

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS - MOY

School Improvement and Transformation Monitoring Visit Summary Report

School: New America School Las Cruces	LEA: New America School
School Leader: Margarita Porter	Supt/PEC Director: Margarita Porter
SIT-M Team Leader: Andrea Fletcher	Date: January 22, 2025
School NM Vistas Designation: CSI Graduation	
School Successes and Celebrations	
<p>Since the SIT-M BOY visit, the New America School of Las Cruces (NASLC) has provided numerous opportunities for students to engage positively within the school and the broader community.</p> <p>The school's Dream Team club continues to make an impact. Four club members were selected to travel to Santa Fe during the legislative session to advocate for the rights and opportunities of undocumented students. On Martin Luther King Day, 70 students participated in service-learning projects, contributing to initiatives like cleaning up the downtown area with Keep Las Cruces Beautiful, sorting clothes for Camp Hope, and preparing meals for the Gospel Rescue Mission. Additionally, five students have been chosen to present at the Ed UpRising Conference, where they will discuss internships, credit recovery, and capstone projects.</p> <p>NASLC has been working with the Early Childhood Education and Care Department to ensure its childcare facility meets the highest state standards for birth to age two. It anticipates becoming a Five-Star Focus Facility this month and is serving five students' children.</p> <p>To promote engagement and accountability in the classroom, NASLC recently implemented a student passport system that tracks restroom use, phone violations, and Zen Den visits. Early results show a noticeable reduction in hallway activity, fostering a more focused learning environment.</p> <p>NASLC has also introduced a teacher-led leadership team that represents all departments. The team has worked collaboratively to identify two key electives to support student success: a course for 9th and 10th graders on excelling in high school aimed at bolstering emotional and academic readiness and a Life Skills course for 11th and 12th graders. The team is now focusing on refining Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways to further enhance the school's offerings.</p> <p>Lastly, Public Charter Schools New Mexico has honored Executive Director Margarita Porter as the 2024 Charter School Leader of the Year!</p>	

School Progress

Three-year Trend Data

4 Year Graduation Data

2020 - 28.9%

2021 - 22.6%

2022 - 45%

2023 - 25%

2024 Goal - 50%

2025 Goal - 50%

5 Year Graduation Data

2020 - 28.9%

2021 - 42.0%

2022 - 46.8%

6 Year Graduation Data

2021 - 36%

2022 - 30%

Specific actions completed and data demonstrating progress since SIT-M BOY

- **The school hopes to increase attendance from the current average rate of 33.8% to 40% by the middle of the year (MOY) by creating an attendance monitoring system, which a new attendance coordinator will oversee. Teachers will make phone calls to all students who miss three days, and the administration will monitor to ensure this happens at least 50% of the time. The school attributes using the Zen Den to keeping students who need time to refocus on campus. To fully understand the impact, the school will collect data on using the Zen Den and any potential impact on attendance.**

The school hired an attendance interventionist on November 13th, which has had a significant impact. The school states the average attendance rate in October of 33.8% was incorrect, as it included data from all students, including those not on campus. Below is the attendance data the school provided:

Grade	Quarter 1 July 15 - Sept. 19	Quarter 2, Oct. 7 - Dec. 17
9	66.6%	72.2%
10	88.6%	92.1%
11	86.0%	88.1%
12	88.4%	91.2%
Total	72.0%	78.2%

The attendance clerk contacts families and students when attendance issues surface and works with them to address transportation, homelessness, work schedules, etc.

The school has monitored the use of the Zen Den with it being used for the following purposes by students from August 20th-January 14th

- For a 10-minute break: 178 times
- To use a stress ball: 1 time
- For a 10-minute nap: 65 times
- For an appointment: 11 times
- For a heating pad: 1 time
- To draw: 1 time

No data was available to confirm the connection between using the Zen Den and improved attendance.

