



Central Administration Office

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MEMORANDUM

To: Valley Collaborative Board of Directors
From: Dr. Chris A. Scott, Executive Director
Dr. Lori Likis, Principal Consultant, Creative Coaching for School Improvement
Brian Mihalek, Assistant Principal, Valley Transitional Middle and High School
Karen Rowe, Transition Specialist
Date: June 10, 2021
Re: Valley Collaborative District 2-Year Bridge Improvement Plan Update 2020-2022

2020-2022 District Improvement Plan Summary – “Bridge Years”*

3.1 Strengthen Outreach and Two-Way Communication with Students and Families: Improve the use and effectiveness of the Aspen Family Portal

Staff training was completed at all school programs. Correspondence went out to families with detailed instructions on how to utilize the X2 Aspen Family Portal. The technology team reported that most of the questions from families resulted in the resetting of passwords; there have been no major issues or concerns reported. The Technology Department worked with the Principals to tailor each school’s portal to the needs of their school. Implementation of the Blackboard Mass Notification system is in progress. Blackboard Mass Notifications will be used for power outages or snow days, whereas school communications will go through the Aspen portal. In the next school year, teachers and principals will become more familiar with uploading documents and the technology department will launch the Blackboard Mass Notifications tool. Future functions could include utilizing Aspen for attendance, progress reports, classroom resources, health information, transcript information, discipline, assessment scores, student schedule, enrollment history, and classroom activity updates through the Aspen portal, all of which will be tailored by each Principal.

3.2 Ensure Valley Offers Programming that Meets Student Needs: Improve the use and effectiveness of the Referral System

The existing referral database was completely overhauled, expanded and modified to collect data related to the diagnosis and profiles of students being referred, programmatic information from sending districts, referral outcomes, and communication. The database was outfitted with tools for sorting and charting the data collected, which will enable Valley to evaluate and identify trends in order to anticipate programmatic needs as they develop. Additional updates include the ability to continuously add and update past referrals while maintaining a running record of current referrals. Data collected from the referral database will be analyzed on a yearly basis or throughout the year as needed.

*Before the Pandemic, Valley was originally working on a one year “Bridge Plan” but in March 2021, Valley was informed by DESE that we were entering into our Coordinated Program Review for the 2021-2022 school year. As a result, the ‘Bridge Plan’ has been extended for an additional year.

3.3 Support Student, Family, and Staff Sense of Belonging During the Pandemic: Administer Sense of Belonging survey in winter and spring and use data to improve stakeholders' experience

The third and final initiative for this year was to assess the level of support all students, families, and staff received during the pandemic through student, family, and staff surveys. The Student Survey was designed to target indicators including impressions of the culture, peer relations, policies and protocols that have been implemented to keep students safe, provide them access to technology, and identify areas that might need improvement. The Student Survey was administered from April 27th through May 10th and was completed by 237 of 379 students/individuals for a participation rate of 62.5%.

The Family Surveys were administered from May 3rd through May 14th. The survey was intended to gather feedback in the areas of safety, remote learning plans, communication, safety procedures, and their satisfaction related to progress. 106 Family Surveys were completed.

The Staff Surveys were administered from April 27th through May 10th and completed by 151 of 242 staff members, for a participation rate of 62.3%. The questions on the staff survey addressed indicators including culture, technology, impressions of policies and protocols that have been implemented, communication and support.

The Sense of Belonging Committee will review the survey results and analyze the survey data to identify strengths and areas of need in our programs. Results of the Sense of Belonging surveys will help guide our data-driven decision making process and assist us with implementing meaningful action plan recommendations.

3.4. Ensure Valley is a diverse, equitable, and inclusive organization: Develop a DEI (diversity, equity, inclusion) committee and plan.

This initiative is a new addition to the Bridge Plan for the 2021-22 school year. The DEI Committee will begin meeting in September 2021, with an initial focus on Valley staff. The Committee will create a DEI vision statement for the Collaborative, examine HR practices, and identify professional development recommendations that will support staff in building DEI skills and mindsets. After this first phase of work, the Committee will expand its focus to data, assessments, and student outcomes.