

NOVEMBER 16, 2021

GADSDEN CITY MIDDLE & EMMA SANSOM MIDDLE

EVALUATION PLAN

Name of LEA/CBO: Gadsden City Schools

Next Level U Program

School(s) Served: Gadsden City Middle & Emma Sansom Middle

Location of Program: 612 Tracy Street, Gadsden, AL 35904 & 2210 West Meighan Blvd., Gadsden AL 3904

External Evaluator: Sarah B. Odom, PhD, sbodom@gmail.com, 251-654-3815

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Vann-Ray, LLC

EXTERNAL EVALUATOR

GADSDEN MIDDLE EMMA SANSOM MIDDLE

EVALUATION PLAN

The overarching goal for **Next Level U Program** designed for Gadsden Middle School (GMS) and Emma Sansom Middle School (EMS) is to provide enrichment, remediation, support, and additional services so that students of GMS and EMS will increase their academic achievement, improve behavior and attendance, increase family involvement and parenting skills, strengthen mental and physical wellness, collect college and career awareness and readiness skills, along with job skills, to strengthen the communities supporting the students and their families.

Indicators of success would include improved grades, improved student behaviors, increased attendance and parental involvement.

Program Description and Background

PROGRAM HISTORY

Program History for Gadsden Middle and Emma Sansom involved meetings with various stakeholders to determine the needs of both schools. The Gadsden City Board of

Education worked closely with the University of Alabama Gadsden to develop a comprehensive needs assessment. Both entities reviewed data from the CIP, Census, ALSDE, NCES, Title 1 Plans, and District Strategic Plans to determine the community and academic needs of students and their families. Additionally, surveys were provided to students, parents, and school staff for the perceptual data information needed to make an informed decision.

NEED ADDRESSED

Teachers reported an overwhelming need for academic enrichment and homework support in reading/math and STEAM. Parents advised about needs for reading with children at home, CTE awareness, Life skills, ELL services, physical fitness opportunities and financial literacy. Students requested STEAM, robotics, music, sports, arts, and CTE awareness. Gadsden is located in an urban fringe (northern area of Alabama) area that contains older shopping plazas, and older depressed housing (low-income, subsidized housing). 92% students living in households receiving some type of public assistance. The school also serves a minority community in which 48% of the population is Black 18% are Hispanic. Parents often need assistance with finding food pantries and some children are in shelters. There are many well-known neighborhood pockets with high crime, unemployment and homelessness. According to the most current AL Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (AL Dept. Health, 2018), the surrounding county has disturbingly high weight rates, with 38% of the population overweight and 53% physically inactive or insufficiently active.

Many families are juggling multiple low paying jobs. Teachers of the school describe the parents as working 2 or 3 jobs. Nightly routines of homework, reading and other educational activities are difficult to adhere to with unpredictable work schedules, low education levels & job demands. Parents lack resources and skills to help students at home where only 36% of the parents have a high school diploma and only 11% completed a Bachelor's Degree (Census, 2018).

TARGET POPULATION

Recruitment will be made available to the most identified at risk students for the academic component of the program through the list of math/reading assessment scores, lacking credits, need for a CTE Program, high truancy and other at risk factors identified by the school leadership team. The students will receive a letter, parental phone call and an informational meeting will be held in order to recruit these students into the program. After recruitment meetings we will allow students to sign up onsite or online. The enrollment will remain open until we reach our maximum number of students in each area proposed of the **Next Level U Program**. Each time a student displays at risk behavior (failing grades, truancy, mental health issues, etc) they will be counseled on the benefits of the program and asked to enroll. Regular classroom teachers will assist in student referrals.

