

Lands Trust Final Report 2017-2018

Goal Number 1- Valley High is an alternative high school whose focus is on helping students get back on track for graduation to improve graduation rates. In addition, we are committed to improving students' post-secondary options/outcomes.

1. In May of 2018 we had 316 graduates. We had an additional 17 finish their credits in the summer in our Senior Success Program. This means a total of 333 students earned a diploma who had previously dropped out or felt that they had no chance to finish. We are extremely proud of this accomplishment. Preliminary data shows that our graduation rate for the 17-18 school year is at 67%. That is a two percent increase over last year.
2. Our Professional Learning community continues to collect and analyze the number of classes passed by our students. That data shows that the students continue to improve. The growth is small but steady. We continue to contact students and parents by phone and email when students are in danger of failing a class and we feel that personal outreach is essential to our student's success. We have a detailed data chart with the numbers of classes passed, failed, or earned NC but it is not accepted by this online program. It can be viewed on our website under the School Community Council drop down menu.
3. With the Lands Trust funds we were able to send teachers to professional conferences to update their skills and receive training on the latest advances in education. We had almost half of our teachers attend a one or two day conference in their curricular area during the past year using the Lands Trust funding. Without this funding, this level of professional development would not be possible.
4. For two years now we have had the Power Time flex program for remediation. Students have access to any teacher in the building from 1 – 2 pm each school day for personalized help with assignments. Approximately 35% of our students are utilizing it on a daily basis. This is up 5% over last year. This means we have an average 160 students are spending their own time each day getting additional help in subject areas and earning additional credit towards graduation. The math tutoring lab consistently has the most students using it each day. The library has also seen an increase in students using it for research and just to enjoy reading. Our LMC averages 18 students a day

during Power Time which means 594 visits to our library were made last year by students during their flex time.

5. Our guest speaker series continues to grow in popularity. Each week we have fifty to eighty students attending a guest lecture to learn about career opportunities in the community. These speakers are coordinated through our Student Advocate and the Career Center Assistant. We were able to take about 75 students to the Mountain America Expo Center last October to the Pathways to Professions fair to help them explore post-secondary options and possible careers.

Action Plan Steps:

We were able to fund all of our action steps to complete this goal. We were under the amount in employee expenses as our Outreach Aide quit and we were unable to replace her. We have been able to hire a new one for this school year who is fluent bilingual in Spanish so we are very happy about that. Our summer aide came in at only half of the projection.

Goal Number 2 - Our second goal is to increase the options that students have to earn recovery credit for classes they have failed in the past before coming to Valley High School. We strive to offer quality credit recovery options for students to earn additional credits beyond their full time class schedule with us.

We are on track for this goal. This is our second year for a program funded through Lands Trust which helps students finish over the summer months. We call it the Senior Success Program. This year it helped an additional 17 student's graduate and many more get much closer to that goal. We have many students participate in our Friday Activities to earn recovery credit. We have had more students utilize our recovery packets this year. Also this year we have our Careers Lab open each day during the students flex time so students are able to earn elective credit by pursuing their learning goals, exploring career choices, or working on college applications and scholarships. All of these factors put us at or ahead of our goal to increase our graduates this year.

1. As an alternative school, offering recovery credit is essential. We have had a packet program in place for quite a while. In the 2017-2018 school year, we had 1,282 quarter credits earned through a recovery packets. We are pleased to report that 744 of them were Friday Activity Packets which get our students out into the community for experiential learning. Yes, 58 percent of the recovery credits earned were through students interacting in their community and having an experience may would have never had. This year we visited Red Butte Gardens, Camp Floyd, the Natural History

Museum, the remodeled Utah Museum of Fine Arts, Momentum Climbing Gym, toured the University of Utah Physics Department, visited Wheeler Farm and taken a tour of the Water Conservation Gardens in West Jordan. All of these field trips were accompanied by a cross curricular packet so that students could earn recovery credit by participating in these activities. Thank you Land Trust funding for the opportunity to take our students into the community to enrich their lives and expand their cultural IQ.

Actions Steps:

We were able to fund all of our Friday Activities from the Lands Trust funds. Some of the admissions were free as we are a Highly Impacted Urban School. Others were a reduced rate for student admission. We did purchase some support materials for this goal but it seems they were coded to supplies. It appears that all of our funds for field trips were coded to field trips and not broken down by busing, admission, etc. We will improve on our budget codes in the future.

Goal Number 3 – Our third goal is to increase our students reading abilities during the time they are here at Valley High School. Our testing data shows that the majority of students are at least two grade levels behind in their reading when they enroll with us. This is a large part of why they struggle in school and have not passed their classes in the past.

1. Our students take the SRI test when they enter Valley High school. We find that during their time at Valley most will read more than they have in the past which would lead us to think that their SRI score should improve by the year's end. The data shows modest improvement but not near what we feel it should be. In a PLC discussion, it was brought up that we are not testing our early graduates who may be the students exhibiting the most growth. We have a plan to test them this year before they exit.

Actions Steps: In analysis of our SRI data, the growth we have seen previously in our students did not materialize last year. Our showed significant growth from 20% proficient to 40% proficient. However we had 185 students take both the pre and post SRI test and the results were pretty much the same in both testing periods. My English department feels that the SRI is not a great indicator of reading growth and designed only to help select books based on vocabulary strength. We lack the resources to buy site licenses for the Gates Macginitie reading test. For now we will revisit this in our PLC meetings to see if this is a valid and reliable measurement of what we are trying to measure.

2. We gave away 50 copies each quarter of a novel selected by the English department. Students can read the book and write essays to earn elective credit for their

participation in book club. 47 quarter credits were earned by students participating in Book Club.

Goal Number 4 - In accordance with research findings and the impact Service Learning has on student/school connectedness, our fourth goal is to expand our Service Learning program and provide opportunities for our students to experience civic engagement by giving back to their world locally and globally. There is ample evidence of the positive outcomes these programs generate on student success.

1. We are pleased that our students and staff members have put in over 1,000 hours this year in Service Learning projects. They have made scarves for the needy, and written cards to veterans. The biggest project was at Christmas time. The sewed stockings and then filled them with gloves, socks, small toys and candy to give to young children at the Midvale Boys & Girls Club. These students gave of their own time on a Friday to meet as a group to donate time and energy to these projects. Our theme for Service Learning is **Be the Difference**. Our counselors oversee and coordinate the service learning program at Valley High School. We did use quite a bit of funding in the miscellaneous supply category to purchase items to make and stuff the stockings. Each student did complete a personal reflection essay and also one student was awarded a \$1000 scholarship from our Jordan Education Foundation for her work in Service Learning this past year.
2. Character Ed component: This program is the main one our school has to provide the opportunity for our At-Risk population to be on the giving end of charitable works. Our main source of documentation is through pictures shared on our schools Facebook page. We do give credit to the Lands Trust program for the funding to run the program.
3. The students came in on selected Fridays each quarter when they did not have regularly scheduled school. We had over 40 students each time. Some attended once, some came every single time and did not miss one opportunity to give of service to others. We will continue to use this avenue to connect our students to the community and to give some of them a chance to be the ones on the giving end of a charitable project. Again, over a thousand volunteer hours were amassed for the Service Learning Projects.

Goal Number 5: To increase our student's engagement and technical skills, we are working towards having a set of 20 Chromebooks in each classroom where the teacher has demonstrated a need and desire to use them.

We did not have carry over funding from last year. We did not use any Lands Trust funds to purchase technology last year. We pursued this goal with our district technology funds.

Carry over funds – We did not have carry over funds from the previous year.