21st Century Community Learning Centers

2018-2019

Site Visit Report

Peoples Academy Unbound Program

Submitted by Emanuel Betz 21st **CCLC State Coordinator**



Project Director: Chad Herman

Visit Dates: July 18, 2019, April 10, 2019

Visiting Team: Emanuel Betz (Agency of Education) Suzanne Skaflestad (Winooski School

District) Greg Young (Agency of Education) Kate Bosnich (Rutland City Schools)

Report Date: April 29, 2019

Authority to Monitor

Title IV Part B of the Every Student Succeeds Act Section 4202 (a) (3) (A)

Goals

- 1. To provide accountability and oversight as required by law
- 2. To provide projects with an on-going opportunity to reflect and improve in their practice
- 3. To promote regular dialog and information sharing with and among projects

Response to this Report

Please submit a written response(s) to <u>Emanuel Betz</u>. The responses should include detailed steps to address any 'Findings' and "Priority Action Items" by the date indicated. Recommendations and comments do not require a formal response. See *definitions* below to guide your thinking on how to interpret this report. Items needing a response are numbered sequentially within each column from top to bottom.

Definitions:

- **Findings:** Steps that need to be taken immediately to be in compliance with a law or regulation.
- **Priority Action Items**: Action items requiring follow-up by the grantee to meet a 21C afterschool standard.
- **Recommendations:** Recommendations are judgments that could be classified as a "strong suggestions." They do not require action on the part of a project.
- **Evidence Statements:** Evidence statements are -generated from the team or from observations that warrant sharing. No action is required of a statement.



Overview Narrative

People's Academy's *Unbound* Summer and Afterschool Program were visited for one day in the summer and one day during the school year where interviews were conducted and programs were observed. Documentation was provided and analyzed in its entirety including a self-assessment, program materials, policy handbooks, brochures, planning forms, program artifacts and promotional materials, grant and budget information. Interviews and/or discussions were completed with the project director, superintendent, accountant, principals, teachers, staff, and student apprentices.

The project continues to grow and evolve in a positive direction. Improvements and changes of note since the last visit include:

- A very strong youth centered program approach continues to take root, grow and contribute to a positive educational culture in the building during non-school hours
- The project has successfully weathered multiple project leadership changes in the last year, which intensified effort, while maintaining program efficacy
- A very strong connection to the school day and staff maintains consistency, approach, and the ability to adapt to on-going needs in the project
- The observation component (page twenty-two at the end) exhibited many higher order engagement items that have not normally been observed, due primarily to youth teaching and leading. This indicates that the experience is very powerful and perhaps even transformative for them

Potential growth areas include:

- Developing alternative strategies as possible and available to engage high school youth who could benefit from the program
- Strategic development and staged planning over time in the areas of student teaching, evaluation, data/roster tracking, and funding/sustainability to assure that the project moves forward with systemic purpose, while leveraging work and progress to date

Thank you for all the hard work, as well as preparing for and participating in this process. It should also be acknowledged that the project applied for a 21C investment in this year's round and is on track to be successful. Much work is done as part of that process and much of that work intentionally overlaps, yet hopefully does not duplicate this experience/process. We hope that all the feedback will have a positive impact on the program and youth outcomes and that the needed actions and recommendations will assist in meeting project goals.



Review Area and Alignment to Statewide Evaluation Plan	Evidence and Analysis (Evidence Statements, Recommendations Priority Action Items, Findings)
1. Success Stories	21C grant accepted to be funded with conditions
What is working well and how do you	Strong school support system
know?	Student apprentice program has many youth teaching programs
	Student centered clubs offer choice and variety
	Science Olympiad 3 rd place exhibits success and hard work
	Advisory Board members collaborate and communicate
	Director reports working more hours and comes in early exhibiting ownership and care for the program
2. Challenges/ Lessons Learned	Low attendance days on Monday and Friday
What barriers or challenges are you	Taxi behavior existed, but seating chart has assisted
encountering this year that may be	Identifying high school interest and positive attendance pathways for older youth
affecting the continuous quality	Short class times
improvement of your program?	There is a lot of club switching
What lessons have you learned about	Recommendations
your project and what adjustments will	1. Having a trial period prior to switching clubs is a reasonable approach that has been used successfully
be made to ensure the site is continuously	elsewhere
improving?	2. Do not limit the number of offerings in an effort to drive youth to other clubs.
	There is not a single middle school program that does not have programs that do not work, or have low attendance in selected clubs



3. Youth Centered Leadership and Activity

How are programs youth centered? How do programs support youth leadership?

