

## Washington Borough School District, Warren County



The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) Lighthouse District Initiative recognizes districts that have demonstrated measurable progress across diverse groups of learners. The NJDOE is proud to welcome the Washington Borough School District to the second cohort of Lighthouse Districts.

The Washington Borough School District consistently strives to improve student outcomes by building a culture of collaboration. District educators work with other districts in the county to develop curriculum and resources to support students across the region while all school staff share in the work of improving student outcomes by building technology-infused lessons aligned to state academic standards. Teachers are given time to collaborate and work together with district leaders to determine long- and short-term goals that will positively impact student achievement. The district encourages a risk-free environment for teachers and students to experiment and reframe instructional strategies toward improved outcomes. District staff are encouraged to write proposals for innovative programs that the administration, in turn, evaluates and chooses to fund. Students are provided with space to engage in hands-on learning throughout the day aligned to interests and needs.

A united theme within the district community is a philosophy that all members of the community are problem solvers. Students work cooperatively to problem solve real-life scenarios. Working as a team during lessons allows students to develop critical thinking skills and effective social skills. Technology integration into daily lessons helps support the district's focus on student achievement. Educators are driven to infuse technology into daily lessons to provide opportunities for students to participate collaboratively in the learning process. Social and emotional skills are integrated into daily lessons and supported with focus group activities throughout the school day at all grade levels. Social emotional skills are presented in a scaffolding format and coaching assistance from counselors supports teachers in the classroom. The district's Board of Education offers full support to the administrative team and teaching staff and provides resources needed to support established district goals. Before and after school clubs and enrichment activities focus on visual and performing arts, STEAM, physical education and community outreach projects aligned with student learning standards supported by technology help develop well rounded, healthy students and promotes a positive school climate and learning community.

The district's three-tiered model of instruction is built upon analyzed baseline data, targeted small group intervention strategies and intensive services individualized to meet the needs of students. Differentiated instruction at each level of intervention helps to personalize instruction to meet the greater need of the district's population.

The district is committed to investing in professional learning, therefore provides teachers time to collaborate. The district's efforts have positively impacted the culture of the district to support and foster professional growth. Staff meetings are comfortable and safe environments where teachers do not hesitate to share lessons and seek advice. Monthly grade-level and building-level meetings provide opportunities to analyze data, focus on Response to Intervention (RtI) strategies and best practices targeting the individualized needs of students. Teachers are also empowered to lead professional learning, to work in teams and to take on leadership roles within the district. The supports and opportunities for educators are designed collaboratively and help the district provide students with necessary academic and behavioral supports to promote achievement.

### Washington Borough School District Demographic Information

**Grades Served:** Pre-K to 6

**Number of Schools:** 2

**Total Enrollment:** 476

**Economically Disadvantaged:**  
35.7%

**Students with Disabilities:** 22.7%

**English Learners:** 1.5%

### Ask Wash. Borough to Share Their Story

- 1) Teacher-administration partnerships and teacher leadership
- 2) Teacher collaboration
- 3) Cooperative learning
- 4) Social emotional learning integration
- 5) Technology integration planning

### Contact Information

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