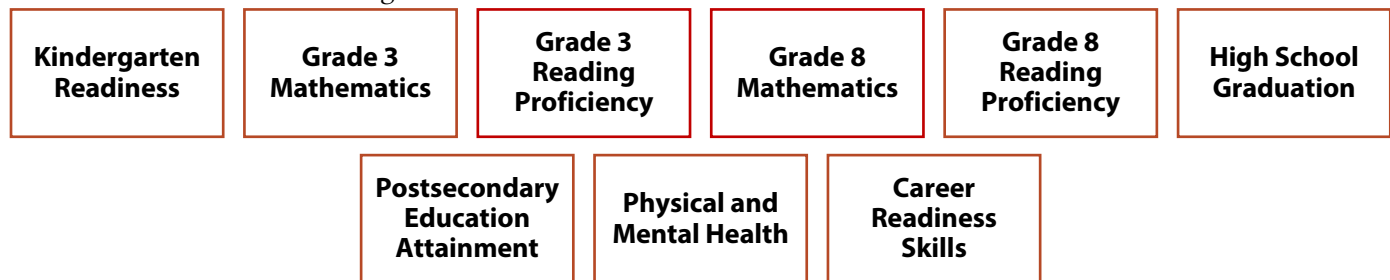


Partnerships for Student Success

Fast Facts (June 2020)

In collaboration with the Utah State Board of Education (USBE), the Utah Education Policy Center (UEPC) conducted an external evaluation of the *Partnerships for Student Success* grant program. The Partnerships for Student Success grant program was created through Utah Senate Bill 67, which was sponsored by Senator Ann Milner and Representative Rebecca Edwards during the 2016 Utah Legislative Session.

The USBE administered the *Partnerships for Student Success* grant through six organizations during the 2018-19 school year. The purpose of this grant is to *improve educational outcomes for low-income students* by funding grantees to *establish and strengthen community partnerships* among *school districts, businesses, government, and non-profit agencies*. The intended outcomes of this grant include:



This grant is unique in that it does not provide funding for grantees to create direct services for students and their families. Instead, it *provides funds to create infrastructure*, with support from technical assistance providers, to *drive community partnerships* and *promote cross-organization support* for students within specific high school feeder patterns.

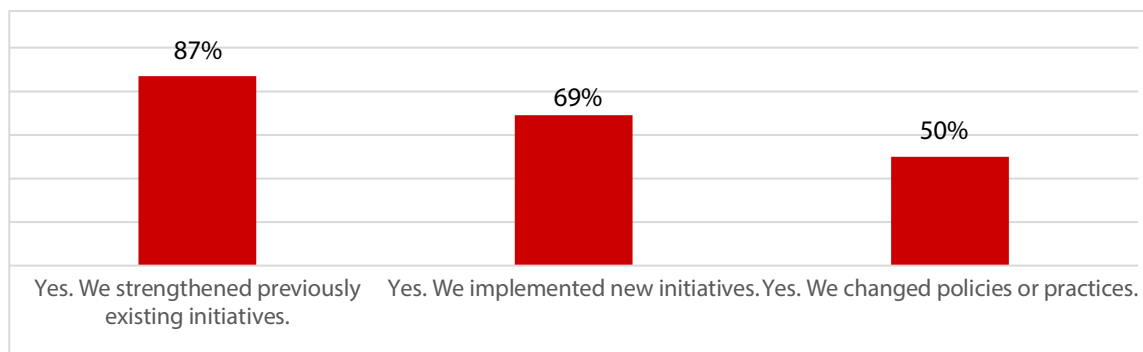
This document provides key findings from the Year Two 2018-19 Evaluation Report, released by the UEPC in May 2020.

Collaboration Among Partners

Most respondents (between **90%** and **100%**) agreed or strongly agreed that partners were working well together to improve student outcomes.

Overall, **93%** of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that partners aligned efforts to promote student success, and **95%** agreed or strongly agreed that partners had a high level of commitment to improve student outcomes.

Did your organization strengthen previous initiatives, implement new initiatives, or change policies or practices to promote student success during the 2018-19 academic year?



Highlights of Progress Towards Intended Outcomes



*North Park Elementary (Weber School District) increased **Third Grade Math Proficiency** by **26%** from 20% in 2017/18 to 46% in 2018/19.*



*East Midvale Elementary (Canyons School District) increased **Third Grade Reading Proficiency** of students who are economically disadvantaged by **31%** from 10% in 2017/18 to 41% in 2018/19.*



*Granite Park Junior High (United Way of Salt Lake City/Granite School District) increased overall **Eighth Grade Math proficiency** by **5%** from 14% in 2017/18 to 19% in 2018/19.*



*Mount Ogden Junior High (United Way of Northern Utah, Ogden School District) increased overall **Eight Grade Reading proficiency** by **10%** from 36% in 2017/18 to 46% in 2018/19.*

Considerations for Program Improvement

Sharing and Using Data: Sixty-two percent of partners reported that they had access to data for the Partnerships for Student Success grant. Among those who reported having access to data, 95% reported that they had access from within their organizations and 55% reported that they had access to at least one type of data from outside their organizations. **Continue to develop and strengthen data sharing agreements among organizations in order to align collective efforts towards student outcomes.**

Understanding Goals: Three fourths (75%) agreed or strongly agreed that partners had a clear sense of their roles and responsibilities in working toward student outcomes, and 81% agreed that partners knew and understood collective goals. **Grantees and partners should revisit their logic models regularly to ensure clear, ongoing communication and cohesion around resources, strategies, and short and long-term goals.**

Communicating Among Partners: The percentage of partners reporting that meetings were effective or highly effective ranged among partners from 46% to 65%. **Ensure that all grantee and partner meetings have clear outcomes that are communicated ahead of time. Utilize the updated logic models to provide a framework for discussion during meetings. Evaluate progress towards intended outcomes at the conclusion of each meeting.**

Information in this Fast Facts is taken from the Year 2 Partnerships for Student Success Evaluation Report by the Utah Education Policy Center. Data sources include: partner survey and student education data. This brief uses data made available through a data sharing agreement between the USBE and the UEPC. The views expressed are those of the authors and are not necessarily the USBE's or endorsed by the USBE.