



Polk County Early College PEaCH 2024-2024 School Improvement Plan



District's Mission Statement:

Students will graduate as responsible citizens prepared to succeed in higher education or the career of their choice.
Enrolled, Employed, or Enlisted.

School's Mission Statement:

The mission of Polk County Early College is to graduate confident, ethically responsible, lifelong learners who are prepared to succeed in higher education and the changing world beyond.

College's Mission Statement:

As an integral community partner, Isothermal Community College exists to improve life through learning by providing innovative, affordable educational programs and inclusive opportunities for personal, professional, economic, and cultural development.

Polk County Early College

School Improvement Plan

Goal 1-Personalized Education

School Goal 1: Polk County Early College will provide a rigorous education and rapport with students while striving to provide personalized instruction.

Evidence of Need:

- Many students lack confidence in their abilities, despite their potential.
- With the more rigorous workload, there is a risk of students falling behind. By building relationships with students and maintaining accountability, students may experience more success.
- Despite students' backgrounds, socioeconomic status, and achievement levels, all perform better when relationships are established and time is spent devising lessons to appeal to students.
- Attendance issues with specific students
- Mental Health concerns about students

Measuring the Goal:

- Academically, students perform better after building relationships
- Fewer mental health concerns based on parent contacts
- Special Education and 504 students improve test scores and grades.

Polk County Early School

School Improvement Plan

Goal 2 - Academics

A: Math Honors

School Goal 2 A: Academics-Math

Polk County Early College will increase student proficiency in mathematics as measured by ACT mathematics scores and Math I & Math 3 EOC scores.

Math I Students Scoring Grade Level Proficient (Performance Composite)

2023-2024	2024-2025
>95	Goal: Maintain or increase(>95)

Math III Students Scoring Grade Level Proficient (Performance Composite)

2023-2024	2023-2024
>93	Goal: Maintain or increase(>95)

PCEC 2024-2025 EVAAS Data Summary-Action Steps

Summary: EVAAS data for the 2023-2024 school year indicates that, overall, our school *met* expected growth on EOC testing for Math I and Math III. We hope to maintain or exceed the trend for the 2023-2024 school year.

General strategies:

- Provide students with consistent review throughout the school year. (Include test taking strategies.)
- Provide students with online calculators (Desmos) practice that is used on the EOC.
- Provide students with online test practice via Canvas, SchoolNet, Edulastic, etc.
- NC Check-Ins 2.0 data to target areas of need halfway through the semester.

**Specific strategies are discussed below.*

Evidence of Need:

- While Math I and Math III EOC scores for 2023-2024 show that Polk County Early College exceeded growth, as an Early College, growth should continue to increase. Overall, based on classroom performance and testing data from 2023-2024, it is evident that students continue to display weaknesses in abstract thinking and complex algebraic concepts.

Measuring the Goal:

- Classroom formative/summative data gathered weekly; NC Check-In exams given one time per semester
- Math EOC scores as released from the state
- Data from new “Check Ins 2.0”

School Mission/Belief Statement Areas Addressed:

Collaborative Community
Relevant Learning
Intellectual Growth
Preparing Global Citizens
Transitioning to High School

Research-Based Improvement Strategies:

- Formative/summative assessments
- Systematic and explicit instruction
- Visual representation of concepts such as pictures, diagrams, flowcharts, and graphs
- Focus on content vocabulary
- Spiral review of previously learned topics
- Individualized scaffolding based on individual student need

Technology Utilization:

Individual student Chromebooks, classroom Smart Boards, various apps and programs for student assessment and record keeping

Polk County Early College

School Improvement Plan

Goal 2-Academic

B: English II Honors

School Goal 2 B: Academics-English II Honors

Polk County Early College will increase student proficiency English II Honors to improve overall EOC percentages.

Students Scoring Grade Level Proficient (Performance Composite)

2023-2024	2024-2025
>94	Goal: Maintain or increase(>94)

EVAAS Data 2023-2024-Action Steps

PCEC 2023-2024 EVAAS Data Summary-Action Steps

Summary: EVAAS data for the 2023-2024 school year indicates that, overall, our school *met* expected growth on EOC English II testing. We hope to maintain or exceed the trend for the 2024-2025 school year.

