

WJMS ACCOUNTABILITY MINUTES

May 2024

Date | 5/13/2024 | *Meeting called to order by* Christopher Bauer

In Attendance

Allison Barker	Kristen Ellis	Tim Krug
Christopher Bauer	Carrie Evans	Dominique Prizgint
Susan Bergkamp	Melissa Gutierrez	JP Squires
Kelly Beaulieu	Kim Halingstad	Miranda Tucker

Introductions and Minutes

Introductions were made around the room; a sign-in sheet also circulated.

The April 2024 minutes, drafts of which were made available the day after the meeting and then updated the Thursday prior to the May meeting, were briefly reviewed for acceptance.

An attendee asked that they be amended to note that community superintendent Wes Paxton spoke answering questions in both the school climate and security subsection. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the April 2024 minutes into record, pending the proposed addition.

Old Business

2024-25 Student Fees

JP Squires provided copies of the proposed 2024-25 student fee schedule to the meeting attendees. A copy is appended to the end of the May 2024 minutes. He relayed a few points from our enrollment and financial secretary Debbie Jessee about the fees:

- Some items may appear to be duplicates; in those situations, there are individual items that reflect which trimester(s) a student takes the elective course.
- The orchestra fee has increased to \$41 (was \$25 in past years) as sheet music has increased in cost and the cost will include a music theory book students will be using.
- Some pre-engineering and robotics costs also went up slightly due to increased material costs.

A parent asked if the \$125 instrument rental fee is the same regardless of instrument played. The question will have to be referred for an answer.

At the April meeting, it was raised that some electives do not know what they will have until the start of the school year. Per Debbie Jessee, there are often small adjustments made over the summer.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the 2024-25 student fee schedule as provided, and review it at the first meeting in the fall.

Principal's Report

Kim Halingstad gave the principal's report.

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Spring CMAS Data

Kim Halingstad distributed a handout titled WJMS Spring MAP which summarized our school's results from the spring MAP math and reading testing. The complete handout is an appendix at the end of the May 2024 minutes.

The results were displayed in several categories with bar graphs broken out by percentile scores reflecting achievement in overview and by grade level, then growth and achievement in overview and by grade level, and a quadrant chart with growth and achievement percentiles on the axes.

It was noted that there are some reports we can't run yet while a few student tests remain open, but most of the testing is complete. It was asked how many tests are open; we have about 60 students have not completed tests.

It was asked if math is being addressed in our UIP; yes, it is part of our Major Improvement Strategy to strengthen instruction through lesson internalization.

It was asked if we compare spring results to fall and winter results; yes, and some of that is in the handout. We can also compare as cohorts to identify trends and provide teachers with granular feedback such as specific concepts that may need to be reviewed.

It was asked how an individual student's results would be obtained. At this point, families may contact our instructional coach Caity Mergendahl to request a copy of their student's MAP data. We are hoping to eventually have a way for individual families to access their student's data, but do not yet have that available.

An attendee looked at [School Insights](#) and pulled up 2023 school and grade data. It was asked when the 2024 data is released. CMAS results are released to school districts in June, then released to schools in August.

The sixth-grade growth scores were discussed – is it lower from adjustment to middle school? Spring fatigue? We do see a dip from 5th to 6th grade and hope to reduce it going forward as our feeder schools have started using the same math curriculum (Illustrative Math).

Hiring Update

We have hired for three positions in the first round of 2024-25 hiring:

- Tony Varvoutis will be teaching seventh grade Social Studies/English Language Arts, a position held by outgoing teacher Jennifer Nickerson.
- Rachel Windon will be teaching seventh/eighth grade Math, a position created for the upcoming year.
- Joseph Hills will be teaching band in a position shared with Conifer High School.

We will be hiring three permanent and one temporary position in the current round of 2024-25 hiring:

- an enrollment and financial secretary to fill the position held by retiring staff member Debbie Jessee.
- a seventh grade English Language Arts teacher to fill the position held by departing teacher Stephen Matschullat, who is returning to teaching at the elementary level.
- a world languages teacher to fill the position held by retiring teacher Susan Bergkamp.
- a temporary English Language Arts teacher to fill the position held by Haley Bishop, who is taking a year off for family reasons.

