



Liam Skinner
Chief Schools Officer
155 Merrimack Street
Lowell, Massachusetts 01852

LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Phone: (978) 674-2163
E-mail: lskinner@lowell.k12.ma.us

TO: Dr. Joel Boyd, Superintendent of Schools
FROM: Liam Skinner, Chief Schools Officer
DATE: May 12, 2022
RE: *Response to Motion: Interventions and Enhancements*

The following report is in response to a motion by Jackie Doherty:

Request the Superintendent provide the committee with a report on what each middle school offers students re enhancement/intervention programming, including type of instruction, number of students involved by grade, and when it is scheduled such as before/after school, during homeroom, allied arts, or other time block.

In order to gather the information sought, all middle school principals were surveyed. They were asked to respond to 8 questions, 4 related to intervention and 4 related to enhancement/enrichment:

- What intervention programming does your school offer?
- What type of instruction is involved in intervention programming?
- Number of students involved in interventions by grade:
- When are interventions scheduled?
- What enhancement/enrichment programming does your school offer?
- What type of instruction is involved in enhancement/enrichment programming?
- Number of students involved in enhancements/enrichment programs by grade:
- When are enhancements/enrichments scheduled?

The results of the survey are provided below. They indicate a wide range of intervention and enrichment programming offered during and after school hours.

Interventions are focussed primarily on reading and mathematics. Many schools arrange for interventions to occur during a dedicated block during the school day. Several schools refer to this block as a WIN (What I Need) block. Others provide interventions through tutors who 'push in' to core academic classes. The Daley uses homeroom time and Allied Arts times to offer interventions. In all schools interventions which are provided during the school day are supplemented by after school programming, as well as vacation week and summer programs.

Enhancement, or enrichment, programming is considerably more varied, encompassing such offerings as archery, band and chorus, drama, gardening, and creative writing, as well as a range of sports. Most such programming occurs during after school clubs although some more academic options like Algebra are incorporated in WIN blocks.

For both intervention and enhancement programming, much of the variation in what schools offer is due to a suitable application of school autonomy. Leaders consider school themes and listen to the interests of parents and students, particularly when pursuing after school enrichment programs. Variation in intervention programming is influenced, as well, by student needs, and by the particularities of school profiles, staffing and schedules. A five-strand school, for instance, has different scheduling options than a six-strand school. A school that happens to have a retired reading teacher return as a tutor, may draw on specialized expertise in a way another school may not.

Finally, it is worth noting that, when scheduling interventions during the school day, there are always competing priorities to balance. For instance, schools with WIN blocks ensure that students receive interventions without missing any other programming; yet other classes in those schools are made shorter in order to make time in the school day for the WIN block to occur.

The full results of the survey are provided below.

Bartlett:

What intervention programming does your school offer?

All students in 5-8 have a scheduled "what I need" (WIN) block from 1:15-2:05, for enrichment and intervention. Groupings are based on iReady data.

What type of instruction is involved in intervention programming?

Mainstream, EL, and SpecEd teachers, as well as some tutors and paraprofessionals provide instruction; some groups are math focused, some ELA focused; groupings change in 6-8 week cycles, where we regroup according to need; iReady, Zearn, Khan Academy, STMath, along with direct instruction from the teacher

Number of students involved in interventions by grade:

ALL (5th = 47; 6th = 46; 7th = 56; 8th = 57)

When are interventions scheduled?

During last block of the day (1:15-2:05)

What enhancement/enrichment programming does your school offer?

Afternoon in the Arts, Archery, Sports (XC, wrestling, basketball, volleyball), Futsol Fridays, STEM Club, Artificial Intelligence Club, Knowledge Bowl, Exercise and the Arts (Gr 3-4), Lego Club (Gr K-1), April Creative Writing Camp, April Math Camp

What type of instruction is involved in enhancement/enrichment programming?

Taught/provided by Bartlett staff, LPS staff, and/or community partners (UML)

Number of students involved in enhancements/enrichment programs by grade:

12-40/day, 5 days/week; Gr K/1 = 20; Gr 3/4=55

When are enhancements/enrichments scheduled?

After School, April vacation

Butler:

What intervention programming does your school offer?

Grades 5-8 students have a WIN (what I need) block daily for 52 minutes for 4 days per week. All students are grouped for enrichment or intervention based on assessment data. Some students also receive academic tutoring afterschool from their core teachers as needed.

What type of instruction is involved in intervention programming?

ESL teachers provide ESL instruction; Sped Teachers provide Grid C and other IEP specialized services; core teachers provide enrichment and intervention instruction using I-Ready, IXL, St math, advance lessons from Eureka, and Book clubs; teachers provide skills development that are needed for the next math or ELA unit. Reading teacher provides instruction to students identified for specialized reading development; Tutors provide LLI and Lexia instruction to groups based on F & P scores.

