

Student Investment Account Annual Report Questions

This Student Investment Account Annual Report Questions template aims to help districts organize narrative responses to questions prior to submitting their Annual Report via SmartSheet. **Please note that this template will not be submitted** to the Oregon Department of Education; rather it is a tool to support grantees in compiling the necessary information that will need to be cut and paste into SmartSheet.

Annual Report Questions

District or Eligible Charter School	
<p>1. 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><i>Explainer: In your response to this question, consider what is most important to share with your community about SIA implementation over the last year. As you reflect on the progress made toward the goals and outcomes you were aiming at with SIA funding, consider and speak to the impacts to student mental and behavioral health, and the reduction of academic disparities for focal students.</i></p>	<p>It is true that there was a reduction in SIA funding, but since we were not holding in-person learning to start the year, it is hard to assess the impact of the reduction.</p> <p>Adding staff has been incredibly impactful. The additional FTE that are funded by SIA has allowed us to invest in early learning, invest in elementary behavior interventions and prepare for additional electives at the secondary school. It takes more adults to meet the needs of the students we have today, and their needs are greater because of the pandemic.</p>
<p>2. 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><i>Explainer: Through this question, we're aiming to understand barriers and challenges that you experienced or faced in SIA implementation that would be helpful to share with students, families, communities and ODE.</i></p>	<p>Some of our plans involved travelling to other districts to observe, and COVID made that impossible. Because we were dealing with distance learning and trying to just keep things going, we did not focus on the Professional Development/Tiered-Systems of support in a formal way. Much of last year's focus was on staying connected to students and families and trying to teach students where they were. With all of the changes that were released regarding metrics, reopening, distance learning and everything else that came with RSSL last year, our SIA implementation suffered.</p>

Annual Report Questions

3. 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)

Explainer: What we're seeking through this question is a reflection of successes and challenges (if any) in engagement over the first year of SIA implementation. We recognize this question may feel a little redundant to one of the recent SIA Plan Update questions; however, we're hoping to get a little more depth in understanding engagement in general over the year, not just as it relates to informing updates to the SIA plan.

We used up most of our community engagement bandwidth to solicit feedback regarding opening, distance learning and resuming in-person instruction. We struggle to get much participation from community members and stakeholders and have found that those who want to respond and give input will fill out surveys. We tried not to overuse that communication tool, and so we did not use it for SIA communication. In-person meetings were not possible. Engagement in 20-21 was incredibly difficult.

4. 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)

Explainer: In your response to this year, we'd like to hear specifically what guided your prioritization of some activities/strategies over others in light of the reduction in funding and/or shifting community needs. Within this question, you may also offer learnings or surprises that were unanticipated.

We used our Strategic Plan to see how we could utilize our SIA funds to meet the goals in that plan. We know that investment in early learning can save money in the long-run. We know that having dedicated personnel to help with social/emotional learning and behavior is a benefit to both staff and students. We followed through with purchasing the things we would need to start up an art program in 2021-22. We worked to prioritize all the parts of our plan that directly impacted students. The community engagement process, and the parts of our plan that were peripheral to students took a backseat. This was more a result of COVID-related restrictions than a reduction in funding. However, if we had opened the school year in person with a regular schedule, we would have felt the reduction in funding differently.