Youth Centered Activity and Leadership continued- be made to ensure the site is continuously improving?

Suggestion box included 70+ suggestions for programs. Three new clubs resulted

2018 summer camp norms were created with youth and adults together

High school youth were reported as role models in summer camp

Summer counselors in training quote: "This is the easiest job I ever had"

Unbound Apprentice program added two new apprentices this year

Youth advisor group informs programs

Youth Advocacy Club created

Youth were part of district hiring team for project director

Two youth present to school board each year

Community Service programming

Director location in classroom allows youth during the day to communicate with director

Recommendations

The youth apprenticeship program remains core to Unbound. Additional structure would enhance the program substantially. A baseline induction, training, and on-going feedback loop is needed. Below are a possible phase two and three that could be implemented over time. Phase Two: implement support structures such as orientation, formal reflection with teachers (debriefs/exit cards/useful observation forms) additional trainings, and summative evaluation data tracking. Have teachers take observations, and do regular pre and post class debriefs for example as they assist. Their time might be leveraged as a more active mentor with these structures. Phase Three: Integrate evidence and structure into the school proficiency system when those are aligned or ready for a pilot. Consider apprenticeship payment by stipend versus by hour.

Quotes: Teacher: "I love the variety of choices-it's huge...it gives everyone something..." He makes lesson plans, checks it with teachers." Youth: "I love teaching them [other youth] about new things... I get to put it together," "My personality has grown," "We've learned leadership," I've learned I need to be a little more strict."



4. Evaluation Plan 5. Local evaluation outcomes What are the components of your comprehensive evaluation plan?	Revised evaluation plan included in approved 2019 Application
6. Equity and Access; Dosage and	End of year data for free/reduced lunch and IEP rates will be produced as part of annual reporting
Numbers	One special education aide was observed in the summer program
Result 1.2: 21c funded programs are open	Eighteen dollar signs on afterschool brochure draws the eye away from other options
for enough hours, days, and weeks to	Summer credit recovery program available in summer, not managed by Unbound
meet student and family needs during the school year.	Fridays programs are smaller with 6-10 youth
	Recommendations
Result 1.3: 21c funded programs provide	1. Program should be open to 5pm or available to those that want or need it
enough summer programming to address summer learning loss	2. Explore all program options/timings and scheduling moving beyond a typical 1 hour enrichment 3. Suggest no more than three dollar signs in brochures and moving the tally to a corner. Use the same language as in spring brochure page 2 about "working things out" on costs
Result 1.4: 21c funded programs have a solid base of regular attendees	5. Flexibly adjust to a slightly longer initial snack and movement choice time prior to programs as need exists
, 0	6. Long term: integrate summer credit recovery and summer camp into one unified program. Build
IEP and Low income rates meet or exceed	integration over time in an intentional manner step by step
school averages*	7. Increase the number of days/weeks that the program meets to meet statewide averages as funds allow
Program income practices do not limit	Quotes
program access *	"There are students who don't know about it."
	" I haven't talked to those who don't come"



7. Leader information	75% school staff teachers, 100% staff are school staff
8. Staffing (Including Licensed	Youth Program Quality Assessment is active
Teachers)	Course proposal structure exists
Result 3.1: 21c funded programs are led	Course proposition of action
by experienced leaders (includes adults	Recommendations
and youth)	1. A comprehensive summer staff orientation is needed covering all items
	2. Summer counselor program needs a clearer structure (see apprentice recommendation above)
Result 3.2: 21c funded programs utilize	3. Formalize proposal structure-with instructor KUD forms completed and exit card reflections
high quality staff to run programs	
Result 3.3: 21c funded programs have	
appropriate staff retention rates	
Result 3.4: 21c leaders participate in	
professional development and networking	
opportunities	
9. Physical activity	15 plus minutes unstructured time with some choices for movement
Result 2.3: 21c programs provide healthy	Physical activity enrichment choices in evidence in sessions (e.g. six in spring brochure)
food and physical activity	2018 Summer program includes movement components
1000	2010 buildier program netuces movement components