GOALS

Goal 1: Provide Academic Enrichment and remediation to meet challenging state academic standards

Goal 1A: Improve achievement in Math 179 are not proficient in Math

Goal 1B: Improve achievement in ELA (Literacy/English) 316 not proficient in ELA

Goal 2: Increase Attendance for the regular school day High truancy 70% truancy

Goal 3: Increase parent and family engagement 25% of parents participate in parent/family activities

Goal 4: Improve student behavior throughout the regular school day 37% had a disciplinary referral

Goal 5: Implement STEM activities Lack of STEM in regular school day

Goal 6: Provide Service Learning Opportunities Community Need

MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES & TOOLS

Obj: At least 50% will maintain and/or increase their grades in math during the school year as measured by report card grades

Measurement Tool: Report card grades, Local assessments & state assessment

Obj: At least 40% of students will increase their ELA grade during the school year based on report card grades

Measurement Tool: Report card grades, SRA assessment tools

Obj: At least 50% of participants will meet/exceed the district's average rate of school day attendance (FY18)

Measurement Tool: School attendance data

Obj: Increase parent involvement activities/family engagement of regularly participating students' parents by 20% each semester as evidenced on EZ Reports data

Measurement Tool: EZ Report data, Sign in sheets, UofA Center data

Obj: Decrease number of disciplinary referrals of regularly participating students for defiance/disrespect by 20% each semester as evidenced from baseline (FY 18 SIR data)

Measurement Tool: Student Incident Report each semester

Obj: At least 60% of students will report a medium to high level of interest/engagement in STEM

Measurement Tool: Student Surveys, EZ Report data

Obj: Increase by 30% the number of regularly participating students who participate in Service Learning activities by May

Measurement Tool: UofA reports, Partner surveys, EZ Reports Data

OPERATIONS

Gadsden City Middle/Emma Sansom Middle and UofA Gadsden propose the 21st CCLC Next Level U Program.

Operating 3:00 -5:30 p.m M-Th (36 weeks). 10 hours per week for a total of 144 days (360 hours) After recruitment takes place of the most at risk students, open enrollment will be announced in various manners (letters, calls, emails). Students will complete enrollment form & student/guardian will attend Orientation. Students enroll until 133 student capacity is met. Participants receive a handbook detailing zero tolerance for misbehavior & expectations of program, program goals/obj. No session on holidays.

Nutritious snack served by CNP daily

Daily Program Activities

Academic Enrichment is a 15:1 Math remediation / ELA remediation Homework assistance Enrichment is personal fitness, organized sports, art (visual/performing) music athletics CTE awareness/learning Life Skills STEM includes hands on learning in science, technology, engineering and math with project based learning, robotics and makerspace

1:15 students per rotation Groups rotate daily

Rotation 1

3:00-3:45 Academic Enrichment 3:45-4:30 Enrichment 4:30-5:00 Health Nutrition/Wellness/Physical Activity 5:00-5:30 STEM/CTE

Rotation II

3:00-3:45 Enrichment 3:45-4:30 Health Nutrition/Wellness/Physical Activity 4:30-5:00 STEM/CTE 5:00-5:30 Academic Enrichment

Rotation III

3:00-3:45 Health Nutrition/Wellness/Physical Activity 3:45-4:30 STEM/CTE 4:30-5:00 Academic Enrichment 5:00-5:30 Enrichment

Rotation IV

3:00-3:45 STEM/CTE 3:45- 4:30 Academic Enrichment 4:30-5:00 Enrichment 5:00-5:30 Health/Nutrition/Wellness/Physical Activity

Summer School Schedule

Will operate 8:00-5:00 (9 hours per day) during the summer session (5 weeks) May 26- June 28 M-Th 36 hours per week

[180 hours total]

GMS/ESMS propose to recruit and hire the most qualified, motivated staff to reach Goals 1-6. The Program Director will post jobs with descriptions, interview and recommend who to hire. The team voted to hire multiple teachers for the positions in order to rotate the teacher and ensure students have access to multiple teachers to ensure academic success. The UofA staff will assist with staff training and development.

