

EVALUATION

21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant

**X-STREAM
Implemented
In
School Year 2017-2018**

**Columbia School District
613 Bryan Avenue (Wildcat Way)
Columbia, Mississippi 39429**

**Evaluation
Of the
X-STREAM
21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant
School Year 2017-2018**

The Columbia School District has completed the first year of a three-year implementation of a 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) grant entitled ***X-STREAM***. Grant activities were conducted at 4 sites, Columbia Primary School (CPS), Columbia Elementary School (CES), Jefferson Middle School (JMS) and Columbia High School (CHS). The competitive grant was approved by a panel of readers convened by staff in the Office of Federal Programs in the Mississippi Department of Education (OFP/MDE) in the fall of 2017. ***X-STREAM*** activities began in January of school year 2017-18.

X-STREAM implementation followed the statutory requirement to provide students with academic support, character education, and enrichment activities in an after-school setting. Throughout the grant period, the schedule of after school program components followed a two-hour format with the majority of allotted time focused on academic achievement.

X-STREAM is focusing on **X**-ing out learning gaps by providing **eX**plicit instruction and **eX**periences in **STREAM: Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art, and Math**. ***X-STREAM*** programs targeted the at-risk students. Truancy, discipline, K-readiness, graduation rate and dropout were areas identified as in need of improvement while keeping academic achievement and college readiness as a priority. During the 2017-2018 School Year ***X-STREAM*** programs operated before school by adding a ***Zero Period*** at each campus, during school, and ***Power Hour*** after school as well as off campus at the Columbia Marion County Public Library (CMCPL) both through out the week and weekends.

Teachers tracked progress of academic achievement. Student volunteers were paid a small stipend for their work. Their contribution was effective and often the key to improved achievement as they served as peer tutors.

Participation Rate at each school

As with all educational activities, the key to impact is determined by actual participation. The following tables are based on grant sites and show enrollments, average daily attendance calculated for the number of days of service, and the number of students who attended grant activities thirty days or more.

Impact Actual Participation

School	Enrollment	Grant stated # served	Enrolled or served in 21 st CCLC	Difference	%Students served
CPS	416	200	163	-37	39%
CES	406	250	232	-30	57%
JMS	367	225	109	-116	30%
CHS	443	150	54	-96	12%
TOTAL	1632	825	558	-269	34%

30 Day Completers

School	Enrollment	Grant stated # 30 day completers	#30 day Completers	Difference
CPS	416	100	83	-17
CES	406	150	77	-73
JMS	367	125	35	-90
CHS	443	50	7	-43
TOTAL	1632	425	202	-225

ADA FOR X-STREAM PROGRAM

School	Enrolled or served in 21 st CCLC	Week ended <u>ZERO PERIOD</u>	Overall ADA <u>ZERO PERIOD</u>	Week ended <u>AFTER SCHOOL</u>	Overall ADA <u>AFTER SCHOOL</u>
CPS	163	16	31.5	16	39.5
CES	232	17	26.7	17	63.0
JMS	109	18	16.5	17	20.5
CHS	54	16	7.6	0	0.0
TOTAL	558	66	205.4	51	123.1

Of the four sites, JMS and CHS experienced less average daily attendance and fewer numbers of students attending 30 days or more and CES had the highest average daily attendance. CPS had the highest number of 30-day completers.

The site directors of the middle and high school 21st CCLC program observed a trend in attendance of students. These students were more interested in the before school, (**ZERO Period**), during school tutoring, and afterschool (**Power Hour**). While the afterschool program, **Power Hour**, was intended to provide opportunities beyond those offered during the regular school program, the school directors feels the time of day interferes with extracurricular activities students of this age are involved in. Nevertheless, the director strived to more toward the desired balance in spite of the inherent challenge presented by middle and high school students and their schedules.

At each site the before school (**ZERO Period**) participation was higher than afterschool (**Power Hour**), however: the directors of the CSD understand that this could be improved. Stakeholders, 21st CCLC advisory council, and directors of each site decided to rename **Zero Period** to **XL Period**. (eXtended Learning.) The thought is that **XL Period** is a positive connotation. The High School TST committee plans to assign students to the **XL Period**. If high school students have a conflict with extracurricular activities they will be assigned to the morning sessions.

The 21st CCLC X-STREAM Advisory Council is composed of diverse stakeholders who have interest in or have been part of the initial plan. Members include partner CMCPL, school administrators, teachers, students, staff, business leaders, community leaders, and /or parents. Next semester **XL Period** will consist of a healthy breakfast, which will be accompanied by a youth development mini-lesson in the cafeteria. This mini-lesson will be character education building videos and materials. The staff feels that attendance was not as accurate as possible therefore; a plan for taking attendance will be different and should correct this error.

