

Birchwood Middle School, 2026-27

School Improvement Plan (2026-27)

Mission Statement

The mission of Birchwood Middle School is to maintain a safe learning community that addresses the diverse characteristics of students, through a rigorous academic program, that promotes responsibility, independence, and citizenship, ensuring productive and contributing members of a global society.

Vision

Birchwood Middle School, home of the Bobcats, is a dynamic community where dedicated educators help students grow academically, emotionally, and socially. The middle school years encompass many of the biggest changes in a student's life. Their minds and bodies are growing and changing. It's an exciting time, and we're grateful to be part of it. We embrace our role to support as well as to educate. Birchwood students are respected, heard, appreciated and engaged. We emphasize personalized education as a way to develop each student to their full potential.

The Birchwood community is dynamic, creative and diverse. Our programs treat diversity as an asset to a rigorous academic program that teaches responsibility, independent thinking, civic involvement, and finding a productive role in society. This all occurs in a safe learning environment based on mutual respect.

A love of lifelong learning begins here.

Values

Diverse Learning Community

: Birchwood Middle School is a community that addresses the diverse characteristics and needs of its students.

The various cultures, customs, languages and ever changing demographics of our school community are embraced by celebration and inclusion in the classrooms, halls, and entire school community. Training is provided to staff on a yearly basis to provide support for the various students' needs. Birchwood students are respected, heard, appreciated, and engaged.

Rigorous Academic Programs/Achievement: Birchwood Middle School is a professional learning community that challenges students to grow in both mind and body during their three years of middle school.

Birchwood Middle School is a professional learning community that challenges students to grow in both mind and body during their three years of middle school.

The Birchwood community embraces our role to support as well as to educate. We emphasize personalized education as a way to develop each student to their full potential. Birchwood has a Marine Academy which is focused on innovative education through the use of maritime study. Our new STEAM program is one that emphasizes its focus on learning outside of the classroom in our new state-of-the-art greenhouse. Students have choices in their learning and we encourage students to take an active role in its development over their three year career in middle school.

Theory of Action

If School...

Engages students to learn a rigorous standards-based curriculum,

Engages in continuous improvement (set high standards, evaluate based on those standards, collect evaluation information, and provide support based on that data)

Then School can...

every student who enrolls in our school will have a successful academic future, all educators will become more effective, all students will have more equitable access to great educators, AND student outcomes will improve

So that...

the students will become well-rounded and productive members of society.

Needs Assessment

Our needs assessment revealed that a strength of our school community are the relationships between students and staff. However, the data in the academic areas of math and English language arts (ELA) revealed a need to focus on improving math, reading, and science scores. Here is the baseline data from Birchwood's 2025-26 accountability report card:

- 37.7% of our students are proficient in ELA. Less than 5% of MLL students are proficient and 6.1% of SWD are proficient on RICAS ELA. We have shown a decrease in overall ELA scores of -6.5% since 2022.
- 20.7% of our students are proficient in mathematics. Additionally less than 5% of our MLL and 6.7% of our SWD are proficient on Math RICAS 2025. While we have hoped to improve our math scores since 2022, we have declined over 15.3% from 36%.
- 27.9% of our students are proficient in science. Since 2022, our scores have fluctuated, increasing to 41.2% in 2023, but overall declining by 5% between 2022-2025. Our SWD improved by at least 7% and our MLL students improved by at least 0.9% between 2024-2025.

We have improved our student attendance from 23.6% (all students), 34.8% (SWD), and 39.9% (MLL) in 2022 to 16.6% (all students), 20.6% (SWD), and 11.1% (MLL) in 2025. We exceeded our School Improvement goals total population of students and far exceeded our goal for our MLL population of students. We came very close to meeting our goal of 19% chronically absent students (down from 45% in 2022) in 2025 with a rate of 20.6% chronically absent.