It was asked how common it is for staff to be hired to a position with a small interview pool. It's less common with teachers, but slightly more common with non-licensed positions.

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Safety Update

Kim Halingstad said an update on the recent safety situation was sent to all families via SchoolMessenger at the end of the school day on Friday, May 10. There continues to be no further information reported on the April 15 incident and the school has seen a huge uptick in [Safe2Tell](#) reports, which is encouraging although some reports do not have enough specific information such as names or situations to investigate. Staff have been meeting regularly with some students that may be making some of the reports to help them feel supported.

It was asked how we have done with having a campus supervisor provided by the district through the end of the school year. We have different supervisors providing coverage two days a week – one Mondays and Fridays, another Wednesdays and Thursdays. A parent stated that they were really impressed by campus supervisor Greg, who they interacted with while they were volunteering at the school.

It was asked if there will be increased security in the fall. If so, it will come from district budget, not our school's budget. It was then asked what families can do to request additional security next year. Families are welcome to contact the district and amplify parent voice. The April 22 meeting turnout likely contributed to secure the coverage we have through the end of the year. Our understanding is that our district's director of school safety Jeff Pierson has been lobbying to have campus supervisors at middle schools, but we have not heard when that will happen.

It was asked if adult family members can start the background check process now to be ready to volunteer with [Watch D.O.G.S.](#) for the 2024-25 school year. JP will reach out to district human resources to inquire about how to get existing background check information from other schools shared for potential volunteers at our school. It was asked what administration would like from adult volunteers. Just an adult presence when available, whether in hallways or during lunches. The lunch times were reviewed – Lunch A 11:10 - 11:45, Lunch B 12:11 - 12:46, and Lunch C 1:11 - 1:46. The later lunches can be a little rowdier, but sixth grade Lunch A is louder. Adults with completed background checks are welcome to just show up and sign in to help! It was suggested to look at some kind of less-structured calendar for families to sign up for ad hoc volunteering/building presence opportunities.

It was asked if there is a trend in challenging student behaviors. We think some is from remote learning resulting in loss of time to learn and practice collaborative behaviors. We have seen an increase in oppositional behaviors in recent years and a need to shift how we present the “why” to engage and motivate students. Older grade levels are seeing more students that need more support in areas as varied as literacy/reading support into middle and high school and interpersonal “soft” skills.

New Business

SAC Calendar discussion

The attendees considered whether to stay with meeting the fourth Monday for the 2024-25 school year, or just to set the first date and consider the schedule at that meeting. We aim to have the first meeting within a week after the school's curriculum night (Back-to-School Night), which is scheduled for August 21. It was agreed to meet Monday, August 26 at 4 pm and set the upcoming year's meeting dates at that time.

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2024-25 SAC Leadership Positions

No one contacted Christopher Bauer with nominations or interest in serving as School Accountability Committee chair or secretary for the 2024-2025 school year. He is happy to continue as chair or co-chair and Melissa Gutierrez is willing to continue as secretary.

Attendees briefly reviewed that school accountability committees should ideally have more parents and community members than school staff, and that we aim to have representative stakeholders for the staff, PTA, and community. Miranda Tucker expressed interest in serving as vice-chair.

Three votes were held on the three elected leadership positions. Separate motions were made, seconded, and passed to establish Christopher Bauer as chair, Miranda Tucker as vice-chair, and Melissa Gutierrez as secretary of the committee for the 2024-25 school year.

Notes for fall

The following topics were tabled to the fall for discussion:

- Student/family handbook revisions
- Additions to the UIP in 24-25 to increase engagement
- Improving community presence in the school

The meeting adjourned at 5:32 pm.