PARTNERSHIPS

Partners will assist in Goals 1-6 both onsite & at the UofA Center

School District Partnership See MOU onsite

Gadsden City CNP Johnny Parker 256.543.3512 Healthy snacks/lunch

Gadsden City Federal Programs Hector Baeza 256. 543.3512 Inkind services for PD, SRB Programs, ELL CAMP, Program Director's Salary

Community Based Organization/Non Profit Onsite and at UofA

Center for Cultural Arts 256. Field Trips/STEAM

United Way Joanne Hightower 256.547.2581 Will assist with personal needs of students through counselor referral and classes for parents onsite and UofA

211 First Call for Help Ruth Moffatt 256.547.2581 Emergency Assistance for 21st CCLC Participants [social services]

Family Success Center Tammy Jackson 256.547.6888 Will provide services and meetings for parenting classes on anger management, financial literacy at UofA

YMCA Leroy Falcon 256.547.4947 Fitness classes for families at discounted rate at YMCA site

Etowah County Cooperative Extension Karen Hurst 256.547.7936 Healthy Meal Prep Info at UofA for families

Gadsden Museum of Art Jill Edwards 256.546.7365 Art Instruction on Site

Community Theatre Mike Beecham 404.916.5967 Performing Art Instruction on site & at RITZ

Gadsden Public Library Nicole Papa 256.549.4699 Assistance with research projects for participants at library

Chamber of Commerce 256. Community Calendar of Events for Families/Job Postings

Community Based Health Organization/Non Profit Onsite

Quality of Life Karen Parker 256.439.6308 Wellness Checks onsite for students/parents each semester

AL Cooperative Extension USNAP-Ed Andrea Morris 256.372.8082 Programming/Goods/ Services/Nutrition & Health onsite

ADPH Davia Adams 256.771.6043 Programming and Fitness Curriculum onsite

CED Mental Health

Governmental Agency Onsite

City of Gadsden Summer Feeding Contract Jennifer Gipson 256. 349.4679 Nutritious Meals

City of Gadsden Tracci Cordell 256.549.4556 Recruitment/Sustainability

County Commissioner Jefferey Washington 256.549.5300 Mentors/Volunteers/Character Ed

For Profit Onsite

Woods Transportation Transportation to Field Trips/Program

Advisory Council is comprised of School Admin/Regular day teacher/Program Staff/ Partner/Community Stakeholder/UofA staff and a parent. The AC will meet once each semester and again at the end of summer to review External Evaluation data. The meetings will take place at lunch during the school day. An agenda will be given by the P. Director, minutes will be kept and posted on the website and available for the review of the ALSDE during monitoring

EVALUATION ACTIVITIES

STAKEHOLDERS

The stakeholders of the GMS/EMS Next Level U program include students, parents, teachers and community leaders. Each group play a crucial role in the CCLC. The students were asked what needs they had. They also will be the main stakeholders in the implementation of the grant. Student surveys as well as observations and interviews will be used to gain more information from this stakeholder group. Parents surveys and

interviews will be used to gain more perspective on parental engagement. Teacher surveys and interviews will be used to determine the impact of the program on the regular school day.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the external evaluation is to determine the effectiveness of the program goals as well as the response of all stakeholders to the grant's implementation. All programmatic goals will be evaluated, and evidence will be gathered to determine how well the federal funds were utilized for the program. There are 6 programmatic goals with measurable objectives. Evaluation questions for each of the measurable objectives are as follows:

Goal 1: Provide Academic Enrichment and remediation to meet challenging state academic standards

Goal 1A: Improve achievement in Math. 179 are not proficient in Math

Obj: At least 50% will maintain and/or increase their grades in math during the school year as measured by report card grades

Measurement Tool: Report card grades, Local assessments & state assessment

Goal 1B: Improve achievement in ELA (Literacy/English). 316 not proficient in ELA

Obj: At least 40% of students will increase their ELA grade during the school year based on report card grades

Measurement Tool: Report card grades, SRA assessment tools

EVALUATION QUESTIONS for GOAL 1

1. Did 50% of (30+ day) students maintain and/or increase their grades in math during the school year as measured by report card grades.?

