

Summative Evaluation Report

Grantee: **Palm Beach CSD** | Grant: **Rising Starz (C17R)(500-2444B-4CRN8)** | Cohort: **17R** | **3 Sites**

1. Introduction to Program

The School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC) 21st CCLC Rising Starz program was granted \$699,840.00 to provide student-centered services at three locations: CO Taylor/Kirklane Elementary, Highland Elementary and Indian Pines Elementary during the FY2023-2024 academic year and summer. The principal objective of the program is to deliver comprehensive academic instruction and enrichment activities to all students. It is specifically structured to enhance students' academic performance and foster essential life and learning (SLL) skills. Additionally, it seeks to encourage parental involvement and engagement within the student and local communities. The program provided in-person programming consistent with the regular school day, with objectives to improve elementary school students by: (1) enhancing academic achievement in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics, (2) improving attendance rates, (3) enhancing behavior, and (4) increasing their engagement in school.

The overarching purpose of the program is to ensure that all students reach a high level of academic achievement. The SDPBC Rising Starz program is dedicated to helping students excel academically, develop crucial teamwork skills, comprehend the strengths and needs of their community, and prepare for success in higher education and future careers. Moreover, the program is committed to addressing and closing the academic achievement gap while fostering the development of SLL skills essential for students' future success. It is essential to highlight that this initiative is a collaborative effort involving the SDPBC Department of Extended Learning and Prime Time Palm Beach County, a nonprofit organization deeply committed to supporting afterschool programs.

The schools targeted for the Rising Starz grant mainly serve minority students who are economically and academically disadvantaged. The students who benefit from the grant may have one or more of the following risk factors: eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch, at risk of academic failure or grade retention, scoring below their current grade level, identified as English Language Learners (ELL), or identified as vulnerable (e.g., homeless, foster children, etc.). The grant aims to provide targeted support to these students to help address their specific needs and improve their academic outcomes.

Recruitment methods were consistent across the three program sites (CO Taylor/Kirklane, Highland and Indian Pines). School administrators, teachers, and site coordinators identified at-risk students based on academic and personal factors. Principals supported recruitment through various means such as all-calls, posting flyers, and sending direct letters home with the most at-risk students. Social media and word-of-mouth were also used to support recruitment efforts. The students who attended the programs were representative of the overall student population within the targeted schools. With students participating in community service initiatives and outreach programs, students witness the direct influence they have on their local environment and the lives of others. Their contributions have not only made a tangible impact, but have also led to a greater number of individuals and organizations showing a vested interest in the community, schools, and students. This has fostered a strong sense of community pride and involvement, encouraging students to become proactive and engaged citizens.

Summative Evaluation Report

Grantee: **Palm Beach CSD** | Grant: **Rising Starz (C17R)(500-2444B-4CRN8)** | Cohort: **17R** | **3** Sites

2. Student Characteristics

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Rising Starz program, operated by the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC), caters to a diverse group of students ranging from kindergarten to fifth grade who participate in the afterschool initiative. Data regarding student enrollment success, demographics, race and ethnicity, and total participants by grade level for each programming site during the fiscal year 2023-2024 is presented in Tables 2.1 to 2.4. Throughout this academic year, the program successfully served a total of 199 students. To gain insights into the needs of the population served, Table 2.2 outlines the specific requirements identified within the targeted demographic. The Rising Starz program effectively met the needs of all student demographics, as evidenced by Table 2.3, which illustrates the program's success in retaining students from various racial and ethnic backgrounds within the targeted schools. Additionally, Table 2.4 details the grade levels represented in the Rising Starz program, with the overall distribution aligning with the typical age range of students in the targeted schools. Despite these successes, the program faced minor challenges in data collection.

