

Ygnacio Valley High

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Subject: Integration of Programs, S3 Teamwork, Creating a Safer Environment

Practice: Multi-Tiered System of Support

Multi-Tiered Support System

Based on their Spring 2014 School Climate Report Card, Ygnacio Valley High School has shown tremendous progress in the improvement of school climate over the previous three years. The school improved in the Low Violence, Victimization and Substance Use domain, and through intense focus on High Expectations and Caring Relationships, their Supports and Engagement domains also improved.

The original vision was to create a safer environment that fostered resiliency while focusing on high expectations, caring relationships, and school connectedness. They did this by hiring a full time S3 Coordinator and S3 Outreach Liaison to support the school in different capacities. One of their major successes was the ability to work together as a team. The S3 grant allowed the school to adapt and learn to utilize all the services provided by the school and district (www.mdusd.org/studentsupport). A “wheel of success” was essentially created with the S3 program being the center or “hub” of the services provided. The school had many great programs working independently (e.g., Link Crew, Leadership, After School Program, marriage/family therapist, school psychologist) and integration of these programs to support the S3 team has been essential in improving the school climate.

A multi-tiered system of support was created at the school. The first tier was a positive social-emotional awareness campaign with a positive reward systems to increase student engagement. This was made possible by working with Link Crew, Renaissance, and Leadership. The second tier was building a framework of communication where students could check in daily or weekly based on what type of support they needed: academic, social, and/or behavioral. A marriage and family therapist was hired to help build a system to address the needs of at-risk students as well as students in the general population. The school’s data showed a need for small group counseling for anger management and for students struggling with grief and other issues. In the last tier, students could be referred to the coordinated care team to receive one-on-one, small group, and family counseling. Ygnacio Valley High School’s vision resulted in a Student Resource Center (SRC) focusing on academic and youth development that is a positive safe zone for students to receive services and build connectedness.