



Santa Barbara Unified
Every child, every chance, every day.

PEAC Program Opening Doors to College

Spring 2014 Final Report

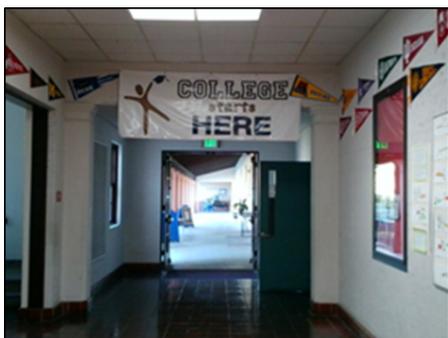
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PEAC- Program for Effective Access to College A Strategy to Support College Readiness

Locally and statewide we continue to witness students from low-income and underrepresented backgrounds not pursuing higher education. Research shows that preparing students to enter college ready begins earlier than high school and should be intentional. Often times, students perform well and are high achievers in elementary and middle school—but begin to “fall through the cracks” once they transition to high school. In order to help close the achievement gap and **change the trajectory of Latino students locally**, La Cumbre Junior High and San Marcos High School have joined to provide coordinated inter-school services to support college readiness for first generation college-bound Latino students living in the Westside community of Santa Barbara.

The goal of the Santa Barbara Unified School District Program for Effective Access to College (PEAC, formerly the Posse Program) is to increase the high school and college graduation rate of low-income Latino students—starting with the San Marcos High School graduating class of 2015 matriculating from La Cumbre Junior High. The program will be replicated in the Eastside community of Santa Barbara with the first 9th grade cohort in the Fall 2015 at Santa Barbara High School. These students, while high achieving, face serious cultural and economic barriers on the path to college. Such challenges include no peer support in high level classes, low parent education levels, lack of academic role models, lack of academic and social supports, lack of English language support and limited resources in the home. The purpose of the PEAC program is to provide academic and social supports that will guarantee students graduate from high school and are prepared for college entry.

