

School Support and Readiness Assessment Monitoring Visit Summary Report

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| School: Belen Infinity High School | LEA: Belen Consolidated Schools |
| School Leader: David Jimenez | LEA Leader: Lawrence Sanchez |
| SSRA Team Leader: Lizette Ridgeway | Date: May 20, 2024 |
| School Successes and Celebrations | |
| <p>Infinity High School has celebrated several successes this year. First, 19 of its 25 graduates were categorized as H4, demonstrating a solid commitment to timely graduation. Additionally, three graduates were classified as H3 and the remaining three as H5+, showcasing the school's ability to support students with varied credit attainment towards graduation.</p> <p>The school successfully organized two family nights, which were well-attended by 50 families. These events featured presentations from colleges, the military, and various community organizations, aiming to raise awareness and provide valuable information to parents. This initiative will continue and reflect the school's commitment to community engagement and parental involvement.</p> <p>Every Friday afternoon, Infinity High School hosts student professional development sessions, where guest speakers discuss Career and Technical Education (CTE), career pathways, and college opportunities. This regular engagement helps students explore potential futures and prepares them for post-secondary success.</p> <p>Their Panorama survey results revealed that Infinity High School scored the second-highest in the district regarding student safety, with a 75% satisfaction rate. The school also scored well in the environment and climate, achieving a 60% satisfaction rating, which indicates a positive and supportive learning atmosphere.</p> <p>Academic achievements on the Galileo short-cycle assessments, including gains in Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Geometry, were also celebrated. These improvements highlight the effectiveness of the school's dedication to providing additional support for math instruction.</p> <p>Finally, through the Stay in School grant project, Infinity High School secured paid internships for five students within the district. These internships, offered in various sites such as human resources, the pool, and school campuses, provided students with employability soft skills and valuable work experience. The students appreciated the opportunity to earn money and gain practical skills, and the school hopes to secure the grant again next year to continue and expand this program.</p> | |

Progress Toward Next Steps Identified in SSRA Summary

SSRA Summary Next Step #1: The school will clarify and reiterate the referral and reporting system for teachers, families, and students seeking vaping support.

An area of progress at Infinity High School since the SSRA visit is the increased teacher awareness regarding the referral process. During an initial visit, it was identified that a teacher was unclear about the procedures to follow when students violated school rules. This gap has since been addressed, and teachers are now fully informed about the referral process, ensuring a more consistent and practical approach to handling disciplinary issues.

Looking ahead, Infinity High School will also focus on educating students and parents about the dangers of vaping. This focus will be incorporated into student professional development sessions and family nights. The school plans to collaborate with the New Mexico Department of Health to provide comprehensive education on this critical issue, emphasizing the health risks associated with vaping.

SSRA Summary Next Step #2: Core pullouts will be used to assist teachers in differentiating instruction for learners who are not making sufficient progress.

Infinity High School has seen improvements in math proficiency due to the introduction of math pullout instruction this year. These pullout sessions, conducted twice a week, have resulted in significant gains in the short-cycle assessment in Galileo. The proficiency levels for Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Geometry have increased to 55%, 33.4%, and 57.1%, respectively. This success is directly attributed to the dedicated math pullout classes, which have provided targeted support and enhanced student understanding.

Building on this success, Infinity High School plans to continue the math pullouts and expand this strategy to English language arts (ELA) using the Reading Horizons program next year. Recognizing the impact of focused, small-group instruction, the school is committed to implementing ELA pullouts to support literacy and comprehension skills.

Additionally, the school will introduce a pullout Government class next year. By starting Eagle Court for mock trials, the school aims to provide practical, hands-on learning experiences to help students grasp complex legal and judicial concepts. This initiative will include some of the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) tools that will assist students in overcoming vocabulary and reading comprehension challenges.

SSRA Summary Next Step #3: Principal Jimenez and the leadership team will review the master schedule with an eye toward additional intervention and engagement opportunities.

As an intervention for attendance and engagement, Infinity High School is making strides in developing career pathways using the NMPED Career Clusters Guide. The school has successfully developed and received approval from Belen Consolidated Schools (BCS) for the Entrepreneurship and Computer Technology Assistant pathways. The Health Science Fundamentals pathway is pending authorization, showcasing the school's commitment to

expanding CTE opportunities.