10. Linkage to School Day	Unbound evidence has been entered in slide shows as PLP
	School procedures are the same as Unbound procedures
	Program Director and project listed in middle level school handbook
	Consistent expectations with school day in evidence with minor differences
	Support staff and teachers are school staff
	School spaces are available for program
	Morning homework club has lighter participation this year
	Recommendations
	1. Create clear written policies that differ from the day (for example, technology)
	Director quote: "There is not one person who is not supportive."
	Superintendent: "It's an important part of the culture"
11. Culminating end products or	Examples:
performances	Origami art, Photography portfolios, ceramics
Result 2.2: 21c funded programs allow	3D printed products
participants to experience interests in	Recorded student work in studio
depth	Unbound live demonstrations
	Science Olympiad 3 rd place
Result 2.4: 21c programs support	Student taught classes
learning	
	Recommendations
	Develop more intentionality in this area as part of summer programs



12. Intentional Academic	
Components	

Result 2.4: 21c programs support learning

Does the site have at least one program strategy, beyond homework help, that is specifically designed to support students who are performing below grade level or struggling academically?

Youth are targeted or referred to summer program

Summer intervention camp

Tutoring programs

Step it Up

Youth quote: "In Unbound you are learning in a fun way."

13. Sustainability and partnerships

Result 4.2: 21c funded programs utilize diverse sources of funding

Result 4.3: 21c funded programs benefit from meaningful community partnerships

Local funding in application at 61k

Program income/Revenue is down 40% this year

Bay and Paul foundation funding

Six partnerships discussed-new partnerships addressed in 21C application

Director has been cold calling partners

No volunteers

Recommendations (Major items addressed in 21C application process)

- 1. Partnership approach: Determine first what youth desire, then seek out aligned partnerships
- 2. Investigate existence of PTO and make connections
- 3. More field trips needed as funds allow
- 4. Could Craftsbury Outdoor Center and their bikes be leveraged?
- 5. Could deeper connections be made with the town of Morrisville?

Quote: "I would love to have four field trips a year."



Informal outreach to families
Director has talked to many parents on the phone but has not met them face to face
Unbound Live presentations will offer an opportunity to meet
Recommendations 1. Develop a system to notify new incoming parents about Unbound. For example, invite them to Unbound Live, send targeted letters and brochures. 2. Implement a parent survey
NA NA
Unbound has its own packet in each room
Fire drill completed
Safety systems are the same as the schools'
Incidents follow school procedures
The director is working to become CPR and Lifeguard Certified
All employees trained in ALICE
Aquatic plan in existence
Priority Action Item #1 (June 28, 2019)
 Review standard safety recommendations with school leadership and create summer/afterschool written protocols that differ from the school day due to unique afterschool/summer building realities Assure that parents of younger youth (grades 5/6) receive a call if they are signed up for a program



Recommendations

- 1) Implement comprehensive emergency training for non-school staff whenever they are hired starting in 2019-20
- 2) Utilize a daily overall roster or another method to track overall participation in real time off of one form or viewable screen in case of emergency
- 3) Offer middle school parents the option to receive call backs if youth do not attend

Standard Safety Recommendations

- A) Review, Revise and list all emergency protocols including articulating any variances in protocols from the school day.
- B) Reevaluate training plan, dosage, and tactics to be used for staff, including part-time staff. Articulate training practices and procedures in manual.
- C) Articulate command structure for afterschool inclusive of all programs and people in the building.
- D) Evaluate communication protocols including 'button (intercom) control' and training: empower multiple staff tiers in usage and plan. Articulate any changes to practice in manual.
- E) Articulate reunification center clarity and communication protocols during and following an incident.
- F) Practice alternate drills beyond fire drills that complement school based preparedness schedules and approaches



17. Governance	Advisory Board in place with principals and school day staff but formal meeting has not occurred
How does a governance system meet	Project Director supervisor is changing with principal's retirement
regularly with diverse stakeholders who help guide the program?	Priority Action Item #2 (June 28, 2019)
	Articulate purpose, meeting structure and participants for 2019-20 advisory system.
	Recommendations
	Invite and include parents and community members into the advisory system and regular communications.
18. Budget	Clear communication with business office
How does the director maintain a well-	2017-18 local budget lower than initially approved
developed system and provide sound	Local budget increased to approximately \$61,675 in 21C application
fiscal management for the program?	Quote: "Art club does not have all the materials"
How does the fiscal agent provide proper	
oversight, organizational support, and	Recommendations
fiscal management for the program?	1. Coding for Project Director needs to be changed-adjust in 2019-20 draft budget
	2. Monitor budget for adequate funding for supplies in 2019-20.
19. Annual Performance Report	Based on 17-18 data:
Statewide Evaluation other items	
Which systemic items or expectations	20% of total participants are regular attendees versus 33% statewide goal
may need new strategies or additional	Hours programs are offered weekly are significantly under the national average of 14
funding to be achieved?	In application, number of weeks has been reduced from 30 to 28 versus the state goal of 32.
	Summer program will be 5 weeks in 2019 for the first time.



