

# 21<sup>ST</sup> CCLC 2021-22 Annual Evaluation Brief: East Helena K-12

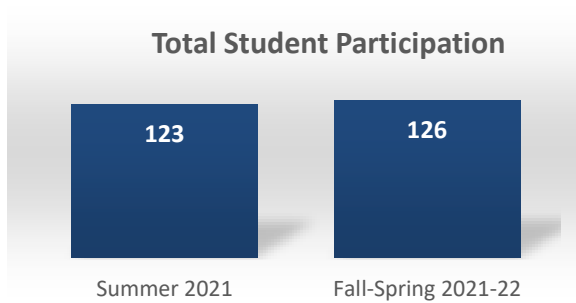


The 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) Grant is a federally funded program supporting out-of-school-time community learning centers that operate primarily on school campuses statewide. Targeting students who attend high-poverty schools, these programs help students meet core standards in academic subjects such as language arts and math while also offering a broad array of youth development and enrichment opportunities.

## Who do we Serve and What are the Characteristics of our Participants?

### TOTAL STUDENTS ATTENDING

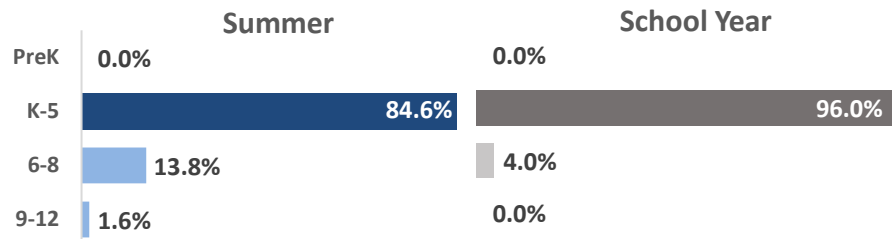
A total of 232 students participated in the grant during the 2021-22 grant year.



- Eastgate Elementary = 24
- Radley Elementary = 208

### ATTENDANCE BY GRADE

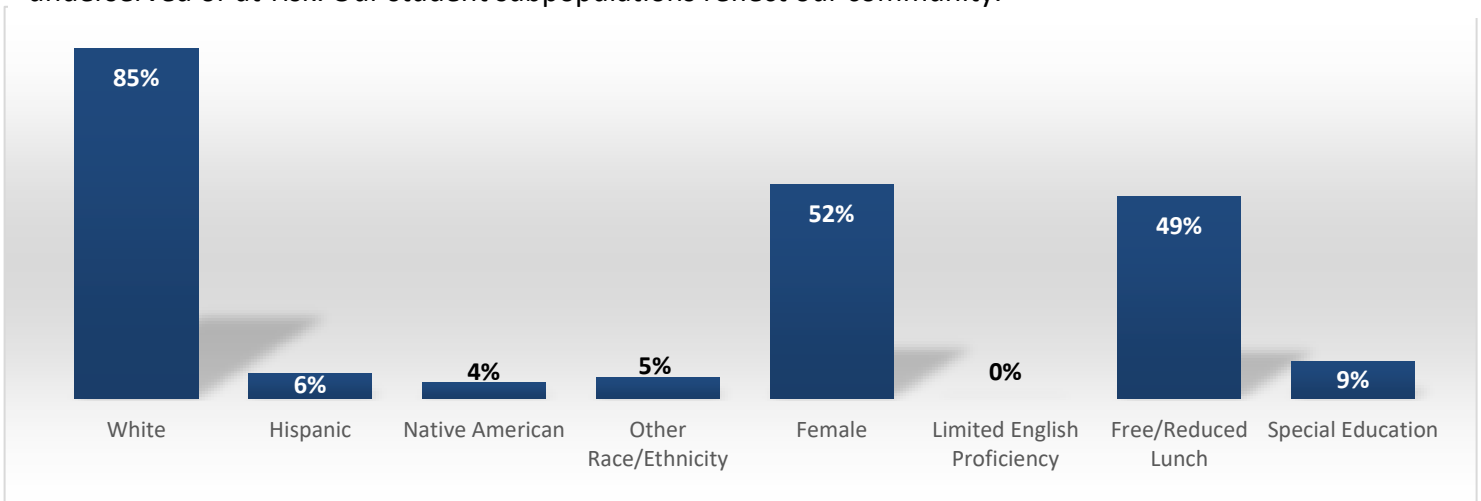
The majority of students were in grades K – 5<sup>th</sup>.



194 (83.6%) students participated in 90+ hours of programming (i.e., regular attendees)

### 21<sup>ST</sup> CCLC STUDENT & STATEWIDE DEMOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTIONS

While our program is available to **all** students, as part of the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grant, we target students who are underserved or at-risk. Our student subpopulations reflect our community.



## What are the Characteristics of our 21st CCLC Programming?

### STUDENT ACTIVITIES

21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs universally focus on academic skills, schoolwork habits and homework completion, as well as other critical youth assets and socio-emotional skills. Other common enrichment activities revolve around science, health, wellness, safety and nutrition, recreation/physical activity, service learning and civic engagement, peer mentoring, and parental education and involvement.

