

GAP (Gateway Afterschool Program)

Evaluation Summary

Goals/Objectives

Program Goal: To improve student performance through the district's 21st Century Gateway After-school Programs (GAP) by providing academic and life enriching learning activities for students and their families in an environment that is safe, healthy, and fosters positive relationships.

To meet the overall goal of the Gateway Afterschool Program (GAP), the following objectives guide programming which meet the needs of the students and grant requirements. The program schedules provide a combination of academic focus (Tutoring, Homework Help, Math, Language Arts, Science) along with “fun” academic enrichment and physical education activities to keep students interested in and attending the daily program offerings. Annual program evaluation includes parent, student, and teacher surveys of program activities, School Climate & Connectedness Survey, SBA test results comparisons, attendance (ADA/ADM & GAP) and written recommendations from the program evaluator. Program evaluation information is shared with staff and stakeholders such as school board members, parents, and students. Changes are made to program activities based on annual evaluation information that focuses on the overall program goal. Balancing an emphasis on academics with “fun” activities that will keep kids coming to the program is always a challenge but we continue to seek out activities that are a combination of both. GAP is successful for many reasons - strong community support and partnerships; dedicated local staff that strive to provide a program that supports school success and the participation of students in a positive school-learning environment.

The objectives that support the overall program goal are as follows:

Regular 21st Century GAP attendees will:

- **improve their proficiency level of SBA scores in the areas of reading and writing and**
- **students who scored above proficiency in reading will at least maintain their level of achievement.**

Students who are regular 21 Century GAP attendees will:

- **improve their proficiency level of SBA scores in the area of math and**
- **students who scored above proficiency in Math will at least maintain their level of achievement.**

Students who are regular 21 Century GAP attendees will:

- **report less incidents of fear, bullying, harassment on the School Climate & Connectedness Survey than the previous year and;**
- **demonstrate an improvement in social competence, problem-solving skills, autonomy, and sense of purpose and future after participation in GAP**

Students who are regular participants in 21st Century GAP will:

- **have higher attendance rates in school than non- GAP attendees.**

GAP evaluation findings show that the majority of the school sites are “utilizing GAP for the benefits of the students and accomplishing the goals of the program.” One of the school sites with challenges restructured their GAP program for the 2010-11 school year and as a result has seen a marked improvement in daily attendance and participation in program activities.

Success Stories/Program Feedback:

- “GAP attendance supported learning” as documented in formal program evaluation;
- “Like it when my child comes home and says, ‘know what I did in GAP today?’”, students want to participate;
- Like focus on strengthening reading, writing, math skills through engaging activities such as science crafts, cooking

Comments from parent surveys:

- Like strong focus on art, fitness, and music as part of activities;
- Fill gaps in public school opportunities, providing activities that support/promote the local culture of our communities;
- My daughter loves going to kindergarten GAP and we really enjoy the special community events;
- Gives my children the opportunity to interact with others, important in our communities where distance and weather often lead to isolation;
- Like the opportunity for my kids to be exposed to creative thinking, arts, fun activities
- Providing extra things (activities) my children would otherwise not have access to
- Helps kids get homework done, explain/reinforce daily schoolwork, and support the efforts of the school day.