

Sustainability within a Systemic Approach

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Let's start with you...

Think about your project as it relates to your school district(s).

- What kind of "profile" does it have?
- What is its "fit" with other initiatives intended to improve academic achievement and overall wellness?
- To what extent does the district's executive leadership understand/promote the project?

Let's start with you....

- If federal funding came to an end *today*, how would your project be sustained thereafter?

About My School District:

- 2,500 students, K-12
- One high school, one middle school, four elementary schools
- 69% Hispanic, 44% English Learner
- 65% free-reduced lunch
- Many parents employed by local nursery/tourism industry
- Cost of living is very high...parents must work long hours to pay expenses

About My School District:

- Academic achievement is approaching State “quality threshold”
- Two schools are in NCLB “Program Improvement”

What I know about our clients:

- They lead “hurried” lifestyles.
- Kids are coming into our system less nurtured and less supervised.
- Less supervised equals:
 - Poor choices...in many areas
 - No boundaries/“conciliatory” parenting
 - Exposure to negative behaviors
- Less nurtured equals:
 - Low baseline vocabulary entering K, in any language
 - Limited overall language skills
 - Challenged for positive social skills
 - Often eating unhealthy food resulting in obesity/poor nutrition
 - Sedentary lifestyle (tech babysitter)

Operating Principle: Only a Systemic Approach Can Close the “Achievement Gap.”

What does it mean to work systemically?

- A coherent instructional program, driven by a comprehensive assessment/data analysis system
- Additional opportunities to learn (“All kids can learn. Some need more time.”)
- After-school programs (tutorial, enrichment, wellness)
- Student support and parent education programs
- Early childhood support up to preschool and then from preschool to kindergarten
- Opportunities to “connect” to school
- High accountability for all stakeholders

And so, our programs:

- Instruction, Assessment, Accountability
 - Reading/math assessment systems
 - District-wide data analysis program
 - K-8 Coherent Writing program
 - Professional development linked to results
- Opportunities to Learn
- After-School All-Stars 300 students, K-8 (**After-school Education and Safety** [\$478K/year, state grant]; planning to expand through **21st Century Learning Centers**)
- Expanded Pre-school Program—new school funded with **SSHS** start-up \$\$

And so, our programs:

- Carpinteria Family Services Collaborative at Main School
 - Houses non-profit agencies serving children and families with an emphasis on *early childhood*
 - Executive Director, Program Coordinator, longitudinal study to monitor effectiveness (see concept on our website: cUSD.net)
 - Funded by the **Hutton Foundation** (master lessor), the **Orfalea Foundation** (operating budget) and the **Bower Foundation** (operating budget) **\$325K** annually with start-up funds (**\$30K**) from **Santa Barbara County First Five**

And so, our programs:

- Student Support Programs at Carpinteria High School:
 - \$55K annual grant from the Hutton Foundation for:
 - Freshman Academy
 - Link Crew
 - Be-the-Change/Challenge Day
 - Academy of the Healing Arts (AHA)
 - Gang intervention
 - Professional Development
 - Special programs
 - \$150K in grants for “career path” programs
 - Grants from eight different foundations
 - Intended to help kids “connect” to school

And so, our programs:

- Initiatives with the Orfalea Foundation:
 - \$200K toward professional teaching kitchen for CHS Culinary Arts Institute
 - \$35K to support \$2M state science grant
 - s'Cool Food Initiative
 - \$52K for new food service equipment
 - \$55K/per year for two years to jumpstart organic teaching farm at CHS

And so, our programs:

- Support (in addition to **Orfalea**) for **\$2M** state grant to improve achievement in grades 4-6 science:
 - **\$25K** from the **RORD Foundation**
 - **\$25 K** from the **Wharton Foundation**
 - **\$25 K** from the **Wood-Claeyssens Foundation**

And so, our programs:

- **SSHS funds (\$704K/year):**
 - Additional mental health counseling services for h.s. and m.s. students
 - Youth Service Specialist (mediation/drug abuse resistance, campus activities)
 - Full-time drug treatment counselor
 - "Teen Court" and Parent Program
 - Prevention curriculum and professional development
 - Campus Security Aide at h.s.
 - After-school enrichment and support for freshman programs at h.s.
 - Start-up funds for fee-based preschool

To get da' money...

- ...engage the executive leadership for support and resources
- ...articulate the concept of a systemic approach and how your project fits
- ...line up your resources for grant development (e.g., district employee/contractor, education foundation)
- ...be prepared to “tell your story” in a compelling way

To get da' money...

- ...find out who the players are in the non-profit community and how information is shared among those players
- ...meet with non-profit directors, making sure your executive leaders participate *directly*; open communication lines and make frequent contacts
- ...make yourself and your executive leaders available 24/7

To get da' money...

- ...be an advocate for sustainability funding; if your story is compelling (i.e., concrete results), they will listen
- ...bring non-profit directors to view your programs; have the kids do the talking
- ...ask for feedback on grant proposals before submitting
- ...learn from your failures and press on

Things to remember:

- Allocate adequate time to ramp up for grant development (think of one year of preparation).
- Not unlike other collaborations, *trust* and *reliability* are key.
- You are there to re-shape the vision from “jumpstart” funding of discrete projects to *coordinated* funding to sustain *existing* comprehensive projects.
- If your executive leaders are not active participants, don't expect much success.

Your Questions Please...

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