2.1 Student Enrollment Total

Table 2.1. Student Enrollment: Total Participating Students for Summer 2023 and 2023-2024 Academic Year

Site Name	Total Participating Enrollment (attending at least one hour)	
	Summer	Academic Year
Clifford O. Taylor/Kirklane (C17R)	0	66
Highland Elementary (C17R)	0	61
Indian Pines Elementary (C17R)	0	72

Summative Evaluation Report

Grantee: **Palm Beach CSD** | Grant: **Rising Starz (C17R)(500-2444B-4CRN8)** | Cohort: **17R** | **3** Sites

2.2 Student Demographics

Table 2.2. Population Specifics: Total Participating Students

Site Name	Limited English Language Proficiency	Identified with Special Needs	Free or Reduced Price Lunch	Gender		
				Male	Female	Other
Clifford O. Taylor/Kirklane (C17R)	45	3	52	31	35	0
Highland Elementary (C17R)	39	9	49	28	33	0
Indian Pines Elementary (C17R)	40	7	54	28	44	0

Table 2.3. Student Race and Ethnicity: Total Participating Students

Site Name	Total Participating Students							
	American Indian Or Alaska Native	Asian	Black Or African American	Hispanic Or Latino	Hawaiian Or Pacific Islander	White	Two or More Races	Data Not Provided**
Clifford O. Taylor/Kirklane (C17R)	0	0	11	54	0	0	1	0
Highland Elementary (C17R)	0	0	29	31	0	1	0	0
Indian Pines Elementary (C17R)	0	0	66	6	0	0	0	0

Summative Evaluation Report

Grantee: **Palm Beach CSD** | Grant: **Rising Starz (C17R)(500-2444B-4CRN8)** | Cohort: **17R** | **3** Sites

Table 2.4. Student Grade: Total Participating Students

Site Name	Grade In School*														
	PreK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
Clifford O. Taylor/Kirklane (C17R)	0	8	9	12	12	20	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	66
Highland Elementary (C17R)	0	10	6	11	14	9	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	61
Indian Pines Elementary (C17R)	0	14	10	10	14	10	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	72

Summative Evaluation Report

Grantee: **Palm Beach CSD** | Grant: **Rising Starz (C17R)(500-2444B-4CRN8)** | Cohort: **17R** | **3 Sites**

3. Project Operations

The 21st CCLC (Cohort 17R) Rising starz grant, now in its 6th year of operation, continues to deliver exceptional summer and afterschool services for the FY2023-2024 school year, which includes Summer 2023 and the academic year of 2023-2024. This year, the program is active at CO Taylor/Kirklane Elementary School, Highland City Elementary School, and Indian Pines Elementary School.

Summer: The summer session began on June 12, 2023, and concluded on July 28, 2023. During this period, the program offered a robust schedule of 34 days of engaging and educational activities, totaling 306 hours of programming. These sessions were meticulously designed to provide students with enriching experiences and support their academic and personal development during the summer. The activities included a wide range of subjects such as STEM, arts and crafts, physical education, team-building exercises, skills for life and learning activities.

Academic Year: The academic year operations commenced on August 14, 2023, and ran through May 20, 2024. Throughout this timeframe, the program provided 171 days of afterschool programming, amounting to 513 hours of focused, high-quality educational support. This extended period of programming was strategically structured to complement and enhance the students' learning experiences during the regular school year. The afterschool sessions included supplemental meals and snacks, homework assistance, enrichment activities, and an array of expanded learning opportunities to support the students' academic and personal growth.

Type of Programming:

Summer and Academic Year: Throughout both the summer and academic year sessions, all program sites followed a face-to-face instructional model to create a dynamic and interactive learning environment. Each Certified Teacher/Instructor team was dedicated to delivering high-quality educational experiences to small, manageable groups of no more than 20 students. This approach was tailored to meet the diverse needs of students, allowing for personalized attention and effective instructional support.

The Enrichment Instructors played a pivotal role in the program by actively interacting with students during snack and supper times and engaging them in physical wellness activities.

These activities were specifically designed using the SPARK (Sports, Play, and Active Recreation for Kids) curriculum. Additionally, the instructors also provided supplementary support during academic enrichment blocks, assisting both teachers and students to enrich the overall learning experience. Typically, students received support in a 1:10 ratio, ensuring that each student had ample opportunity for individual attention and support throughout the operational day.

Summary of Operations:

Summer: During the summer session, each program site was operational Monday through Friday, providing a consistent and reliable schedule over the course of 34 days. The program was structured to operate for 9 hours each day, amounting to a total of 306 hours of service throughout the summer. This comprehensive schedule ensured that students received extensive engagement and support during their break.

