

Question	Response
<p>There are clear impacts from the reduction in SIA funding and from the direct efforts to respond to COVID-19. While you can't fully set those aside, what is important for your community, including focal student groups, families, and educators, to understand about your SIA implementation efforts during the 2020-21 school year and the positive impacts that have occurred? How were you able to make progress towards the goals and outcomes you were aiming at with SIA funding and processes? (500 words or less)</p>	<p>Bend-La Pine Schools focused on its two most important priorities with our reduced funding for 20-21, though we used most of our funds on class size reduction. With this move, we were able to staff our pre-existing online program with enough staff to serve students and families who did not want to return to brick-and-mortar schools when they opened. In addition, we reduced class sizes to ensure that students could maintain the distances required by RSSL guidelines. We were able to open our schools to full time in-person learning K-2 in late January and hybrid instruction 3-12. Then in early April, all students K-12 were able to return to full time in-person learning. In terms of support for our SEL initiative, we were able to design programming with our consultants, complete the hiring of our director, get training for leadership teams, and hire staff to start the 21-22 school year. We consider both these implementation efforts big successes for our district.</p>
<p>What barriers, impediments, or challenges to your SIA implementation have you faced or identified that are helpful for your community and/or state leaders to be aware of? (500 words or less)</p>	<p>With our reduced funding, we could only make incremental progress toward our goals. Our late hiring of the director for social, emotional, and mental well being meant that our school and district leaders didn't have all the training and deep understanding they needed to support the programming in their schools. We are working on some "remedial efforts" in that process now and will continue that work through this school year. While we were excited to hire a director of retention and recruitment, our HR department was so overwhelmed with</p>
<p>SIA implementation includes ongoing engagement with focal students, the families of focal students, and educators. What successes and challenges, if any, have you experienced in maintaining engagement? (500 words or less)</p>	<p>We have put several processes and practices into place to ensure ongoing engagement, and are planning at least one other major initiative. Beginning in January, 2021, we are annually administering the Youth Truth survey to all students in middle and high school, all staff, and all families. This tool is rich with information related to our district priorities. Second, at the same time we created a district equity coalition, a group of students and former students, families, community members, and staff who meet monthly to address district</p>
<p>Please share your professional assessment of what guided your choices and prioritization efforts in the first year of SIA implementation? What stands out? Anything important or surprising to report back or reflect on? How were key decisions on scaled down implementation made? What impacts, if any, are helpful to name in how you navigated through the last year, specifically as it relates to SIA implementation? (500 words or less)</p>	<p>As mentioned above, our district placed a very high priority on opening our schools for in-person instruction during the 20-21 school year. Our January/February reopenings were months sooner than any other of the largest districts in the state. And many of those districts never offered full-time in person learning last year. Without SIA funds to support us in reducing class size and expanding our online programming, this would not have been possible.</p>
<p>URL of webpage where your annual report is posted:</p>	<p>https://www.bend.k12.or.us/SIP</p>
<p>Please attach a copy of the Board Minutes to this line using the paperclip icon to the left.</p>	