Next Meeting

Date: 8/26/2024

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: WJMS / Google Meet

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Appendix: WJMS 2024-25 School Fees

Fee Code	Fee Name	Amount
GRADES 6 -8		
TECHPERSONAL	24 Personalized Tech Use Fee	\$ 50.00
MUSIC	OPT- 24 Instr replace parts	
INSTR. RENTAL	24 Instr Rental	\$ 125.00
INSTR. RENTAL	24 Instr Rent class use only	\$ 30.00
DONATION	OPT- 24 Donation OELS-AtRisk	
GRADE 6		
PLANNERS	24 Student Planner	\$ 4.00
55186G060611	24 Art 6 Supplies	\$ 20.00
60012G060811	24 Computer Science software	\$ 5.00
60004G060811	24 Gateway to Technology	\$ 5.00
71001G060824	24 Exploration of Engineering	\$ 15.00
55052G060811	24 Theatre Arts props/scripts	\$ 5.00
55110G060614	24 Choir 6	\$ 5.00
55101G060814	24 Beg Band 6 music-copyright	\$ 35.00
55101G060824	24 Beg Band 6 T2 music-copyright	\$ 35.00
55101G060834	24 Beg Band 6 T3 music-copyright	\$ 17.50
55104G060614	24 Orchestra 6 music-copyright	\$ 41.00
55104G060624	24 Orch 6 T2 music-copyright	\$ 41.00
55104G060634	24 Orch 6 T3 music-copyright	\$ 41.00
OELSFEEES	24 Outdoor Lab 6	\$ 300.00
53236E060654	24 Science 6 STEM student kit	\$ 12.00
53236E060664	24 Science 6 student kit T2	\$ 12.00
53236E060674	24 Science 6 student kit T3	\$ 12.00
GRADE 7		
53237E070754	24 Science 7 student kit	\$ 12.00
53237E070764	24 Science 7 student kit T2	\$ 12.00
53237E070774	24 Science 7 student kit T3	\$ 12.00

Fee Code	Fee Name	Amount
55102G070714	24 ConBand 7 music-copyright	\$ 25.00
55102G070724	24 ConBand 7T2 music-copyright	\$ 25.00
55102G070734	24 ConBand 7T3 music-copyright	\$ 12.50
GRADE 8		
55102G080814	24 ConBand 8 copyright	\$ 35.00
55102G080824	24 ConBand 8 T2	\$ 35.00
55102G080834	24 ConBand 8 T3	\$ 17.50
53238E080854	24 Science 8 student kit	\$ 12.00
53238E080864	24 Science 8 student kit	\$ 12.00
53238E080874	24 Science 8 student kit	\$ 12.00
	7-8 Electives	
55110G060814	24 Choir sheet music	\$ 10.00
55158G060811	24 Creative Art Sculpture	\$ 20.00
60203G060811	24 Creat Comp 1 fabrifili	\$ 10.00
71001G060854	24 Expl of Engineering II	\$ 30.00
60012G060811	24 Exploring Computer Sci	\$ 15.00
60012G060821	24 Exploring Computer Sci II	\$ 25.00
71001G070814	24 Expl of Engineering 3	\$ 30.00
60203G060821	24 Creat Comp II materials	\$ 10.00
55104G070714	24 Orchestra Level 2 T1	\$ 41.00
55104G070724	24 Orchestra Level 2 T2	\$ 41.00
55104G070734	24 Orchestra Level 2 T3	\$ 41.00
55104G080814	24 Orchestra Level 3 T1	\$ 41.00
55104G080824	24 Orchestra Level 3 T2	\$ 41.00
551046080834	24 Orchestra Level 3 T3	\$ 41.00
71009G060811	24 Robotics-kits-parts-project	\$ 35.00
56100G060814	24 Spanish 1 workbook T1	\$ 28.00
56100G060824	24 Spanish 1 workbook T2	\$ 28.00
56100G060834	24 Spanish 1 workbook T3	\$ 28.00
55099G060811	24 Tech Theatre projects	\$ 10.00
55052E060811	24 Theatre Arts Inter scripts	\$ 5.00
60203G060831	24 Video Game Design software	\$ 15.00
55154G060811	24 Visual Arts Level 1	\$ 20.00
551546060821	24 Visual Arts Level 2	\$ 20.00
FIELDTRIP	24 Day In Denver field trip	\$ 13.00

