

Hillsborough County Public Schools

Lopez Exceptional Center



2021-22 Ungraded Schoolwide Improvement Plan

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Lopez Exceptional Center

315 W OLD HILLSBOROUGH AVE, Seffner, FL 33584

[no web address on file]

Demographics

Principal: Sara Schwanzl

Start Date for this Principal: 7/7/2020

2021-22 Status (per MSID File)	Active
School Function (per accountability file)	ESE
School Type and Grades Served (per MSID File)	Combination School PK-12
Primary Service Type (per MSID File)	Special Education
2020-21 Title I School	Yes
2020-21 Economically Disadvantaged (FRL) Rate (as reported on Survey 3)	90%
2020-21 ESSA Subgroups Represented (subgroups with 10 or more students) (subgroups below the federal threshold are identified with an asterisk)	
School Improvement Rating History	2021-22: Maintaining 2020-21: No Rating 2018-19: Unsatisfactory 2017-18: Maintaining 2016-17: No Rating
DJJ Accountability Rating	2023-24: No Rating

School Board Approval

This plan is pending approval by the Hillsborough County School Board.

SIP Authority

A Schoolwide Improvement Plan (SIP) is a requirement for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) ungraded schools pursuant to 1001.42 F.S. and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and for DJJ schools

receiving a rating of Unsatisfactory pursuant to Sections 1003.51 and 1003.52, F.S. and Rule 6A-1.099813, F.A.C.

CSI schools can be designated as such in 2 ways:

1. Have a graduation of 67% or lower; or
2. Have an overall Federal Index below 41%.

DJJ Unsatisfactory Ratings are based on percentages by program type:

- Prevention and Intervention: 0%-50%
- Nonsecure Programs: 0%-59%
- Secure Programs: 0%-53%

SIP Plans for Ungraded CSI schools and DJJ schools receiving an Unsatisfactory rating must be approved by the district and reviewed by the state.

Purpose and Outline of the SIP

The School Improvement Plan (SIP) provides schools and Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) the opportunity to identify the academic and priority goals along with strategies for each school. School leadership teams may refine their SIP annually to define their school's academic and priority goals to increase student achievement.

Schools and LEAs are strongly encouraged to collaborate in the development and implementation of this plan.

Part I: School Information

School Mission and Vision

Provide the school's mission statement.

Provide support to empower student communication and understanding to be successful citizens.

Provide the school's vision statement.

Preparing self-advocating independent students for life through engaging interactions.

Briefly discuss the population unique to your school and the specific supports provided to meet the mission and vision.

Our students have significant disabilities with challenging behaviors and/or intensive health needs. The supports that are provided to our students are a low student to teacher ratio, partnership with the school speech and language pathologist, social worker, and school physiologist. Along with a focus on communication and the use of core vocabulary and other classroom visuals to increase communication and engagement.

School Leadership Team

Membership

Identify the name, email address, position title, and job duties/responsibilities as it relates to SIP implementation for each member of the school leadership team.:

Name	Position Title	Job Duties and Responsibilities
Montgomery, Kasandra	SAC Member	Co-SAC chair: to assist the principal and staff in the development, implementation, and monitoring of the School Improvement Plan (SIP) required in accountability legislation.
Rivas Rodriguez, David	SAC Member	Co-SAC chair: to assist the principal and staff in the development, implementation, and monitoring of the School Improvement Plan (SIP) required in accountability legislation.
Schwanzl, Sara	Principal	SAC Member
Meyer, Heidi	Parent Engagement Liaison	Parent Involvement Chair: encourage parents/guardians to participate in school based activities and encourage them to help the school meet the mission/vision with their students at home as well.

Is education provided through contract for educational services?

Yes

If yes, name of the contracted education provider.

Hillsborough County Public Schools using Florida State Common Core Curriculum and Access Point Standards

Demographic Information

Principal start date

Tuesday 7/7/2020, Sara Schwanzl

Number of teachers with professional teaching certificates?

14

Number of teachers with temporary teaching certificates?

0

Total number of teacher positions allocated to the school.

14

Total number of students enrolled at the school.

52

Identify the number of instructional staff who left the school during the 2020-21 school year.

1

Identify the number of instructional staff who joined the school during the 2021-22 school year.

