

School Improvement Newsletter Article March 2021

“All students will improve in reading comprehension.”

After analyzing student data, the faculty, staff, and administration determined that our school improvement efforts should focus on the improvement of reading comprehension for all students. This school improvement goal was selected and then implemented during the 2016-2017 school year and has continued to be the focus of student learning and achievement in our district.

Over the past five years, JCC administration and faculty have focused on reading comprehension by implementing the use of graphic organizers throughout the curriculum and all grade levels. The attention has been on identifying important information and organizing the information in a visual way. Having a visual is useful for many students to make connections between what they know and the new information they are learning. It also keeps students engaged in active learning as they are recording the information while listening and discussing the lesson, story, chapter, unit, or activity.

The measurable goal for our students is as follows:

For those are meeting Mean RIT and Above:

- All students who score At or Above the Mean RIT score on their fall MAP test will maintain or improve their score on the spring MAP test and remain at or above the mean RIT score in the spring.*

For those Below Mean RIT:

- Kindergarten through 4th grade students will increase their RIT score by **5 Rasch units** from the fall testing to the spring testing on MAP tests OR score at or above the mean RIT on the spring test.*
- Fifth through eleventh grade students will increase their RIT score by **3 Rasch units** from the fall testing to the spring testing on MAP tests OR score at or above the mean RIT on the spring test.*

*Due to the Coronavirus school shutdown, our goal changed from measuring improvement from the fall MAP to the spring MAP. Instead we are now measuring the growth from fall from one year to fall of the next year.

MAP, which stands for Measures of Academic Progress, is an assessment used school-wide in the fall, winter (for some grades), and spring to gauge student progress. According to the Northwest Evaluation Association or NWEA, “student MAP testing results are reported in RIT scores (short for Rasch Unit). A RIT score is an estimation of a student's instructional level and also measures student progress or growth in school.” This information is helpful in making informed decisions about the programs or strategies that help students learn.

As we look through the data from the fall of 2019 to the fall of 2020, we see that our students are making progress in the area of reading comprehension. The following chart shows the percentage of students at each grade level that have met our school improvement measurable goal as stated above.

Current Grade Levels	Percentage that met Goal
Kindergarten	81%
First Grade	88%
Second Grade	88%
Third Grade	97%
Fourth Grade	71%
Fifth Grade	85%
Sixth Grade	55%
Seventh Grade	72%
Eighth Grade	83%
Ninth Grade	79%
Tenth Grade	71%
Eleventh Grade	66%

On March 15, 2021, we will host an External Team. This team consists of administrators and teachers. We will share information about our district - academics, extracurricular activities, facilities, demographics, and data. They will walk through our halls, visit classrooms, talk with our students, and hold interviews with personnel. This External Team will determine our strengths and areas for improvement. This feedback guides our school district on next steps to improve teaching and learning for our students.