Number of students involved in interventions by grade:

Grade 5 - 27; Grade 6 - 57; Grade 7 - 65; Grade 8 - 59 (during school)
Academic Tutoring from 3-4 pm - Gr 5: 38, Gr 7: 21, Gr 8: 44

When are interventions scheduled?

During Win Block at 8:16am for grades 7/8 and at 10:52am for grades 5/6; and afterschool from 3-4pm

What enhancement/enrichment programming does your school offer?

WIn Block during school; afterschool Century 21 grant which provides programs for about 185 students. These programs are taught by Butler school staff, including paras and social worker. Some of the programs are: Cooking and Gardening, Crafts, Organized Sports in the Gym, Board games, Trivia, AE Sports, Sewing, Chorus, Band, and Lego Robotics. In addition we partner with community organizations such as, Girls Inc., Elevate NE, Audubon Society, Kids in Tech, Umbrella Arts, SNL Sports, Lowell Taekwondo, and Angkor Dance Troupe.

What type of instruction is involved in enhancement/enrichment programming?

Algebra taught by grade 8 teachers using advanced lessons from Eureka, Grades 6/7 taught by math coach and tutors; SEL taught by social worker and core teachers using Second Step program; Grade 7 students taught by Elevate NE consultants; Book Clubs gr 7/8; Grade 6

Number of students involved in enhancements/enrichment programs by grade:

Grade 6=39; Grade 7 = 74; Grade 8 = 44 (during school)
185 (after school programs)

When are enhancements/enrichments scheduled?

SEL/Math/ELA offered during WIN block; all others during afterschool (3:00-5:00)

Daley:

What intervention programming does your school offer?

We offer reading and math intervention. The interventions are taught by a certified math teacher, Special Education teachers, and tutors

What type of instruction is involved in intervention programming?

Interventions are open to students based on teacher recommendations, i-Ready scores, MCAS scores, Schedule C accommodations and end of module assessments. A variety of materials are used, including teacher created lessons, STMath, Zearn, IXL, Flocabulary, Brain Pop, LLI, Lexia Power Up, Action Scholastic, and Language Live.

Number of students involved in interventions by grade:

Grade 8: 23; Grade 7: 30; Grade 6: 42; and Grade 5: 45

When are interventions scheduled?

Interventions are scheduled during homeroom and at Allied Arts

What enhancement/enrichment programming does your school offer?

Algebra, Tutoring/Homework, SEL, Sports Club, Sports Clinics, Anime, Games, STEM, Creations for a Cause, Chorus, Drama, LGBTQ+ and Allies, Gardening, Yearbook, Knowledge Bowl, School Culture, Class Officers, and Electric Guitar

What type of instruction is involved in enhancement/enrichment programming?

Algebra taught by math coach; SEL taught by Allied Arts teacher; Tutoring/Homework staffed by teachers, tutors, and student peer tutors, after school programs taught by school staff (teachers, social worker, paraprofessionals)

Number of students involved in enhancements/enrichment programs by grade:

Grade 5: 78; Grade 6: 55; Grade 7: 45; Grade 8: 71

When are enhancements/enrichments scheduled?

Algebra: homeroom, Tutoring/Homework: after school, SEL: Allied Arts during the school day, the remainder are offered after school.

Pyne Arts:

What intervention programming does your school offer?

Daily math & reading intervention, including upper-level classes in algebra and pre-algebra and small group instruction for striving students.

What type of instruction is involved in intervention programming?

Intervention blocks are taught by classroom teachers and support staff, including the ESL and special education teachers who are providing required services to small groups during interventions. Additionally, the pre-algebra class is co-taught by the Tech Ed teacher and the Algebra class is taught by the Math resource Teacher. Instruction is primarily teacher-led using Envisions/Eureka supplemental materials and the Big Ideas Book and Prentice Hall Algebra book for 7/8 math. ST Math is utilized in grades 5 & 6 supplementally and iXL is utilized in grades 7/8 supplementally. Reading intervention follows the workshop/book club model and is all text-based according to the district curriculum guides.

Number of students involved in interventions by grade:

5- 49; 6- 51; 7-58; 8- 57

When are interventions scheduled?

Intervention blocks are scheduled during the school day from 1:55-2:38 and 2:40-3:22.

What enhancement/enrichment programming does your school offer?