Academic Year: Throughout the academic year, each program site maintained a Monday through Friday operation, spanning a total of 171 days. The program was delivered over a 3-hour period each day, which cumulatively resulted in 513 hours of programming for the academic year. This structured timetable was designed to

Summative Evaluation Report

Grantee: **Palm Beach CSD** | Grant: **Rising Starz (C17R)(500-2444B-4CRN8)** | Cohort: **17R** | **3 Sites**

provide consistent academic and enrichment support during after school hours.

Types of Activities:

Summer and Academic Year:

The Rising starz grant offers a diverse range of activities designed to foster comprehensive student development during both the summer and academic year sessions.

Academic Enrichment: The Academic Advisors facilitated a variety of instructional activities, including reading and writing exercises, mathematics problem-solving, and science experiments. These activities are complemented by educational field trips during the summer that enrich learning through real-world experiences. To further support math education, students had access to adaptive interactive online mathematics programs. This program tailors instruction to each student's skill level, allowing them to master concepts at their own pace and reinforce their learning effectively.

STEM and Critical Thinking: The program integrates a robust STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) curriculum, supplemented by a wealth of classroom resources. The resources were designed to enhance the students' thinking, reasoning, and investigative skills while promoting teamwork and creativity. Students engage in hands-on projects and challenges that stimulate curiosity and problem-solving abilities.

Personal Enrichment: In addition to core academic subjects, students participate in a variety of personal enrichment activities. These include expanded learning opportunities (ELOs) such as engaging on-campus field trips, artistic endeavors, and physical wellness programs. The curriculum also includes service learning projects that foster community involvement and skills for life and learning activities that prepare students for future success.

Alignment with GPRA Objectives: All activities are meticulously aligned with the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) objectives as outlined by the state. This alignment ensures that the program meets key educational and developmental goals, providing students with meaningful and impactful learning experiences.

Transitions:

Smooth transitions between program activities are a cornerstone of the Rising starz grant's operational efficiency and student engagement. The Academic Advisors played a pivotal role in ensuring these transitions were seamless and effective.

Structured Routines and Expectations: To facilitate a fluid transition from one activity to the next, each program site has established well-defined expectations and routines. These routines are meticulously designed to guide students through each part of the day, minimizing downtime and maximizing productivity. By setting clear expectations, teachers ensure that students understand what is required of them at each transition point, reducing confusion and maintaining focus.

Strategic Time Management: Program sites allocate dedicated time between activities to allow for smooth transitions. This buffer period is essential for students to shift their attention and prepare for the next activity without feeling rushed. This thoughtful approach helps maintain a calm and orderly environment, ensuring students are ready and engaged for each new session.

Centralized Meeting Locations: To further enhance the efficiency of transitions, centralized meeting locations are established for student arrival and dismissal. These

Summative Evaluation Report

Grantee: **Palm Beach CSD** | Grant: **Rising Starz (C17R)(500-2444B-4CRN8)** | Cohort: **17R** | **3** Sites

designated areas serve as organized points for students to gather, facilitating smooth entry and exit from activities and minimizing disruptions.

Table 3.1 Summer 2023 Operations

Site Name	Total # of weeks This site was open	Total # of days This site was open	Typical # of hours per day This site was open			Total # of days This site was open		
			Weekdays	Weekdays Evenings	Weekend/Holidays	Weekdays	Weekdays Evenings	Weekend/Holidays
Clifford O. Taylor/Kirklane (C17R)	0	0	0:00	0:00	0:00	0	0	0
Highland Elementary (C17R)	0	0	0:00	0:00	0:00	0	0	0
Indian Pines Elementary (C17R)	0	0	0:00	0:00	0:00	0	0	0

Table 3.2 2023-2024 Academic Year Operation

Site Name	Total # of weeks This site was open	Total # of days This site was open	Typical # of hours per day This site was open				Total # of days This site was open			
			Before School	During School	After School	Weekends/Holidays	Before School	During School	After School	Weekends/Holidays
Clifford O. Taylor/Kirklane (C17R)	41	201	0:00	0:00	3:00	3:00	0	0	171	30
Highland Elementary (C17R)	41	201	0:00	0:00	3:00	3:00	0	0	171	30
Indian Pines Elementary (C17R)	41	201	0:00	0:00	3:00	3:00	0	0	171	30

Summative Evaluation Report

Grantee: **Palm Beach CSD** | Grant: **Rising Starz (C17R)(500-2444B-4CRN8)** | Cohort: **17R** | **3** Sites

4. Staff Characteristics

During the 2023-2024 school year the composition of the Rising Starz staff played a crucial role in fostering a supportive and effective learning environment. The staff was composed of 25 certified teachers, all of whom brought a wide range of experiences. Several had advanced degrees as well as obtained certifications in specialized areas. Additionally, each school boasted a qualified support staff that assisted in catering to a variety of learning styles and needs. A total of 8 support staff worked with Rising Starz for the 2023-2024 school year. All staff received background checks and were cleared prior to working with students.

