

Question

There are clear impacts from the reduction in SIA funding and from the direct efforts to respond to COVID-19. While you can't fully set those aside, what is important for your community, including focal student groups, families, and educators, to understand about your SIA implementation efforts during the 2020-21 school year and the positive impacts that have occurred? How were you able to make progress towards the goals and outcomes you were aiming at with SIA funding and processes? (500 words or less)

What barriers, impediments, or challenges to your SIA implementation have you faced or identified that are helpful for your community and/or state leaders to be aware of? (500 words or less)

SIA implementation includes ongoing engagement with focal students, the families of focal students, and educators. What successes and challenges, if any, have you experienced in maintaining engagement? (500 words or less)

Please share your professional assessment of what guided your choices and prioritization efforts in the first year of SIA implementation? What stands out? Anything important or surprising to report back or reflect on? How were key decisions on scaled down implementation made? What impacts, if any, are helpful to name in how you navigated through the last year, specifically as it relates to SIA implementation? (500 words or less)

URL of webpage where your annual report is posted:

Please attach a copy of the Board Minutes to this line using the paperclip icon to the left.

Response

We feel we used our funds wisely. We were able to use the funds we received to support a 3rd math teacher for our K-3rd grade students. We were also able to offset costs for our Math Intervention Specialist. These 2 additions meant that students received the needed individualized instruction, intervention and enrichment support more closely aligned with their developmental levels. Students' math scores increased significantly as a result. We were also able to improve our efforts to support our students' SEL needs thanks to a staff member who was able to take a Mindful Schools course. This is the 3rd staff person to have some mindfulness training (40% of staff). Mindfulness practices were integrated into our morning meetings, 1:1 counseling sessions, and as staff worked with students on their academics (aligned w/ growth mindset philosophy). Since we were unable to fund big field trips, we were able to bring in some experts to provide some engaging cultural experiences (guitar and poetry lessons provided by Sisters Folk Festival, local farm trips, & HD Museum).

With COVID, some of our barriers were about access. We couldn't take some of the fieldtrip we had planned (cultural), due to COVID-related closures. As a very small school, we didn't experience some of the barriers and challenges that larger districts faced. However, as a remote school, virtual learning was more difficult due to poor cell service at our school and within our community. We adapted well, however.

As a very tiny school, with all students living in close proximity to the school, we were able to maintain engagement with our focal students and their families.

We used feedback from our community engagement survey and the results of the state assessments to prioritize our goals. Despite the challenges of COVID, our efforts to increase students' math achievement worked with the additional staffing for math instruction and intervention. The additional focus on SEL needs, gave us the "permission" to emphasize that growth with our staff and students. While we needed to scale down our goals, these remained our priorities. We sought to find other sources to address some of other goals. Ultimately, it would be great if we could have a staff person dedicated to the management of our SIA and other grants. With our small administrative team, its easy to lose track. We also wish we had easy access to our SMART sheet after submission. :-)

[The report will be posted here: https://www.blackbutte.k12.or.us/state_reports](https://www.blackbutte.k12.or.us/state_reports)