General strategies:

- Provide independent reading time to foster the love of reading
- Increase opportunities for writing in the classroom(journals, text-dependent analysis, written response)
- Provide opportunities for students to search, write, and report on current events to improve comprehension of informational text
- Use graphic organizers to allow students to analyze fiction and nonfiction literature

**Specific strategies are discussed below.*

Evidence of Need:

- While English II EOC scores for 2023-2024 show that Polk County Early College met expected growth on the English II EOC Test. We hope to maintain or exceed the trend. Overall, based on classroom performance and testing data from 2023-2024, it is evident that students continue to display weaknesses in written response and analysis of texts.

Measuring the Goal:

- Thematic units will be incorporated into the classroom. Formative and Summative assessments of texts in each unit.
- EOC released scores
- Data from NC check-ins

School Mission/Belief Statement Areas Addressed:

**Collaborative Community
Relevant Learning
Intellectual Growth
Preparing Global Citizens
Transitioning to High School**

Research-Based Improvement Strategies:

- Formative/summative assessments
- Explicit instruction
- Visual representation of concepts such as graphic organizers.
- Individualized scaffolding based on individual student need
- Teacher-Student conferences on writing and reading
- Use of technology, such as Kahoot, Blooket, Schoolnet, to engage learners and meet individual student needs.

Technology Utilization:

- Chromebooks, classroom Smart Board, various apps and programs for student assessment and record keeping

Polk County Early College

School Improvement Plan

Goal 2-Academic

C: Biology Honors

School Goal 2 B: Academics-Biology Honors

Polk County Early College will increase student proficiency Biology Honors to improve overall EOC percentages.

Students Scoring Grade Level Proficient (Performance Composite)

2023-2024	2024-2025
>93	Goal: Maintain or increase(>93)

EVAAS Data 2024-2025-Action Steps

PCEC 2023-2024 EVAAS Data Summary-Action Steps

Summary: EVAAS data for the 2023-2024 school year indicates that, overall, our school *met* expected growth on EOC Biology testing. We hope to maintain or exceed the trend for the 2024-2025 school year.

General strategies:

- Provide opportunities for exploration and collection and analysis of data in a lab setting.
- Increase opportunities for examining and interpreting data sets.
- Provide opportunities for structured discussion around real world biological research and results.
- Enable ample opportunities for students to communicate complex research results both orally and through writing.

**Specific strategies are discussed below.*

Evidence of Need:

- While Biology EOC scores for 2023-2024 show that Polk County Early College met expected growth on the Biology EOC Test. We hope to maintain or exceed the trend. Overall, based on classroom performance and testing data from 2023-2024, it is evident that students continue to display weaknesses in analysis of data, and communication of results.

Measuring the Goal:

- Formative and Summative assessments of texts in each unit.
- EOC released scores
- Data from NC check-ins

School Mission/Belief Statement Areas Addressed:

Collaborative Community
Relevant Learning
Intellectual Growth
Preparing Global Citizens
Transitioning to High School

Research-Based Improvement Strategies:

- Formative/summative assessments
- Explicit instruction
- Regular practice analyzing and communicating data using class experimental data, Data Nugget, and other resources.
- Individualized scaffolding based on individual student need
- Teacher-Student conferences on areas of weakness identified in assessments
- Use of technology, such as Kahoot, Blooket, Schoolnet, to engage learners and meet individual student needs.

Technology Utilization:

- Chromebooks, classroom Smart Board, various apps and programs for student assessment and record keeping

Polk County Early College

School Improvement Plan

Goal 3-Rebranding

School Goal 3: A rebrand can signal a fresh start and help rebuild enrollment when a school is dealing with public perception issues.

Evidence of Need:

- Many students lack a general understanding of Polk County Early College.
- Misconceptions include all courses being online and no in-person instruction being delivered.
- Align with Isothermal Community College's Cooperative Innovative High School and hire of new College Liaison.
- Decrease in enrollment.