2

Demographic Data

Early Warning Systems

2021-22

The number of students by grade level that exhibit each early warning indicator listed:

Indicator	Grade Level													Total
	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Number of students enrolled	0	0	0	2	1	3	2	7	3	3	3	3	26	53
Attendance below 90 percent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
One or more suspensions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Course failure in ELA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Course failure in Math	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Level 1 on 2022 statewide FSA ELA assessment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Level 1 on 2022 statewide FSA Math assessment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of students with a substantial reading deficiency	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The number of students with two or more early warning indicators:

Indicator	Grade Level													Total
	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Students with two or more indicators	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The number of students identified as retainees:

Indicator	Grade Level													Total
	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Retained Students: Current Year	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Students retained two or more times	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Date this data was collected or last updated

Wednesday 9/8/2021

2020-21 - Updated

The number of students by grade level that exhibit each early warning indicator:

Indicator	Grade Level													Total
	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Number of students enrolled	0	0	1	2	3	2	7	3	3	3	3	7	19	53
Attendance below 90 percent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
One or more suspensions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Course failure in ELA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Course failure in Math	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Level 1 on 2019 statewide FSA ELA assessment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Level 1 on 2019 statewide FSA Math assessment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The number of students with two or more early warning indicators:

Indicator	Grade Level													Total
	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Students with two or more indicators	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The number of students identified as retainees:

Indicator	Grade Level													Total
	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Retained Students: Current Year	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Students retained two or more times	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Part II: Needs Assessment/Analysis

School Data Review

Please note that the district and state averages shown here represent the averages for similar school types (elementary, middle, high school, or combination schools).

School Grade Component	2021			2019			2018		
	School	District	State	School	District	State	School	District	State
ELA Achievement					57%	61%		59%	60%
ELA Learning Gains					56%	59%		56%	57%
ELA Lowest 25th Percentile					52%	54%		49%	52%
Math Achievement					55%	62%		57%	61%

School Grade Component	2021			2019			2018		
	School	District	State	School	District	State	School	District	State
Math Learning Gains					57%	59%		53%	58%
Math Lowest 25th Percentile					49%	52%		47%	52%
Science Achievement					50%	56%		51%	57%
Social Studies Achievement					77%	78%		79%	77%

Grade Level Data Review - State Assessments
NOTE: This data is raw data and includes ALL students who tested at the school. This is not school grade data.

ELA						
Grade	Year	School	District	School-District Comparison	State	School-State Comparison
03	2021					
	2019					
Cohort Comparison						
04	2021					
	2019					
Cohort Comparison		0%				
05	2021					
	2019					
Cohort Comparison		0%				
06	2021					
	2019					
Cohort Comparison		0%				
07	2021					
	2019					
Cohort Comparison		0%				
08	2021					
	2019					
Cohort Comparison		0%				
09	2021					
	2019					
Cohort Comparison		0%				
10	2021					
	2019					
Cohort Comparison		0%				

MATH						
Grade	Year	School	District	School-District Comparison	State	School-State Comparison
03	2021					
	2019					
Cohort Comparison						
04	2021					
	2019					
Cohort Comparison		0%				

MATH						
Grade	Year	School	District	School-District Comparison	State	School-State Comparison
05	2021					
	2019					
Cohort Comparison		0%				
06	2021					
	2019					
Cohort Comparison		0%				
07	2021					
	2019					
Cohort Comparison		0%				
08	2021					
	2019					
Cohort Comparison		0%				

SCIENCE						
Grade	Year	School	District	School-District Comparison	State	School-State Comparison
05	2021					
	2019					
Cohort Comparison						
08	2021					
	2019					
Cohort Comparison		0%				

BIOLOGY EOC					
Year	School	District	School Minus District	State	School Minus State
2021					
2019					

CIVICS EOC					
Year	School	District	School Minus District	State	School Minus State
2021					
2019					

HISTORY EOC					
Year	School	District	School Minus District	State	School Minus State
2021					
2019					

ALGEBRA EOC					
Year	School	District	School Minus District	State	School Minus State
2021					
2019					

GEOMETRY EOC					
Year	School	District	School Minus District	State	School Minus State
2021					
2019					