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

CSD knows that parental engagement is crucial and must be a priority. They are committed to provide each parent an opportunity to participate in family engagement. While the plan for having each Thursday, to be *Thrilling Thursday*, where a specified grade of Parents were asked to attend their child's academic presentation called *Thrilling Thursday's Stand and Deliver*, there was not much participation by parents. Parents were to arrive early to receive mini training on how to help students academically. They received guided prompts of what may be educationally helpful to be asked after the students present in *Thrilling Thursday's Stand and Deliver* small group presentations. After low participation and receiving feedback from parents on this activity, the 21st CCLC X-STREAM Advisory Council feel it is necessary to change the activity. Every Thursday was not realistic for parents. The parental and family engagement enrichment activity will continue. The Columbia Director of Accountability will provide parent workshops during this time. The plan for a **Financial Literacy Program** will be provided for parents and students by the Wildcat Ferguson Federal Credit Union and other financial institutions in the area to be established on campus in Fall of 2018.

Publicity and Enrollment

CSD will start the *X-STREAM* program differently, they will highly publicized in the newspaper, radio, public library and school marquees, on each school's website, and during school announcements and school newsletters. An invitation to join will be sent to the parents of each targeted student. Enrollment of targeted students in the safe and secure *X-STREAM* learning environment will be promoted during parent-teacher meetings. They will also conduct orientation programs for both families and students. The High School TST committee plans to assign students to the after school (**POWER HOUR**). If high school students have a conflict with extracurricular activities they will be assigned to the morning sessions (**XL Period**).

21st CCLC X-STREAM 30-day completers were lower than expected. Plans for the retention of students is on going. Informal and formal invitations to provide program input from students and parents will be used. Academic recognition events are being planned. Student leaders will be involved in activities to improve student recruitment and retention.

Accountability and Transparency

In order to have full accountability and transparency, there must be staff dedicated to certain reporting task. Advisory Council meetings will take turns meeting at each X-STREAM site. The site's ***XL Program*** Extended Library Director will keep minutes and a sign-in sheet, will scan/save to a shared designated Google Drive, and will file originals on site.

At the end of each 9 weeks, each site's ***XL Program*** Extended Library Director will post on the site's website a progress summary that will include participation, attendance, behavior, STAR/Benchmark/classroom grades per site. Each site will post on the district's Facebook page and information will be submitted by the ***X-STREAM*** Homework Director to showcase student and family activities. The ***XL Program*** Extended Library Directors will ensure that updates are submitted for the ***X-STREAM*** section of the district website and will post upcoming events, and weekly/monthly schedules.

All enrollment, attendance, demographic, behavior, and worker data was collected daily and stored digitally by the ***XL Program*** Extended Library Director and Homework Director. The ***XL Program*** Extended Library Director created weekly summary reports shared/reviewed with building principals and assistant principals, and project director. In addition the quarterly data reports added academic progress as indicated by report card grades, and/or benchmark assessment scores. The quarterly reports, created by each site, will be posted on the district's website for student, parent, and public access.

Below are the roles and duties for each:

XL Period Extended Library Director

- Responsible for providing extended library services during ***XL Period***, will oversee volunteers, and check in students
- Will work with 21st CCLC advisory council, and ensure 21st CCLC grant data is documented, filed, and kept in orderly and accessible manner
- Will provide sign-in sheets, gather ongoing data, and publish data reports on district's ***X-STREAM*** website.

Homework Director

- Responsible for the non-administrative role of helping students with homework (not to exceed 15:1),
- Oversight of Homework/tutor aides, check students in/out of after school program, and ongoing update of ***X-STREAM*** on district's Facebook page,

- Assist building principal to hire 21st CCLC staff,
- Plan/schedule all activities,
- Plan staff meetings,
- Ensure program implementation (activities and expenditures) correlates with approved grant,
- Plan professional development as needed,
- Order supplies, and
- Ensure 21st CCLC grant data is documented, filed, and kept in orderly and accessible manner.

X-STREAM has and will continue to invite qualified seniors to serve as volunteers. The retired teachers' organization, Friends of the Library, Methodist Church Tutors, First Baptist Church Tutors, Garden club, and/or other civic/religious organizations involving senior citizens will be invited to volunteer in the 21st CCLC. Qualified seniors are encouraged to be mentors especially for one-on-one reading tutoring. Professional development training and support will be provided to ensure quality of this program.

Continued Success and Sustainability

The Columbia School District is dedicated to the success and sustainability of this program. The unofficial scores from the state assessments reflect a jump in accountability levels in Columbia Primary School and Columbia Elementary Schools. The changes mentioned in this report will help ensure the Jefferson Middle School and Columbia High School to see the same effect on state assessment scores. The support of the community, school administrators, staff, and parents will help sustain this program.