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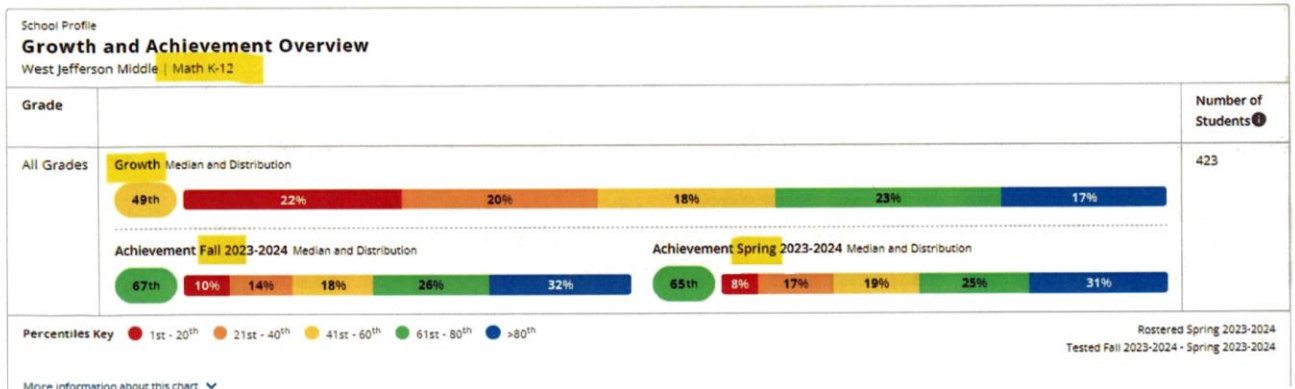
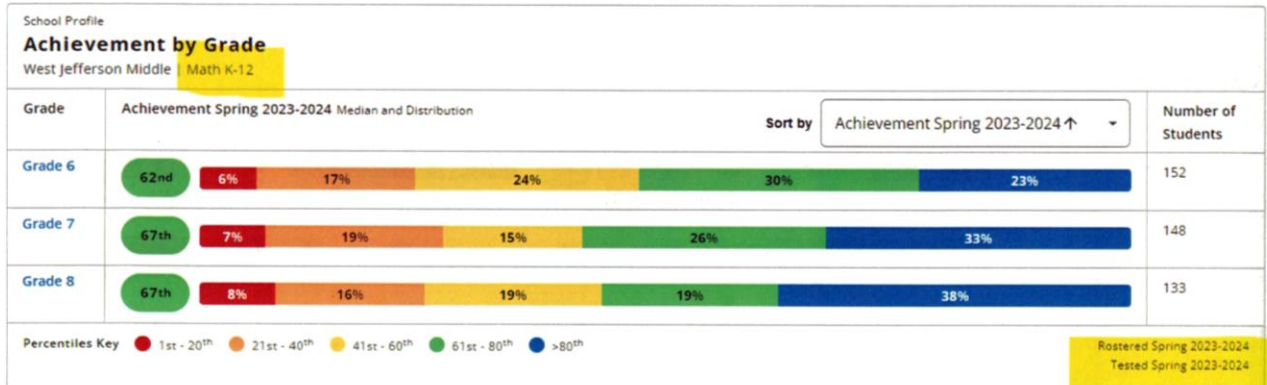
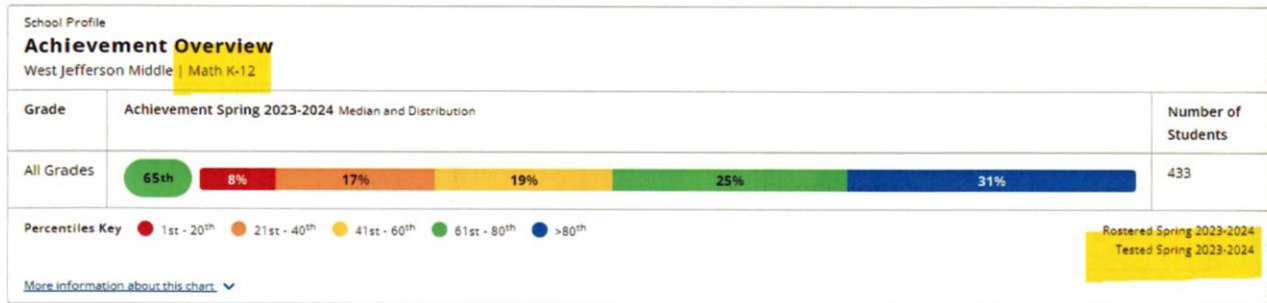
Appendix: Spring 2024 MAP Growth data

WJMS Spring MAP

School Profile (Window closes 5/17/24)

