Systematic Change for Two Large Urban High Schools

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Context

Santa Monica High School
3,114 (3,450)
- 12,500 K-12 Unified School District
- Feeder pattern: two 6-8 Middle schools
- 1 other middle/high school (Malibu)
- Ethnicity: 38.7% White; 38.6% Hispanic, 8.4% African American, 7% Asian, 6.2% 2+% other

Beverly Hills High School
2,054 (2,500)
- 5,200 K-12 Unified School District
- Feeder pattern: four K-8 schools
- Ethnicity: 72.2% White, 5.1% Hispanic, 5.8% African American, 15.3% Asian, 1.6% other
Considerations

- Board policies
- Courses & Pathways
- Intervention & Support
- College Advisement
- Shared Leadership
- Strengthening Pedagogy
- Communication
Policy Changes

• Courses meet UC/CSU entrance requirements A-G
• Units required for graduation
• PE Requirement
• Alternative Credits
• Foreign language options
• Options & Scheduling - 0 period
• Collaboration time for adults
• Tutorials
• Targeted class size reduction
Courses and Pathways

• College preparatory curriculum
• Access to rigorous Honors/AP courses
• 3 years mathematics
• Meet UC/CSU entrance requirements for graduation (BH)
• Alternative Credits
• Increased course options
• 220/230 units (BH)
Intervention and Supports
• Open access to Advanced Placement courses
  – Summer transition and group support (SM)
• After school tutorials – university partnership; Scholarship tutors
• AVID – Advancement via Individual Determination (SMHS; BH-MS)
• Support periods – targeted; math; literacy
• Young Collegians
Counseling

• Ratio 250-275/1 - Counselor/Advisor
• Alignment with Counselor and AP/House Principal
• Intervention counseling (community agencies; peer)
• Summer counseling support
• House structures
  – Small schools (Houses) with teachers assigned in a common location – Santa Monica
  – House with AP and Counselor – Beverly Hills
  – - counselor/student/parent meetings
College Center

- College Counselors
- College Workshops
- College Fairs
- College Visits
- Parent Communication
- Student workshops (financial support)
- School website/profile
- Grade level information meetings
Alternative pathways

- Community College courses on site and at neighboring community colleges
- Summer Bridge – remediation; get-ahead
- Online - remediation/get-ahead with pre-approval, per Board policy
- Regional Occupation Program (CTE)
Shared Instructional leadership

- Teacher leaders (SM)
- Math coaches (SM; BH)
- Department chairs
- Assistant/House Principals
- District Ed Services support
- Teachers on Special Assignment
Strengthening Teacher Pedagogy

- Collaborative instructional planning
- Coaching
- Learning Walks
- Lesson study
- Academic Link
- Smart Slate/Smart Boards
- Document cameras
- Voice Enhancement
- Online Textbook support
- Foreign Language Lab
Why Systemic Change?

“Understand and believe in possibilities”

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