

Pleasant Hill SD 1 - Annual Reporting



Questions	2021-22 Annual Reporting Response
<p>1 What changes in behavior, actions, policies or practices have you observed related to SIA implementation during the 2021-22 school year? How do you see these changes contributing to the goals and outcomes in your SIA plan?</p>	<p>Pleasant Hill School District (PHSD) had many pivots last year as we started the year with Covid restrictions, and ended the year mostly without restrictions (yet still with the "ripple effects" of Covid.) Staffing shortages, lack of substitutes, bussing issues and a student population divided by Covid and political beliefs definitely changed how we could educate and support our student population. Having already embedded an increase of student and family social emotional health as a strategy in SIA, these challenges gave us ample opportunity to work on this. With the staff shortage, especially in mental health supports, we had to adjust and look at bringing in outside help to alleviate the shortage.</p> <p>PHSD contracted with a group to provide students with on campus mental health support and referrals for additional help, if needed, free of charge. Due to our location away from a city center, this on-site service removed the transportation barrier many of our students face. The summer school program has been a positive result of SIA funding. Our elementary and middle schools ran an enrichment series, while our high school used summer school as a credit recovery time for students needing credits towards graduation. With 17% of the elementary students enjoying the enrichment time and 12% of high school students taking advantage of credit recovery, we will want to look at continuing, and possibly expanding, the summer programs. Summer school also extends student's access to food, counseling and basic medical services. With many of our students lacking transportation, and not having public transportation easily accessible, these services are even more important for those in the lower SES brackets.</p> <p>Our district has undergone a metamorphosis of sorts with some key positions in our district moving or retiring. While some teacher/EA attrition is to be expected at the close of every academic year, we have had the unique experience of needing to hire a superintendent, high school principal, middle school principal and athletic director all in the same summer. While this is a lot of change at one time, this will also afford our small, rural district to create new policies and practices for the upcoming year and see things through a fresh perspective. We are excited to start this new journey.</p>
<p>2 What barriers or challenges to SIA implementation have you experienced that are helpful for your community and/or state leaders to be aware of? What adjustments, if any, did you make to your SIA plan as a result of these challenges?</p>	<p>Pleasant Hill School District struggled to fill some of the positions we created with the SIA funding. We understand this is a nationwide issue and we are not alone. Educational Assistants and specialty teachers are the areas we really struggled with finding qualified people for. Some positions were left posted in the hope they would fill and other positions (social-emotional support) were able to be contracted out. We have worked to shift job responsibilities around to prioritize and cover the students' needs.</p> <p>We are very fortunate to have a highly dedicated team of professionals on staff who stepped up again this year to cover for the unfilled positions and work with our mental health support team and subcontractors to make the year the best we could for students and their families.</p> <p>Pleasant Hill did not make any strategy changes in SIA due to the challenges we faced. Instead we tried to become creative in scheduling and looking to community partners to help fill the needs of the school district.</p>
<p>3 SIA implementation includes ongoing engagement with all students, focal students, families, staff, and community partners. How have relationships with or between those groups changed and/or been maintained throughout this academic year? Consider the Community Engagement Toolkit https://www.oregon.gov/ode/StudentSuccess/Documents/69236_ODE_CommunityEngagementToolkit_2021-web[1].pdf and where your efforts might land on the spectrum as you complete your response.</p>	<p>For the 2021-2022 school year, Pleasant Hill opted to continue with the building and district level newsletters to the families and community. Even with Covid restrictions early in the year, we were able to provide community engagement with things such as teacher meet and greets, food drives, our drive-through Veterans parade, sporting events, music concerts, and our elementary "Living History" museum. As the year went on, and Covid restrictions eased more, we were able to bring back more events such as the Book Fair and end-of-the-year school celebrations that had been stopped due to Covid restrictions.</p> <p>These events all engage our small, rural community in a way that makes the school feel welcoming. By making the school more inviting, we are hoping to bridge the gap between us and the families who have traditionally stayed away from the school for reasons such as not feeling welcome, fear of immigration status in the family, their own personal negative experiences of being in school, etc.</p> <p>We also conduct extra outreach and events for students in the upcoming Kinder, 6th and 9th grades to prepare them for the school year transition, the requirements of the students and what families can expect. This helps to reduce stress for all and set the expectations for communication and behavior.</p>
<p>4 As you think about what guided your choices and prioritization efforts in this year of SIA implementation, what stands out? How will what you've learned this year impact future SIA implementation efforts?</p>	<p>Now that Covid restrictions are all but gone we are certainly carrying forward with a major push of inviting community back into the school doors. Sporting and music events are occurring or planned to occur. Teacher "meet and greets" at both our buildings were a huge success with large turnouts, complete with lots of enthusiasm and many smiling faces ready to tackle the new year. More school-based events are in the planning stages for the 2022-2023 school year.</p> <p>Pleasant Hill School District learned that we had to be fluid and pliable as restrictions changed last year. Yet, this is not a Covid-only concept. We must be fluid to meet our students and families where they are at, figuratively and literally. We have to prioritize events that will encourage the most community members into our buildings to continue to build relationships, especially with our marginalized groups. We want to keep students in brick-and-mortar schools to also help provide all of the other supports besides learning (i.e., SEL supports, food services, basic medical, etc.) Due to Pleasant Hill being a community without a town or governing body, the school often will take on the role of being the gathering place. We must be ready and willing to take on that challenge.</p>