Examination of our program offerings during the school year show that there is a focus on **Healthy + Active Lifestyles, STEM, and Well-rounded Education Activities.**



Category	# of Activities/ Sessions	Average Daily Attendance
Academic Enrichment		
Social Emotional Learning		
Activities for English Learners		
Assistance to Truant, Suspended, or Expelled Students		
Career Competencies & Career Readiness		
Cultural Programs		
Drug and Violence Prevention, and Counseling		
Expanded Library Service Hours		
Healthy and Active Lifestyle	2	38
Literacy Education		
STEM	2	47
Services for Individuals with Disabilities		
Telecom. and Technology Education		
Well-rounded Education Activities	2	42

### OPERATIONS

We are open an average of 5 days per week for a total of 17 hours per week during the school year.

Center	Start Date	End Date	Total Days per Week	Avg. Total Hours per Week	Total Weeks of Program
Eastgate Elementary	09/01/2021	05/31/2022	5	14	38
Radley Elementary	09/01/2021	06/09/2022	5	20	38

### STAFFING

On average, our staff to student ratio is approximately **1:6** which meets the needs of our students.

Center	Paid Staff	Vol. Staff	TOTAL
Eastgate Elementary	9	0	9
Radley Elementary School	33	0	33
Total	42	0	42

### PARTNERSHIPS

We had **1** partner in during the grant year. Contributions included raising funds.



## What are the Impacts of our 21st CCLC Program?

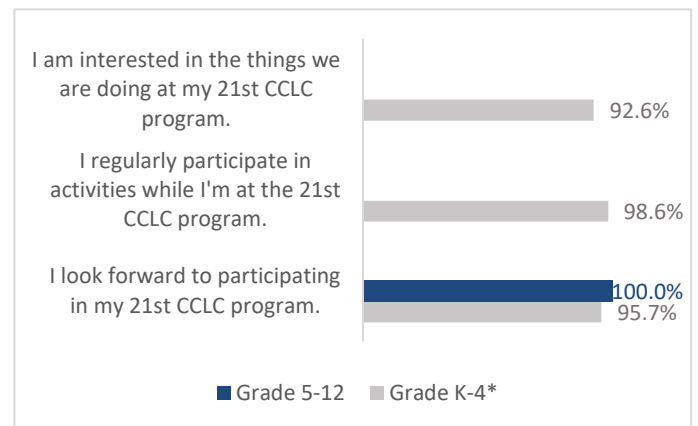
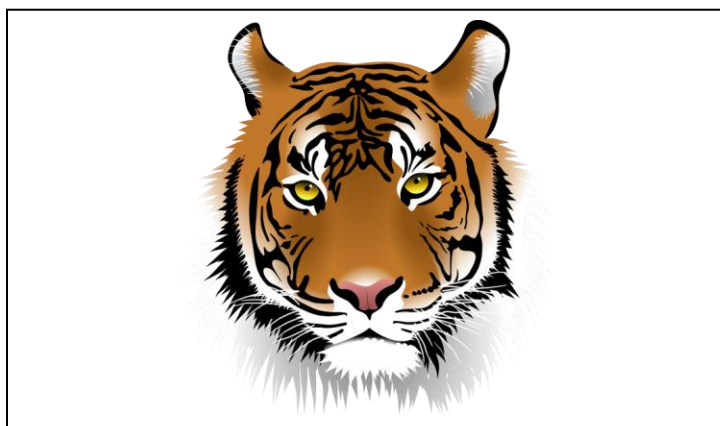
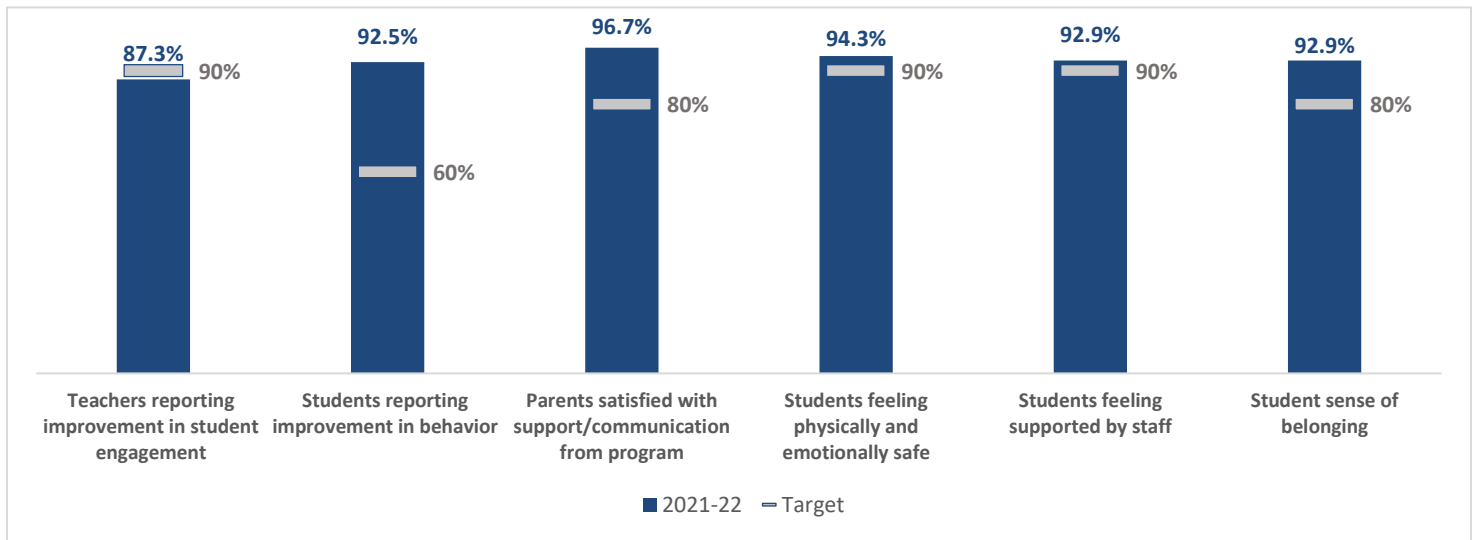
### WE ARE MEETING OUR GRANT OBJECTIVES!