- **NASLC will monitor students on track for graduation in the middle of the year, with an expected 95% of seniors on track. After the first term, any senior with a failing class will receive a graduation intervention, with the school team meeting with the student, teacher, and family. The school expects 80% of seniors receiving a graduation intervention will graduate.**

Based on credits earned, 42 students currently qualify as seniors, with only two on track to graduate.

- 9 failed in-person classes.
- 11 failed online coursework

For students who failed one or more classes, interventions include:

- Meetings individually with the students
- Meetings with parents/student/admin team
- Summer school
- Rearrange schedules
- Attendance contracts
- Adding recovery classes or recommending in-person

The school is tracking current seniors, but there is currently no system to track students by graduation cohort to see who is on track for on-time graduation in the 2025 cohort.

- **The school will establish baseline data on passing rates overall and by teacher and subject to identify additional ways to support teachers and students. The administration believes math is an area that is frequently a barrier to graduation. One suggestion to consider in the future is adopting a math diagnostic screener to pinpoint particular skill gaps to be addressed in interventions.**

The school tracks passing rates by course and section and has identified particular courses that may need additional support.

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COURSE	CLASS	RATE OF PASSING by section
MATH	Alg I	87%, 82%
	Alg II	92%, 75%, 75%
	Geom	100%

	Fin Lit	90%, 93%
English	ELA I	80%, 100%
	ELA II	87%, 92%
	ELA III	79%, 69%
	ELA IV	54%
	ESL	81%
SS	NM Hist	53%, 68%
	World Hist	71%, 33%
	US Hist	91%, 81%
	Gov/Econ	91%, 100%
Science	Chem	72%, 62%
	Bio	50%, 46%
	Physics	66%

- **Four of ten certified teachers are new this year, and seven are Level 1 teachers. To support new teachers in creating connections with students and improving the quality of instruction, the administration will provide each teacher with two walkthroughs a week with email feedback. Face-to-face feedback will be provided at least once every two weeks.**

Since the SIT=M BOY visit, seven rounds of walk-throughs have been completed. Each received emailed feedback with a Wow and Wonder. For one of the teachers, three face-to-face meetings and some shifts in staffing were conducted. There is an opportunity here to provide more face-to-face feedback in a non-evaluative setting.

Summary of Progress

MASLC is making efforts to improve graduation rates through improved attendance and student engagement through the development of pathways, internships, and service learning. With the addition of an attendance clerk, the school reports progress in improving attendance. Attendance increased from 72% to 78.2% from quarter one to quarter two. The school has a system to track their seniors' progress toward graduation and interventions. However, the school leadership team could not identify seniors in their 4, 5, or 6-year graduation cohorts.

The school has made progress on the implementation of action steps identified at BOY with data to demonstrate the effectiveness of these actions. However, based on the number of students identified as “possible graduates,” estimated to be 50% of the senior class of 2025, and the school’s inability to identify seniors in the 4-year cohort, the school nor the SIT-M team can assess the school’s progress toward improving its NM Vistas Designation. Due to the inability to monitor progress and a flat goal of 50% for Cohort 2024 and Cohort 2025, the SIT-M team is assigning a rating of no progress to minimal progress at BOY.

Next Steps

- The Leadership Team will develop a scope and sequence for the two elective courses designed to help students stay in school by the End of the Year (EOY).
- The Leadership Team will develop 3rd year curriculum for the Early Childhood pathway.
- The Leadership Team will develop a scope and sequence for the health occupations pathway.
- Provide monthly time for teachers to call parents for attendance and academics and

include a data collection system with accountability.

- Develop an “at-a-glance” Early Warning System to identify students with attendance, academic, and other issues, possibly to be monitored by an advisory class.
- Create a system to support teachers with more regular observation and feedback cycles so that teachers receive clear action steps with opportunities to practice and receive repeated feedback cycles. Consider building capacity in the instructional coach by modeling feedback sessions with action steps for teachers
- Create a spreadsheet to monitor on-track graduation with columns for cohort year, number of credits, expected date of graduation, interventions, etc.
- Consider creating a marketing plan for recruiting 9th-grade students.