

San Antonio Youth Out of School Program  
Executive Summary  
of the  
21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers:  
Grant Year 2018 - 2019

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Report Prepared for:



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## **II. San Antonio Youth Executive Summary**

This report is the executive summary for the San Antonio Youth (SAY) 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) grant funded by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) Afterschool Centers on Education (ACE) program during the 2018-2019 school year.

### **A. Overall Strengths and Next Steps**

#### **Strengths**

SAY provides a safe, after-school environment in which students complete academic (e.g., homework), enrichment, and recreational activities.

*Enrollment.* SAY centers often are at capacity and could serve additional students if resources were available.

*Academic Instruction.* SAY centers provide after-school time for students to complete their homework or to participate in academically-focused alternative activities when the students do not have homework.

*Enrichment Activities.* SAY centers provide enrichment activities daily. As a sample, the activities Character development, Art, Que Pasa, Technology, SA Fit, cooking, sign language, STEM, Ballet, Onsite (hip hop).

*Parent Engagement Events.* SAY centers holds one to two family engagement events per month. One is focused on interactions with the parents (e.g., feedback about child and center) while the second includes presentations (e.g., Internet safety, bullying) and activities which engage the parents and students together. For example, one center held family engagement events that ranged from simple arts and crafts to intense bingo games. The arts and crafts really brought the families together while the bingo nights really brought out their competitive side. Another center held Cat in the Hat Family Night. Parents came with their children to enjoy Antonio Flores from SA Youth sing to them a Cat in the Hat book Horton Hears a Who. In addition, the centers ask parents for their input to improve afterschool care.

*Partnerships.* SAY's partnership with the SA Food Bank provided parents with fresh produce through distributions from the Food Bank. Families were also given boxes of food during the holidays to help ease the worry over the holiday break from school.

#### **Recommended Next Steps**

*School Facilities.* SAY should work with school administrators to ensure use of multiple rooms within the school including a gym, computer lab(s), classrooms, outside recreation facilities, and cafeteria. Currently, SAY uses the cafeteria and limited number of rooms. This varies by center.

*Awareness Program.* While enrollment is not an issue, SAY should begin awareness program of benefits of participation in all after-school activities for parents of students interested in the after-school program.

*Increase Interaction with the Teachers.* Increasing the awareness of the activities and benefits for the teachers and administrators within each school is recommended to build a positive relationship between the teachers and SAY center staff. One center leader is planning to attend all staff meetings at the school and find out about future events.

*Daily Schedule.* SAY should review the day-to-day and weekly schedule so that all students remain engaged in academic, enrichment, and recreational activities.

*Dosage of Activities.* Some parents pick their students up earlier than recommended. The early pick-up lessens the student's time to do homework, participate in enrichment activities, and learn socialization with other students skills.

*Academic Rigor.* SAY consider how to increase student engagement in and academic rigor of activities during homework time. One solution is to coordinate with teachers to provide instructional activities and materials relevant to the in-class instruction.

## **B. Brief Center Overview**

All twelve of the schools SA Youth serves are in low-income neighborhoods and have been identified by the TEA as economically disadvantaged and 'at-risk' schools. SA Youth's Poplar Center is located in 78207, the poorest in the city, with the poverty rate at 42%. One in four adults do not have a high school diploma. 60 percent of adults. SAY serves nine schools in the South San Antonio Independent School District (South San ISD) and three schools in San Antonio ISD (SAISD). The Poplar Center serves three nearby San Antonio ISD elementary schools, Crockett, Cotton and Margil Elementary.

The majority of the parents are working parents. Based center staff conversations with parents and on work clothes, the jobs range from restaurant workers, skilled laborers (electricians, plumbers), office assistants (medical, banking) and managerial positions (local businesses). Many students live in single parent families with parents having two jobs. In many cases, grandparents are significant caretakers.

## **C. Implementation**

*Adherence:* In accordance with the center logic model, each center provided time for homework, enrichment activities, recreation. Examples include: Technology, Art, STEM, SA Fit, Character Development and an Asset lesson. The clubs students were able to participate in this year through our vendors were Ballet, OnSite (Hip Hop Dance), Listen Up Get Down (Music), and Bits, Bytes and Bots (Coding/STEM)

*Dosage.* In terms of number of students served most of the centers were at capacity when the school year began. This highlights the need for the SAY program in these areas of San Antonio. One issue with dosage of program activities delivered is that some parents pick their students up early. This results in lower engaged time and opportunity to learn.

*Quality.* The perceived quality varies from activity to activity. Noise and disruptive behaviors in the cafeteria hinder the quality of some activities, such as the social emotional learning activities, where discussion and reflection are involved. Other activities, such as art, are not as impacted by the other students in the cafeteria.

## **D. Local Needs and Outcomes**

SAY tracks student outcomes such as school attendance, daily SAY attendance, and behavior referrals to see how students are progressing towards intended outcomes. These outcomes are compared to students who do not participate in an SAY program. Intended outcomes SAY program include increasing school and SAY attendance, and decreasing behavior referrals.

The following includes anecdotal evidence of how SAY is meeting local needs

- Many of the SAY families face food insecurity. With the partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank, SAY students at Popular receive a hot meal and an afternoon snack. Families also receive fresh produce and resources to different services such as WIC, and food pantries near them. Many of our families can benefit from ESL and job placement courses.
- On order to bring more financial literacy and awareness to the SAY families, River City Federal Credit Union sponsored our family engagement nights. Parents were able to open up savings accounts for their children, with all fees waived, a lower APR and with the first \$5 being deposited by River City FCU themselves.
- The Lights on Afterschool which was one of the first big engagements of the school year. Many parents spoke to SAY staff about their community and how SAY helps them by providing a safe place for their child/children while they were at work.
- Family engagements were held twice a month.
- SAY parents appreciate SAY because SAY does not charge them and helps with their children’s homework.
- Many of the afterschool students ask their parents to come back for them later in the day because they wanted to stay longer.

**E. State Outcomes**

One of the disadvantages of SA Youth being an external entity to both the South San ISD and SAISD is that SA Youth is dependent on the time and services of the districts to provide aggregate data at the school level for evaluating the impact of the grant on the students. The data to be collected includes: attendance rate, discipline referrals, and promotion rate. At the time of this report, the grade point averages for South San ISD students were available.

For the seven of the nine schools, there is a ½ to nearly a full grade point increase for the students participating in the SAY after school program. While there are potentially multiple causes for this pattern, the results are encouraging given this is the first year for the SAY grant.

Grade Point Averages (Four Point Scale) for South San ISD Sites

School	SA Youth	Site
Armstrong	3.12	2.19
Benavides	3.17	2.44
Carrillo	2.87	1.98
Five Palms	2.45	2.07
Hutchins	3.06	2.42
Kindred	2.86	2.10
Madla	3.30	2.62
Palo Alto	3.09	2.33
Price	2.98	2.76