The staff to student ratio is a critical factor in a school's ability to provide high-quality instruction. The staff to student ratio of 1:10 in academics and 1:20 in enrichment was maintained at all sites to support an effective learning environment. The academic content was consistently taught by certified teachers with the support of the enrichment instructors. Maintaining the ratio allowed ample opportunity for learning to occur. Additionally, students were grouped by grade level to allow for instruction to be standards driven effectively.

Although hiring qualified staff continued to pose a challenge, due to positions being part time & without benefits, school turnover remained somewhat low. This was due in part to job sharing opportunities, which enabled staff burnout to decrease. During FY24, in order to identify high quality staff to support our schools, the grant Program Directors attended eleven Job Fairs. Additionally, flyers were created and shared with Site Coordinators to use in recruitment of candidates to their school.

With professional development being the cornerstone of a high quality education program, over 40 in-person and virtual training were offered to all sites. We continued to be committed to providing ongoing opportunities for staff to refine their skills, stay updated on the latest curriculum and collaborate with colleagues. Topics and offerings included:

- 1 Site Coordinator Training
- 4 Curriculum
- 6 SPARK
- 2 Classroom Management
- 3 EZReports
- 2 Imagine Math
- 5 Best Practices for Working with Children
- 2 Principal Training
- 4 Playground Safety First
- 3 CPR
- 3 Dreambox Math
- 1 Reader's Theatre
- 1 Field Trip Training
- 1 Summer Training
- 2 Summer Safety

Summative Evaluation Report

Grantee: **Palm Beach CSD** | Grant: **Rising Starz (C17R)(500-2444B-4CRN8)** | Cohort: **17R** | **3** Sites

Our highly qualified team was dedicated to providing exceptional support through regular collaboration and hands-on engagement. Each month, the team held focused meetings to discuss progress, share best practices, and address any challenges that arose. In addition to these meetings, the team conducted site visits to gain firsthand insight into the unique needs of each location, offering tailored guidance and solutions. The combination of consistent communication and in-person support enabled the team to effectively address issues, foster growth, and maintain high standards across all sites.

Table 4.1 Program Staff Types by Category

Site Name	Type (Paid and Volunteer)	Administrators and Coordinators	College Students	Community Members	High School Students	Parents	School Day Teachers (including substitutes)	Non-teaching School Day Staff	Sub-contracted Staff	Other
Clifford O. Taylor/Kirklane (C17R)	Paid	0	0	0	0	0	10	2	1	0
	Volunteer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Highland Elementary (C17R)	Paid	0	1	0	0	0	6	2	0	0
	Volunteer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indian Pines Elementary (C17R)	Paid	1	0	0	0	0	9	1	0	0
	Volunteer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Summative Evaluation Report

Grantee: **Palm Beach CSD** | Grant: **Rising Starz (C17R)(500-2444B-4CRN8)** | Cohort: **17R** | **3** Sites

5. Outcomes

Objectives, Activities, Data Collection Methodology and Outcomes

Data Collection Methodology

The data collection methodology employed in this study was systematic and utilized data sourced from the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC) Student Information System (SIS). An appointed data specialist for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) facilitated the process by accurately entering all collected academic, behavioral, and attendance information into EZ Reports. This structured approach ensured that the data was both reliable and comprehensible.

Outcomes Met

In alignment with the benchmarks designated for the FY23-24 school year, program sites successfully implemented various strategies to enhance student learning. This included providing independent, high-interest reading materials and targeted curriculum designed to support and elevate reading fluency and comprehension levels. Additionally, certified teachers integrated supplementary reading activities across all subject areas. For mathematics support, students engaged with the Imagine Learning interactive math program, promoting a comprehensive understanding of mathematical concepts.

