



Sail to Success 2023-2024 Evaluation

An after-school Academic & Social/Emotional Skill Development Program

This program is made possible by a Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) Grant awarded to Hamilton Elementary School in the School District of La Crosse.

The program is offered through a collaboration with the Boys & Girls Club of Greater La Crosse and is located at Hamilton Elementary School, 1111 S. 7th St., La Crosse, WI 54601

Sail-to-Success Education Director

Emily Jensrud

608-789-8461

Emily.Jensrud@bgclax.org



Program Description

Sail to Success is a targeted after-school program focusing on the academic and social and emotional growth of kindergarten - second grade students. The program enrolls students, at no cost to the families, in need of additional support in academics, social and emotional skills or who are disengaged or chronically absent from school. The goals of the program are to:

- Improve English Language Arts and Mathematics scores,
- Increase Social-Emotional Learning Skills,
- Increase Attendance Rates,
- Reduce Discipline Offenses in program participants.

A typical week in Sail to Success offers a variety of educational programs, some of which are based on individuals needs and some curriculum based activities. We offer 1:1 tutoring that is based on the ELA and Math needs of each individual student. We offer Brain Gain which is a group tutoring program that includes activities based on core curriculum. We offer two programs that focus directly on Social Emotional Learning; Youth and Family Services Group and SEL Basketball with the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse Women's Basketball team. We also offer enrichment activities such as SEL art activities, Reading Club, art projects that have ELA and Math components and activities that help develop SEL skills in a larger group setting (10-15 members).

This evaluation was conducted by our internal Sail to Success team:

Andy Kiel Director of Operations Boys & Girls Club of Greater La Crosse 608-784-6073 Andy.Kiel@bgclax.org	Emily Jensrud Director of Education Boys & Girls Club of Greater La Crosse 608-789-8461 Emily.Jensrud@bgclax.org	Jon Zinniel Community Schools Coordinator Hamilton Elementary School School District of La Crosse 608-789-5092 jzinniel@lacrossesd.org
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The evaluation team utilized the "CCLC Yearly Progress Report" and the "Local Evaluation Report Guidelines" to generate this evaluation.

Students Served

51.2% of the students served were from Hamilton Elementary School. The remaining participants served were students from the following elementary schools; Hintgen, State Road, Harry Spence, SOTA I, Emerson and Southern Bluffs. The total number of students served in the program was 41 with an average daily attendance of 27.5 since January 2024.

Program Operation

The program started in October of 2023 after school from 2:40 to 5:30pm throughout the school year. The program operated for 33 weeks with an average of 10 hours per week. The second year of the program will start the first day of school on August 3, 2025.

Staffing

Sail to Success has 5 staff, Education Director - Emily Jensrud (Hired in August, 2023.), Education Coordinator - Kendall (Hired in October, 2023.), and Education Assistants - Gloria (Hired in January, 2024.), Leah and Emeline (Hired in February, 2024.). The staffing ratio on the average day is one staff to five students. The staffing ratio for all students signed up is one staff to ten students. We also collaborate with community partners such as University of La Crosse in offering Reading Buddies and SEL Basketball. During Reading Buddies the ratio of adults to students is 1:1. During SEL Basketball the ratio of adults to students is 1:5.

Progress Toward Objectives

State Goal 1: By August 1, 2023, The Boys and Girls Club will hire an Education Director, Education Coordinator and Education assistants with the necessary skills to work directly with school staff to implement academic and social-emotional curriculum for targeted students.

The Boys & Girls Club of Greater La Crosse was able to obtain the goal of hiring all required staffing and work with the School District of La Crosse to implement academic and social-emotional curriculum. In addition, Sail to Success Director has been trained and is supporting the development of the remaining staff in the areas of: social emotional learning, mental health literacy, reading enrichment, math enrichment and tutoring.

State Goal 2: By the end of each academic year of the grant, the student group attending the program 30 days or more will demonstrate a 25% increase in reading and math proficiency from the beginning of the fall semester to the end of the spring semester using the district universal screener.

Baseline data was collected in the 2023-2024 school year as the first year of the program. The data from 2023-2024 will be compared to next year's data to determine progress. The assessments being used for the data is the School District of La Crosse's benchmark assessment PAST average scores for kindergartners and the iReady average scores for first and second grade participants.

State Goal 3: By the end of each academic year of the grant, 65% of students attending the program 30 days or more will demonstrate growth on at least one item in each SEL domain on a social-emotional self inventory and/or teacher report.

67% of the Hamilton students who participated in the Sail to Success program demonstrated proficiency or growth in social development during the 23-24 school year, per the school district progress reports. Next year, access to this data for participants from the other six elementary schools involved will be explored for a more comprehensive report.

State Goal 4: The Boys and Girls Club will offer monthly family engagement opportunities and 75% of families will participate in at least one in an academic year.

The Boys & Girls Club has offered monthly family engagement nights for all BGC members and four family engagement events specific to Sail to Success members in the 2023-2024 academic year.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Conclusions	Recommendations
Having a separate Sail to Success registration form seemed to be a barrier to some Hamilton students who qualified for the program to register for the program.	To increase services for high risk populations in regards to academic impact by incorporating Sail to Success registration in the general Boys & Girls Club membership requirements to provide a more convenient and efficient registration process.
Our goal for a minimum daily average attendance of 24 participants was not met until the second semester of this past school year.	Increase targeted approaches to increase program participation at Back to School events, continue to build relationships with teachers and staff, encourage teachers and staff to refer students to the Boys & Girls Club Sail to Success education program, and encourage current 4K families to register for the program during the 2024-2025 school year.
The family engagement events were planned for the second semester this past year, delaying the relationship building with families served by the program.	Move the Family Breakfast event to the beginning of the year for an opportunity to build relationships with the families and youth served in the program.
Referrals from school are occurring to the program but the process is informal and could be more effective, helping more youth.	Develop and implement a more formal referral process from schools to the Sail to Success program.
The Sail to Success program only has access to social/emotional assessment data for Hamilton.	The team will work on solutions to gain access to the social/emotional assessment data for the other southside elementary schools involved in the program.
The Sail to Success program would benefit from more specific information from the schools about individual students' needs.	The Sail to Success team is exploring the type of information that would be beneficial for the program and how to access the information.

The Sail to Success Team selected the Wisconsin Afterschool Continuous Improvement Process (WASCIP) for the program's self-assessment tool. The self-assessment has been completed and during the Summer of 2024, an improvement plan will be created to continue building and improving the program started during the 2023-2024 academic year.