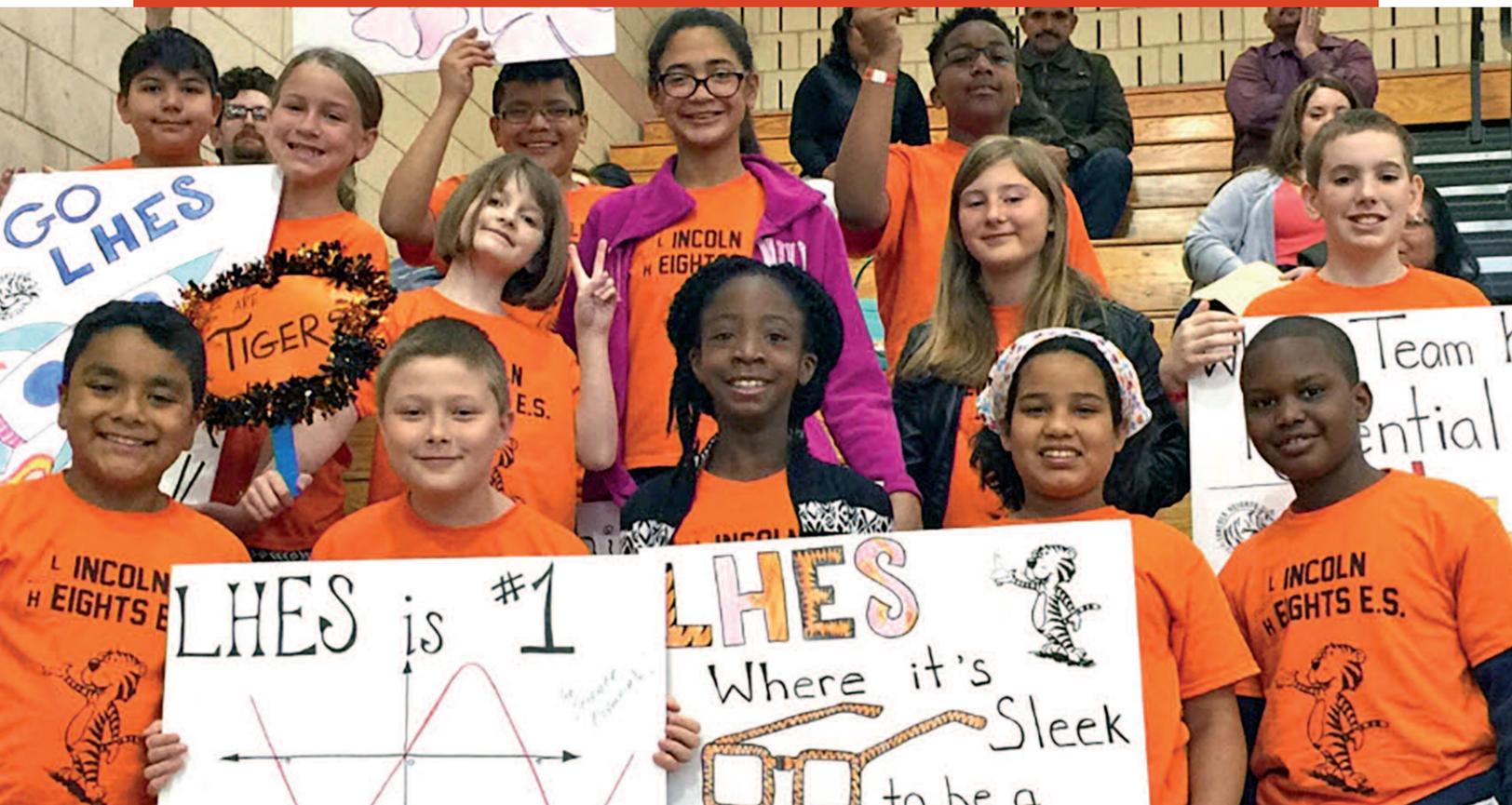


## TURNING THE TIDE



Using Success for All, Lincoln Heights Elementary School has reversed its declining student enrollment.

## THE CHALLENGE

Low enrollment threatened to close Lincoln Heights Elementary, in Cincinnati, Ohio. The school and its staff faced a number of challenges. Chief among these was getting desired academic performance from a student population struggling with disadvantaged circumstances.

Many came from families qualifying for free or reduced lunch; often English was spoken as a second language; and a significant number of the families were homeless. Against this backdrop, many parents were choosing to send their children to other schools, putting the future of Lincoln Heights in jeopardy.

## THE SOLUTION

Inspired by the examples of four other Cincinnati schools in the Princeton City School District already using Success for All, Lincoln Heights Elementary adopted the program in the fall of 2013.

The staff rigorously implemented the program, refining it to their particular needs. Now, every month, school leaders hold a Child Study Meeting for two full days, carefully reviewing how effective interventions have been for individual students.

**SINCE IMPLEMENTING SFA, THE SCHOOL HAS SEEN ITS STUDENT POPULATION GROW FROM 120 TO APPROXIMATELY 260 STUDENTS IN GRADES K-5.**

Armed with this intelligence, the SFA Solutions committees look beyond academics to identify innovative ways to address other kinds of problems faced by students.

After this, teachers meet with component teams to discuss the results. Not only do they review the different skills that students need for their own components, they extend the discussion to different grade levels. They even cover what students should know for other subject areas, including science and social studies.

But the collaboration does not end there. Teachers also frequently visit one another's classrooms to see what they can learn from their colleagues' approaches, and offer advice in return.

Such teamwork has benefitted classroom instruction. For example, the SFA Reading Wings teachers post a targeted skill question



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each week, so that students know what the focus is. Then teachers review standardized test scores to see how well the pupils are progressing toward those skills, so they are able to make changes quickly, if needed, to improve results.

## THE RESULTS

After four years of implementation, SFA has made marked improvements for Lincoln Heights Elementary.

First of all, the teachers are armed with the tools, knowledge and peer support they need to do their jobs better. Even the educators not technologically savvy before have become comfortable using the data tools and digital lesson support to enhance their teaching and perform new online assessments.

Teachers once might have objected to changing grade-level assignments. But now, having become comfortable teaching any level of Success for All, they are better prepared to tackle the challenge of working in other subject areas.

The positive impact of SFA is also noticed by student families. Parents are impressed by the focus of students in the well-thought-out approach to collaborative learning when visiting classes that have conducted Raising Reader workshops. Parents are also getting more involved in school life.

But the best news is, more families are choosing to send their children to Lincoln Heights in. Since implementing SFA, the school has seen its student population grown from 120 to approximately 260 students. And the numbers are continuing to grow.

**FOUNDED IN 1987**, the nonprofit Success for All Foundation is dedicated to ensuring that every child, from pre-kindergarten to grade 8, becomes proficient in reading and learning – opening up new doors for a lifetime of achievement. Not only has SFA been proven time and again to help with student reading ability and math performance, it also addresses non-academic concerns, improving behavior, attendance and parental involvement. Please contact us for more information.

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