**Community School Implementation Plan**

**Santa Cruz County Office of Education**

**Santa Cruz County Office of Education – Alternative Education Program**

**Court School Program CCSP Implementation Plan**

The Santa Cruz County Court Community School Project Advisory, composed of students, staff, educators, community partners, family members, and guardians collaborated in an assets and Needs/Gap analysis to develop an implementation plan. Within the plan, measurable goals and activities have been identified that illustrate the Santa Cruz COE Alternative Education Program commitment to implement the Cornerstone Commitments identified in the Framework, including:

* **Integrated Support Services**
* **Family and Community Engagement**
* **Collaborative Leadership and Shared Decision-Making**
* **Extended/Expanded Learning Time and Opportunities**

**Court - Integrated Support Services**

The Santa Cruz Court School Program serves justice impacted students in small classroom environments. Students are referred by the court system or Juvenile Probation. The Santa Cruz Court School Program recognizes the student need for increased levels of academic as well as social emotional support. We seek to maintain small class sizes and high adult to student ratios by utilizing social emotional counselors and Instructional Aides in the classroom alongside teachers. The Court Program recognizes the need to prioritize positive relationships between students and adults that foster both academic and social emotional support and growth.

Santa Cruz Court School Program creates and sustains safe, engaging, and inclusive learning environments that support the social and emotional needs and growth of our students. We continuously seek to elevate student assets and meet their individual needs by building a positive school climate through trusting relationships combined with rich learning opportunities that prepare all students to succeed in life. These are key foundations of our program.

Meeting students where they are, utilizing trauma-informed practices, being a restorative-based organization, and honoring the unique and diverse students who participate in our programs is fundamental to our approach. To accomplish these goals the Santa Cruz Court School Program is committed to providing trauma-informed health, mental health, and social services for pupils within a multi-tiered system of support at the school site. The Program is additionally committed to continuously expanding partnerships with other schools, school districts, county agencies, and nongovernmental organizations to meet all student needs. These partnerships support our efforts to provide Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), social-emotional learning, college and career readiness, and school improvement to all students according to their individual needs and goals.

Students have access and support to an individually-tailored, rigorous and engaging educational experience that is inclusive, culturally relevant, standards-aligned, and promotes individual growth during school and after graduation. Community Asset Mapping and Needs/Gap Analysis determined that we will sustain our commitment to keeping our programs small, tailored to students, and ensuring curriculum and instruction are engaging, rigorous, and culturally relevant.

Student access to counseling services was mentioned throughout community feedback as a positive aspect of our programs. Counselors principally support the mental health needs and growth of all students. Counselors provide individual and group support and also coordinate and manage services. This integral approach ensures the support of social and emotional needs and growth of our students. Continuing to strengthen our counseling supports for students was voiced as a priority as part of our Community Asset Mapping and Needs/Gap Analysis, as our students, staff, and families believe it is an integral part of our programs.

Ensuring an individually tailored academic experience that is promoting and sustaining educational experiences that are inclusive, culturally relevant, standards-aligned, and promotes individual growth during school and after graduation requires ongoing professional development. Robust professional development and collaboration focused on rigorous, inclusive, curriculum and instructional practices that are interdisciplinary and standards-aligned is a priority for our instructional staff. Professional development is focused on supporting the mental health needs of students in our programs to sustain safe, engaging, and inclusive learning environments that support the social and emotional needs and growth of our students. Professional Development as part of the CCSPP will include:

* Trauma-informed practices
* Restorative practices
* Access to community supports
* Case management
* Instructional practices
* Curriculum resources
* Community building
* Unique needs for support of our Foster youth and students in transition.

**Summary of Integrated Support Services Goals:**

* **Continue to build a positive school climate through trusting relationships combined with rich learning opportunities that prepare all students to succeed in life.**
* **Continue to provide trauma-informed health, mental health, and social services for pupils within a multi-tiered system of support at the school site.**
* **Continue to expand partnerships with other schools, school districts, county agencies, and nongovernmental organizations to meet all student needs.**
* **Maintain our commitment to keeping our programs small, tailored to students, and ensuring curriculum and instruction are engaging, rigorous, and culturally relevant.**
* **Continue to increase and strengthen our academic and social-emotional counseling base.**
* **Utilize Individualized planning to ensure an tailored academic experiences that promote and sustain inclusion, cultural relevance, standards-alignment, and individual growth during school and after graduation.**
* **Provide Professional Development Opportunities;**
* **Trauma Informed Practices**
* **Restorative practices**
* **Access to community supports**
* **Case management**
* **Instructional practices**
* **Curriculum resources**
* **Community building**
* **Unique needs for support of our Foster youth and students in transition.**