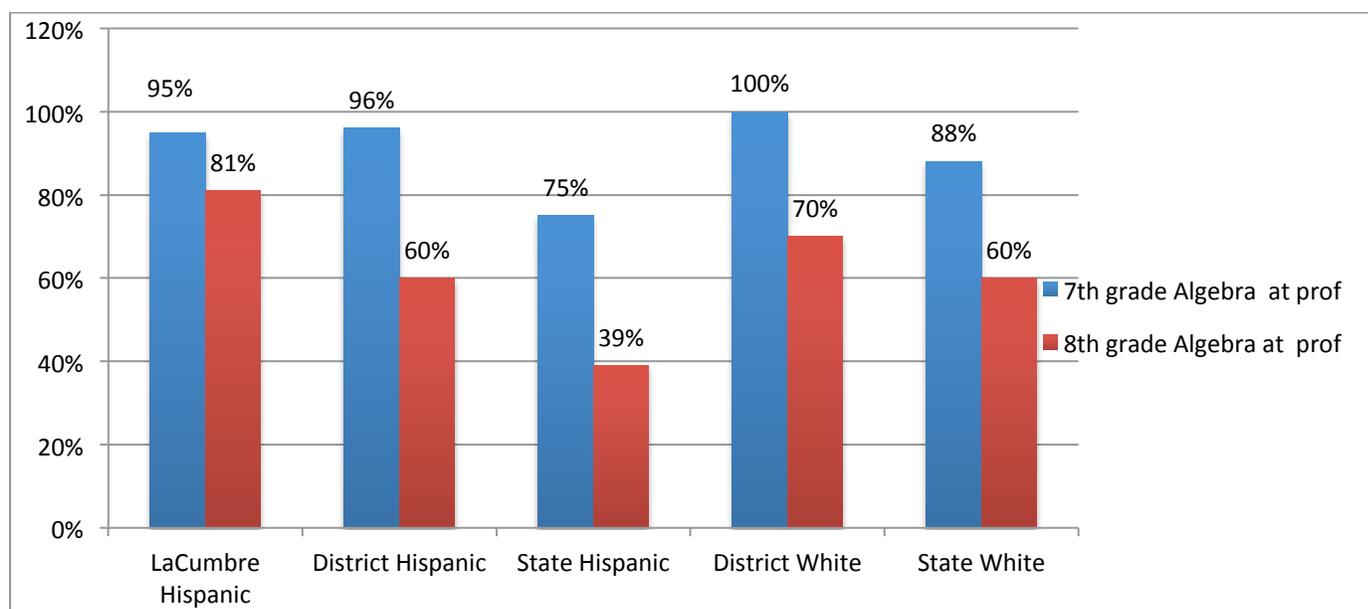


"Our goal is to create a culturally proficient school district, where regardless of what background a student comes from, what language they speak, what color his/her skin is- that they find school to be a place that looks like them, feels like them and supports them in whatever their post-high school goals are,"
said Dr. Dave Cash, Superintendent, SBUSD.

Benchmarks

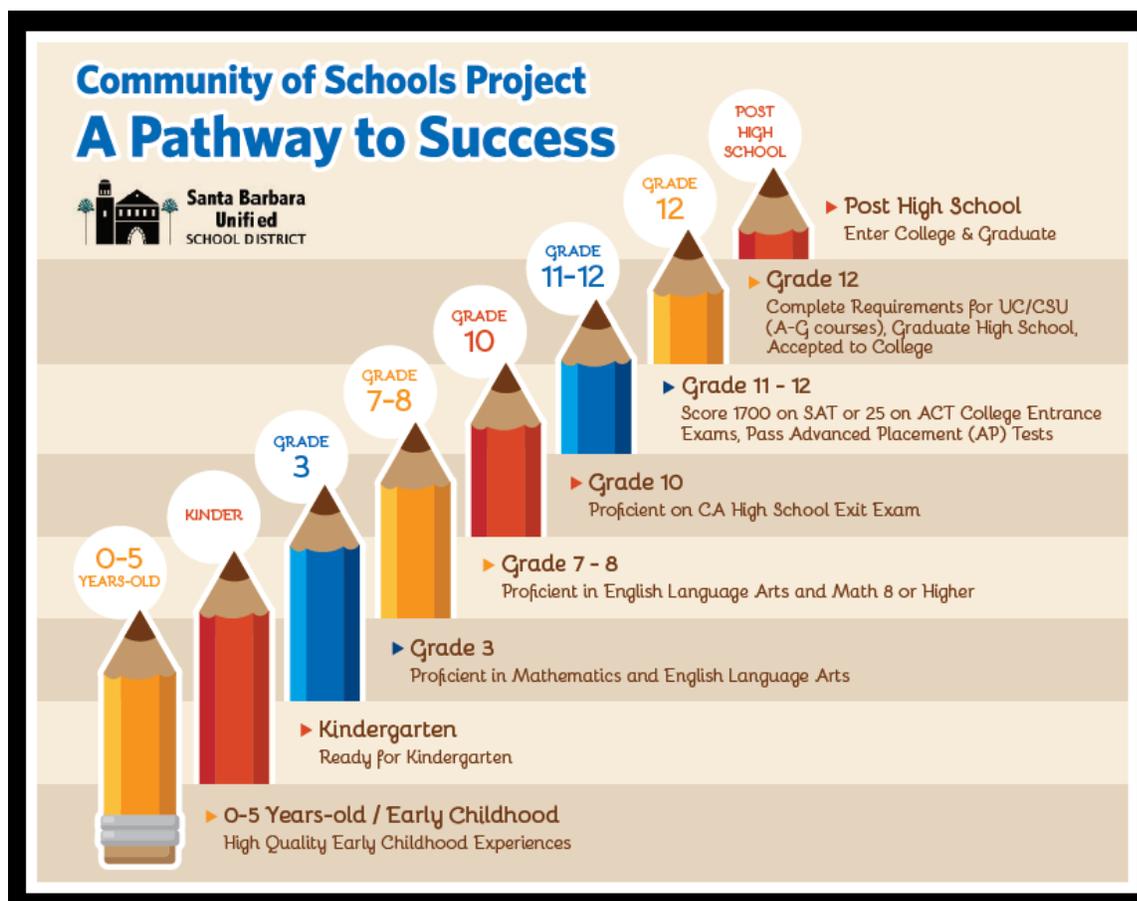
Students at La Cumbre Junior High are getting a head start on entering high school ready for college preparation classes. By the end of 8th grade, 81% of the Latino/Hispanic students and 86% of the non-Latino/Hispanic students were proficient in Algebra, with an overall 82% of 8th graders reaching this goal. When compared to California data- La Cumbre Junior High students outperform their peers (refer to Figure 1).

