

# School Profile: Thoreau Elementary School

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## Introduction

Thoreau is a school with a diverse student population of around 450 students with 22 home languages spoken by our families. We take a plurilingual approach to learn world language by using each of the languages in classrooms to create project-based learning. Students spend 120 minutes each day in a literacy workshop model which includes the learning of academic vocabulary. Teacher teams are currently delving into the study of independent practice and the writer's workshop.

## Strengths

Key strengths of Thoreau include the diversity of the families and the hard work that the staff has done to close the achievement gap. Our focus groups have included the achievement of our African American and English Language Learner students. Their growth this year is evidence of our hard work. This year for the first time, African American students met their proficiency goals in reading and math and met their growth goal in math. 71% of English Language Learner students met their growth targets. Overall, 64% of our students met their growth targets, which was above the district average. In addition, 7% more students were proficient in the Spring as compared to the Fall. This growth is also above the district average.

## Progress

This past year, we began our work to improve student writing. Students took a pretest in fall, a mid-year assessment and an end of year assessment. Growth was made at every grade level.

## Areas for Growth

Teachers will dig deeper into writing this next year as we learn about the writing process and writer's workshop. Teachers work together to improve their practices to meet the needs of all students.

## Vision Connection

Our school supports MMSD's vision that all students acquire the skills and abilities needed to be successful, including a mastery of content areas, growth mindset, self-knowledge, creativity, wellness, interpersonal skills, confidence, cultural competence and community connection. Through these skills and abilities, our students will graduate college, career and community ready.

School Principal: Kathy Costello

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# Thoreau Elementary

2015-2016 Data Profile

**Address** 3870 Nakoma Rd  
**Principal** Kathy Costello  
**Phone** (608)204-6940  
**4K** Yes  
**Title I** No

**Developmental Bilingual Education** No  
**Dual Language Immersion** No  
**SAGE** Yes  
**Attendance Rate** 94.6%  
**Total Enrollment** 454

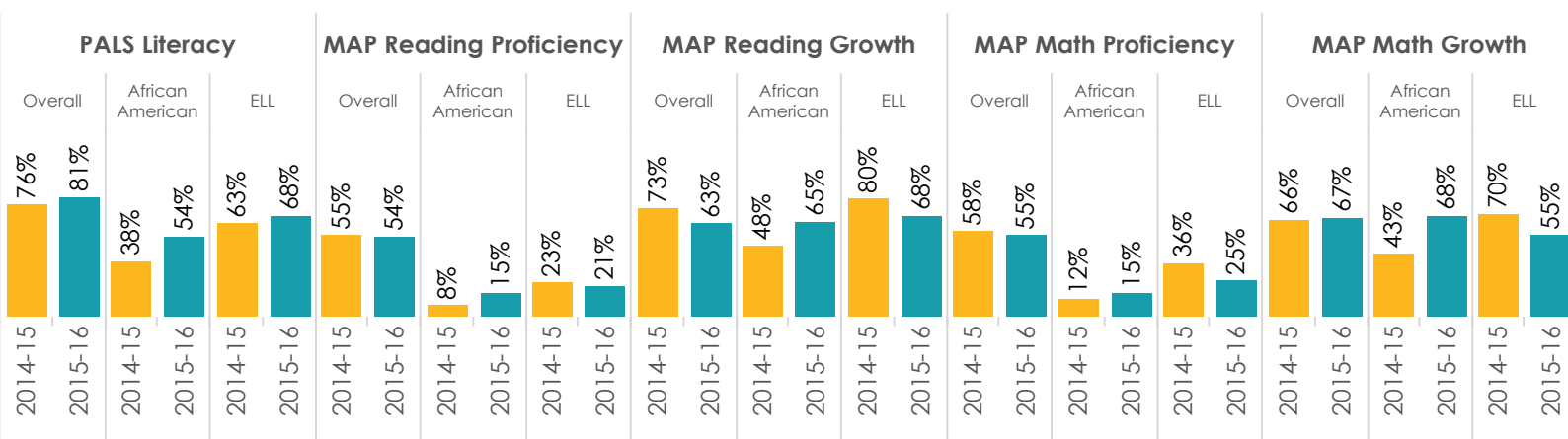
## Demographics



**ELL** 30%  
**Low-Income** 45%  
**Special Education** 12%

## Strategic Framework Goal #1 Milestones: On-Track to Graduate

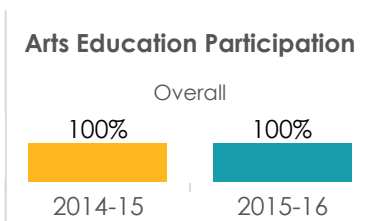
Each bar shows the percent of students meeting the relevant metric overall and for the focus groups the school selected on their School Improvement Plan (SIP, when applicable).



PALS includes English and Espanol in Grades 1-2. MAP includes Grades 3-5. MAP Growth is based on the percent of students meeting typical Fall to Spring growth targets.

## Strategic Framework Goal #2 Milestones: Challenging and Well-Rounded Education

The table below shows the percent of students meeting the relevant metric.



Participation rates are based on transcribed courses.

## Strategic Framework Goal #3 Milestones: Positive Climate

The table below shows the percent of responses within each dimension and group that were positive.

