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Education 411

UCLA

Principal as Researcher

PLI Leadership Proposal Outline

1. TOPIC/RATIONALE

Guiding Question: Will implementing restorative justice practices decrease the number of referrals to the office and lead to increased positive behavior outcomes within students both in and out of the classroom? Will the participation of families in these restorative practices change their outlook of education, their child's identity as a student and increase the positive interactions that they have with their child? Will students and families see themselves as assets rather than deficits within the school?

a. **The topic or issue:**

My topic focuses on the marginalization of students who are repeatedly referred to the office due to instances of misbehavior in the classroom. I'd like to include parents and families in these community circles and restorative justice practices, in order to heal or address wounds that have resulted in their students having a history of misbehavior in the classroom/school.

b. **The marginalized or underserved student group:**

The marginalized group is middle and elementary school students that are referred to the Dean or serving detention and Saturday school.

c. **Rationale and relationship to other school plans or goals:**

Our current behavior program, involves a matrix of tiered student consequences. The Dean typically meets with students and/or families to decide a consequence based on the matrix.

This project has the potential to change outcomes for students who are being referred to the Dean on a recurring basis. The goals is that students will be able to stay in class to maximize learning time, increase student engagement and support classroom management practices, and most importantly, restore/strengthen their identity as learners and positive contributors at the school rather than being associated as "problematic" students in the school setting.

d. Action research team (identification of other teachers, staff, stakeholders) and how they will be involved:

Mixed-panel Team:

The Dean – Mr. Erving

1st grade teacher – Ms. Arcila

5th grade teacher – Ms. Franco

7th/8th grade teacher – Ms. Villanueva

Possibly the vice principal – Mr. De Paz

A parent - ?

A student - ?

We will:

- Meet to discuss/plan upcoming training for the action research team
- Organize and plan parent RJ trainings
- Teacher/whole PD trainings and follow-up strategy PDs

2. POSSIBLE RESEARCH AREAS TO BE REVIEWED IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY ROOT CAUSES AND IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES OR TO UNCOVER HIDDEN INEQUITIES, ANALYZE POLICY, INCREASE AWARENESS

- Referral history with Dean to look at and identify any patterns that may be occurring
 1. Reasons for referrals
 2. Names of kids being referred
 3. Time of day referrals are happening
 4. Teachers making referrals
 5. Look over current positive behavior matrix

- Interviews with students who are serving multiple detentions and/or over-referred to the office and their parents.

3. SCHOOL DATA TO BE ANALYZED:

Survey for teachers, students and parents, student and parent interviews and data from Dean regarding referrals.

4. POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES, OR ACTIONS YOU MIGHT TAKE TO UNCOVER INEQUITIES, INCREASE AWARENESS, AND ANALYZE POLICY