Subgroup Data Review

2021 SCHOOL GRADE COMPONENTS BY SUBGROUPS											
Subgroups	ELA Ach.	ELA LG	ELA LG L25%	Math Ach.	Math LG	Math LG L25%	Sci Ach.	SS Ach.	MS Accel.	Grad Rate 2019-20	C & C Accel 2019-20
SWD		14		15	33						
WHT				27							
FRL		17		19	40						

2019 SCHOOL GRADE COMPONENTS BY SUBGROUPS											
Subgroups	ELA Ach.	ELA LG	ELA LG L25%	Math Ach.	Math LG	Math LG L25%	Sci Ach.	SS Ach.	MS Accel.	Grad Rate 2017-18	C & C Accel 2017-18
SWD	5	19			27						
WHT	8	9									
FRL	5	21			23						

2018 SCHOOL GRADE COMPONENTS BY SUBGROUPS											
Subgroups	ELA Ach.	ELA LG	ELA LG L25%	Math Ach.	Math LG	Math LG L25%	Sci Ach.	SS Ach.	MS Accel.	Grad Rate 2016-17	C & C Accel 2016-17
SWD											
WHT											
FRL											

ESSA Data Review

This data has been updated for the 2021-22 school year as of 10/19/2021.

ESSA Federal Index	
ESSA Category (TS&I or CS&I)	
OVERALL Federal Index – All Students	16
OVERALL Federal Index Below 41% All Students	YES
Total Number of Subgroups Missing the Target	3
Progress of English Language Learners in Achieving English Language Proficiency	
Total Points Earned for the Federal Index	62
Total Components for the Federal Index	4
Percent Tested	84%

Subgroup Data	
Students With Disabilities	
Federal Index - Students With Disabilities	16
Students With Disabilities Subgroup Below 41% in the Current Year?	YES
Number of Consecutive Years Students With Disabilities Subgroup Below 32%	
English Language Learners	
Federal Index - English Language Learners	
English Language Learners Subgroup Below 41% in the Current Year?	N/A
Number of Consecutive Years English Language Learners Subgroup Below 32%	
Native American Students	
Federal Index - Native American Students	
Native American Students Subgroup Below 41% in the Current Year?	N/A
Number of Consecutive Years Native American Students Subgroup Below 32%	
Asian Students	
Federal Index - Asian Students	
Asian Students Subgroup Below 41% in the Current Year?	N/A
Number of Consecutive Years Asian Students Subgroup Below 32%	
Black/African American Students	
Federal Index - Black/African American Students	
Black/African American Students Subgroup Below 41% in the Current Year?	N/A
Number of Consecutive Years Black/African American Students Subgroup Below 32%	
Hispanic Students	
Federal Index - Hispanic Students	
Hispanic Students Subgroup Below 41% in the Current Year?	N/A
Number of Consecutive Years Hispanic Students Subgroup Below 32%	
Multiracial Students	
Federal Index - Multiracial Students	
Multiracial Students Subgroup Below 41% in the Current Year?	N/A
Number of Consecutive Years Multiracial Students Subgroup Below 32%	
Pacific Islander Students	
Federal Index - Pacific Islander Students	

Pacific Islander Students	
Pacific Islander Students Subgroup Below 41% in the Current Year?	N/A
Number of Consecutive Years Pacific Islander Students Subgroup Below 32%	
White Students	
Federal Index - White Students	27
White Students Subgroup Below 41% in the Current Year?	YES
Number of Consecutive Years White Students Subgroup Below 32%	
Economically Disadvantaged Students	
Federal Index - Economically Disadvantaged Students	19
Economically Disadvantaged Students Subgroup Below 41% in the Current Year?	YES
Number of Consecutive Years Economically Disadvantaged Students Subgroup Below 32%	

Analysis

Data Analysis

Answer the following analysis questions using the progress monitoring data and state assessment data, if applicable.

Reflect on the Areas of Focus from the previous school year. What progress monitoring was in place for low performing ESSA subgroups related to the Areas of Focus?

Our vision statement changing in the prior two years, we have not seen a decline in our goals as a school. During our meetings we look for ways to improve our data and so far have not seen a decline in our data of communication and self-advocacy.

Consistency in meetings and involving all stakeholders. We will also continue to use classroom walkthroughs with more background knowledge on what to look for and use the Communication Matrix in the classroom to help increase engagement during activities.

Based on ESSA subgroup progress monitoring, which data component showed the most improvement? What new actions did your school take in this area?

