

# SCHOOL PLAN

Gilpin Elementary

## Who we are?

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Gilpin Elementary School is a vibrant and inclusive community that values diversity and supports the holistic development of its students. With approximately 200 students, the school fosters a strong sense of belonging and collaboration among its members.

**Inclusive and Diverse Community:** Gilpin embraces students from various cultural, linguistic, and socioeconomic backgrounds, including English Language Learners, Indigenous students, and those with complex needs. This diversity enriches the learning environment and promotes cultural understanding.

## What are we doing well?

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**Supportive Parent Advisory Council (PAC):** The PAC plays a crucial role in fundraising and supporting both staff and students. Their efforts help provide resources and opportunities that enhance the educational experience for everyone.

**Dedicated Staff:** The teachers and staff at Gilpin are committed to supporting all children, ensuring that each student has the tools and encouragement they need to succeed academically physically, emotionally and socially.

**Extracurricular Programs:** Gilpin offers a wide range of extracurricular activities, including:

- Sports: Basketball and volleyball teams that promote teamwork and physical fitness.
- Clubs: Dance Club, Art Club, Math Club, and Chess Club, which cater to diverse interests and talents.
- Parks and Rec Programs: These programs likely provide additional opportunities for outdoor activities and community engagement.

**Student Leadership Opportunities:** Gilpin encourages leadership development through various roles:

- Grade 4-7 Student Leaders: These students take on responsibilities such as office monitoring, primary lunch monitoring, and PA announcements.
- Grade 6/7 Leaders: They help plan Spirit Days and organize noon hour games for primary students, fostering a sense of responsibility and school spirit.

**Community and Spirit:** The school organizes Spirit Days and other events that bring the community together, creating a fun and engaging atmosphere for students, staff, and families.

Overall, Gilpin Elementary School is a nurturing and dynamic environment where students are encouraged to explore their interests, develop leadership skills, and celebrate their unique identities. The collaborative efforts of the PAC, staff, and students make it a thriving community

## How do we know?

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### **Integration of Reading and SEL Goals**

These two goals are interconnected. Strong literacy skills empower students to express themselves, understand others, and engage with the world around them. At the same time, a positive social-emotional environment creates the conditions necessary for students to focus, take risks, and thrive academically. Together, these goals help Gilpin students develop into confident, capable, and compassionate individuals.

## **Impact on the Gilpin Community**

By prioritizing Reading and Social Emotional Learning, Gilpin is not only supporting academic achievement but also fostering a school culture where students feel respected, valued, and motivated to learn. These efforts reflect the school's commitment to nurturing the whole child—academically, socially, and emotionally. The dedication of the staff, students, and families ensures that Gilpin remains a place where everyone can grow and succeed.

## **Our Focus**

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Gilpin Elementary School has clearly defined and impactful school goals centered around Reading and Social Emotional Learning (SEL), which are essential for fostering both academic success and a positive school culture.

### **1. Reading Goal: Building Strong Literacy Skills K-7**

Gilpin is committed to developing strong reading skills across all grade levels, ensuring that every student has the tools they need to succeed.

### **2. Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Goal: Creating a Positive School Environment**

Gilpin's SEL goal focuses on fostering a kind, respectful, and inclusive community where students feel safe, valued, and supported.

## **Our Strategies**

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### **1. Reading Goal: Building Strong Literacy Skills K-7**

Gilpin is committed to developing strong reading skills across all grade levels, ensuring that every student has the tools they need to succeed. Key initiatives include:

- **School-Wide Reading Assessments:** Regular assessments help identify students' reading levels and areas where they may need additional support. This data-driven approach ensures that interventions are targeted and

effective.

- **Targeted Reading Support:** Students who need extra help receive tailored support, whether through small group instruction, one-on-one tutoring, or specialized programs.
- **Explicit Reading Instruction:** Teachers provide clear, structured, and systematic reading instruction, focusing on foundational skills such as phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.
- **Early Literacy Foundation:** For younger learners, the emphasis is on building a strong literacy foundation through engaging and developmentally appropriate activities that foster a love for reading.
- **Intermediate Support:** For older students, the school provides tools and strategies to help them access the curriculum effectively. This might include differentiated instruction, assistive technology, or other resources to meet diverse learning needs.

By prioritizing reading, Gilpin ensures that students are equipped with the critical literacy skills necessary for academic achievement and lifelong learning.

## **2. Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Goal: Creating a Positive School Environment**

Gilpin's SEL goal focuses on fostering a kind, respectful, and inclusive community where students feel safe, valued, and supported. The school's approach includes:

- **Core Values:** The school emphasizes three core values—Respectful, Responsible, and Kind. These values are integrated into daily routines, classroom activities, and school-wide initiatives.
- **Student Self-Assessment:** A school survey allows students to reflect on their own behavior and growth in relation to the core values. This self-assessment encourages accountability and self-awareness.
- **Teaching Skills and Strategies:** Staff actively teach SEL skills, such as empathy, conflict resolution, growth mind set, self-regulation, and teamwork. These skills are embedded into the curriculum and reinforced through daily interactions.
- **Building an Inclusive Community:** The school is working to create an environment where every student feels a sense of belonging. This includes celebrating diversity, addressing bullying, and promoting kindness and respect.
- **Positive School Culture:** By focusing on SEL, Gilpin is nurturing a school culture where students feel empowered to make positive choices,