

Student Improvement Act – Howard Street Charter School

Howard Street has moved to a new facility and our new location brings with it some new opportunities and new challenges. SIA funds will be used in the following ways to improve the academics, social-emotional needs, and physical and mental health of our students.

Proposed Use of Funds

1. Increase FTE to include an advisory coordinator
(Target: SEL, student supports)
2. Contract with a counseling service for 20+hours a week
(Target: mental health)
3. Improve the exterior north side of the building with fenced-in play area
(Target: student physical health/SEL)
4. Improve storage shed to be a true dance area
(Target: improve quality of arts education, academic area for us, SEL)
5. Technology software
(Target: academic support for all students, improved access)
6. Any remaining funds would be used for technology upgrades including but not limited to:
 1. Chromebook replacements.
Needed to replace broken/damaged ones
 2. SMART board upgrades
(Target: academic support for all students)

Statement of Need

Like all schools, Howard Street has students who need additional supports. According to SBAC state testing data, Panorama SEL data, internal proficiency data and staff data analysis, students with disabilities (IEP or 504), economically disadvantages students (free/reduced lunch/STEP program/foster program), ELL students, and boys are not performing equal to their peers. Thus, all SIA priorities will focus on academic, social-emotional, physical and mental health needs of these subgroups as well as the school as a whole.

Measurement

1. Increase FTE
 - Use Panorama survey – Sense of Belonging. Current level 54% in fall 2019, SPED students: 56% Not feel like they belong **Goal:** increase to 66% by spring 2020 for all, decrease SPED to less than 20%
 - Use Panorama survey – Teacher-Student Relationship. Current level 71% in fall 2019, **Goal:** increase to 80% by spring 2020 for all
2. Counseling service
 - Use number of refers – currently 0 as we have no school counselor. We have had 2 emergency crisis referrals this year. **Goal:** reduce emergency crisis to 0, refer 10+ students to counseling
 - Use Panorama survey - School Safety to create a baseline in our new space
3. Outside exercise space
 - Use completion of project and average number of students who go outside to the area for break. Current 15. **Goal:** 50
 - Use number of 7th/8th health classes who use the space. Current: 0, **Goal:** 20%+ of classes
4. Dedicated dance space
 - Completion of project and increase use of 6th grade class time. Currently class loses 20mins for setup and take down of other spaces. **Goal:** 50 of 55mins as dance instruction
 - Completion of project and improve elective participation. Current: 20 (declining for past two years. Use to have to cap class at 26 and turn students away). **Goal:** 26 students in elective
 - Increased quality of dance exhibitions due to increased instruction time and environment truly designed for dance. (This is more informal but inclusion of more difficult dance steps can be observed).
5. Technology software
 - Purchase of updated Adobe Creative Suite: allow all art classes to allow individual use of Adobe. Current: 25 copies of 2016 version, need 32 for increased computers in lab and increased students. **Goal:** 32 copies of current software
 - Purchase of NewsELA subscription: use to use when free – allows students to change Lexile level of reading article. Current use: 0 (use to be all Humanities classes), **Goal:** all Humanities use at least 2 articles per unit
 - Purchase Securly network monitoring: besides network security, Securly monitors and flags searches and emails on grief, suicide, self-harm, violence, and bullying. This is currently only found if student reported. Goal: purchase Securly and meet with student anytime a monitoring flag warrants teacher intervention.

6. Technology upgrades

- Any remaining funds will be used to replace broken and aging Chromebooks. This will improve technology access for all students. Current Chromebooks 108 (should be 120 but 12 broken). **Goal:** 180 in the next three years (close to 1:1)

Respectfully submitted: March 13, 2020 by Christina Tracy, teaching principal of Howard Street Charter School