ASOS Before/After School programming including bucket drumming, step squad, cricut club, costume design club, drama ensemble, Girls on the Run, morning yoga, robotics, STEM Club, yearbook, Knowledge Bowl, Student Advisory Board, Diversity & Inclusion Club, cooking, journalism club, intramural sports (cross country, basketball, wrestling, volleyball, ultimate frisbee), academic tutoring center; Pyne Arts Summer Camp

What type of instruction is involved in enhancement/enrichment programming?

Before/After school programs taught by Pyne Arts teachers, paraprofessionals, and other support staff; coaching provided by parents and outside hires; materials for programs purchased through ASOS grant; minimal online tools for enrichment programs- mostly hands-on projects

Number of students involved in enhancements/enrichment programs by grade:

70 students per session K-8, 3 sessions per year

When are enhancements/enrichments scheduled?

Before/after school; summer. Next year, we are rolling out a new Fine Arts Pathway with additional enrichment programming during school as well: [Pyne Fine Arts Pathways 22-23](#)

Robinson:

What intervention programming does your school offer?

Daily WIN Blocks- Intervention blocks targeted by diagnostic assessment for each student in math, ela, science, SEL and social studies. Specialized staff and tutors for this. Daily advisory classes where content teachers have an extended block to spiral review, reteach or accelerate current grade level standards as needed.

What type of instruction is involved in intervention programming?

Intervention- mainly computerized- Second Step, Restorative Justice, ST Math, IXL Math, Study Island, Iready, Nearpod, Lexia, EPIC books; All staff licensed in areas they are teaching and tutors. Data facilitators at each grade level and cluster to review instructional data with staff on Fridays, to action plan for support of all students.

Number of students involved in interventions by grade:

5-190; 6-166; 7-187; 8-190

When are interventions scheduled?

During dedicated intervention blocks and advisories during school hours

What enhancement/enrichment programming does your school offer?

21st Century After School Programming including basketball, football, Mock Trial, dungeons and dragons, audubon society, college prep, cooking, band, chorus, gardening, sewing, painting, STEM science, knowledge bowl team; Student Council; NJHS; Student Ambassadors; Robotics for grade 8 during AA- Expanding to all grades for 22-23 school year; Instrumental Music during AA.

What type of instruction is involved in enhancement/enrichment programming?

After school programming enrichment taught by Robinson staff- teachers and paras. Community Partnerships with Audubon Society, Lowell District Court, Mill City Grows, Suffolk University

Number of students involved in enhancements/enrichment programs by grade:

150 total after school; (250 before buses cut); 5-54; 6-21; 7-28; 8-47

When are enhancements/enrichments scheduled?

After school, vacations (summer, Feb, April) and AA

STEM Academy:

What intervention programming does your school offer?

During the school day: Interventions from tutors at all grades, SEL intervention at elementary grades and pilot in grade 7. Before and After School program at all grade levels for SEL support and academic enrichment. Saturday Program as well for SEL and academic support. April vacation program for added academic support.

What type of instruction is involved in intervention programming?

Tutors are supporting students by providing small group supports with a push in model for LPS curriculum (i.e. book clubs) in ELA and Math. Before School/After School/Saturday Program are staffed by STEM teachers and paraprofessionals to provide academic extension work.

Number of students involved in interventions by grade:

Before School is 50 students, After School is 50 middle school students. April Break and Summer School are currently at 40 students with more to be added. Saturday School supports between 5-15 students dependent upon fluctuating needs. Our tutors support small group interventions that generally support about 30 students per grade.

When are interventions scheduled?

Our interventions with tutors/teachers are scheduled throughout the school day. Our middle school Before/After School programs are Tuesday and Thursday. Saturday School is on Saturday mornings.

What enhancement/enrichment programming does your school offer?

Our morning and after-school programs include a STEM club, garden club, yearbook, color guard, cooking, nutrition, team sports (including volleyball and basketball), mindfulness/yoga, and specific lessons around SEL through team building.

What type of instruction is involved in enhancement/enrichment programming?

Our enrichment programming is all planned, taught and coordinated by staff from STEM Academy at the Rogers School. We also partner with Mill City Grows, UMass-Lowell, SNL Sports, and other organizations, which are reflective of our student populations. These organizations help support STEM staff in the before/after/summer programming. Our programs are a blend of hands-on, project-based learning, as well as computer-based activities.

Number of students involved in enhancements/enrichment programs by grade:

We have about 200-250 all together, depending on need. An increased amount of students

could be supported throughout the school day with increased space to better meet the needs of approximately 880 students. Our enrichment programs support students across all grade levels.

When are enhancements/enrichments scheduled?

Before school, after school, April Vacation, and summer.

Stoklosa:

What intervention programming does your school offer?

ELA + Math + SEL Interventions. Tutoring program. Algebra. April Vacation Programming

What type of instruction is involved in intervention programming?

