

Student Investment Account Annual Report Questions

Annual Report Questions Nestucca Valley School District

<p>1. 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?</p>	<p>Despite the many difficulties of the 20-21 school year, including reduction of SIA funds, our students and staff have worked diligently to provide the best educational experience possible for our students and families. We have learned a lot of about the importance of communication, community and continued dedication to what we know is best for our students even when the challenges seem insurmountable.</p> <p>While we did have to scale back some of our plans based on SIA allocation reduction, we were able to focus on our youngest demographic of students and welcome the Nestucca Valley Early Learning Center (preschool) to become a part our school district, making NVSD a Pre-K- 12th grade school district. The development and implementation of district preschool program was one of our identified priorities within our SIA plan. We used our SIA funds to fund a full time preschool teacher, as well as two preschool instructional assistants. Having a preschool program within our district is beneficial to both the students and the district as a whole, as we are able to offer a continuum of services to students in our service area starting at 3 years of age. There is always more work to be done and COVID 19 continues to make providing services to all of our students challenging, but our preschool program is working directly with the district to meet the needs of all of our student and their families.</p>
<p>2. 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?</p>	<p>Not surprisingly, Covid-19 has been the largest challenge to not only our SIA implementation, but also every aspect of day-to-day life in our community. For example, while we were able to</p>

	<p>successfully develop and staff a district preschool program using SIA funds, we were not able to welcome those students in person during the majority of the '20-'21 school year. Additionally, during the '21-'22 school year, Covid-19 continues to be a major factor, causing our district to have a delayed start to the year, as well as time spent in and out of CDL. While our staff works incredibly hard to make CDL work for all families, it does become an access issue around internet connectivity, parental availability to support their students at home and much more. We are not unique in the sense that all school districts are experiencing challenges, but given our location, lack of resources and poor internet connectivity, some of these issues are magnified.</p> <p>It should also be mentioned that one of identified areas of need within our SIA plan was the addition of a counselor at our K8 facility. This way, both of our buildings were able to offer social emotional support that is needed in this community, especially while we experience a global pandemic. Unfortunately, mental health resources are limited at best in Tillamook County, especially those that work specifically with children. We had to cut this position out of SIA funding due to the budget reduction. Thankfully, the district was able to identify alternative funds in order to move forward and hire a full time K8 counselor. This is a heavy lift for any counselor when you consider that for some our families, this might be their only access to any sort of mental health support.</p>
<p>3. 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?</p>	<p>As previously mentioned, we have learned a lot about the importance of communication and community over the last year. One of the perks of being a small school district is that we know our students and families really well and can connect with them as a group or individually if needed. We have always maintained a high level of student and family engagement as a result.</p>

	<p>The biggest challenge was moving a lot of these engagement activities to an online forum. That said, we successfully hosted several online town hall meetings, which were well attended (These meetings were recorded in case some individuals were unable to make it). We also offered an online option for events such as monthly School Board meetings and parent-teacher conferences.</p> <p>We also requested feedback from families via online surveys, which were provided in the family's home language. The online surveys were a helpful way to prioritize needs and help inform decision making for administration. Information and updates was also communicated via emails, mail, posted on our webpage and Facebook, phone calls etc.,</p> <p>Finally, if internet connectivity was an issue for families, we also did daily food and supplies delivery throughout the community. We were able to get information, documents, forms and feedback via these deliveries to those that lived in areas in which internet was unavailable or poor.</p>
<p>4. 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?</p>	<p>Like all decision made within the Nestucca Valley School District, our first consideration is what is best for our students. We also made sure that stakeholders were able to provide input (online surveys, for example) to aid in determining what would be the best use of SIA funds. The strategies and/or activities that we initially identified were: (1) increasing supports for the physical, mental and behavioral health of our students, (2) developing a district preschool program and (3) providing academic and career/college readiness supports to students with disabilities and students navigating poverty.</p> <p>When we were informed of the SIA budget reduction, we started to look to other funding opportunities, as we felt that all identified areas were critical to student success.</p> <p>In the end, we were able to use alternative funds to hire a counselor at the K8, a career/college counselor at the high school and provide</p>

	<p>additional opportunities by increasing CTE offerings (hiring a K-5 Science Teacher, supplies). This allowed us to use SIA funds to focus on launching our district preschool program and hiring a full time preschool teacher and two preschool instructional assistants. Offering a free district preschool has been something we have wanted to explore for some time, as we recognize the power of offering a continuum of services to students starting at a young age.</p>
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