All our data will be much different than what the states data is because of what kind of data we are focused on at our specials needs center. We focus on our students communication and self-advocacy needs rather than on academic needs.

Our communication skills have seen the most growth due to a generous donation of iPads to our school. These iPads had a communication device added on to them for our students to clearly communicate their wants and needs. Our hope is to continue to train our staff and students in this program for them to leave our school one day being able to communicate in the community around them. We are excited for the changes in behavior we saw just this past year from the use of these new devices.

We have also implemented the use of core words (visual communication) being used daily around the school campus.

What area is in the greatest need of improvement? What specific component of this area is most problematic? What is your basis (data, progress monitoring) for this conclusion?

Our greatest need of improvement is to increase engagement in the classroom. We focus on our students communication and self-advocacy needs rather than on academic needs. In order for our students to be more engaged, we must increase these communication skills and self-advocacy skills.

The use of core words will be integrated into daily activities around campus (ex: in the classroom, on the bus ramp, playground, and doors). We will also incorporate the use of communication boards at near point and the use of switches and communication devices throughout the day.

What trends emerge across grade levels, subgroups and core content areas?

Due to the levels of our students at Lopez, our data reflection throughout this next year will be based on communication and self-advocacy skills. We do not have enough data from this past year to show facts to why performance in these areas may have been low. Throughout this next school year we will begin doing walkthroughs to collect data on how communication and self-advocacy skills are being used in the classroom based off the communication matrix.

What strategies need to be implemented in order to accelerate learning?

The use of core words will be integrated into daily activities around campus (ex: in the classroom, on the bus ramp, playground, and doors). We will also incorporate the use of communication boards at near point and the use of switches and communication devices throughout the day.

Based on the contributing factors and strategies identified to accelerate learning, describe the professional development opportunities that will be provided at the school to support teachers and leaders.

We will continue to train our teachers and staff in the use of Core Words. On a weekly basis, core words will be sent with videos and activities to all staff members to improve the use of communication school wide.

We will also conduct a training on communication walkthroughs and what they should look like on campus.

Part III: Planning for Improvement

Areas of Focus:

#1. Instructional Practice specifically relating to Student Engagement

Area of Focus Description and Rationale:

Include a rationale that explains how it was identified as a critical need from the data reviewed.

We want to increase student engagement through increased communication. The more our students are able to communicate, the more they can learn and the better their behavior is.

Measurable Outcome:

State the specific measurable outcome the school plans to achieve. This should be a data based, objective outcome.

Increase in FSAA scores and decrease in violent student behavior.

Monitoring:

Describe how this Area of Focus will be monitored for the desired outcome.

This area will be monitored by the communication matrix and walkthroughs on campus.

Person responsible for monitoring outcome:

Sara Schwanzl (sara.schwanzl@hcps.net)

Evidence-based Strategy:

Describe the evidence-based strategy being implemented for this Area of Focus.

Teachers will use Core Word visual communication and communication devices to increase engagement, communication and decrease behaviors

Rationale for Evidence-based Strategy:

Explain the rationale for selecting this specific strategy. Describe the resources/criteria used for selecting this strategy.

Students are able to more effectively express their wants and needs when they have access to multiple modes of communication which in the end increases engagement and decreases behaviors.

Action Steps to Implement:

List the action steps that will be taken as part of this strategy to address the Area of Focus. Identify the person responsible for monitoring each step.

1. Increase the amount of technology available.
2. Increase the amount of referrals done for ACAT.
3. Provide monthly training for teachers on how to use it.
4. Increase the amount of low-tech communication devices.
5. Increase parent involvement in the use of communication devices at home.

Person Responsible

Sara Schwanzl (sara.schwanzl@hcps.net)

Monitoring ESSA Impact:

If this Area of Focus is not related to one or more ESSA subgroups, please describe the process for progress monitoring the impact of the Area of Focus as it relates to all ESSA subgroups not meeting the 41% threshold according to the Federal Index.

Through our area of focus, we will also increase self-advocacy skills throughout our campus. With the use of communication devices and programs, we can better understand our students and their needs on a day-to-day basis. This will also help the students in their community around their families and peers. Once a student can communicate their wants and needs, the behaviors will stop and then we can help them take the necessary steps to self-advocate for themselves in the world.

