

3499 Target Grant Update:

In 2017 MCSD was identified as a participant in the HB 3499 Target Grant process. The goal of HB 3499 was to implement a statewide education plan for English Language Learners K-12. The Target Grants were developed to help districts address disparities by English Language Learners in every aspect of school with culturally appropriate best practices. For MCSD our EL student growth in ELA and math as well as attendance were found as deficiencies.

Through the Target Grant MCSD identified the need to provide more intensive support to our “new comer” students at the 7-12th grade levels. This is the point where we were historically having students not enroll or drop out from school.

Objectives of the program:

1. Improve school experience for both student and parents
2. Reduce frustration and confusion for those who face numerous challenges adapting academically to American culture and schools
3. Empower with educational opportunities
4. Address social, emotional, and mental health needs of that concurrently occur with the adjustment process (each family was connected with CARE from the start)
5. Help parents better understand our school system and how they can support their students

The New Comer Program was led by Teresa Proctor-Reece and housed at Riverside. In the 1st year she had a class of 15 students from Boardman and Irrigon ranging from 7th to 10th grade.

Within months of beginning, the New Comer program we were able to see significant shifts in student attendance, behavior, and growth in English language development. In the first year of the program participants averaged 92.7 % attendance and all five freshmen had earned 6 or more high school credits. We also had a student that was able to participate on the championship soccer team.

As the program has continued we have had the continued growth in the following areas:

- student attendance remains at or above high school average for the district
- 9th grade on-track
- On-time graduation
- Reduction in drop-outs
- students have become involved in a variety of extracurricular activities
- students are showing growth on all of their state tests (ELPA 21, math, language arts)

At the beginning of the 2020-21 school year we were able to apply for an expansion grant that has helped fund the increase in EL support in Irrigon and the expansion of our New Comer program to IJSH so that students are able to remain connected to their home building and establish relationships within their community.

This past month we receive notification from ODE that MCSD has made “some or notable” progress in both elementary and secondary growth indicators and are formally exited from the grant without any further monitoring.