

Prompt:

Response:

<p>There are clear impacts from the reduction in SIA funding and from the direct efforts to respond to COVID-19. While you can't fully set those aside, what is important for your community, including focal student groups, families, and educators, to understand about your SIA implementation efforts during the 2020-21 school year and the positive impacts that have occurred? How were you able to make progress towards the goals and outcomes you were aiming at with SIA funding and processes?</p>	<p>We feel we accomplished a great deal even with the pandemic and the reduction in our funds. We were able to accomplish several things that our community requested, including providing greater opportunities for our students. The changes we are implementing are grounded in finding ways to do what is best for all of our students and we are doing good work at removing barriers and supporting each of our students.</p>
<p>What barriers, impediments, or challenges to your SIA implementation have you faced or identified that are helpful for your community and/or state leaders to be aware of?</p>	<p>In our area it is becoming very difficult to find qualified staff to fill positions. We appreciate the fact that we are in a terrific funding situation right now but there are more programs we would like to offer if only we could find qualified staff to fill positions.</p>
<p>SIA implementation includes ongoing engagement with focal students, the families of focal students, and educators. What successes and challenges, if any, have you experienced in maintaining engagement?</p>	<p>We need to continue to look for better ways to get community input. It seems we always hear from the same people and we are exploring methods of increasing the chances that we will start hearing from some of the others who don't normally participate. We did implement a survey this year which allowed us to reach people during the pandemic.</p>
<p>Please share your professional assessment of what guided your choices and prioritization efforts in the first year of SIA implementation? What stands out? Anything important or surprising to report back or reflect on? How were key decisions on scaled down implementation made? What impacts, if any, are helpful to name in how you navigated through the last year, specifically as it relates to SIA implementation?</p>	<p>Our community provided input on areas they would like us to focus on, and these areas were very similar to areas we thought would be impactful. We are most proud of our freshmen on-track team and the success they had this year, and our elimination of financial barriers. Also, we are providing more opportunities for students with our current band program and next year, our additional electives. We are fortunate to work with a small administrative team (10 people) and a supportive Board so implementation went quite smoothly.</p>