

Middle College High School Model Programs and Practices Narrative

1. Description of the Model:

The Middle College High School (MCHS) is a dual-enrollment model program offered through the Lodi Unified School District (Lodi USD) and San Joaquin Delta College (SJDC). The MCHS model program and its practices were adopted in 2000 with the purpose of reaching students who are generally underachieving or have circumstances that hinder their academic performance at a traditional high school. MCHS continues to focus on students that are from underrepresented ethnicities, lower socio-economic status, and first in family to attend and graduate from college. As an early college model, students are enrolled in both high school and college courses. Implementation of the MCHS program is done on a continuous and collaborative process through LUSD and SJDC. Students take college courses in the morning and they are enrolled in high school classes from 12:00pm until 4:50pm.

The mission of MCHS is to provide a supportive, academically challenging environment where students are able to successfully complete 30-60 transferable college units in order to directly apply to a 4-year college. Parents and students are made aware of this goal at parent orientation days as well as Back to School night and other school functions. Over the last three years, one-hundred percent of MCHS students have attained at least 30 transferable credits. This is a huge benefit to students' and parents as students are able to complete one or two years of college at no cost to parents. It also gives students a head start at the different universities they attend in order to complete their desired area of study more quickly and with better results.

One major contributing factor to our success is the MCHS School-wide Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program. Students are enrolled in AVID classes all four years at the school. In AVID, students are taught note-taking and organizational skills, they lead inquiry-based tutorials, and they explore college and career options through guest speaker presentations and research. Students also apply to a four-year university, learn about financial aid, and apply for scholarships. For several years, MCHS been able to provide students with the opportunity to visit at least seven different colleges throughout their four years of attendance at MCHS.

A second major contributing factor to our success is our Academic Success Center (ASC). All freshmen are enrolled in ASC for their freshmen year. The purpose of ASC is to provide students time to study, complete assignments, or get assistance through tutors and teachers. A certificated teacher is in charge of the center and tutors are in the class at all times. The teacher and tutors are able to assist freshmen students with both MCHS and Delta College coursework.

MCHS meets and supports all three of the District's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) goals. The first LCAP goal is "to create learning environments with highly qualified

personnel to maximize access to the academic core for all learners as well as providing enrichment opportunities to prepare our students to be college and career ready.” All MCHS teachers are highly qualified in their curricular areas. Teachers do an outstanding job of providing a rigorous and challenging learning experience for all students at MCHS. Through the partnership with SJDC, MCHS students are able to explore a multitude of college courses and receive an enriching educational opportunity.

The second LCAP goal is to ensure that “all students will demonstrate proficiency in literacy, math, and technology to prepare students to be college and career ready.” MCHS prepares all students to meet or exceed proficiency standards in math and English on CAASPP testing. During the April 2018 administration of the CAASPP, 98 percent of MCHS students met or exceeded English standards and 81 percent of MCHS students met or exceeded math standards. Both of these scores are far above the State (ELA 55.96; Math 31.37) and District (ELA 43; Math 32) averages.

The third LCAP goal is to ensure that “schools will be positive and supportive learning environments that provide maximum opportunities for each student to succeed.” MCHS did not have a single suspension during the 2017-18 school year and the school has only had two suspensions this school year. The school’s attendance rate is consistently at 98 percent month after month. Due to being a smaller learning community, MCHS students tend to develop close friendships with one another and act as a familial support system. There is a high level of respect among the student body and between students and staff.

2. Implementation and Monitoring of Model Program/Practice:

MCHS regularly engages with stakeholders and parents. MCHS maintains several avenues of communication to inform stakeholders and parents about the program. Teachers consistently communicate with parents about children’s progress in classes. Parents are also able to monitor their progress, student achievement, and student attendance through Aeries, the Lodi USD student information system or the District’s free mobile app. MCHS maintains communication with parents through the MCHS website, the Blackboard Mass Notification System, newsletters, and emails. In addition, the MCHS Parent, Teacher, Student Association (PTSA) has been instrumental in garnering parental involvement and the funding needed to facilitate the MCHS annual college field trips. Without the support of PTSA, MCHS would not be able to offer students many of the unique opportunities they receive at the school.

MCHS consistently monitors and assesses its program’s effectiveness. MCHS teachers are given Lodi USD benchmark data on a quarterly basis as well as yearly data from SBA/CAASPP. The assessments are discussed during staff and collaboration meetings in order to evaluate and adjust instructional practices as necessary. During collaboration meetings, staff receive reports based on

grades by subject area and by teacher, which facilitates discussions about teacher practices. Staff also receive progress report grades for all struggling students in order to provide these students with the necessary academic and emotional necessary support. Student progress is also monitored on a regular basis by AVID teachers and the MCHS counselor and principal.

MCHS is a one-to-one device school. All students received ChromeBooks at the beginning of the 2018-19 school year for use in their MCHS and SJDC classes. Teachers have also received professional development regarding how technology can be brought into the classroom to bring about more relevant and meaningful learning. All of our teachers currently utilize online programs, such as Google Classroom, in order to post and collect assignments and to maintain communication with students and parents. Teachers have also attended Cooperative Learning training as well as curricular training in math, science, social students, and English. This is due in large part to the district adopting new curricula in all areas to better align with the new Common Core Standards.

3. Results of the Model Program/Practice

MCHS evaluates its program's success in relation to student outcomes through statewide test results, student grades, number of transferable college units attained, and college acceptance. The results/outcomes of our data reinforce that MCHS continues to be a highly successful program. As stated above, 98 percent of students tested at or above proficient in English and 81 percent tested at or above proficient in math on statewide testing. Over the last three years, MCHS has had a 100 percent graduation rate with 67 percent of graduates earning one or more Associate's Degrees from SJDC. In reviewing current data from the fall 2018 semester, MCHS students collectively took 504 college courses, of which 88 percent of the grades from these courses resulted in a letter grade of an A or B and more specifically, 70 percent of these courses resulted in a letter grade of A. Over the last three years, all graduates have attained at least 30 transferable units.

MCHS continues to be one of the top performing schools in California. MCHS received the California Distinguished School Award in 2008 and 2011 and was recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School in 2015.

The Website for MCHS is as follows:

www.middlecollege@lodi.usd.net