Program Observations

Youth

Snack Time- Observations began during snack time. All students were actively engaged and were excited to talk about Unbound. This was free social time for students before programming began. Youth were at 15 tables. 5 adults were in the room not counting the observation team. Students were welcoming of peers stopping by tables and actively engaged with them. Students were sitting in small groups or pairs. Student quotes: "I have a lot of friends here and have made new ones," "going outside is really fun even if it's cold outside; there is always something fun to do," "Step Up really helps me get my homework done." At transition time to programs, youth leaders gathered peers for individual groups. Library/Builder Wars- There was a small group of students working on homework, or projects individually. One program in the library run by the 7th grade student and an assistant was well organized and the students signed up for program jumped right in. The 7th grade student said: "I want to give you about 30 minutes to be creative and then I thought it would be fun to do a scavenger hunt since Easter is coming up." She sounded like a teacher and talked very positively about her experience teaching in the program. The youth leader and assistant leader worked well together and shared responsibilities of preparing for the activity. Students were building and decorating treasure chests which would be part of the scavenger hunt. Small groups of students worked collaboratively while the youth leader periodically checked in to gage process and offer support. "How are you guys doing over here? Just want to check in. Looks like you guys have the hang of the activity. Let me know if you have any questions. I'll be back in a few." The 7th grade leader took immense ownership of program. After solving a problem with others she announced with her hands on hips: "Are we all settled here then?"

Step It Up- small groups of students working at a table with a 5:1 student to staff ratio. All students were working on different classwork/projects. Each student has access to technology (tablet, computer). Student lead discussion around homework was occurring: "I have this project to do"....another student: "have you tried looking at this site for information? It really helped me." "I really enjoy Step It Up actually. It's quiet and I can get work done. Even though my mom forces me to go it's not that bad and I actually really like it. The teachers help a lot and make it kind of fun."

Medieval PVC- Students wore home-made armor and reenacting battles or duels. Students created the circumstances of the duel and another student was the referee judging points and adherence to pre-established rules of engagement. After duels students checked in with each other: "Are you okay?" "Sorry if I hit you too hard." Weapons are student designed: "I wanted to build my own weapon so I could add a personal touch to it." Activity level was very high.



Minecraft: Staff person quote about role: "I'm just here for guidance." Student leader was trying to get one student to understand his actions: "Are you allowed to go inside and destroy the house... That is insensitive to other people... You just need to be a bigger person... Destroying others people's work is not cool man... You're not holding up your part of the deal I'm trying to give you a chance." Adult helped student leader after asking if he wanted help with one student. "Yes please, take him for a short walk." This was an exemplary partnership observed between an adult and a student teacher allowing the youth leader space to explore teaching and helping strategies.

Youth Advocacy: Adult was assisting and guiding the student leader of group to succeed. Youth were recounting one positive thing they are looking forward to and then one negative experience. "I went to the teen center yesterday which was fun." "A car flipped in front of my house." "I was up until 11.30 last night because I was worried about a friend." "I'm excited to miss SBACs."

Additional student quotes and experiences

"It is very special because my personality has grown and I have learned a lot of skills. Ms. Anderson is very helpful, she is great." "I love teaching them about new things."

"It is harder to tell the older students what to do but it is amazing teaching. I feel like a part of the club now and we have fun and practice it now that everyone knows how to play.

"Unbound is learning but in a fun way."

A student remarked that her younger assistant has been so helpful in her class setting things up.

Other students talked about how they want students to have a good time in their class. "Being able to be strict is what I have learned."

One youth taught Origami since 7th grade. She saw a video during the school day about Origami, which sparked her interest in attending the class and now she teaches it.

"I had to become a lot more relaxed and be flexible with my plan because I had to throw it out the window and do what the students want to do."

"Being in the group as a student and then as a teacher was very difficult and also very cool. I did not want to talk with anyone at first when I first joined the club."