Spring: MATH

West Jefferson Middle



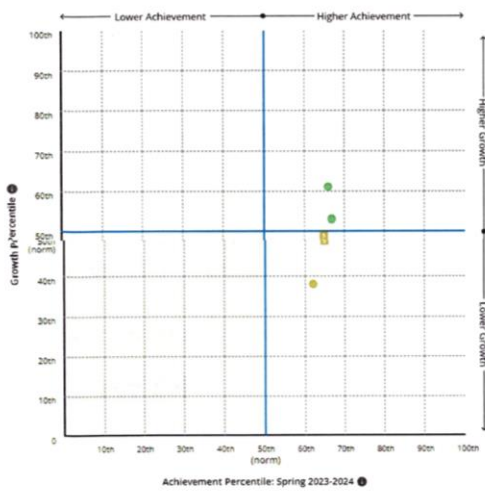
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Growth and Achievement by Grade

West Jefferson Middle | Math K-12

Grade ↑	Sort by -- select an option --	Number of Students ●
Grade 6		147
Growth Median and Distribution 		
Achievement Fall 2023-2024 Median and Distribution 		
Achievement Spring 2023-2024 Median and Distribution 		
Grade 7		146
Growth Median and Distribution 		
Achievement Fall 2023-2024 Median and Distribution 		
Achievement Spring 2023-2024 Median and Distribution 		
Grade 8		130
Growth Median and Distribution 		
Achievement Fall 2023-2024 Median and Distribution 		
Achievement Spring 2023-2024 Median and Distribution 		
Percentiles Key ● 1st - 20 th ● 21st - 40 th ● 41st - 60 th ● 61st - 80 th ● >80 th		
		Rostered Spring 2023-2024 Tested Fall 2023-2024 - Spring 2023-2024



