

### 2021-22 Student Investment Account Annual Report

*Union Community: Please let us know what you appreciate most about our efforts in 2021-22. What would you like to see in the upcoming years? Please reach out to Carter Wells at [carter.wells@unionsd5.org](mailto:carter.wells@unionsd5.org) with your feedback and ideas.*

Required Question	Responses
<p>1. What changes in behavior, actions, policies or practices have you observed related to SIA implementation during the 2021-22 school year? How do you see these changes contributing to the goals and outcomes in your SIA plan? (500 words or less)</p>	<p>We knew reducing class size and adding electives was important. But, we were not prepared for the utter transformation in student and teacher mental health and engagement. Students want to come to school because of the course offerings. Teachers have the breathing room in their daily work to be both more productive and fully present for students, which creates a positive and welcoming environment for students and improved our school climate as a whole.</p> <p>I saw this tremendous difference through my classroom observations. The addition of new staff has noticeably reduced class size, particularly at the elementary level where some classrooms are under 20 and teachers are able to provide more individualized support to students. At the secondary level, students in Math are positively responding to instruction that is more hands-on and project-based.</p>
<p>2. What barriers or challenges to SIA implementation have you experienced that are helpful for your community and/or state leaders to be aware of? What adjustments, if any, did you make to your SIA plan as a result of these challenges? (500 words or less)</p>	<p>In eastern Oregon, building construction has slowed to a crawl due to labor shortages and our project was no different. Construction was finally completed over the Summer of 2022. We were grateful for the patience of our new instructor and his students and for ODE's automatic extension for expending the funds over the summer months.</p> <p>Likewise, hiring teachers is a challenge. We appreciate that our veteran staff, board and community recognize the value in supporting our early career teachers.</p>
<p>3. SIA implementation includes ongoing engagement with all students, focal students, families, staff, and community partners. How have relationships with or between those groups changed and/or been maintained throughout this academic year? Consider the <a href="#">Community Engagement Toolkit</a> and where your efforts might land on the Levels of Community</p>	<p>Listening to and acting on the feedback from our stakeholders helped the district maintain a positive working relationship during a very tough time that has torn other communities apart. For example, the community rallied around bringing back our woodshop program after 40 years and local businesses are supporting the program's efforts to help students understand and prepare for the rural job market. Students, parents, staff, community members and local business partners have provided lots of positive feedback about the reduced class sizes and the electives adding relevancy. Also, the smaller class sizes help</p>

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Engagement spectrum as you complete your response. <i>(500 words or less)</i>	students feel more comfortable in the classrooms. Although it varies depending on the project, we have ventured well into the level 2-4 territory of the spectrum.
4. As you think about what guided your choices and prioritization efforts in this year of SIA implementation, what stands out? How will what you've learned this year impact future SIA implementation efforts? <i>(500 words or less)</i>	During our planning for this biennium, our focus was on honoring and prioritizing the feedback we received from our staff, students and community. At the time, we didn't know what was around the corner with the pandemic but trusted that the input we received would lead to results we hoped to see in terms of academic success for all of our students. Reflecting on the last year and how well our school year went, it is fair to say the proof is in the pudding. As we embark on our planning for the Integrated Plan in the next biennium, we believe that the trust and goodwill our staff, students, families and community demonstrated in 2021-22 will result in an even stronger plan and additional growth moving forward. Our efforts this year will include showcasing the significant investments that SIA and other funds have made in our buildings over the last couple of years as we ask for feedback and partnership on how to continue to improve the experience for all students.

