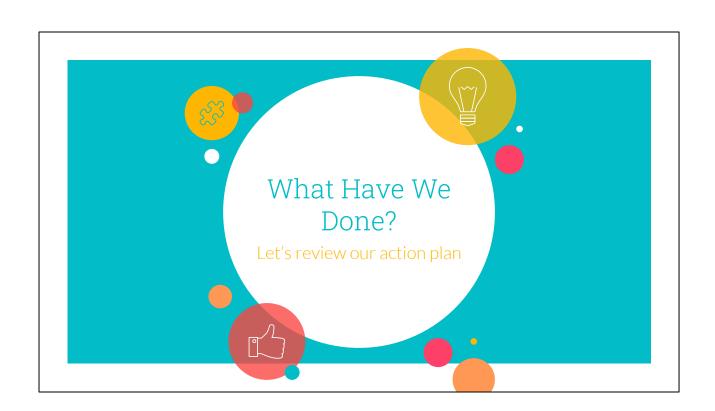
This graph is looking at our current 3rd grade students and how they scored last year compared to this year on their iReady reading assessment. This group of students is interesting for the same reason the current 6th grade is interesting. You would expect this graph in the middle of the year rather than the beginning.



This graph is looking at our current 2nd grade students and how they scored last year compared to this year on their iReady reading assessment. From fall to fall, the percentage of students in both green has increased as well as the percentage of students in the red has increased.



This graph is looking at our current 1st grade students and how they scored last year compared to this year on their iReady reading assessment. We have moved a larger percentage of students in to the red and the dark green categories.

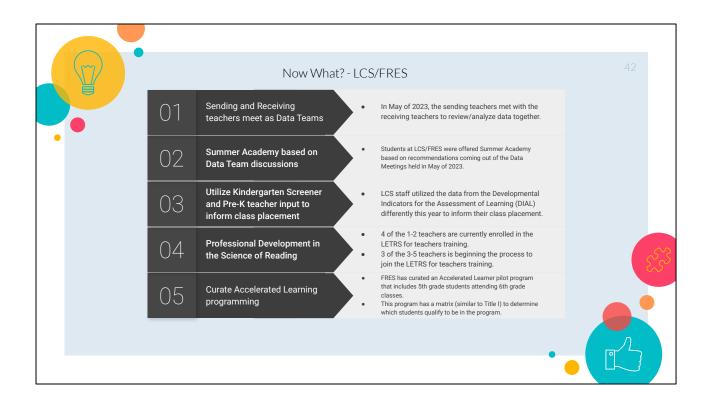


	Now What? - [District Wide	
01	Ongoing professional development about iReady	New Teachers were provided with iReady training prior to the start of school. iReady met with the leadership teams from both schools to re-invigorate staff iReady Tailored Professional Development Day 10/6	
02	Streamlined evaluation process to focus on effective teaching practices	The building level administrative team have met and developed a rubric for "look fors" that is shared with teachers at their pre-observation meeting conference. We plan to review our supervision and evaluation document this year.	
03	Data Meetings 3 times a year	FRES had held their first round of data meetings already. Data was triangulated and student action plans were developed.	
04	Transition Meetings between the buildings	In May of 2023, meetings were held with staff working with students in grades that transition from one building to another.	
05	Continue to develop and vet curriculum	Curriculum Committee has met, developed goals for the year, and is using our data to make informed decisions regarding curriculum.	

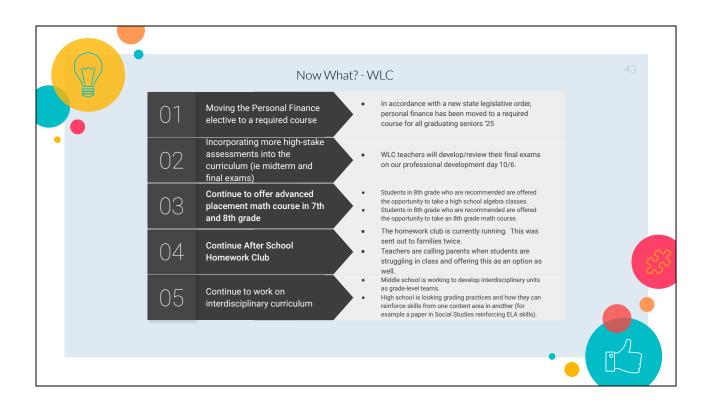
These are the items we listed in our presentation in the spring as our ways to support continuous improvement for our students.



These are the items we listed in our presentation in the spring.



These are the items we listed in our presentation in the spring.



These are the items we listed in our presentation in the spring.

Now What? - WLC

06	Continue PSAT and SAT prep into curriculum and WIN
07	Adjust the use of the PLC model
08	Implement motivators for students taking standardized assessments (NH SAS, SAT, iReady etc.)
09	Format classroom assessments
10	Emphasize the importance and rationale behind the assessments

- Every week during advisory all high school students are given PSAT/SAT prep.
- WLC will host an SAT Informational Night on 11/29 for families in grades 8-11.
- WLC Math teachers are grouped in a PLC as a department, allowing these groups of teachers to have time to collaborate.
- Information from PLC meetings are now being
- Information from PLC meetings are now being embedded into departmental meetings. Awards will be given for students who drastically improve on their iReady. Gift cards will be given to students who are performing at their academic best on standardized assessments Privileges will be teld to scores on standardized assessments moving forward.
- We are working to improve the rigor on classroom

summative assessments.

Prior to iReady, the middle and high school had assemblies with Mr. Ronning explaining the importance of these assessments. Our catch phrases are "Academic Best" and "Best Version of Self".