#2. Culture & Environment specifically relating to Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports

Area of Focus Description and Rationale:

Include a rationale that explains how it was identified as a critical need from the data reviewed.

Increasing communication trainings will help staff create safe environments on campus to decrease behaviors and increase communication. By giving students a way to communicate their feelings and needs and wants will create an avenue to express their desires, thus decreasing their behaviors and redirect their focus towards instructional time.

Measurable Outcome:

State the specific measurable outcome the school plans to achieve. This should be a data based, objective outcome.

Behavior data (PBIP or FBA) and data regarding decreasing staff injury.

Monitoring:

Describe how this Area of Focus will be monitored for the desired outcome.

Through the use of behavior charts and injury reports.

Person responsible for monitoring outcome:

Sara Schwanzl (sara.schwanzl@hcps.net)

Evidence-based Strategy:

Describe the evidence-based strategy being implemented for this Area of Focus.

Teachers will use Core Word visual communication and communication devices to increase engagement, communication and decrease behaviors

Rationale for Evidence-based Strategy:

Explain the rationale for selecting this specific strategy. Describe the resources/criteria used for selecting this strategy.

Students can more effectively express their wants and needs when they have access to multiple modes of communication which in the end increases engagement and decreases behaviors.

Action Steps to Implement:

List the action steps that will be taken as part of this strategy to address the Area of Focus. Identify the person responsible for monitoring each step.

1. Increasing sensory time in the classroom
2. Creating task boxes to keep students engaged
3. Increase the amount of technology available.
4. Increase the amount of referrals done for ACAT.
5. Provide monthly training for teachers on crisis intervention
6. Increase the amount of low-tech communication devices.
7. Increase parent involvement in the use of communication devices at home.

Person Responsible

[no one identified]

Monitoring ESSA Impact:

If this Area of Focus is not related to one or more ESSA subgroups, please describe the process for progress monitoring the impact of the Area of Focus as it relates to all ESSA subgroups not meeting the 41% threshold according to the Federal Index.

Through our area of focus, we will also increase self-advocacy skills throughout our campus. With the use of communication devices and programs, we can better understand our students and their needs on a day-to-day basis. This will also help the students in their community around their families and peers. Once a student can communicate their wants and needs, the behaviors will stop and then we can help them take the necessary steps to self-advocate for themselves in the world.

Part IV: Positive Culture & Environment

A positive school culture and environment reflects: a supportive and fulfilling environment, learning conditions that meet the needs of all students, people who are sure of their roles and relationships in student learning, and a culture that values trust, respect and high expectations. Consulting with various stakeholder groups to employ school improvement strategies that impact the positive school culture and environment are critical. Stakeholder groups more proximal to the school include teachers, students, and families of students, volunteers, and school board members. Broad stakeholder groups include early childhood providers, community colleges and universities, social services, and business partners.

Stakeholders play a key role in school performance and addressing equity. Consulting various stakeholder groups is critical in formulating a statement of vision, mission, values, goals, and employing school improvement strategies.

Describe how the school addresses building a positive school culture and environment.

The school plans to build positive relationships with parents, families, and other community stakeholders by completing the following:

- *Invitation for parents and community members to join the School Advisory Committee (SAC)
- *Provide each parent with a condensed version of the Parent and Family Engagement Plan. (Condensed PFEP)
- *Parent input for the Parent and Family Engagement Plan (PFEP), Compact, use of Title I funds, and improvement of Title I programs will be solicited by surveys and various opportunities for parents to provide comments and suggestions. (Barrier and Compact Survey Information)
- *School Advisory Committee (SAC) minutes will reflect parent input into the development/improvement of the *PFEP and the compact. (SAC Minutes)
- *2020-2021 Compact

Identify the stakeholders and their role in promoting a positive culture and environment at the school.

Sara Schwanzl- Site administrator

*leader of our school bringing all of our staff and students together

Kasandra Montgomery- Co-SAC Chair

*Working with our instructional leadership chair to insure all staff members are well trained and aware of the environment in which we strive for each day.

William Martinez- Co-SAC chair

*Reaching out to community leaders and leaders in the district to create training for our staff that will help promote a positive environment.

Heidi Meyers- Parent Involvement Chair

*Sends out new information to our parents to promote involvement and a positive culture and environment at the school and our neighborhood.