

Bemidji Best Practices & Resources:

The following initiatives are based on researched based practices aligned with the Bemidji Area Schools' World's Best Workforce Plan:

1. All children are ready for school

- Bemidji early childhood programs align their curriculum to the elementary math and reading curriculum, and their staff participate in MN Standards training.
- Educators model and provide opportunities for parents to encourage literacy development in the classroom to be replicated at home.
- The Bemidji District provides the K-1 program at Paul Bunyan Elementary all day every other day for 5-year-olds who are not yet ready for kindergarten.

2. All third-graders can read at grade level

- Teachers use AIMSweb and NWEA MAP to set proficiency goals.
- Trained Reading Recovery teachers at all elementary schools instruct first grade students who are below grade level in reading.
- Teachers provide reading interventions including Fountas & Pinnell's Leveled Literacy Intervention, PALS Reading, and Great Leaps, in addition to the core reading curriculum (Houghton Mifflin Journeys).
- Teachers meet regularly in Response to Intervention teams to discuss student data and interventions to assure students are ready for the next grade.

3. All racial and economic achievement gaps between students are closed

- The annual August District Data Retreat and the Viewpoint Data Warehouse provide school and district staff opportunities to analyze multiple types of data (achievement, process, demographic, and perception surveys).
- Educators meet regularly in Response to Intervention (RtI) teams to discuss student achievement and the interventions.
- Elementary Math Specialists provide staff training and support.
- Bemidji Middle School provides Math 180 and MCA Prep classes for students who struggle in math.
- Bemidji High School National Honor Society provides tutoring for students who struggle, and teachers provide MCA Prep classes.
- Teachers collaborate and participate in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and a staff development day for school improvement planning.
- Teacher and principal evaluations are based on 35% student achievement and focus on student growth.

4. All students are ready for career and college

- Elementary teachers provide 4th and 5th grade Get Ready curriculum, and all 5th grade students visit Bemidji State University (BSU).
- Bemidji Middle School provides a Career Fair where grade 6-8 students explore careers, and 7th grade students visit Northwest Technical College (NTC) each year.
- Bemidji High School participates in Ramp Up to Readiness to support students in their college and career choices.
- The BHS Career Center provides college and career information and assists students

- with their applications.
- High school students visit manufacturing companies on Manufacturing Days in the fall.
 - Special education provides an annual Transitions Expo to connect students with community services.
 - Alternative programs provide curriculum that addresses transitions needs, career readiness, and work experience.
 - Students receive annual reviews of their progress toward being college and career ready.

5. All students graduate from high school

- The district and high school set a goal to improve graduation rates by 5%.
- The high school provides 9th grade orientation and a retreat.
- All high school students are provided support in an Advisor/Advisee program.