Impact on Population Served

The feedback received from stakeholders highlights several key positive impacts on the student population served by the program. Notable outcomes include:

- **Increased Academic Performance:** Students demonstrated improvements in their academic achievements across various subjects, particularly in reading and mathematics.
- **Improved Social Behaviors:** Participants exhibited enhanced social skills and behaviors, fostering a more collaborative learning environment.
- **Increased Attendance:** A notable rise in attendance rates was reported, indicating higher student engagement and commitment to their education.
- **Enhanced Skills for Life and Learning:** Students experienced growth in critical life skills such as self-reflection, self-confidence, and the ability to interact more effectively with peers.

Moreover, students perceive the program as a reliable and secure environment that provides continuous support and enriching programming opportunities.

Data Collection Challenges

Throughout the data collection process, we encountered no challenges in acquiring academic, behavioral, and attendance data from the School District. The smooth

Summative Evaluation Report

Grantee: **Palm Beach CSD** | Grant: **Rising Starz (C17R)(500-2444B-4CRN8)** | Cohort: **17R** | **3** Sites

retrieval and input of data facilitated an efficient research process and contributed to the overall effectiveness of the evaluation.

This comprehensive methodology and the subsequent positive outcomes underscore the program's effectiveness in enriching students' educational experiences and supporting their holistic development.

Table 5.1 Program Performance Table

Domain	Objective#	Total # of Participants Served	Total # of Participants Measured	% of Participants Measured	Total # of Participants Meeting SOS	% of Participants Meeting SOS	Benchmark Met
English Language Arts - FSA Scores	1.A.1	199	104	52	40	38	N
English Language Arts - FSA Monitoring	1.A.2	199	195	98	70	36	N
Mathematics - FSA Scores	1.B.1	199	104	52	40	38	N
Mathematics - FSA Monitoring	1.B.2	199	191	96	69	36	N
Grade Point Average (Unweighted)	1.C	0	0	0	0	0	N
Attendance/Dropout Prevention	2.A	167	0	0	0	0	N
In-School Suspensions	3.A.1	167	118	71	118	100	Y
Behavior Referrals	3.A.2	167	118	71	113	96	Y
Safe and Supportive Relationships	4.A.1	167	162	97	122	75	Y
Engagement	4.A.2	167	162	97	136	84	Y

Summative Evaluation Report

Grantee: **Palm Beach CSD** | Grant: **Rising Starz (C17R)(500-2444B-4CRN8)** | Cohort: **17R** | **3** Sites

Stakeholder Surveys

During the FY23-24 school year, we distributed Stakeholder Surveys to school day teachers via email and paper copies from April 3 to May 31, 2024. Weekly reminders were sent to encourage participation; however, we did not achieve 100% completion. Several factors contributed to this shortfall:

- 1. **Student Transitions:** Some students were dropped from the program and were no longer enrolled during the survey collection period.
- 2. **Relocation:** Students possibly move to another school, school district in or outside Florida.
- 3. **Late Enrollments:** Students who enrolled just before the school year ended posed challenges for teachers to assess their progress.
- 4. **Staff Changes:** Teacher relocations or the presence of substitute teachers who were unfamiliar with the students affected survey completion.

Recommendations for Improvement

To enhance survey completion rates in the upcoming school year, we recommend focusing on active students who have participated in the program for at least 4 to 6 months. This approach would help ensure more reliable data and potentially increase overall completion rates.

Table 5.2 Stakeholder Survey Responses

Survey Question	Response Rate	Percentage of stakeholders who selected Increased and Did Not Need to Increase (added together).
Q1. Student engagement is the degree of attention, curiosity, and interest as well as the level of motivation students demonstrate while learning. How would you describe this student’s level of engagement for the 2023-2024 School Year?	96	86
Q2. Safe and supportive relationships for students are cultivated by positive interactions and emotional support with peers and adults. How would you describe this student’s level of safe and supportive relationships with peers and adults for the 2023-2024 School Year?	96	79

Summative Evaluation Report

Grantee: **Palm Beach CSD** | Grant: **Rising Starz (C17R)(500-2444B-4CRN8)** | Cohort: **17R** | **3** Sites

6. Progress Toward Sustainability

The grant awarded for the Rising Starz program is crucial for its ongoing operation. Without this funding, the Rising Starz program would need to transition to a fee-based model that would not include teachers, compromising the quality of services offered.

