



**MARY BECK**  
**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
*Barons*



**ELKHART COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

# School Improvement Plan 2017-2018

Principal: Tracey Kizyma-Whitmyer

# Table of Contents

Description	Page Number
Introduction	2
Statement of Mission	3
Summary of Data	4
Conclusions	5
Student Achievement Objectives/Goals	6
Specific Areas of Immediate Improvement	7
Benchmarks for Progress	8
Proposed Interventions	9
Professional Development	10
Cultural Competency	11
Three Year Timeline	12

## Introduction

### Description of the School

Mary Beck Elementary is an urban school, located near downtown Elkhart, Indiana. Mary Beck has a diverse population of 258 students. The ethnic breakdown of the student population is as follows: 29% African American, 47% Hispanic, 19% Caucasian, and 5% multiracial.

Mary Beck has undergone a transformation this school year with a change in administration, staff, student population, curriculum, and community partnerships. All staff underwent an application and interview process to be part of the Mary Beck certified teaching team. There are currently 24 certified teachers, with two-thirds returning to Beck. The student population decreased by almost half due to redistricting Mary Beck to an all-walk zone. The curriculum is highly focused on literacy, student engagement, collaboration, and inclusion. All teachers are participating a co-teaching initiative and the school is piloting 1:1 technology with iPads for the district. The K-6 classroom teachers are mentoring IU South Bend teacher candidates in student teaching and field experience, including one EL concentration student, as part of a university partnership. There is an on-site university director and a university professor who provides professional development in technology and assessment. Head Start is also partnered with Mary Beck in providing early childhood opportunities in 11 classrooms.

### Curriculum Overview

Mary Beck Elementary utilizes Journeys Reading Program through Houghton Mifflin Harcourt for English Language Arts. EngageNY is the district's newly adopted Math curriculum. IXL is also used to support the math curriculum.

Also see pages 11-13 of the [SY 2017-2018 Renewal Application for the 1003\(g\) School Improvement Grant](#).

### Assessment Tools

Mary Beck Elementary uses several assessment tools progress monitor student growth and overall proficiency. They are ISTEP+, IREAD-3, NWEA (three times per year), NWEA Skills Navigator, Scholastic Reading Inventory, running records, spelling inventories, and teacher-created skill checklists.

### Additional Information

Mary Beck looks forward to the future in terms of our new partnerships with IU South Bend and Head Start. These partnerships will support and strengthen student learning and achievement.

## **Statement of Mission**

### **Vision Statement**

Mary Beck is a compassionate neighborhood school committed to social, emotional, physical, and academic growth for all students. In partnership with parents, the community, IU South Bend, and Head Start, we work together to nurture lifelong learners and productive, happy citizens of our community. We are focused on providing a safe, creative environment where students can explore their educational opportunities in order to find their purpose.

### **Mission Statement**

We as a Mary Beck community, keeping the student at the heart of all decisions, are committed to partnering with the families and community to provide creative learning opportunities for all so that students can find their own purpose.

### **Motto**

Currently under development.

## Summary of Data

See pages 8-12 of the [SY 2017-2018 Renewal Application for the 1003\(g\) School Improvement Grant](#).

Also see pages 13-16 of the [Title 1 1003\(g\) School Improvement Grant Application SY 2016-2017](#).

## Conclusions

See pages 17-22 of the [Title 1 1003\(g\) School Improvement Grant Application SY 2016-2017](#).

Also, see pages 11-13 of the [SY 2017-2018 Renewal Application for the 1003\(g\) School Improvement Grant](#).

### **Notable Areas of Achievement**

In fall of 2016, Mary Beck was awarded with a 1003(g) School Improvement Grant from the Indiana Department of Education. It details a five year implementation plan, with a total funding request of \$778, 683. Under the grant, the following areas were listed:

- New staff chosen based on collaboration and shared beliefs
- All day co-teaching initiative
- Significant instructional technology support (course & PD)

Mary Beck was recognized by the Department of Education for two Promising Practices. Kindergarten for the implementation of Tools of the Mind curriculum and fifth for a co-teaching initiative.

A successful partnership with IUSB to host field experience teachers and Summer Lab School in 2015-2016, has led to a five-year partnership to create a true university teaching lab school with an on-site university director who provides professional development to both classroom teachers and teacher candidates.

In 2015-2016, Mary Beck achieved 97.8 growth points in the school accountability grade.

### **Areas of Improvement**

- Continue to build trusting relationships among the new staff in place
- Ensure professional develop is meaningful and aligned with needs/initiatives
- Build family involvement and trusting relationships with students and families in the Mary Beck community

## **Student Achievement Objectives/Goals**

See pages 8-9 and 11-12 of the [SY 2017-2018 Renewal Application for the 1003\(g\) School Improvement Grant](#).

## **Specific Areas of Immediate Improvement**

See SIG Implementation SY 2017-2018 focus areas and action steps on pages 12-14 of the [SY 2017-2018 Renewal Application for the 1003\(g\) School Improvement Grant](#).



## **Benchmarks for Progress**

See SIG Implementation SY 2017-2018 timeline and measurable outcomes on pages 12-14 of the [SY 2017-2018 Renewal Application for the 1003\(g\) School Improvement Grant](#).

## Proposed Interventions

See pages 11 and 12 of the [SY 2017-2018 Renewal Application for the 1003\(g\) School Improvement Grant](#).

## **Professional Development**

Professional development will be delivered in partnership with IU South Bend's College of Education. There will be significant instructional technology support to ensure the 1:1 iPad initiative is implemented and integrated in a meaningful way that focuses on supporting student learning. Professional development has been built into the year's calendar year through the SIG and will be delivered in one three-hour meeting per month. The focus of the professional development is based off of a needs assessment administered by IU South Bend where teacher input was surveyed. In addition to 1:1 technology integration, professional development will focus on collaboration (co-teaching), student engagement, literacy, and inclusion.

## Cultural Competency

Inclusion of all students is a primary focus for Mary Beck Elementary. Professional development regarding co-teaching strategies and differentiation have been provided and will continue to be a focus. Presentations on de-escalation and classroom management strategies, along with sensory calming resources have been provided by district personnel and through the SIG 1003(a).

The SIG 1003(a) also provided Mary Beck with the opportunity of a two day visit from award winning illustrator and fine artist, EB Lewis. He held teacher workshops, student assemblies, and a community event that focused on ways for caring adults to help students find their purpose.

For more information on district organized cultural competency opportunities, click [here](#).

## Three Year Timeline

Mary Beck is currently in year two of a five year school improvement transformation grant. See pages 28 and 29 of the application for the [Title 1 1003\(g\) School Improvement Grant SY 2016-2017](#).