



# Black Butte School District 41

## Black Butte School District 41's Engagement Summary Report for Student Investment Account Funding, March 2020



### Purpose

The Student Success Act marks a turning point for education in Oregon. When fully implemented, our state will see an additional \$1 billion invested in education each year. This investment will provide opportunities for every student in our state, particularly students who have been historically underserved. Black Butte School District 41 engaged in a community input process to seek input on how the district can best support our students.

### Process

The engagement process included a survey completed by Camp Sherman area families, community members, and staff; a Site Council meeting; and targeted meetings with students and staff. The tools were offered in English, which aligns with our population, with the goal of making all the participants feel comfortable to share their needs, barriers, and experiences. All the engagement tools were modeled from the SIA toolkit for community engagement.

The district invited the community, students, parents, and staff to provide a voice in developing our plans. In September 2019, the adult survey was sent via email to six staff members and to all parents and residents of the community. Thirty adults responded. Feedback was also collected in person at parent-teacher conferences in October 2019.

Staff input was provided by our classified staff and principal/head teacher. All staff were encouraged to participate and provide written and oral feedback. In addition to completing the adult survey in September 2019, staff members met on February 12, 2020, to discuss what is working well at Black Butte School and what needs improvement. In October 2019 students completed a "climate survey" to gauge their attitudes on their school experience. All students participated in the anonymous survey, and their feedback was incorporated into our plan.

This extensive community engagement process, along with staff comments, data, and survey results, helped define themes and areas of need for our Student Investment Account plan. In addition, we reviewed the local metrics, progress markers, and student data, which highlights areas of stability, areas of success, and opportunities for growth to help improve efforts to attain excellence and equity for all our students. The final report will be presented to the community, School Board, and staff in March 2020.

## Findings

Student Investment Account funding is our school district's opportunity to address the significant emerging needs in our schools. In September, parents, staff, and community members were invited to provide input on increasing academic achievement; meeting students' mental and behavioral health needs; and improvements that could be made. In February, staff and board members provided input on the following areas: reducing academic disparities; meeting students' mental and behavioral health needs; providing access to academic courses; allowing teachers and staff to have sufficient time to collaborate, review student data, and develop strategies to ensure that at-risk students stay on track to graduate; and establishing and strengthening partnerships.

The greatest strengths identified included the staff, the small and multi-age classes that allow students to feel seen and heard, our location in the Metolius Basin, and the emphasis on outdoor experiences. Areas for improvement included the math program, the playground, and building maintenance and upgrades that will benefit student performance, as well as the need for more time for preparation and instruction. The staff recommended providing more access to academic specialists and partnering with more diverse organizations (for example, cultural, arts, science, and tech organizations). There is an interest in having students participate in more cultural experiences that allow them to increase their awareness of diverse people and perspectives.

The results from the community engagement process were used to establish themes to guide our plans for the Student Investment Account funding. Common themes identified included:

- Improving academic achievement in math for all students, using the new math program being implemented this year; increasing opportunities for professional development to meet the needs of students performing below grade level in Math; enhancing technology to allow for more individualized learning in Math.
- Making physical improvements to the facility to enhance the safety, well-being, and academic success of our students
- Creating a new playground to improve students' health and wellness.
- Developing an intentional engagement plan to increase communication between the school and families.
- Increasing professional development in Social and Emotional Learning to ensure a safe, nurturing and supportive learning community for all.

Our next step is to develop our Student Investment Account plan to outline the key priorities to guide our plans for the Student Investment Act funding.