Partnerships and Collaboration

Strong partnerships have been a cornerstone of the program’s success. Program Directors maintained regular communication with partners, meeting at least monthly to express gratitude and explore opportunities for additional services. The program successfully welcomed two new partners—Kidzart and Resource Depot—while sustaining collaborations with 26 existing partners.

Advisory Board Engagement

The Advisory Board, comprising 18 diverse stakeholders (administrators, principals, coordinators, teachers, parents, and business members), met virtually twice during the year (December and April). Their feedback focused on enhancing family services, fostering community partnerships, increasing parent engagement, and identifying beneficial community resources.

Contributions to Program

In total, the Rising Starz program received approximately \$33,474 in contributions, which supported a range of essential services, including facilities, utilities, snacks, staffing, curriculum, and materials. This figure represents 5% of the total grant award of \$699,840 for the 2023-2024 period. Partners also provided valuable on-site and virtual experiences for students, enriching their learning opportunities.

Overall, these efforts indicate significant progress towards sustainability for the Rising Starz program, emphasizing the importance of continued funding and robust partnerships.

Table 6.1 Program Partners

Agency Name	Type of Service Provided	Estimated Value (\$) of Service or Contribution	Type of Contribution
UF/IFAS Extension Fitness	Programming/Activity-Related Services, Goods/Materials, Paid Services	900.00	Partner

Summative Evaluation Report

Grantee: **Palm Beach CSD** | Grant: **Rising Starz (C17R)(500-2444B-4CRN8)** | Cohort: **17R** | **3** Sites

Florida Fishing Academy	Programming/Activity-Related Services, Paid Services	700.00	Partner
Center Creative Education (CCE)	Programming/Activity-Related Services, Goods/Materials, Paid Services	1800.00	Partner
Cox Science Center & Aquarium	Programming/Activity-Related Services, Goods/Materials, Paid Services	1300.00	Partner
Digital Vibez	Programming/Activity-Related Services, Paid Services	1000.00	Partner
FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center	Programming/Activity-Related Services, Paid Services	600.00	Partner
Flipany	Programming/Activity-Related Services, Goods/Materials, Paid Services	600.00	Partner
Girls on the Run PBC	Programming/Activity-Related Services, Goods/Materials, Paid Services	2000.00	Partner
Green Mouse Academy	Programming/Activity-Related Services, Paid Services	1050.00	Partner
Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County	Programming/Activity-Related Services, Goods/Materials, Paid Services	1000.00	Partner
Resource Depot	Programming/Activity-Related Services, Goods/Materials, Paid Services	150.00	Partner
UF IFAS Extension Family 4-H Program	Programming/Activity-Related Services, Goods/Materials, Paid Services	1000.00	Partner
YMCA of South Palm Beach County	Programming/Activity-Related Services, Paid Services	1300.00	Partner
Youth Speak Out International	Programming/Activity-Related Services, Paid Services	1400.00	Partner
Divinity Dance	Programming/Activity-Related Services, Paid Services	500.00	Partner
Nexplore	Programming/Activity-Related Services, Goods/Materials, Paid Services	500.00	Partner
Boca Museum of Art	Programming/Activity-Related Services, Goods/Materials, Paid Services	800.00	Partner

Summative Evaluation Report

Grantee: **Palm Beach CSD** | Grant: **Rising Starz (C17R)(500-2444B-4CRN8)** | Cohort: **17R** | **3** Sites

Kidzart PBC	Programming/Activity-Related Services, Goods/Materials, Paid Services	500.00	Partner
CAPE Universal	Programming/Activity-Related Services, Paid Services	600.00	Partner
Charity for change	Goods/Materials, Paid Services	750.00	Partner
Imagine Learning	Goods/Materials	30.00	Partner
Mindworks	Goods/Materials	400.00	Partner
Prime Time of Palm Beach County	Programming/Activity-Related Services, Goods/Materials, Paid Services	4100.00	Partner
SDPBC	Funding/Fundraising, Goods/Materials	7560.00	Partner
Young Singers of the Palm Beaches	Programming/Activity-Related Services, Paid Services	300.00	Partner
UF IFAS Extension Family Nutrition Program	Programming/Activity-Related Services, Goods/Materials, Paid Services	900.00	Partner