**Assessment and Metrics**

We will assess progress in attaining the goal of increasing Integrated Support Services by regularly reviewing the following metrics:

1. **Graduation Rate of 85% or above**
2. **80% positive responses for school climate data as reported by the CA Healthy Kids Survey results**
3. **Attendance rate above 90%**

**Court Family and Community Engagement**

The Santa Cruz Court School Program is committed to increasing and improving the effectiveness of our partnerships with our students, families, and the community to create collaborative relationships, engaging learning opportunities, and shared responsibility for the empowerment of our students. Through Asset mapping and a Needs/Gap analysis the Advisory Committee found the following:

* Students reported enjoying their school community, the teachers and staff, flexibility, and small size. They requested increased community partnerships, field trips, and opportunities to learn in the community as priorities.
* Parents/guardians commended our organization for our great communication and support for students. Continuing our current efforts and staying connected to families was emphasized as an important focus for our CCSPP. Continuing and strengthening our academic, engagement, and social-emotional supports was reflected as appreciated and important to augment with additional funding opportunities.
* Staff provided specific feedback regarding needs for increased curriculum and instructional support for our multilingual students, access across our programs for counseling, stronger coordination of services, and timely identification of students who are experiencing homelessness and/or foster youth.
* Community partners expressed wanting to continue and strengthen our relationships with families and the community.

Community Asset Mapping and Needs/Gap Analysis data collected includes:

* 95% of families indicate that our school staff is dedicated to the academic success of their student
* 95% of families indicate their student feels safe at school
* 97% of families report feeling comfortable approaching staff with concerns.
* 90% of students feel our staff is dedicated to their academic success (with 7.7% not having an opinion)
* 88.7% of students feel safe at school (with 9.5% not having an opinion)
* 80% of students report feeling comfortable approaching staff about concerns (with 14.8% not having an opinion)
* 100% of staff believe the staff is dedicated to student academic success
* 85.4% believe our schools are safe (with 14.5% feeling neutral)
* 87.3% of staff report feeling comfortable discussing concerns with their colleagues. All stakeholder groups expressed the need to continue to strengthen our robust counseling and support network, and engagement with families and community resources that provide hands-on learning experiences for students.

**Family and Community Engagement Goals**

As a result of Advisory Committee input to the CCSPP we have identified key goals for Family and Community Engagement that are consistent with the Santa Cruz COE Alternative Education Program LCAP, including:

* **Coordinate with Santa Cruz County Juvenile Probation to provide wrap around support and services to our justice impacted youth**
* **Coordinate with our Santa Cruz COE Student Leadership and Engagement team to promote student participation in countywide groups that empower and connect our youth, including:**
* **Youth for Environmental Action**
* **Countywide Black Student Union**
* **Youth Arts Council**
* **Civic Summit**
* **LGBTQ+ student groups**
* **Coordinate services with outside agencies, including youth engagement services, artists, Career Technical Education, mental health, work-based learning to create collaborative relationships, engaging learning opportunities, and shared responsibility for the empowerment of our students.**
* **Provide Community, Parent/Guardian, and Family Engagement opportunities. We are able to ensure students receive services to meet identified needs by providing outreach to families often marginalized, and ensuring their voices are heard, conduct intakes with families, make referrals for services to community partners, and provide case management.**

**Assessment and Metrics**

We will assess progress in attaining the goal of expanding Family and Community Engagement by regularly reviewing the following metrics:

* 95% of Families report that the school staff is dedicated to their student's academic success on Parent Engagement annual surveys
* 96% of Families report they can reach staff if they need to.
* 95% of families report feeling comfortable approaching staff with concerns.
* Graduation Rate of 85% or above
* 80% positive responses for school climate data as reported by the CA Healthy Kids Survey results
* Attendance rate above 90%

**Court Collaborative Leadership and Shared Decision-Making**

The Santa Cruz Court School Program partners with our community to continuously evaluate and improve our programs. We have been extremely grateful to our families, students, and community for continuously engaging in the feedback and planning process. Our CCSPP Advisory Committee is a cooperating agency collaboration process for shared decision-making that includes pupils, families, educators, and community-based organizations. The Advisory Committee has involved students, parents/guardians, certificated and classified school staff, and cooperating agency personnel in the process of identifying the needs of students and families, and in the planning of support services to be offered. They have identified CCSPP goals that expand on LCAP goals to facilitate integrating or redirecting existing resources and other school support services.

