

Mt. Diablo Unified School District
Crossroads High School Application for RFP 1121
Project Summary

It is the goal of Crossroads High School to maintain existing programs which have enriched and improved the lives of our students and their children. Our project will continue to support our struggling readers. An assessment program is used by our reading teacher to track growth. California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) results have not been released, but to date 78% of students enrolled in English classes received a grade of C or better. This can directly be attributed to the individual attention the students receive. To further their writing and comprehension ability the reading teacher has been working to transfer these skills across curricular areas. While observing a small group I notice students are reading more fluently and with greater confidence. We continue to experience growth in math, but at a slower pace. Being able to fund an instructional assistant for the classroom has allowed students to receive more individual attention. For the November CAHSEE testing period we had a 44% pass rate compared to last years 35%. The results of the census test in February have not yet been released. A challenge we are facing, with our newly enrolled students, is that they lack fundamental understanding of math concepts. We deal with many students who are not completely competent in various areas, but they have a basic understanding and are able to use a calculator in order to work a problem. To address the issue we are teaching AIMS (pre-intro to algebra) class. We purchased a hands-on pre-algebra program from UCLA.

The emotional and social mental health of our students is addressed by our full time counselor, Spanish counselor, and psychologist. These staff members are worth their weight in gold. We have experienced several forms of depression this year – dysthymic disorder (don't feel like myself/low energy/cranky) and major depressive disorder which is brought on by post partum depression. We have been alerted to the increase in depression through counseling sessions which has highlighted the concern for child abuse or neglect. A new relationship we formed this year, to help in this area, is with Contra Costa County Mental Health Services. We have experienced several domestic violence issues between our students and their baby's father.

Our Senior Project class has twenty-six students and is working well. The students prepare a portfolio which consists of transcripts, letters of recommendation, various types of applications, and information about colleges. We are in the process of developing an interactive website so past graduates will be able to let us know where they are and what they are doing. We don't ever want to lose track of a student and her baby.

The goal of our project is to provide a solid academic background in reading and math leading to self reliance which will break the cycles of poverty, abuse, and violence. Our goal is to strengthen parenting skills, develop healthy family relationships, and provide an outlet where students can feel comfortable sharing their concerns. What they take away from Crossroads will ideally guide them to make the right choices in life, leading to future success and happiness.

Crossroads serves pregnant and parenting teens. Our population consists of students living in the MDUSD attendance area. We accept special education students as well as English learners. Students range in age from 14–19. Extended family members are encouraged to accept our support and resources.

Our plan of action is to secure funding to maintain the current positions of: psychologist, Spanish counselor, reading teacher, math instructional assistant, and senior project coordinator. Looking for every opportunity to support our goals and these positions we have built into our instructional day a tutorial period three mornings a week. We have a mentoring period once a week where students meet with staff to brainstorm solutions to pressing issues in their lives. A new plan for next year is the offering of a career technical education class (CTE). The class is medical terminology and is the introductory class for all medical programs through the MDUSD adult education program.

The Crossroads program mirrors the Guiding Principles of FACT and addresses all three funding priorities. This proposal will touch upon all, but focus on priority number two. Wraparound support services we offer to our pregnant and parenting teens are: public health nurse two days a week, Spanish and English counseling, academic counseling, weekly mentoring and tutoring, parenting and life skill classes, a senior project transition class, and on site child care.