

# Collaboration for Success



## Southwest Dubois/Huntingburg Elementary is Making it Happen!



### WE ARE

Southwest Dubois School Corporation! We have two elementary schools: one elementary school in Holland, IN and one in Huntingburg located behind Southridge High School and Southridge Middle School in Huntingburg Indiana totaling 1,739 students in a rural community.

### OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES

Huntingburg Elementary School has reached 634 total students in K-5<sup>th</sup> grade: 57% Poverty, 34% EL students with Spanish the dominant language spoken.

### OUR TEACHERS

Provide strategies and modifications to assist our EL students. At Huntingburg Elementary, we have 3 EL teachers and 2 EL Bilingual teaching assistants working with 219 EL families which requires our General Education teacher support of all our student's educational needs.

### OUR PROMISING PRACTICE

Effective Teacher Collaboration is built in weekly during R.I.D.G.E time. Each week teachers have a set day to meet with their grade level team and an additional time to collaborate with other educators in the building &/or corporation. This additional time set aside for teachers to discuss student information for vertical alignment. Our students receive the benefits of multiple teacher experience and education encouraged by the set time for teachers to share, observe, ask questions, and build relationships.

### OUR STEPS

Professional development is the key to successful collaboration. Our corporation sent our Literacy Coach for Professional Learning Communities (PLC) training and she provided staff training in our daily R.I.D.G.E. time (Raiders Involved in Daily Growth and Enrichment). We also participated in a book study utilizing "Raising the Bar and Closing the Gap". Our staff met and discussed the aspects of building expertise and instruction through collaboration. The next step included modeling of how and what an effective collaboration would look like followed by creating a Common plan agenda to provide purposeful planning with clear goals. The basic steps helped to introduce and begin collaboration, but the true success develops with building relationships for opening classroom doors.

**OUR SOURCES** *"Schools can only be as good as the people within them."*

**[Raising the Bar and Closing the Gap: Whatever It Takes \(Solutions\)](#)**

By Richard DuFour and Rebecca DuFour

For more information about our school or corporation, email: [nurrenbw@swdubois.k12.in.us](mailto:nurrenbw@swdubois.k12.in.us)  
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