Results from the 2021-22 grant year show that we **met 79% (11 of 14) of federal and state grant objectives**. This means we showed positive findings within our three grant goals:

- *21<sup>st</sup> CCLC students will show improvement in core academics.*
- *21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs will work collaboratively with students and families to foster positive relationships and promote youth development.*
- *21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs will provide high-quality operations to promote active participation of students.*

### POSITIVE IMPACTS WERE REPORTED BY YOUTH, PARENTS, AND TEACHERS!

Survey results indicate that the majority of teachers report an improvement in student engagement (87.3%), students perceive improvements in their behavior (92.5%), feel physically and emotionally safe in our program (94.3%), feel supported by program staff (92.9%), and feel as though they belong in the program (92.9%). In addition, 96.7% of parents were satisfied with the support and communication received from our staff. 5 of 6 targets for these measures were met.



\*Items rephrased for younger students.

## Our Success Story: After COVID, the After-School Program Returns with a Bang!

2020-2021 was a year unlike any other. With COVID protocols well into place, many were unsure of how they were going to be able to provide a safe environment in the After-School Program. It was ultimately determined that it couldn't be done, as it would cross too many cohorts of students. At the time, students were mandated to stay in cohorts of 50, without mixing with other cohorts. Our school worked hard to provide that safety. So, when the After-School Program returned in 2021-2022, many of us were unsure of what it would look like. A new program administration was put into place, and a new staff was hired. Slowly, things looked like they were starting to come together.

The After-School Program of 2021-2022 was not run without its difficulties. Hiring became difficult because many people were still worried about contracting COVID, especially when there were so many students vying for a spot in the program. It seemed that it was going to be a struggle to keep the After-School Program (ASP) adequately staffed. Despite staffing struggles, we were somehow able to open ASP sites at each elementary school within the district. When the ASP opened its doors at the end of August, families were excited to have a sense of normalcy return for their students. The impact on the community and the schools was immediate. 97 students were able to attend the ASP and receive academic enrichment as a result of a dedicated staff. Families of attending students were able to find some relief in after school child care costs, as well as a sense of safety in knowing that students were being well taken care of while still adhering to the recommended COVID protocols of the time. A parent, who asked not to be named, stated, "I don't know what I would have done without the after-school program. I do not have the money to pay for childcare, and my kids are too young to stay at home. I am just thankful it opened again."

The After-School Program had its challenges in 2021, however, staff worked hard to ensure that there were no site closures throughout the year. Each site remained open every program day due to the diligence of staff. Families knew they could depend on us to keep their children safe. The beginnings of relationships began to form again; this took time due to the year without an After-School Program, and a completely new staff and administration. However, as we look toward the future, we know families can depend on us, and we are making a difference in the community.

## What successes were achieved during the grant year and what lessons were learned?



- ❖ Our greatest strengths for this program year were our staff to student ratios and our number of students served. The target staff to student ratio was 1:10 or 1:15. We were able to exceed that target with a staff to student ratio of 1:6. This means that our students had increased time with instructors and were able to build closer relationships with them. It also means that instructors had the ability to tailor instruction to meet the needs of learners because they were with small groups of students. Another strength was the number of students served. Our goal was to serve 80 students across the district. We were able to serve a total of 232 students across the district, which was 290% of our target. This was a huge success for us because we were able to almost triple the number of students we could serve.
- ❖ Based on our findings, one of the suggestions for program improvement is the continuation of incorporating student voice and choice into our programming. The incorporation of student voice and choice was part of the action plan, and was also an area in which we did not meet our goal in the 2021-22 school year. For that reason, we should continue working to include student voice and choice in our programming. Another suggestion for program improvement is to continue to broaden programming. Students continue to need exposure to a variety of enrichment activities beyond academics. We will need to continue to work toward incorporating more activities that enrich student lives outside of the academic spectrum. This can also be done for 21st CCLC programs statewide. Students should have opportunities periodically to determine what they would like to learn about. While teacher preparation is important, allowing students to help choose what teachers should prepare for would be best practice.