Figure 1. La Cumbre Junior High, Student Level of Proficiency in Algebra



The PEAC program begins with students being identified in 7th grade based on benchmarks identified on the Student Success Pathway (refer to Figure 2). In order to qualify to enter high school in the PEAC program, by the end of 8th grade, the students must be proficient in Algebra 1 (Math 8 starting in 2014-15 with Common Core) or higher, proficient in grade level English Language Arts, good test scores, high grades, good citizenship and parent participation.

Figure 2. Student Success Pathway



The **outcomes of the PEAC program** are to ensure that students: maintain a 3.0 academic grade point average (GPA) or higher; are enrolled in Honors and Advanced Placement classes (AP); that students pass AP tests for college credit; are proficient in the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) by 10th grade; complete requirements for UC/CSU (A-G courses); and are accepted to a college or university (refer to the Student Success Pathway, Figure 2).

All incoming 7th graders at La Cumbre participate in a summer bridge program. The program focuses on educating students and their parents about college requirements, while also providing them with an orientation to junior high rigor and expectations to support academic achievement at the secondary level. Teachers, current PEAC students, and staff provide the week long opportunity.

In the spring of the 8th grade year, a San Marcos High School team visits La Cumbre Junior High to meet with the identified PEAC students and their parents for an orientation to discuss the goals and expectations of the program. The graduating 8th graders also participate in a summer bridge program, which is taught by a La Cumbre Junior High teacher, in coordination with the 9th grade Honors program at San Marcos High. The students take 70 hours of English to prepare them for 9th grade Honors English and a high school level Health class. Both 7th and 8th grade PEAC students have additional access to an academic advisor at La Cumbre Junior High.

Strategies

The **PEAC program strategies** address the cultural, economic, and geographic barriers that students from the Santa Barbara Westside community face on a daily basis and on their journey to academic preparation. Presently, there are three cohorts (35 students each) enrolled in the Westside PEAC program in grades 9th, 10th and 11th grade at San Marcos High, with a new cohort of 9th graders entering in the Fall 2014 and the original first cohort entering 12th grade. The students are enrolled in AVID all four years of high school, are grouped into cohorts of 10 students who stay together in high-level English, Math, and Science classes, while receiving ongoing guidance by a dedicated academic advisor and mentoring by a PEAC mentor. The students are required to meet weekly with their PEAC program academic advisor at San Marcos High and enroll in tutoring for classes they need additional support in. Tutoring and study hall is offered at both La Cumbre Junior through the Westside Evening Program (5:00 -7:00pm daily) and also at San Marcos High.

Each cohort has two PEAC mentors who support their academic and social growth, are in communication with the students' parents, and help strengthen the home-school connection. The PEAC mentors have been carefully selected based on the following criteria: attended La Cumbre Junior High, were enrolled in AVID at San Marcos High and are now enrolled at Santa Barbara City College (SBCC) or UC Santa Barbara (UCSB). The **PEAC mentors play a very important role** as a mentor, teacher, and friend to the PEAC students. The PEAC mentors support the students in, for example:

- Communicate with PEAC student academic advisors & AVID teachers at the high school about student progress
- Observe students in class, especially when PEAC students are having difficulty

- Establish relationships with PEAC students, their teachers and their parents
- Assist in monitoring student progress reports, grades and tutoring needs, as well as academic issues- including attendance, tardiness, etc...and social supports
- Share with PEAC students about their present college experience at SBCC, UCSB, and the importance of college
- Meet weekly with PEAC students at La Cumbre Westside Evening Program tutoring and study hall
- Encourage community building and mentoring between PEAC cohorts

Parents of PEAC students are required to participate in the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) parent education program held at La Cumbre Junior High every year. PIQE aims to address the high school dropout rate, achievement gap, and low college enrollment levels of low-income students in Santa Barbara by enhancing the ability of parents to help their children graduate from high school and prepare for college. Over a nine-week period, parents of 6-9th grade students learn about high school requirements, A-G college requirements, school transcripts, college financial literacy, physical and socio-emotional development of teenagers, and ways to support their students on the path to college. At San Marcos High, parents have the opportunity to enroll in Parent University which emphasizes what was learned in PIQE, offers hands-on workshops and help with completing college applications and financial aid forms, as well as opportunities for parents to visit college campuses and meet with college counselors.

