

School Improvement and Transformation Monitoring Visit Summary Beginning of Year (SITM-BOY)

School: Siembra Leadership High School	LEA: Albuquerque Public Schools
School Leader: Jaqi Baldwin	LEA Leader: Gabriella Blakey
SITM Team Leader: Andrea Fletcher	Date: 9/17/2024
School Description	
<p>Siembra Leadership High School is a project-based learning charter school in downtown Albuquerque focused on entrepreneurship and leadership development. Its mission is to empower students, particularly those from underserved communities, by providing real-world learning experiences that prepare them for college, careers, and civic engagement. The school primarily serves a diverse student population, including a high percentage of students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, English language learners, and students with special education needs. Siembra is dedicated to creating equitable opportunities for all students to succeed in both academic and professional environments.</p>	
School Successes and Celebrations	
<p>Enrollment increased 50% from last year due to community word of mouth. Now half of the student population have started as true freshmen. They have increased students in dual credit courses from 48 students last year to 141 just in the fall semester. They have increased staff by 20% with intentionality to address student needs. For example, they increased the number of success coaches to provide one on one support, monitoring and goal-setting to students. They provide significant staff support, such as paying for staff to go through LEAP to become special education licensed, providing significant stipends for staff to carry special education caseloads, and providing tuition reimbursements for their own recent graduates to go to school and become level 1 teachers. They have developed four programs to support various student needs: in-person project based learning, virtual project based learning, an evening program supporting kids up to age 24, and asynchronous credit recovery. They are currently in the second year of working towards the state bilingual seal.</p> <p>Attendance interventions are paying off. In 22/23, the attendance rate was 36%. The school reports an average attendance rate of 50% last year and currently the average is at 71%.</p> <p>Student graduation has consistently increased over the past three years. In the 21/22 school year, the four year graduation rate was 40.4%. In 22/23, it increased to 52% and in 23/24, the projected rate from Vistas is 59.8%. They are implementing many systems that are having a direct impact.</p>	

NM DASH Development and Implementation

Development:

The Operations director convened the team. They took a team to two trainings on the new components of the 90 day plan. They looked at the previous plan to judge progress and looked at course completion data. They talked about course relevance and authenticity and how it impacts performance challenges. They knew they wanted the portfolio process to be a robust way to monitor course completion.

Goals for graduation: In 2024-25 Siembra High school will graduate 90% of its current 101 seniors. By the end of the first semester we will have 100% of current seniors on track to graduate.

Actions from the 90 day plan to impact graduation:

- Build a system of accountability that empowers success coaches, students and families to be accountable for Senior credit check analysis to ensure students meet all graduation requirements.
- Senior specific meetings will be held to communicate expectations and monitor impact.
- Hold attendance support meetings for seniors who are chronically truant/absent.
- Implement student portfolios to include course completion progress with evidence of student learning to present at family meetings (parent/teacher conferences).

School Progress

Every student meets with a success coach twice a day (morning and lunch) for 30 minutes, plus three hours on Fridays to review their credits completed/ needed, grades, progress on dual credit and internships, attendance and social and emotional health.

This year, they have implemented a portfolio process with student goal setting around attendance, grades, credit completion, etc. All of that data is tracked in an easy to monitor success tracker. Success coaches meet by grade level once a week with administrative support to review current data and identify possible interventions.

In order to help families support students, the school holds family engagement weeks four times a year (twice the required number of meetings per their charter). The conferences are student led and focus on progress towards goals and reviewing the credit tracker.

The success coaches closely monitor attendance and help kids set goals. When students are chronically absent, families are called in for a family meeting to identify needed interventions, such as providing clothing, food, social work support, home visits, etc. Attendance has risen to 71%.

Credit recovery is offered through Acellus, which is made available to students for free. They have provided a dual credit coordinator to increase the number of students able to work through the University of New Mexico and Central New Mexico, with numbers enrolled increasing from 48 last year to 141 the first semester of this year.

Monitoring for Middle of Year (MOY)

- Collect attendance data on goal tracking sheets. The school wants to monitor the effectiveness of home visits to improve attendance. They will collect baseline data on the number of home visits quarterly and see how these impact any increase overall attendance. The goal is to have 74% attendance by MOY, which will be monitored monthly.
- Get a baseline for all students who are on track for 4 year graduation (not just current seniors). Develop a system to track student grade advancement and are on track for 4 year graduation at interim semester. This will allow a baseline that can be further tracked from MOY to End of Year (EOY) and summer.
- Use dual credit coordinator to increase dual credit enrollment to 165 for the spring semester.
- Get baseline data for students successfully completing credit recovery (not currently collected).