Measuring the Goal:

- Community Stakeholders will assist students and faculty with new recruitment materials, videos, handouts, and landscaping.
- Students speaking with other students at all grade levels across the county.
- Align with our partner Early College REaCH, allow Isothermal and stakeholders to address us as PEaCH, Polk Early College High School.
- College Liaison will be located in PEaCH building two full days a week to assist students in communicating with their college instructors, monitoring academic progress, and providing consistency with improved communication with Isothermal Community College stakeholders.
- Increase enrollment.



COOPERATIVE INNOVATIVE HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT *Due: September 30, 2024* | ***Email to: CIHS@dpi.nc.gov***

CIHS CONTACT INFORMATION

Cooperative Innovative High School (CIHS) Name: **Polk County Early College**

CIHS School Number: **340-715**

Location and Physical Address: **1545 East NC Highway 108, Columbus, NC 28722**

Local Education Agency (LEA) Name: **Polk County Schools**

Institute of Higher Education Partner Name: **Isothermal Community College**

CIHS PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: **Mary Greene** Role: **Director**

Email: **mgreene@polkschools.org** Phone: **828-894-2698**

DISTRICT PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: **Aaron Greene** Role: **Superintendent**

Email: **agreene@polkschools.org** Phone: **828-894-3051**

IHE PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: **Dr. Margaret Annuziata** Role: **President**

Email: **mannunziata@isothermal.edu** Phone: **828-395-1300**

STUDENT TARGET POPULATION

Indicate the population(s) served:

X High school students at risk of dropping out before attaining a high school diploma.

X High school students with parents who did not continue education beyond high school, defined as “first generation college students” by the USED. **US Department of Education (USED) defines a first generation college student as a student from a family in which neither parent (whether natural or adoptive) received a baccalaureate degree or a student who, prior to the age of 18, regularly resided with and received support from only one natural or adoptive parent and whose supporting parent did not receive a baccalaureate degree.*

X High school students who would benefit from accelerated academic instruction.

GRADE LEVELS OFFERED

Check all grades that apply: X Grade 9 X Grade10 X Grade 11 X Grade12 Grade 13 If serving Grade 13, how are students integrating both high school and college programs? Dual Enrollment/Cooperative Innovative High School

PROGRAM OF SERVICE

Indicate which program(s) of service is offered at your CIHS:

X Career and Technical Education Programs

X College Transfer Programs

If both are checked, please indicate if one is more prominent than the other.

College Transfer Programs are more prominent than CTE programs.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Indicate the number of students at appropriate grade levels for 2023-24:

	Total Enrollment 2023-24	Number of students taking at least one college course	Total number of college courses taken	Number of college courses with grades of C or above	Number of students not returning for 24-25*
Grade 9	16/16	16/16	32/18	30/17	14
Grade 10	14/14	14/14	36/43	28/41	14
Grade 11	11/11	11/11	48/34	46/34	11
Grade 12	15/12	15/12	73/56	65/51	0
Grade 13	0/0	0/0			

*Provide an explanation:

SCHOOL EFFECTIVENESS MEASURES

Provide data for each of the following for 2023-24:

Number of students graduating	Number of students graduating with college CTE certifications or credentials	Number of students graduating with two years of transferable credit	Number of students graduating with associate's degree	Number of students admitted to four-year universities
15	14	11	11	15

The following members collaborated to develop the School Action Plan:

Name	Position or Role	Signature	Date
Mary M. Greene	Director	<i>Mary M. Greene</i>	10/14/2024
Kathleen Abraham	Math Instructor	<i>Kathleen Abraham</i>	10/14/2024
Jessica Simo	Math Instructor SIP Team Leader	<i>Jessica Simo</i>	10/14/2024
Lisa Chapman	Parent Representative	<i>Lisa Chapman</i>	10/14/2024
Susan Anderson	Student Representative	<i>Susan Anderson</i>	10/14/2024