



Sail to Success 2024-2025 Evaluation

An after-school Academic & Social/Emotional Skill Development Program

This program is made possible by a Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) Grant awarded to Hamilton Elementary School in the School District of La Crosse.

The program is offered through a collaboration with the Boys & Girls Club of Greater La Crosse and is located at Hamilton Elementary School, 1111 S. 7th St., La Crosse, WI 54601

Sail-to-Success Education Specialist (Program Director)

Lacy Fernette

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Program Description

Sail to Success is a targeted after-school program focusing on the academic and social and emotional growth of kindergarten - second grade students. The program enrolls students, at no cost to the families, in need of additional support in academics, social and emotional skills or who are disengaged or chronically absent from school. The goals of the program are to:

- Improve English Language Arts and Mathematics scores,
- Increase Social-Emotional Learning Skills,
- Increase Attendance Rates,
- Reduce Discipline Offenses in program participants.

A typical week in Sail to Success offers a variety of educational programs, some of which are based on individuals needs and some curriculum based activities. We offer 1:1 tutoring that is based on the ELA and Math needs of each individual student. We offer Brain Gain which is a group tutoring program that includes activities based on core curriculum. We offer two programs that focus directly on Social Emotional Learning; Youth and Family Services Group (Rise to Resilience) and SEL Basketball with the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse Women's Basketball team. We also offer enrichment activities such as SEL art activities, Reading Buddies with the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse Education Program, Library Club with the La crosse Public Library, art projects that have ELA and Math components and activities that help develop SEL skills in a larger group setting (10-15 members).

This evaluation was conducted by our internal Sail to Success team:

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The evaluation team utilized the "CCLC Yearly Progress Report" and the "Local Evaluation Report Guidelines" to generate this evaluation.

Students Served

52.54% of the students served were from Hamilton Elementary School. The remaining participants served were students from the following elementary schools; Hintgen, State Road, Harry Spence, SOTA I, Emerson and Southern Bluffs. The total number of students served in the program was 59 with an average daily attendance of 31.27.

Program Operation

The program started in October of 2023 after school from 2:40 to 5:30pm throughout the school year. The program operates for 33 weeks with an average of 10 hours per week. The third year of the program will start the first day of school on August 21, 2025.

Staffing

Sail to Success has eight staff, five working per school day.

Education Specialist - Lacy Fernetto (Hired in September, 2024.) and Education Assistants - Kendall (Hired in October, 2023.), Hailey (Hired in September, 2024), Mark (hired in September, 2024), Kenzi (Hired in February, 2025), Belle (Hired in February, 2025), Maddie (Hired in October, 2024), Madee (Hired in September, 2024).

The staffing ratio on the average day is one staff to ten students. We also collaborate with community partners- University of Wisconsin - La Crosse offers Reading Buddies and SEL Basketball; La Crosse Public Library offers Library Club; Girl Scouts; Cub Scouts; and RUSH Soccer. During Reading Buddies the ratio of adults to students is 1:1. During SEL Basketball the ratio of adults to students is 1:5.

Progress Toward Objectives

State Goal 1: Provide a stable, safe, and supportive environment to meet the needs of the target population.

Local Goal 1: By August 1, 2023, The Boys and Girls Club will hire an Education Director, Education Coordinator and Education assistants with the necessary skills to work directly with school staff to implement academic and social-emotional curriculum for targeted students.

Local Goal 2: By the fall of 2023, all 21st CCLC funded support staff hired will be trained and demonstrate competency in the following areas; social emotional learning, mental health literacy, reading enrichment, math enrichment and tutoring as measured by training records, performance on training activities and observation of supervisory staff.

Local Goal 3: Students who are below grade levels in math or ELA or who have six or more office discipline referrals or who have less than 90% attendance rate will be referred to the Sail to Success program for academic and social-emotional skill intervention and will demonstrate individualized, targeted growth (academic, behavior, and/or attendance) quarterly as measured by progress over baseline.

Goal Progress - Some

The goal of hiring and training all required staff has been met. Limited access to academic, social-emotional skill levels and attendance data continues to be a barrier to identifying candidates for the program as well as fully individualizing approaches to specific program members.

State Goal 2: Challenge youth to develop as learners.

Local Goal 1: By the end of each academic year of the grant, the student group attending the program 30 days or more will demonstrate a 25% increase in reading and math proficiency from the beginning of the fall semester to the end of the spring semester using the district universal screener.

Local Goal 2: Students participating in the Sail to Success program will show an improvement in academic achievement (25% in ELA and/or math), a decrease in office discipline referrals and a 10-15% improvement in school attendance each school year.