The district has strongly supported this initiative, enabling the school to use Edgenuity to build courses aligned with the NMPED Career Clusters Guide. This development is crucial as it provides students with increased exposure to CTE, which they previously lacked. The foundational courses offered through these pathways allow students to explore various career fields early on.

Students can enroll in upper-level capstone classes as they progress through the pathways, potentially earning certificates or college credits through partnerships with local colleges. This initiative aims to equip students with practical skills and credentials to benefit their post-secondary endeavors. The school anticipates having its first group of completers in three to four years, marking a significant milestone in its effort to provide comprehensive career-oriented education.

SSRA Summary Next Step #4: As the school continues to track student course completion and provide special education services, explicit attention will be paid to accommodations listed in students' individual education plans (IEPs).

Infinity High School has taken significant steps to enhance support for students with disabilities by creating a new special education teacher position. About 31 students are served through special education programs, and teachers have been made aware of necessary accommodations via PowerSchool.

Several targeted training sessions were conducted throughout the year to build teacher capacity. These included sessions on the Student Assistance Team (SAT) process, IEP support roles and responsibilities, and Multi-Layered Systems of Support (MLSS). A Universal Design for Learning (UDL) team also provided training, which has been so effective that the district plans to implement it across other campuses. The school introduced tools like Snap&Read and Co: Writer to better support students with disabilities by providing additional accommodations and learning strategies. These tools have increased teachers' access to diverse teaching methods and enhanced student learning opportunities.

Infinity High School aims to ensure teachers are more proactive in planning support for students by reviewing IEPs at a glance before the school year starts. The school also started incorporating morning journal entries and plans to expand this practice using the Co: Writer support tool. This approach is expected to improve the support and outcomes for students with disabilities.

SSRA Summary Next Step #5: School leadership will provide a calendar of observations that aligns with schoolwide instructional goals.

Infinity High School has improved its teacher observation and feedback processes to enhance instructional quality. The administration follows the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) schedule for formal Canvas observations while conducting frequent informal drop-in observations. These informal observations, known as five-minute drop-ins, are a springboard to provide immediate feedback to teachers, fostering a supportive environment focused on

professional growth rather than punitive measures.

To facilitate these observations, the school uses a technology platform called Observer Tab, which is customized for the district as the Belen Walkthrough. This tool allows for informal and formal observations, breaking the process into four phases to help teachers understand their progress and focus areas. This approach supports teachers' professional development, ensuring they receive constructive feedback and coaching.

The platform also includes coaching tools that administrators can use to provide ongoing support to teachers following their observations. This system streamlines the observation process and makes the data and feedback visible to district personnel, promoting transparency and accountability.

School Leader's Next Steps

Infinity High School plans to expand its successful pullout instructional program, which has already shown significant gains in math, to include English, Government, and additional supports for students with disabilities. The pullout sessions will continue to focus on targeted instruction twice a week, leveraging the Reading Horizons curriculum for English and incorporating new strategies for Government classes. The school aims to replicate the positive outcomes in Math across these additional subjects, providing specialized instruction to boost student achievement and address learning gaps.

Principal Jimenez is also committed to enhancing the structure and format of Professional Learning Communities (PLC) structure for the next academic year. Since Infinity High School teachers often work as the sole instructors for their content areas, the goal is to formalize PLC meetings to fit the school's unique context. This includes creating agendas, establishing minute-taking processes, and determining where and how information will be housed and disseminated. Additionally, the school plans to adjust the schedule, setting a more consistent and dedicated time each week for these collaborative meetings.

Finally, to better support new students, Infinity High School has developed an orientation PowerPoint that profiles typical student situations and clearly outlines expectations. This resource is designed to help incoming students and their families understand what is expected of them, easing the transition into the school community. The information gathered from this process will also contribute to creating a comprehensive student handbook in the future. This handbook will be a valuable resource for students, providing clear guidelines and information to help them navigate their educational experience at Infinity High School.