

How Deerwood Elementary Scored Rapid Success by Owning the Outcomes

Grades surge 12% in just one year while partnering with LSI



Deerwood Elementary School Demographics

Number of students: **560**
 Number of core teachers: **40**
 Percent free and reduced meals: **69%**
 Percent from low income families: **100%**

Percent Black: **19%**
 Percent White: **11%**
 Percent Hispanic: **67%**
 Percent two or more races: **4%**

In 2018, Deerwood Elementary School in Osceola County ended the school year with a low “D” grade and was placed in District Managed Turnaround (DMT). To compound matters, school enrollment was in a serious decline.

They then began a partnership with LSI and at the same time the school brought on an instructionally focused principal, who was steadfast and willing to distribute leadership.

District	School	Before LSI	After LSI	Change
		Grade 2018	Grade 2019	
Osceola	Deerwood Elementary	D (35%)	C (47%)	+12%

Deerwood gained 12 percentage points in a single year.

In just one school year, Deerwood moved that low “D” to a high “C,” increasing the school grade by an impressive 12%. In fact, they were the most improved traditional public school in Osceola county. So how did they do it?

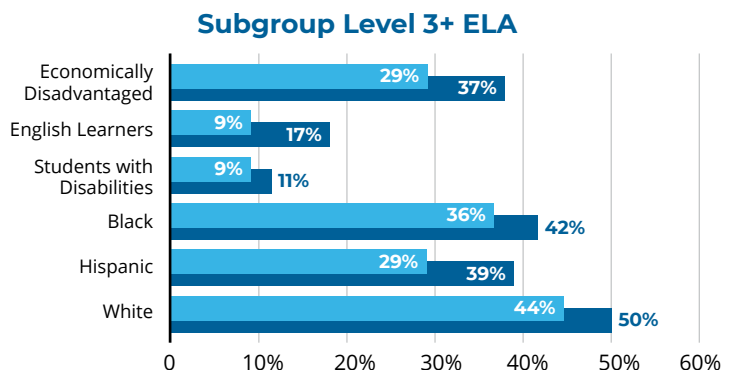
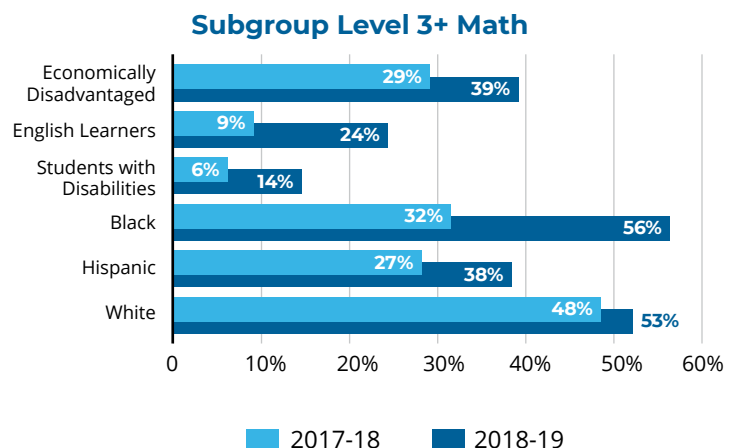
Success Through Shared Responsibility and Increased Trust

LSI School Leadership Coach David Tudor explains, “LSI introduced several key process elements like consistent accountability which included specific leadership techniques. Another was providing teachers a framework and a structure for more intentional lesson planning including student-led Academic Teaming.”

“The District office staff was so supportive. The Deputy Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Directors even joined instructional walks using LSI tools to support Deerwood’s instructional shift. Great dedication!” he said.

While there were some challenges during the year, everyone at Deerwood was empowered to make great decisions, learn from mistakes and ultimately reach new heights.

Results That Reignite Community Pride



Today, Deerwood owns the learning. The Principal and assistant principal regularly participate in PD, coaching for implementation walks, and PLCs. Combined with the mentorship of LSI’s faculty coach, school coaches have grown their practice by leaps and bounds.

Shared responsibility flows from leadership to classroom academic teams – and the results have been nothing short of stunning. So much so that parents once again want to send their children to Deerwood. In one year, enrollment has jumped by about 110 students.

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