

Lands Trust Final Report 2018-2019

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 2019 we had 341 graduates. We had an additional 35 finish their credits in the summer in our Senior Success Program. This means a total of 376 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 18-19 school year is at 71%. That is a 6% 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 three years now we have had the Power Time flex program for remediation. Students have access to any teacher in the building from 1:30 – 2 pm each school day for personalized help with assignments. Approximately 35% of our students are utilizing it on a daily basis. This is about the same percentage as last year. We have an average of 150 students spending their own time each day getting additional help in core subject areas and earning additional credit towards graduation. The math teachers consistently have the most students seeking help each day. The library has also seen an increase in students using it for research and just to enjoy reading. Our LMC averages 15 students a day during Power Time which means 371 students were in our library were during their

flex time last year. During the 2018 19 school year we had 2,258 book checkouts which is a phenomenal number for a school of just over 500 students.

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. With our Lands Trust funding 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. We were also able to take 80 students on a tour of two campus sites of Salt Lake Community College.

Action Plan Steps:

We were able to fund all of our action steps to complete this goal. We were slightly under the amount in employee expenses for our Summer Drop Out Prevention aide. Some of our expenses for employee benefits are coded to budget code 200 which we had zero funding planned. We need to do a better job figuring out employee benefits as we plan for aides and also code them to the right category.

Actual use: *It is difficult to determine the costs of conferences and workshops for teachers so far in advance. We budgeted 4000 and spent 2712.*

We did purchase books for our Professional Learning Community goals but those were coded to the Textbook code of 641 when entered by our district administrator.

Valley High, like most alternative schools is now in Turnaround status with the USBE and due to ESSA regulations. We applied for and were awarded a grant with covered the aides salary and also the teacher to work with our student's in the Senior Success Program.

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 36 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 2018-19 school year, we had 1,284 quarter credits earned through a recovery packets. We are pleased to report that 64% of them were Friday Activity Packets which get our students out interacting with the community for experiential learning. This past year we hiked Timpanogos National Monument, visited Antelope Island and This Is the Place State Monument. We toured the Clarke Planetarium and went to a concert at Kingsbury Hall. We were able to take our students to the Mayan Exhibit at the Natural History Museum, and visit Tracy Aviary. In the spring we were able to take them to Thanksgiving Point to the Tulip Festival. 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. Very few of our students had ever visited any of these places or Museums within their state. The few that had, went only as a field trip in elementary school.

Actions Steps:

We were able to fund all of our Friday Activities from the Lands Trust funds. The codes our district uses seem to not match the state codes. We budgeted 5000 and used 4382 but the money was coded to a retired budget code of 500. We came under our expenses because 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.

Teacher mapping day: Valley High, like most alternative schools is now in Turnaround status with the USBE and due to ESSA regulations. We applied for and were awarded a grant which paid for the teacher work days we had previously planned to use this funding for.

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 issues completing work and passing 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, we decided we will make Literacy strategies across our curriculum a main focus in the upcoming year.
2. We gave away 75 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. 82 quarter credits were earned by students participating in Book Club last year. That is an increase of nearly 40%. We are very pleased with the growth of this program.

Actions Steps: In analysis of our SRI data, the growth we have seen previously in our students did not materialize last year. We were aiming for significant growth in our students in the lowest 20%. We had growth of 16% but for many students that was not enough to bring them into the proficient category. My English department teacher think that the SRI is not a great indicator of reading growth and designed only to help select books based on vocabulary strength. We have made adjustments to our program for the 2019 2020 year based on this data. We have used Lands Trust funding to purchase a reading program called Reading Plus to target this lowest readers and to provide a better assessment of reading growth.

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 Murray Boys & Girls Club. These students gave of their own time several Fridays to meet as a group to donate time and energy to these projects. Our theme for Service Learning is **Together We Are Stronger**. 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 about their experience with service. Two students were awarded a \$1000 scholarship from our Jordan Education Foundation for their 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.

Valley High, like most alternative schools is now in Turnaround status with the USBE and due to ESSA regulations. Due to that and the site visit that occurred with it, this goal was put on hold. We have put it at the top of our list this year and have ordered Chromebooks with Lands Trust funding and have started some teacher training.

Carry over funds – We do have about \$10,000 carry over into the 2019 -2020 school year.

Valley High, like most alternative schools is now in Turnaround status with the USBE and due to ESSA regulations. This allowed for us to apply for a grant from the UBSE which was specifically for schools in Turn Around. We used the grant funding first as it was to be used by the date of September 30th 2019. We are using the carry over funds wisely this year.

We used the grant funds to pay for the planned teacher work day and also for our teacher and aide in the Senior Success program in the summer. Both projects were a great success and we credit the summer program for helping raise our graduation rate above 70% for the first time in the history of the school!