2. Did 40% of (30+ day) students increase their ELA grade during the school year based on report card grades?

Goal 2: Increase Attendance for the regular school day High truancy 70% truancy

Obj: At least 50% of participants will meet/exceed the district's average rate of school day attendance (FY18)

Measurement Tool: School attendance data

EVALUATION QUESTION for GOAL 2

3. Did 50% of (30+day) students meet or exceed the district's average rate of school day attendance?

Goal 3: Increase parent and family engagement 25% of parents participate in parent/family activities

Obj: Increase parent involvement activities/family engagement of regularly participating students' parents by 20% each semester as evidenced on EZ Reports data

Measurement Tool: EZ Report data, Sign in sheets, UofA Center data

EVALUATION QUESTION for GOAL 3

4. Did parental involvement of (30+ day) students' parents increase by 20% each semester?

Goal 4: Improve student behavior throughout the regular school day 37% had a disciplinary referral

Obj: Decrease number of disciplinary referrals of regularly participating students for defiance/disrespect by 20% each semester as evidenced from baseline (FY 18 SIR data)

Measurement Tool: Student Incident Report each semester

EVALUATION QUESTION for GOAL 4

5. Did the number of disciplinary referrals for defiance/disrespect of (30+ day) students decrease by 20% each semester?

Goal 5: Implement STEM activities Lack of STEM in regular school day

Obj: At least 60% of students will report a medium to high level of interest/engagement in STEM

Measurement Tool: Student Surveys, EZ Report data

EVALUATION QUESTION for GOAL 5

6. Did 60% of students report a medium to high level of interest/engagement in STEM as seen in students surveys?

Goal 6: Provide Service Learning Opportunities Community Need

Obj: Increase by 30% the number of regularly participating students who participate in Service Learning activities by May

Measurement Tool: UofA reports, Partner surveys, EZ Reports Data

EVALUATION QUESTION for GOAL 6

7. Were there 30% more students participating in a service learning project by May, 2021?

DATA COLLECTION AND METHODS

The evaluator will visit both sites in the winter, spring, and summer. During those visits, the evaluator will use NIOST APT observations to measure effectiveness of program

implementation. For each evaluation question posed, the evaluator will request data from the needed data instrument in order to gain access to the information needed. EZ reports will be used to complete all logistics as well as demographic information. EZ reports will also be used to gain access to survey data captured by the CCLCs.

Based on the goals and objectives, the following data sets will be required:

1. Goal 1: Report card data for math and ELA for all 30+ day students will be needed for all semesters.
2. Goal 2: Attendance data for the regular school days for all 30+ day students will be needed as well as the district's ADA.
3. Goal 3: Parental involvement numbers of all 30+ day students' parents will be needed.
4. Goal 4: Discipline records for all 30+day students will be needed.
5. Goal 5: Student surveys concerning interest in STEM will be needed.
6. Goal 6: Number of completed service learning projects will be needed.

First of all, the external evaluator always requests that no personal student data be sent to the evaluator. Once the external evaluator has completed the final evaluation report and it has been accepted by the CLC as well as the SDE, the evaluator shreds all site related documentation that was provided.

USING THE RESULTS

The information and feedback received from the evaluation will be used in two ways. First, positive aspects of the program will be acknowledged and steps will be taken to continue the workings of those aspects. Second, should areas of concern be discovered as a result of the evaluation, steps will be taken to eliminate those concerns by addressing them as a part of a program improvement plan. It will be the task of the program director in conjunction with administrators and program teachers to ensure that necessary changes for program enhancement are carried out.

Evaluation results will be shared with administrators, teachers, advisory council members, partners, board of education members, and others who may have a vested interest in the program and its outcomes. The information will also be shared with the State Department of Education. The method of sharing information with all parties will be by

written reports and oral presentations in meetings with interested groups where appropriate.