In addition to Advisory Committee meetings, staff, student, and family surveys have provided an opportunity to discuss program needs for improvement. Student focus groups engaged students in dialogue about their schooling experiences and areas of program improvement. Classified staff, certificated staff, and administrators participated in surveys and meetings to inform CCSPP design. Our small programs also have many opportunities for dialogue both formally through conferences and informally through virtual and in person conversations.

Throughout the five years of the CCSPP, the CCSPP Coordinator will facilitate development of a plan to sustain community school services after grant expiration, including maximizing reimbursement for services from available sources, including, but not limited to, the LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program, School-Based Medi-Cal Administrative Activities program, and reimbursable mental health specialty care services provided under the federal Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment program. It is anticipated that our many community partnerships that have been established to support the CCSPP will continue for many years after the grant period ends.

**Collaborative Leadership and Shared Decision-making Goals:**

As a result of Advisory Committee input to the CCSPP we have identified key goals for Leadership and Shared Decision Making that are consistent with the Santa Cruz COE Alternative Education Program LCAP, including:

* **Hire a CCSPP Coordinator/Youth Champion to support the grant and to connect our students and families with community members, community partners, resources, and services.**
* **Increase number of students, teachers, families, and community partners participating in SSC/LAC meetings to address school priorities**
* **Conduct annual school/community needs assessment to refine the CCSPP Implementation Plan**
* **Identify additional strategies and partners to meet identified needs.**
* **Determine budget allocations to support the CCSPP Implementation Plan**

We will assess progress in attaining the goal of expanding Leadership and Shared Decision Making by regularly reviewing the following metrics:

* **Hire Project Coordinator/Youth Champion**
* **Increase SSC/LAC participation by at least 1 participant per year**
* **Incorporate Annual CCSPP Action Plan as result of Annual Needs Assessment into the LCAP (Local Control Accountability Plan)**
* **Increase Strategies or Partners by at least 1 per year**
* **Annual Updated Budget**

**Court Extended/Expanded Learning Time and Opportunities**

The Santa Cruz Court School Program serves secondary students from across Santa Cruz County. As a student’s home community may be quite remote from school, transportation is a barrier for many to participate in expanded learning time after school. Many of our students have jobs or family responsibilities that may create challenges.

The Santa Cruz Court School Program understands that after-school programs can provide high-quality youth experiences, advance student academic success, help in the transition to college and career, and foster peer relationships and community service. Providing expanded learning opportunities outside of the school day can contribute to increased graduation rates and supporting students in meeting their educational goals.

Our College and Career team provides individualized counseling for students who are interested in attaining jobs as well as exploring careers. Additionally, this team provides support navigating through the community college dual enrollment process for students. Many of our students are concurrently enrolled in college courses. As a result, students experience success with college courses and learn how to navigate the community college system during high school with staff guidance which supports success after graduation. Some of these opportunities engage students outside of the regular school day.

As part of the CCSPP we will continue to expand partnerships with community businesses and agencies to increase opportunities for students to participate in real-world learning experiences that will support their preparation for college and/or careers. External partners provide part-time work, internships, and apprenticeship opportunities that may result in employment. This type of expanded learning helps engage students in school and teaches them marketable skills for their future in the workforce.

**Extended/Expanded Learning Time and Opportunities Goals**

As a result of Advisory Committee input to the CCSPP we have identified key goals for Extended/Expanded Learning Time that are consistent with the Santa Cruz COE Alternative Education Program LCAP, including:

* Increase transportation access to ensure court school students have access to off campus enrichment opportunities
* Increase participation in off-site enrichment opportunities, such as FoodWhat!? and Mountains2Sea
* Increase Work Readiness via Suenos Participation
* Increase Summer School Opportunities for both credit recovery and advancement
* Increase Dual Enrollment
* Refer all Teen Parents to Public Health

**Assessment and Metrics**

We will assess progress in attaining the goal of Extended/Expanded Learning Time and Opportunities by regularly reviewing the following metrics:

* 10% Increased participation in off-site enrichment opportunities per year
* 10% Increased participation in Suenos per year
* 10% Increased Participation in Summer School
* 5% Increase in Dual Enrollment per year
* 100% Referral of all Teen Parents and their children to Public Health

**Court Key Staff**

A Community School Partnerships Coordinator will be hired with CCSPP funds to work with steering committees/advisory councils, key staff, parents/guardians, students, and community partners within the school to achieve the Implementation Plan. Additionally, a Community Outreach Liaison will provide increased direct services to students and families to determine appropriate services to address needs for support. Other staff funded through this grant may include an Instructional Aide and/or a Social-Emotional Counselor We are committed to recruiting bilingual and bicultural staff who reflect the community.