Therefore, we have selected the following main priorities for this academic year: Improving Core Instruction, Improving School Climate, and Improving Attendance

Priority 1: Literacy

Students will demonstrate proficiency in all areas of ELA.

The students will read informational text and be able to cite evidence to support their claims. The students will be exposed to a variety of genres of literature throughout the academic year. Students will improve in the area of written knowledge, language, written expressions, and conventions.

Measurable Goals

Goal #1 - Birchwood Middle School will increase the percentage of students meeting or exceeding ELA State Assessments from 37.7% in 2025 to 43% by the end of 2026-2027 school year.

Initiative 1: Expert use of high quality curriculum materials through differentiated instruction.

Expert use of high-quality curriculum materials through differentiated instruction addressing the needs of all students learning and those with reading GAPS in reading.

Action Step	Complete-Date	Notes
Content leaders will discuss opportunities for cross-curricular resource sharing 2x/year	06/30/2027	
ELA committee will maintain the revisions and alignment of ELA curriculum to Study Sync, honing Tier 1 choices and adjustments.	09/01/2026	
English Language Arts content leader will review progress with all ELA teachers and the reading specialist at designated times during the year to review data, IReady reports and teacher insights.	06/07/2027	
Prioritize scheduling for academic needs and student engagement. Rework existing schedule for new opportunities.	09/01/2026	
Develop Tier 1 practices that connect curriculum materials, Learning Walk insights, and strategies for student engagement through structured discourse	06/30/2027	

Priority 2: Math & Numeracy

Students will demonstrate proficiency in all areas of mathematical domains.

Through the use of high-quality curriculum, the students will use knowledge, skills, and practices in each mathematical domain. The mathematical domains are ratios and proportional reasoning, the number system, expressions and equations/functions, geometry, and statistics and probability. Students will use The Standards for Mathematical Practices to engage and grow in mathematical maturity and expertise while they learn.

Measurable Goals

Goal #1 - Birchwood Middle School will increase the percentage of students meeting or exceeding on Math State Assessments from 20.7% to 26% by the end of the 2026-2027 school year.

Initiative 1: Expert use of high-quality curriculum materials through differentiated instruction

Expert use of high-quality curriculum materials through differentiated instruction addressing the needs of all students learning and those with numeracy GAPS in mathematics.

Action Step	Complete-Date	Notes
Math content leader will review progress with all Math teachers and the math specialist at designated times during the year to review data, IReady reports and teacher insights.	06/07/2027	
Math committee will maintain the revisions and alignment of the Math curriculum to Reveal, honing Tier 1 choices and adjustments.	09/01/2026	
Prioritize scheduling for academic needs and student engagement. Rework existing schedule for new opportunities.	06/30/2027	
Content leaders will discuss opportunities for cross-curricular resource sharing 2x/year	06/30/2027	

Develop Tier 1 practices that connect curriculum materials,	06/30/20
Learning Walk insights, and strategies for student engagement	27
through structured discourse	

Priority 3: Multilingual Learners (MLL) Achievement

MLL students will develop, expand upon, and maintain English proficiency in the domains of speaking, listening, reading, and writing as outlined by the WIDA (World-class Instructional Design and Assessment) State Standards.

Students will demonstrate an increase in achievement in English proficiency.

Measurable Goals

Goal #1 - Birchwood Middle School will increase the percentage of MLL students reaching their growth target toward English language proficiency on the ACCESS assessment from 35% of students in 2025 to a minimum of 41% by the end of the 2026-2027 school year.

Initiative 1: Expert use of high-quality curriculum materials through differentiated instruction

Expert use of high-quality curriculum materials through differentiated instruction. The MLL students will develop and expand upon their English proficiency in the domains of speaking, listening, reading, and writing as outlined in WIDA Standards.

