

School Support and Readiness Assessment

Monitoring Visit Summary Report

School: Albuquerque Talent Development Academy	LEA: Albuquerque Public Schools
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School Successes and Celebrations

Albuquerque Talent Development Academy (ATDA) has achieved remarkable successes, notably as one of the few high schools participating in the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) program. This federal grant-funded initiative supports college and career preparation, and the school has seen active participation from seniors who have shown a strong interest in their SAT scores and are actively advocating for their future education. The school has organized various events, such as college and career fairs, and brought guest speakers to inspire students. Moreover, students have had the chance to visit college campuses, which has positively transformed the outlook of students, parents, and staff.

This year marks a significant milestone for the academy, with 13 students graduating a year early, thanks to their innovative online program, Acellus, which allows students to learn online and in person. The school has seen unprecedented student engagement in its third year of the GEAR UP grant work. This includes college bus tours, SAT boot camps, and career fairs, fostering a new enthusiasm for higher education among seniors. More students than ever are applying to and being accepted by four-year colleges. Every student has participated in at least one college bus tour, underscoring the program's effectiveness in changing perceptions and aspirations. With a student body of 135, spanning grades nine through twelve, Albuquerque Talent Development Academy stands out as a college career campus dedicated to comprehensive college readiness. School leaders are proud of these accomplishments and their significant impact on their community's educational culture.

Progress Toward Next Steps Identified in SSRA Summary

SSRA Summary Next Step #1: The school has ambitious projects to increase student and family access to school resources. The leadership team is creating a family room and a garden to draw more families to the school. The school employs a parent liaison to increase communication between school and home.

Albuquerque Talent Development Academy has made notable strides in enhancing student and family access to school resources and college programs through the support of GEAR UP. Despite this, their progress on the living room project has been slow due to the lack of promised

funding from NMPED, and their efforts on the garden have been minimal. This funding shortfall dampened the initial enthusiasm for the garden and the parent room. Nonetheless, they believe the foundational work is in place but recognize that significant efforts are still required. They have engaged in discussions with parents, students, and staff to determine the next steps, with the parent liaison playing a crucial role in improving communication with families.

SSRA Summary Next Step #2: School leaders plan to help cultivate a mindset shift to support teachers and school leaders in diagnosing gaps in student learning and working to close those gaps.

The school leaders at Albuquerque Talent Development Academy have significantly improved their data practices to better support student success and achievement, though one area still requires considerable attention. Previously, their data form captured student short-cycle assessments, but it has been enhanced this year to include student conversations about their wants and needs. This information is now being used to tailor career and technical education (CTE) pathways and college and career plans. While the staff has become more adept at documenting and discussing data, there are concerns that teachers are using this process more for compliance than for fostering a growth mindset. The leaders aim to integrate this data system more seamlessly into daily operations at ATDA, ensuring it becomes a central focus. Despite multiple revisions and the required professional development (PD), they feel the form is not yet driving action as effectively as it should. Therefore, making this practice more actionable and discussing it weekly in professional learning community (PLC) meetings is a critical next step for the coming school year.

SSRA Summary Next Step #3: School leaders will support teachers in using instructional practices that raise the level of rigor and plan to discuss this topic more in PLCs and through professional development.

Teachers will likely need ongoing, embedded PD to make lasting changes to well-trodden instructional practices. Albuquerque Talent Development Academy recognizes the need for continued PD focused on questioning techniques and tools that actively involve students and promote their leadership in learning. School leaders and staff acknowledge this as a crucial growth area and have asked teachers to include related goals in their professional development plans (PDPs). The academy utilizes two programs, Reading Plus and Reading Apprenticeship, which encourage student participation and engagement. It has also provided PD on these programs to the staff. Additionally, they have offered PD on strategies to specifically support student learning and engagement of English Learners.

SSRA Summary Next Step #4: School leaders have plans to develop their observation and feedback skills through additional training.

While they have complied with NM Elevate classroom walk-throughs and feedback, they feel these visits were more about compliance than genuine engagement. Nonetheless, they have improved their walk-throughs since the fall and see further refinement as a priority for the next school year. Observations from these walk-throughs indicate a need for additional PD to help

staff better integrate technology into the classrooms and foster greater student involvement in their learning. Although they planned to use promised funding to increase their technology resources, they have already noted significant improvements in cultural sensitivity and individualized assessment strategies.

School Leader's Next Steps

Moving forward, Albuquerque Talent Development Academy will focus on making individual data dives more actionable by incorporating weekly discussions in PLC meetings and emphasizing data-driven instruction. They plan to provide PD on questioning strategies and methods to engage students actively in their learning. Additionally, the school will conduct more classroom walk-throughs and feedback sessions to ensure continuous improvement. PD will also be provided on integrating technology into daily instruction to enhance student engagement further. These steps aim to create a more dynamic and effective learning environment for all students.