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LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL - PEORIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 150

Section V - RESTRUCTURING PLAN

District and school planners should consider what has occurred in a school that has brought it to restructuring. The restructuring plan should take into account the actions initiated in prior years. The actions required under the restructuring plan may be seen as deeper, broader, or more targeted to meet identified needs. Each restructuring plan must be submitted to ISBE with the approval of the local board no later than six months after the district's receipt of formal notification regarding the school's AYP status.

Each school restructuring plan must indicate that the district is undertaking one or more of the following actions in the affected school:

1. reopening the school as a public charter school, consistent with Article 27A of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/Art. 27A];
2. replacing all or most of the school staff, which may include the principal, who are relevant to the school's inability to make adequate yearly progress;
3. entering into a contract with an entity, such as a private management company, with a demonstrated record of effectiveness, to operate the school as a public school;
4. implementing any other major restructuring of the school's governance that makes fundamental reform in:
 - i. governance and management, and/or
 - ii. financing and material resources, and/or
 - iii. staffing

Each school or district restructuring plan shall be reviewed by ISBE to determine whether the plan demonstrates that:

1. the proposed changes are based on data, documented needs and characteristics of the students served, and/or scientifically based practices that are appropriate in light of the school's or district's inability to make adequate yearly progress; and
2. the proposed changes are sufficient in extent or scope to promote increased achievement for all the students in the school or district and have substantial promise of enabling the school or district to make adequate yearly progress.

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V. School Restructuring Plan—Description of the School's plan for Restructuring Early Restructuring

Lincoln Middle School has experienced several internal personnel changes within the past year. At the beginning of the 05-06 school year Lincoln's administration changed. A new principal and assistant principal were now in the leadership role. Lincoln also added 4 new teachers to its staff this year, one in each grade level. Our new teachers include a 5th grade reading/social studies teacher, 6th grade science/reading teacher, 7th grade science/language arts teacher, and an 8th grade history/language arts teacher. A reading coach was added early in 05 to help guide reading at Lincoln. We are using new district curriculum in reading and math. The faculty of our school has had training in using the new curriculum. To aid our process of helping students achieve at a higher level, we have adhered to the district's new Grade Level Expectation system that helps students, teachers and stakeholders understand what learning goals are expected of all students in the district. We have done significant amounts of staff development for our new reading curriculum in our district, which will help teachers in the classroom.

To increase our reading performance, we have implemented explicit strategic instruction of comprehension across content areas. We have extended response instruction across the curriculum as well. We are currently using two retired district teachers as our reading tutors that perform intense group reading instruction.

We have conducted regular, bi-monthly meetings with our academic team. Administrators and the principal of Lincoln meet to ensure academic success at our school. To effectively guide our data analysis of our school's academic performance, our district provided our teachers with invaluable data training, enabling them to utilize data in a meaningful way. The principal also attended data training as part of professional development. To help guide the direction of our academic focus, we have continually reviewed the most current student data available, in the forms of recent pre-ISAT tests, core academic tests and other evaluative measurements.

Current Restructuring

Lincoln Middle School chose option #2 from the restructuring options, using a "turn-around specialist". The turnaround specialist will help to ensure that our school meets the mandated federal guidelines concerning restructuring. To help guide our transition through the restructuring process, our turn-around specialist, Dr. Jenny Tripses, PhD, from Bradley University will be working with Lincoln's staff and administration. She will meet with our administration and teachers on a regular, bi-monthly basis to help guide and plan our efforts at increasing student achievement. She will provide teachers and administration feedback based on her observations, examine school processes related to curriculum, instruction and evaluation. We will have the opportunity to involve her in our school's data analysis, strategic planning, teacher's professional development, school curriculum development and other efforts at improving Lincoln's student and staff performance. Dr. Tripses, our turn-around specialist, will begin working with our staff and administration to aid in the restructuring process in April 06'.

Having the help of a professional who has experience in helping schools through the process of restructuring will be invaluable. This option is appropriate for Lincoln for various reasons. First, the school has already had a change in administration, with a new

principal and assistant principal. Secondly, the school hired 4 new teachers in 05-06' and will be hiring 7 new teachers for 06-07'. This large turnover and addition of teachers will, in the future, provide Lincoln with a part of a corrective action option, replacement of staff. It is because of these changes in staff that we feel our corrective action option, utilizing a "turn-around specialist", would be most appropriate. During this Summer, Dr. Tripses will be involved in transition discussions related to our restructuring plan, which will be immediately implemented at the beginning of the 06-07' school year.

The current restructuring that is now happening at Lincoln, a 5th-8th grade inner-city school, includes all of the previous activities, including the following recent additions. Beginning in mid-February, our school will be using Learning Express, which is an on-line standardized testing preparation tool. It will enable students and teachers to easily identify academic deficiencies and also sufficient corrective information to help guide student learning and testing. The new principal has been participating in a district administrative mentor program since the beginning of the school year. It has provided the new principal with valuable information and guidance. In addition, our current district administrators, including Lincoln's new administration, have participated in an "administrative reading academy", which is helping to guide reading instruction and achievement in the school.

The school has utilized programs such as "extended day" academic programs that are designed to help students with their studies. We also have 3 different, federally funded tutoring programs in our school. Each of which is an accredited learning organization. It has provided many of our students with the extra help they have needed.

At Lincoln Middle School we are preparing for an upcoming influx of students as a result of building closures. This August, Lincoln Middle School will potentially receive all of the current 5th, 6th and 7th graders from another school. Lincoln will no longer have a 5th grade and will instead become a 6th - 8th grade school. The increase of our student population will bring the opening of new classes in each of the three remaining grade levels at Lincoln. Throughout this process, stakeholders, parents and others will be included in an informational forum held in May 2006. This will give the community an opportunity to discuss strategies for the upcoming school year. Following this forum, the school district plans on holding another informational meeting/forum for community members and stakeholders concerned with Lincoln's transition.

In looking at the new demands and complexities that the influx of students will have on our student population, and families, we are increasing our efforts towards next year's transition. A community leadership program for students and parents will be at Lincoln next year. This program has had success in helping to provide families and students with valuable leadership skills and education. In acquiring approximately 140 new students into our building, we believe that having strong parental leadership will be key in developing strong community bonds between families and students.

Another restructuring option that our school is taking is that much of our staff will change at the beginning of this next year. With the influx of the new students at Lincoln from the local school closure, many of those teachers will be likely hired at Lincoln. As this is not complete in scope as total change in staff, Lincoln has already hired 4 new teachers as indicated in Early Restructuring. The districts choice to combine Lincoln with another school that will be closing has resulted in Lincoln adding 7 new classes; 3 in

the 6th grade; 2 in the 7th and 2 in the 8th. Teachers for these new positions will be hired through normal, Union supported hiring procedures, allowing for equal opportunity.

As we have yet to begin our corrective action entirely, we do not have information or data that may indicate that our school is showing progress from corrective actions.