Feedback and solicitations from stakeholders will be welcomed. Discussions in meetings and entertaining questions whether written or verbal from stakeholders will be utilized to gain their perspectives of the program.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Logic Model

Appendix 2: Timeline

Next Level U Logic Model

Inputs	Outputs		Outcomes	Performance Measures	Goals
\$200,000.00 Community Partnerships Curriculum Technology Teachers Tutors Facilities Transportation STEM UoA Volunteers Government Agencies	Academic Enrichment Math remediation / ELA remediation, Homework assistance Enrichment physical fitness, STEAM hands on learning in science, technology, engineering and math with project based learning, robotics and makerspace Khan Academy Parenting classes from UofA CTE Pathways Life Skills	More opportunities to provide parental training. Meetings to inform parents of student academics. Increased focus on technology, literacy, and mathematics in all sessions included in the 21st CCLC program. Increased opportunities for students to participate in STEM activities and projects. More opportunities for students to experience success. More academic remediation, enrichment, and homework help.	Improved report card grades, standardized test scores in reading and math. Improvement in overall attendance of participants. Improvement in the parental involvement and support of students. Improvement in student behavior based on academic success. Improvement in the implementation of STEM activities for students Increased opportunities for students to provide services.	Goal #1A: Improve achievement in math. <small>Did 50% of students participating 30+ days maintain or increase their grades in math as measured by quarterly report card grades?</small> Goal #1B: Improve achievement in ELA <small>Did 40% of students participating 30+ days increase their ELA grade during the school year based on quarterly ELA report card grades?</small> Goal #2: Increase Attendance for the Regular School Day <small>Did 50% of participating students (30+ days) meet or exceed the district's average daily rate of attendance established in 2018?</small> Goal #3: Increase parent and family engagement. <small>Each semester, did parental involvement in activities and family engagement of 30+ day students increase by 20% from fall to spring?</small> Goal #4: Improve student behavior <small>Did the number of disciplinary referrals of 30+ day students decrease by 20% each semester as proposed using FY18 SIR discipline date as a baseline?</small> Goal #5: increased STEM Interest <small>When surveyed, did 60% of 30+ day students report a medium to high interest in STEM proposed activities provided by the program?</small> Goal #6: Increased Service Learning projects <small>Did at least 30% of regularly participating students participate in a service learning activity by May.</small>	Goal 1: Provide Academic Enrichment and remediation to meet challenging state academic standards Goal 1A: Improve achievement in Math Goal 1B: Improve achievement in ELA (Literacy/English) Goal 2: Increase Attendance for the regular school day Goal 3: Increase parent and family engagement Goal 4: Improve student behavior throughout the regular school day Goal 5: Implement STEM activities Goal 6: Provide Service Learning Opportunities Community Need

Timeline of Events

Gadsden City Middle School/Emma Sansom Middle School Next Level U

2021-2022 Grant Implementation

Dec	Jan	Feb-Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
<p>1. Initial meeting with evaluator. Nov 16</p> <p>2. First onsite meeting with all site directors and evaluator to go through evaluation plan - Nov. 16</p> <p>3. Evaluation Plan submitted to ALSDE – Dec. 15.</p>	<p>1. Mid-year report - Jan. 30th</p>	<p>1. Surveys completed for all stakeholders. - TBD</p> <p>2. Onsite visit from evaluator for additional information. TBD</p>	<p>1. All data for attendance and discipline due by the end of school for analysis. - TBD</p> <p>2. All surveys completed and data sent to evaluator. TBD</p>	<p>1. All testing data provided to evaluator to begin end of academic reporting. - TBD</p> <p>2. Onsite visit of summer program activities and data collection. - TBD</p>	<p>1. Evaluator will continue working on the final analysis.</p>	<p>1. Evaluator will continue working on the final analysis.</p>	<p>1. Final evaluation of the 2020-2021 21st CCLC implementation due – Sept 15</p> <p>2. Onsite delivery of evaluation. - TBD</p>