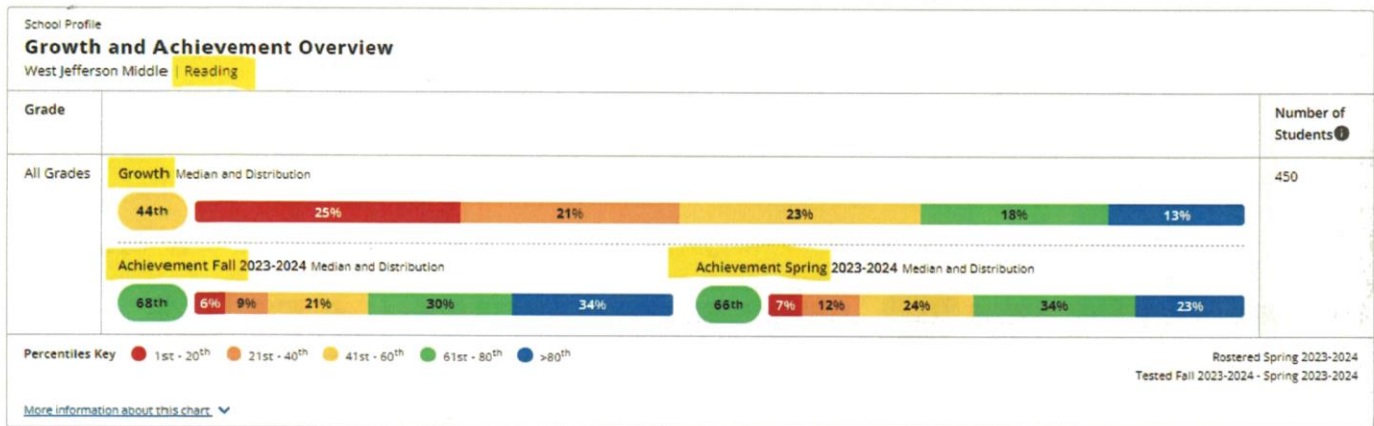
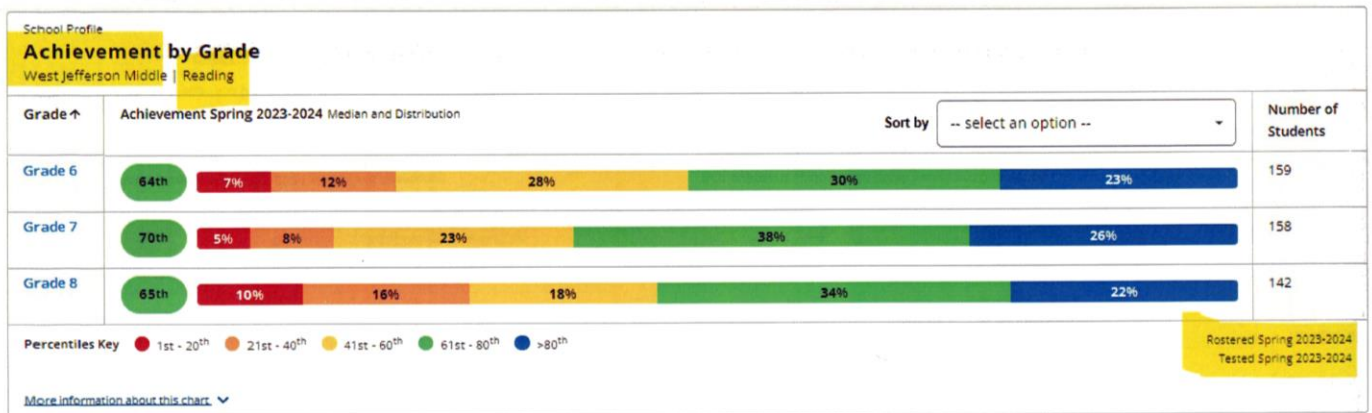
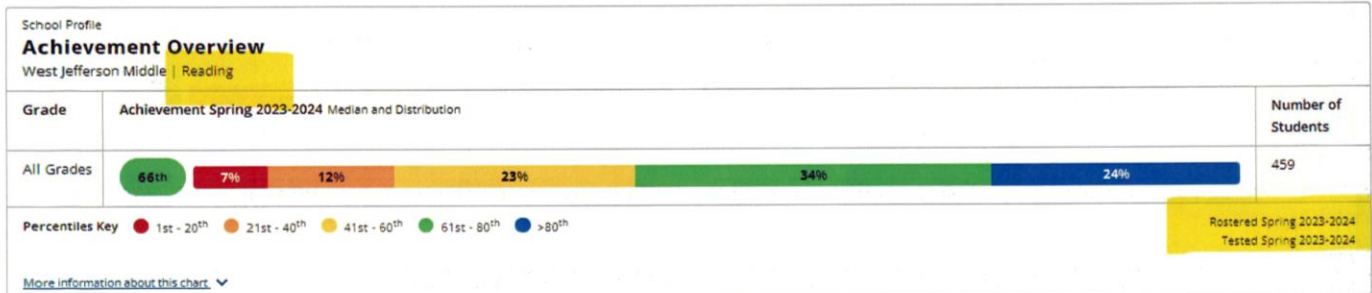
Spring MAP Math quadrant chart legend: top bubble is eighth grade, middle is seventh grade, lower is sixth grade. The lower middle S represents school growth overall for Math.

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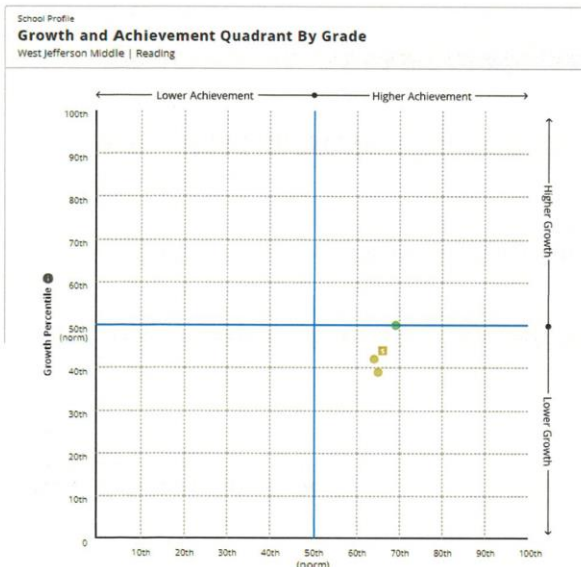
Spring: READING

West Jefferson Middle



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Spring MAP Reading quadrant chart legend: top bubble is seventh grade, middle is sixth grade, lower is eighth grade. The lower middle S represents school growth overall for Reading.