Implements Brexia, LLI, standards based math interventions at each grade level. Also, ELLs level 3 interventions. The interventions are direct instruction taught by either a teacher, tutor or instructional specialist. Lastly, we offer algebra after school for grades 7 & 8

Number of students involved in interventions by grade:

Grade 5: 160; Grade 6: 156, Grade 7: 174, Grade 8: 168

When are interventions scheduled?

Interventions take place in academic core blocks, SEL (AA) and after school

What enhancement/enrichment programming does your school offer?

After School 21st Century program; NJHS, cooking, drama, guitar, sewing, gym, garden club, minecraft, talent show, watercolor art, STEM, Karate, self-defense, cooking

What type of instruction is involved in enhancement/enrichment programming?

Algebra (teacher), Tutoring program to address learning loss (teachers, coac, tutors)

Number of students involved in enhancements/enrichment programs by grade:

grade 5: 58 ; grade 6: 60 ; grade 7: 40; grade 8: 43

When are enhancements/enrichments scheduled?

SEL during AA, 21st Century after school, Mill City Grows, NJHS

Sullivan:

What intervention programming does your school offer?

As part of our Core and more program, students are offered interventions and enrichment during daily WIN (What I Need) blocks. In addition, we are offering an after school Learning Recovery Program at all grade levels.

What type of instruction is involved in intervention programming?

During WIN, students are flexibly grouped based on review of on - going formative assessments. Students work directly with teachers, paraprofessionals, tutors and coaches during this time. Interventions include direct instruction or reteaching in math and ELA as well as a writing component in grades 7 & 8. Students also benefit from on line programs including iReady, IXL and Lexia. In addition, SWD received specialized instruction and support based on their IEPs and our Els received targeted instruction catered to language acquisition. Social / Emotional lessons are also taught during these intervention times at all grade levels.

Number of students involved in interventions by grade:

Grade 5- 155; Grade 6 -146; Grade 7 - 165; Grade 8 -168

When are interventions scheduled?

WIN Daily schedule; Learning Recovery (after school)

What enhancement/enrichment programming does your school offer?

After School Program

What type of instruction is involved in enhancement/enrichment programming?

Various activities and programs including Web Design, Creative Writing, Gardening, Gaming, Cooking, Tae Kwon Do; Wrestling (Afternoon in the Arts - LHS)

Number of students involved in enhancements/enrichment programs by grade:

Grade 5 - 20; Grade 6 - 17; Grade 7 - 15; Grade 8 - 18

When are enhancements/enrichments scheduled?

After School

Wang:

What intervention programming does your school offer?

During School Day - Reading & Math Interventionists + Tutors

Saturdays - Saturday School with support from staff

April Break Academic Support

What type of instruction is involved in intervention programming?

Wang School has implemented LLI programs and math interventions for students that are facilitated by both intervention teachers and tutors in small group settings. In addition, we have Academic Extension classes for all students at the end of every school day in order to allow students time to catch up on work or more deeply understand concepts already taught with direct support from the teacher.

Number of students involved in interventions by grade:

Intervention teachers work with students from all grades and the number fluctuates based on their developing skills. Typically, it is 250-300 students who are supported with some kind of intervention each week.

Academic Extension includes all students, but focuses on those students who need additional support with prior lessons/assignments.

Saturday School potentially includes 30-40 students each weekend.

April Break Support included approximately 60 students.

When are interventions scheduled?

Interventions with teachers & tutors are scheduled throughout the school day based on the needs of the student and the ideal scheduling

- This scheduling is done individually for the students to provide them specific support in their area of need as well as based on availability of support and student schedule
- This support may occur during Academic Extension periods at the end of the day, content blocks if the need is a foundational skill essential for that content area, or even during after-school hours
- We try to avoid Allied Arts blocks because part of our school's focus is to provide a fully balanced educational experience, but in some situations these blocks can be utilized for foundational skill support

Academic Extension is everyday last period.

Saturday School is on Saturday mornings.

April Break will be April 19th-22nd

What enhancement/enrichment programming does your school offer?

After-school programs include band, chorus, drama, art, student newsletter, yearbook, knitting club, building club, gardening club, "Imagineering", & coding.

Summer programs include band, chorus, gardening, coding, sports, and art club.

What type of instruction is involved in enhancement/enrichment programming?

Enrichment programs (after-school and summer) are 100% taught by Wang School staff and are also developed and planned by the staff as well.

Number of students involved in enhancements/enrichment programs by grade:

Collectively the afterschool program has supported 120-175 students during each rotation.

When are enhancements/enrichments scheduled?

After-school, vacations (April), & summer