Summative Evaluation Report

Grantee: **Palm Beach CSD** | Grant: **Rising Starz (C17R)(500-2444B-4CRN8)** | Cohort: **17R** | **3** Sites

7. Program Reflection

The School District of Palm Beach County's 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Rising Starz program has successfully implemented a diverse array of activities designed to achieve key objectives, including:

1. **Improving Academic Achievement:** The program has focused particularly on enhancing students' performance in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics, providing targeted tutoring and engaging activities that reinforce classroom learning.
2. **Increasing Attendance Rates:** Efforts have been made to create a more appealing and engaging after-school environment, which has contributed to improved student attendance.
3. **Enhancing Student Behavior:** The program has implemented behavioral support strategies and positive reinforcement techniques aimed at fostering a respectful and collaborative atmosphere among students.
4. **Boosting Engagement in School:** Activities tailored to spark students' interests, such as arts, sports, and STEM projects, have been central to increasing overall engagement in the academic environment.

Reflections of Lessons Learned:

Throughout the program's implementation, it became evident that providing students with all necessary materials at the start of each term—fall, spring, and summer—was crucial for their success. The program adopted a continuous improvement model, which allowed for regular assessments and adjustments based on student needs and feedback. Conducting thorough needs assessments and ensuring timely delivery of materials contributed significantly to student achievement. Directors learned that consistent site visits are essential for effectively monitoring teachers and program delivery. This hands-on approach allows for immediate feedback and adjustments, ensuring that instructors stay aligned with program goals.

Site Coordinators played a vital role in facilitating daily activities that encompassed various aspects of student life. This included not only academic support but also enrichment activities, ensuring a safe environment, and maintaining open lines of communication with parents. Effective management of site operations was also a key responsibility. Site Coordinators demonstrated remarkable commitment to the program's success. They remained adaptable to the evolving needs of students and families, often adjusting plans in real time. Regular communication with both internal stakeholders (teachers, administrators) and external stakeholders (parents, community members) fostered a collaborative environment conducive to student success.

Program Directors provided Site Coordinators with comprehensive support, including extensive training and access to resources, resulting in enhanced efficiency in meeting deliverable deadlines. Timeliness in submitting reports and program updates emerged as a critical factor in maintaining the integrity and accountability of the program. To ensure smooth day-to-day operations, Program Directors prioritized maintaining consistent communication with school principals and site coordinators. Collaborative relationships with school administrators proved to be essential for aligning program goals with the School Improvement Plans, thereby maximizing resources and support for students.

A diverse range of professional development opportunities was offered to all stakeholders. This included workshops on instructional strategies, leadership training

Summative Evaluation Report

Grantee: **Palm Beach CSD** | Grant: **Rising Starz (C17R)(500-2444B-4CRN8)** | Cohort: **17R** | **3** Sites

programs, and resources aimed at enhancing the capacity of staff to meet student needs. Principals involved in the program developed a deeper understanding of the expectations associated with the 21st CCLC program. They received in-depth training on close-out processes, summer programming, and the extent of academic support provided, which had a direct impact on students' success. Collaboration among various stakeholders led to improved data collection and reporting accuracy. This collaborative environment encouraged the sharing of best practices and resources, further enhancing the overall effectiveness of program implementation.

Stakeholders collectively acknowledged that recruiting and retaining qualified staff is essential for the program's continuity and success. The administration actively participated in over a dozen job fairs to attract dedicated educators. Feedback from participating parents offered valuable insights, highlighting potential areas for improvement while reinforcing successful practices already in place. Additionally, there was a focused initiative on training related to physical wellness, promoting a holistic approach to student development.

Recommendations to Enhance Quality of Services:

To enhance sustainability, programs are encouraged to address inconsistencies in student-to-staff ratios. Establishing a balanced ratio will ensure that students receive the attention and support they need. Moreover, programs should prioritize the continuous development of employee skills by encouraging participation in various professional development offerings. This investment in staff training will not only improve program quality but also cultivate a more knowledgeable and capable workforce.

Innovative methods for sharing information through technology should be developed to streamline communication. Expanding parental communication and ensuring real-time updates can significantly improve family engagement in the program. Finally, increasing community partnerships is essential to support family engagement opportunities. Building strong links with local organizations will bolster resources, provide enrichment opportunities, and create a supportive network for families involved in the 21st CCLC program.