Action Step	Complete-Date	Notes
The MLL teacher will attend Common Planning time for teams with students on caseload as needed. Team leader will request attendance as needed.	09/30/2026	
MLL teacher shares progress reports, action steps, and impactful strategies from meetings (google doc, presentation, or in-person)	06/07/2027	
The MLL teacher will meet with the building principal and MLL coordinator to ensure that MLL students are receiving adequate support and are making academic gains. This will also serve as a time to review new students as they are enrolled at	06/07/2027	

Birchwood.

Revisit / redesign MLL Support Scheduling to be sustainable, predictable, and realistic - quarterly reflection using MLL growth data, I-Ready, CPT notes 06/18/20 27

Priority 4: Improving School Climate

If students are engaged in their learning and excited about what they're working on, the climate and culture of the school will be positive.

Birchwood Middle School will develop and implement a consistent approach to promote a positive school climate and culture through student engagement, structured discourse

Measurable Goals

Goal #1 - Birchwood Middle School will increase the percentage of favorable responses from students for questions aligned to School Engagement on Survey Works by 3-5% a year, improving from 36% in 2026 to a minimum of 45%

Initiative 1: Student Engagement

Positive Climate and Culture through Student Engagement

Action Step	Complete-Date	Notes
Align communication strategy throughout the building to support steady, frequent school-family partnership. The building principal will develop a weekly update/newsletter that will be sent to families and staff to keep them informed of the happenings of the school. Newsletters may include: Upcoming events Need-to-know for the next week (See SOS Example - staff-facing)	06/07/2027	https://secure.smores.com/n/n2kr6h
Gather student feedback about their school experience through a student-facing survey and student focus groups.	06/20/2027	

PBIS reinvigorated and connected to attendance incentives and school values	06/20/27	CPT Notes worksheet*
---	----------	----------------------

Priority 5: Attendance

Students that attend school and limit their absences will greatly increase their ability to achieve successes.

Measurable Goals

Goal #1 - Birchwood Middle School will plan to improve our overall school attendance rates from 16.6% of students being labeled as chronically absent in 2025, to a maximum of 10% of students by 2027.

Initiative 1: Attendance Multi-Tiered System of Supports

The Attendance Team in conjunction with the Student Support Team will meet to carry out the action steps associated with this initiative to improve student attendance.

Action Step	Complete-Date	Notes
Assistant Principal will identify chronically tardy students each Monday using skyward data from the previous week and follow up with individuals. (Chronically tardy = 3 tardies per handbook)	06/30/2027	Chronically tardy = 3 tardies per handbook
Create an Attendance Team to monitor student attendance, implement initiatives, and inform parents of student's attendance patterns/totals. Send letters to flagged students every month letting them know attendance is on track to be identified as chronic. Specifically: Monitor attendance and follow up on students who are beginning to develop patterns of more than 2 days a month.	06/01/2027	Using Monthly District Data Reports

Positive recognition at monthly events for Perfect Attendance for students, classroom attendance, and/or trimester recognition. Host Friday Spirit Days (based on previous data)Advisory Incentives	06/01/2027
---	------------

Priority 6: Science

Birchwood Middle School will analyze data from the most recent Science RICAS scores and work to develop a plan to increase the number of students that are proficient.

Measurable Goals

Goal #1 - Birchwood Middle School will increase the percentage of students meeting or exceeding on Science State Assessments from 27.9% to 33% by the end of 2027.

Initiative 1: Science Content Committee

The Science teachers will meet using content common planning time to implement this initiative.

Action Step	Complete-Date	Notes
Content leaders will discuss opportunities for cross-curricular resource sharing 2x/yearFor example: supplementing Amplify writing with data analysis and reflection practices	06/07/2026	
The district will provide professional development opportunities for teachers to improve the use of inquiry-based and literacy-rich science lessons and activities in their classrooms.	06/01/2026	
Share and analyze NGSA results (proficiency level) and student item analysis results in Science content planning time. Members will establish trends by determining which specific items scored a low proficiency. A plan will be then developed for implementation in remediation of these skills.	06/01/2026	