

# Core Strategies to Improve PSSA Scores

A focused, research-informed plan to strengthen instruction, build student confidence, and drive meaningful growth across grades 7-12.



# A Comprehensive Approach to Student Success

Seven interconnected strategies form a cohesive plan — from individual student goal-setting to school-wide culture — designed to improve PSSA performance and student outcomes.

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**Student Ownership & Goal Setting**

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# Student Ownership & Goal Setting



Students are most motivated when they understand their own progress and have a voice in their learning journey.

## Individualized Goals

Students set data-driven goals based on prior performance, creating personal investment in outcomes.

## Ongoing Conferencing

Regular teacher-student check-ins and progress monitoring keep students on track and accountable.



STRATEGY 2

# Targeted Instruction & Tutoring

## Restructured Tutoring

Standards-aligned, skill-specific support replaces generic tutoring — targeting the right students with the right content.

## Prioritizing Near-Proficient Students

Focused support for students just below proficiency yields the greatest measurable impact on school-wide scores.

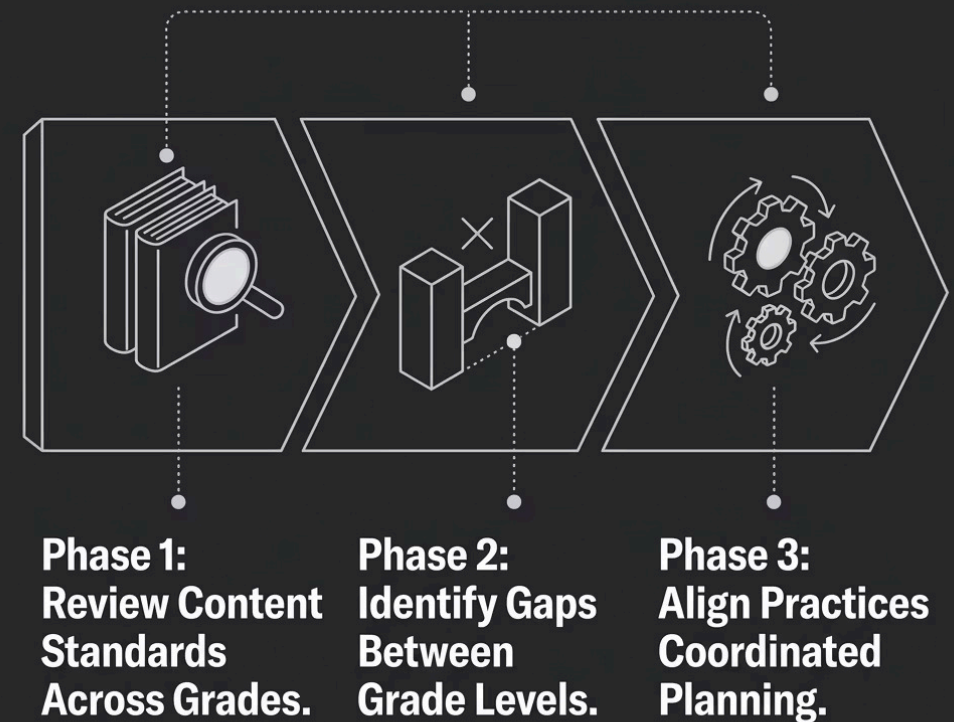
## PDE Released Item Samplers

Authentic practice items reinforce rigor and build familiarity with PSSA format and expectations.

# Instructional Alignment Across Grade Levels

## Building a Coherent K–6 Foundation

Strong PSSA performance at the 7–12 level depends on what students bring with them. Vertical alignment ensures no student falls through the cracks due to instructional gaps.



→ Vertical alignment discussions ensure consistency across grade levels

→ Focus on eligible content, standards, and instructional practices

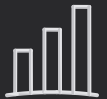
→ Identification and addressing of instructional gaps

# Professional Support & Capacity Building



## IU TaC Partnership

Collaboration with the Intermediate Unit's Training and Technical Support Consultant brings expert guidance directly to our educators.



## Embedded Professional Learning

Ongoing, job-embedded training on data use and instructional alignment ensures learning translates directly to classroom practice.



## Continuous Refinement

Sustained support helps teachers refine practices in real time, building long-term instructional capacity across the building.



# Testing Conditions & Student Readiness



## Optimized Testing Environment

Strategic student grouping minimizes anxiety and maximizes focus.

Accommodations and individual student needs are carefully considered to ensure every student can perform their best.

## Test-Taking Skills Reinforcement

Explicit instruction in pacing, constructed responses, and stamina — combined with online practice opportunities — builds confidence and familiarity before test day.



## STRATEGY 7

# Positive School-Wide Culture

Academic growth thrives in an environment where students feel seen, supported, and celebrated.

### PSSA Kickoff Assembly

A school-wide launch builds awareness, motivation, and a shared sense of purpose among students and staff.

### Unified Messaging

Consistent, encouragement-focused communication from all staff reinforces a culture of growth and possibility.

### Recognition of Growth

Celebrating effort, perseverance, and improvement — not just scores — motivates students to keep pushing forward.

# What Success Looks Like



## Increased Engagement

Students take ownership of their learning and demonstrate stronger motivation and participation.



## Stronger Instructional Alignment

Teaching and assessment are tightly connected, ensuring students are prepared for what they will be asked.



## Improved Proficiency & Growth

Measurable gains in PSSA proficiency rates and student growth scores reflect the impact of targeted strategies.



## Supportive Testing Environment

Students approach testing with confidence, reduced anxiety, and a positive mindset shaped by school-wide culture.

# Together, We Move Forward

Improving PSSA performance is not the work of one person — it is a shared commitment among teachers, students, families, and the community. With focused strategies, strong partnerships, and a culture of encouragement, we are building the foundation for lasting student success.

- ❏ Questions, feedback, and community involvement are welcome. Your support makes a difference in every student's journey.