Goal Progress - Some

The PAST and Math scores for the Kindergarten in the program increased by 262% and 67.8% respectively in 23-24. The rest of the academic screeners showed an increase ranging from 10.2-13.5% in academic progress for K-2nd graders in the program. (The Kindergarten PAST scores increased from 16.67 to 60.3 and Math Scores increased from 11.8 to 19.8)

The numbers of office discipline referrals decreased by 8.6% for members of the 24-25 Sail to Success program from the fall to the spring of this school year.

In 24-25, Sail to Success members' average daily attendance at school decreased by 2.5% from first semester to second semester. Chronic absenteeism at school increased by 19.3% over the same time period. This is reflective of the attendance data at Hamilton Elementary overall. Since the 2022–2023 school year, we have successfully reduced No Call/No Show/Not Specified absences by 56.3% in 2024–2025. This year, the most common reasons for absences are illness and parent excuses.

State Goal 3: Support the development of other skills necessary for student success.

Local Goal 1: By the end of each academic year of the grant, 65% of students attending the program 30 days or more will demonstrate growth on at least one item in each SEL domain on a social-emotional self inventory and/or teacher report.

Local Goal 2: By the end of each academic year of the grant, the student group attending the program 30 days or more will demonstrate a 25% reduction in annual office discipline referrals.

Goal Progress - Some

During the 2024–25 school year, 61% of Hamilton students who participated in the Sail to Success program showed proficiency or growth in social-emotional development, according to district progress reports. Another report, the SEL Social Competencies report, showed that 72% of students made progress.

The numbers of office discipline referrals at school decreased by 8.6% for members of the 24-25 Sail to Success program from the fall to the spring of this school year.

State Goal 4: Engage families in support of student learning.

Local Goal 1: The Boys & Girls Club will offer Family Engagement Opportunities and 75% of Sail To Success families will engage in at least one in an academic year.

Goal Progress - Achieved

82.98% of families involved in the Sail to Success program attended one of four family engagement events during the 24-25 academic year.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Conclusions	Recommendations
1) By integrating the Sail to Success registration into the general Boys & Girls Club membership requirements, we saw an increase in both overall program enrollment and daily average attendance.	Continue to integrate the Sail to Success registration into the general Boys & Girls Club membership requirements.
2) Spacing family events over both semesters helped increase family participation.	Continue to plan family events over both semesters, rotating days of the week the events are offered.
3) The Sail to Success program is hosted at Hamilton Elementary, but serves students from six additional schools. However, Hamilton staff only have access to academic, social-emotional, and attendance data for Hamilton students. As a result, accessing information for students from other schools—such as program eligibility, academic needs, and alignment with school-day content—requires navigating multiple channels.	Obtain access to member information in Skyward for the Sail to Success - Education Specialist (Program Director). Benefits: • Confirm each student's eligibility for the program. • Identify individual academic needs to individualize tutoring sessions and tailor group activities. • Ensure program content aligns to meet members where they are in the school-day curriculum. • Generate data for assessments and reports.
4) The Sail to Success program started earlier in the current school year than last year due to returning program staff and early program staff hires.	Continue to work on staff retention strategies so the Sail to Success program can start when the school year starts.
5) Increased partnerships that benefited the program and participants. • Rise to Resilience (SEL Programming) • Group & Independent Reading Opportunities • Continuation of SEL Basketball Nights, Reading Buddies, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Library Club.	Continue to maintain and explore additional beneficial partnerships.
6) The PAST and Math scores for the Kindergarten in the program increased by 262% and 67.8% respectively in 23-24. The rest of the academic screeners showed an increase from 10.2-13.5% in academic progress for K-2nd graders in the program.	The current State Goal 2, Local Goal 1 states an increase in 25% in reading and math proficiency. An increase of 10-15% academic growth is a more reasonable goal for future years.
7) In 24-25, Sail to Success members' average daily attendance at school decreased by 2.5% from first semester to second semester. Chronic absenteeism at school increased by 19.3% over the same time period. This is reflective of the attendance data at Hamilton Elementary overall.	Support and reinforce any district level strategies. Development targeted strategies to student illness and parent excused related absences.
8) Hamilton students in the program improved their social-emotional skills by 61% to 72%, depending on the report in 24-25.	BGC will utilize a SEL Self-Assessment to use at the start and end of the program year to collect additional data.

Conclusions	Recommendations
9) The numbers of office discipline referrals at school decreased by 8.6% for members of the 24-25 Sail to Success program from the fall to the spring of this school year.	Continue strong PBIS and SEL implementation strategies.
10) Kindergartners make up the majority of members who left the Sail to Success program for one reason or another throughout the school year.	Start the program year focused on 1st and 2nd graders. Add Kindergartners to the program after enough time has passed to assess their needs and fit for qualifications into the program.

The Sail to Success Team selected the Wisconsin Afterschool Continuous Improvement Process (WASCIP) for the program's self-assessment tool. We are currently completing the self-assessment and an improvement plan will be created to continue building and improving the program for future years.