Staff	Staff were actively engaged with students at all times. I never saw a staff member sitting off to the side. Staff were either sitting with or standing near students. The focus of programming is balanced between student and teacher led programs. There are a variety of choices so it gives everybody something to do. Library- The adult teacher checked students in with a roster and asked students if anyone needed support. Librarian is also the supervisor for the Builder Wars group. Her feedback-"It's really great to see students take on a leadership role and watch them navigate the process." "I have seen tremendous growth in the students who participate in the apprenticeship process." "They really do all of the work and I am here to support as needed, they direct me which is pretty neat to be a part of." Step It Up- Teachers bounced between small groups of students to assist as needed. "Do you need help?' "Tell me more about the challengehow can you build on what you've already done?" "Try one of the questions you don't like first and if you need help I am right over here." Medieval PVC- teacher was participating alongside students in the matches. He explained the students work on learning
	battle strategies prior to the matches. All equipment is student made and students learn the history of the medieval erapractice chivalry when competing and establish rules and point system prior to engagement. Minecraft: See above for how the adult partnered with the student teacher.
	Youth Advocacy: Adult was assisting and guiding the student leader of group to succeed. Youth were recounting one positive thing they are looking forward to and then one negative experience sitting in a circle at desks in a classroom. Adult quotes
	"It's amazing where it is now." "Any student that is doing Unbound, we want to think about how they can add that to their slide shows (as part of their evidence) in their portfolios and does it fulfill a target?"
	Middle School teacher who teaches <i>Step it Up</i> afterschool commented that students want to be in the class afterschool. "It is a confidence booster when they are in the class the next day and they understand what we went over afterschool the day before."
Observations of physical climate,	"The only thing I would add to the program is to include incoming 6th graders in the summer program." All classroom spaces were well organized with ample space and supplies for students to move around during the activities. Equipment was developmentally appropriate. Very welcoming and friendly environment. Youth were excited to talk about their program and show us around. All students have access to technology.
space, set up, and materials	talk about their program and show us around. All students have access to technology. Food: Apple, tuna sandwich, milk, Caesar salad.



	Cooking- Two tables each were sharing a recipe. Having three tables would have allowed for more youth to experience
	hands on cooking. There were only two sets of materials for 9 youth.
	All spaces were appropriate for the classes being offered.
Other	The building had a lot of art in the halls and entry way and felt very homey generally, where non Unbound youth could
observations/actions	make it their own (lounging around, sitting near windows conversing while waiting to leave)
Analysis by reviewers	The youth leadership embedded throughout the program is very impressive and an example of how important it is to afterschool programs. Great model!
	Overall the program seems like a very close knit family! Everyone I spoke to loved being part of Unbound and it was clear the program is a huge part of the school and community culture. From the interviews it was clear the director has made a very positive addition to the program in the short time he has been there. He has a solid understanding in the daily operations and goals of the program. As time progresses the director's plans to reach out to those students not engaging/accessing the program is a great starting point to enhance program equity and access. With new building leadership on the horizon it will be important for the director to continue building relationships with the administration. It may be helpful if the director can get on any administrative teams within the district
	All in all I really enjoyed my visit and thought the program was great! The Director cares about the work he is doing and is very happy to have had the opportunity to interview and be hired as the new Director. He presents as a thoughtful Director, organized, easy to work with and enjoys the work that he is doing. He has been able to jump in at a difficult time of year and be successful so far, which is a credit to his ability to go with the flow.
	The students talked positively about the program and enjoy the classes they have taken in the past and the ones they are currently taking.
	I enjoyed visiting the program as it gave me a different flavor for youth programming. The students take great pride in their work and the staff should feel quite proud it what they have helped the students accomplish with their support and guidance.
	The students were engaged in their classes and having fun. There was positive conversation between the students. Youth leadership is strong at the program. Youth share what they want to see at the school and take steps to make that happen.
	For cooking, the ideal is one station per youth so everyone can do all activities in a hands-on manner.



Afterschool Observations

Spirit: Smilingx Laughingx Choosingx
PlayingxCalming/Relaxingx
Health/Physical: Moving x Eating x Drinking x Handwashing
Dialog: Speakingx Listeningx Questioning _ x Discussingx Explainingx
Doing: Thinking x Reading x Writing x Making x Creating x Designing x
Focusing/Immersingx Perseveringx Productive Failingx Performingx
Reflecting/Evaluating_x Collaborative Problem Solvingx_ Researchingx
Leadership: Leadingx Facilitatingx Planningx Prioritizingx
Social/Emotional: Cooperatingx_
Advocating Helpingx Negotiating _x Empathizing _x
Negativity: Arguing Complaining Not-doing/Not-interested