



The School Connection Program: Strengths, Challenges, and Next Steps

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The **School Connection Program** is a WMU-initiated, community engaged effort to develop and implement a comprehensive, off-site alternative educational program for middle school students in the Parchment School District.

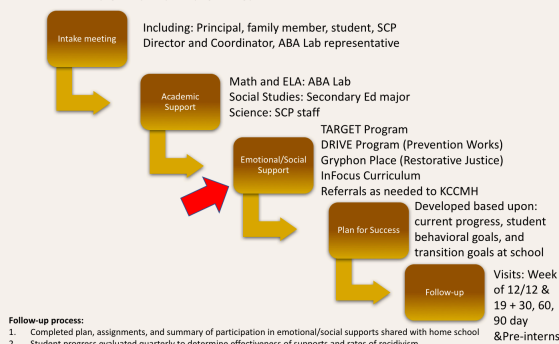
PROGRAM OUTLINE:

- The School Connection Program is an intervention for at-risk students to provide opportunities for additional academic and behavioral supports.
- Students in the School Connection Program have been recommended by their educational leader, principal of the Middle School.
- Common behaviors that would elicit this intervention are having trouble staying on-task, difficulty completing work, frequent absences and having office discipline referrals.
- The students check-in every morning with the program director and teachers and receive a points based on the program-wide expectations.
- The point sheet was filled out during each class of the day.
- The students check-out with the program coordinator at the end of the day, monitoring progress through goal-setting and charting.
- Weekly reports were sent home so parents can monitor progress.

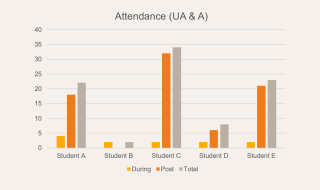
LESSONS LEARNED:

- Scholars thrived in a smaller learning environment.
- Scholars left SCP with increased self-advocacy, self-awareness, and self-regulation skills.
- Some Scholars struggled with the transition back to the home school and needed additional support. In response, a weekly book club met on Mondays during WIN period to continue the small learning community.
- Scholars might better benefit from increased support in the school environment during the school year. "Summer camp-style" programming might support social emotional development and might fill the void commonly experienced by MS and HS students during out of school times.
- Community and Campus partnerships allowed SCP to be a success. There were over 10 partners.

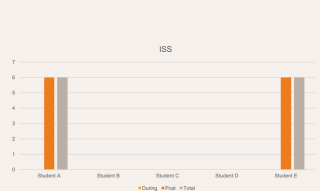
- Referral process:**
1. Principal determines alternative academic placement would be appropriate
 - History of chronic suspensions, absenteeism, and referrals; however, behaviors are non-violent in nature and not a flight risk
 2. Student and family agree to participate in programming provided



Attendance



Referrals/ISS



Suspensions

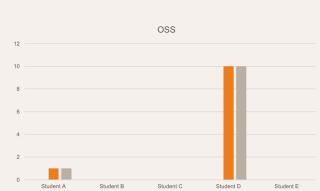
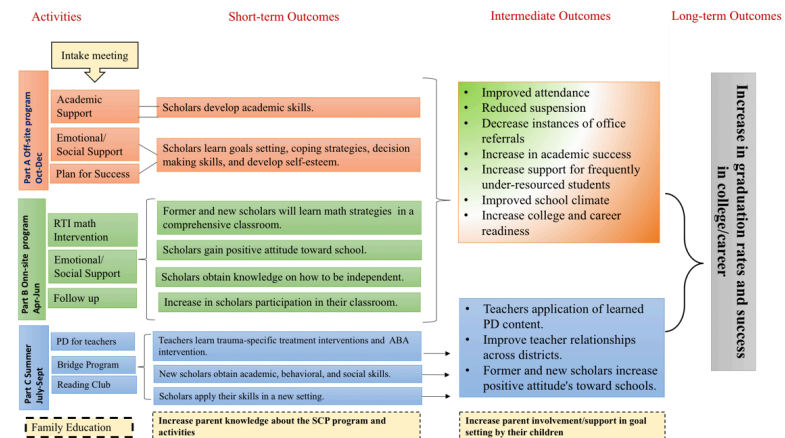


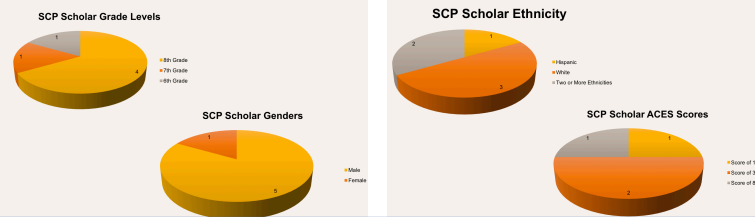
Figure 4. Program Flow Chart



NEXT STEPS:

- Continued follow-up into High School, i.e., periodic visits, pre-intern student assignment to classes
- Partner with WIRE Program for summer STEM camp and Layla's Cool Pops Youth Summer Employment Initiative

Demographics



SCHOLAR REFLECTIONS:

- "This is the first time I have ever felt hopeful about school."
- "I am doing a lot better in my work and feel more confident about myself."
- "I now pay attention and can calm myself."