The PEAC program has proven results and has met the goals and outcomes since year one of implementation. Therefore, the **Westside PEAC program strategies will be replicated on the Eastside**, starting with Santa Barbara Junior High in the Fall 2014, with academic advisement for students through a dedicated academic advisor, and articulation and systems improvement for both Santa Barbara Junior High and Santa Barbara High School, with implementation of the first 9th grade cohort at Santa Barbara High in the Fall 2015. When the Eastside PEAC program is in full implementation with the first 9th grade cohort, PEAC students will have dedicated study hall at an Eastside school, and the PEAC mentors for Eastside PEAC students will be graduates of Santa Barbara Junior High & Santa Barbara High (AVID students) and presently at SBCC or UCSB.

Table 1 describes the PEAC Ppogram criteria, student challenges, program outcomes, and strategies to help meet the goal of college readiness for all participating PEAC students. The outcomes align with the SBUSD Community of Schools project, Student Success Pathway (refer to Figure 2).

Table 1. Goal: College Readiness, PEAC Program Quick Facts

Outcomes	<p>~100% maintain a 3.0 academic GPA or higher throughout high school</p> <p>~100% pass CA High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) in 10th grade (Math & English)</p> <p>~100% pass the Advanced Placement tests for college credit</p> <p>~100% complete requirements for UC/CSU (A-G courses)</p> <p>~100% accepted to college and graduate</p>
Challenges	<p>~Lack of English language support and/or limited academic resources at home</p> <p>~Low parent education level/years of schooling</p> <p>~Lack of peer support in high level classes</p> <p>~Lack of tutorial support for high level classes</p> <p>~Lack of academic role models</p>
Criteria for Participation	<p>~100% proficiency in grade level English Language Arts at end of 8th grade</p> <p>~100% proficiency in Math 8 or higher at end of 8th grade</p> <p>~3.0 academic GPA or higher at the end of 8th grade</p> <p>~Parent participation</p>
Strategies	<p>~Students are in PEAC groups of 8 – 10 for English, Math, & Science</p> <p>~Students receive priority scheduling into Honors and Advanced Placement classes</p> <p>~Enrollment in AVID (Advancement through Individual Determination) all 4 years</p> <p>~Academic advisor dedicated to PEAC students</p> <p>~PEAC Mentors: Graduates of La Cumbre Jr. High & San Marcos High (AVID students) who are presently enrolled at SBCC or UCSB*</p> <p>~Weekly PEAC meetings & daily dedicated study space at La Cumbre Jr. High Evening Program*</p> <p>~Tutorial at San Marcos High or at La Cumbre Jr. High Evening Program*</p>

NOTE: *In the Fall 2015, Eastside PEAC students will have dedicated study hall at an Eastside school, and the PEAC Mentors for Eastside PEAC students will be graduates of SB Jr High & SB High and presently at SBCC or UCSB.

Program Results & Student Progress

Data collection is ongoing in an effort to improve the program. According to Principal Ed Behrens, San Marcos High School—*“We have to make sure any interventions needed are happening to assure student success...our plan addresses these areas of need in a timely manner”*. Data is being collected to facilitate triangulation of variables including attendance, student grades, math, English and science level proficiency, attendance for tutoring, and parent participation in parent education and engagement programs. The AVID instructor and the academic advisor at San Marcos High, in collaboration with Principal Behrens and Principal Caines, help coordinate data collection and communication between all members of the PEAC program teams at both schools. PEAC program students are followed using the newly implemented SBUSD student information and data management system, which facilitates tracking of supports and interventions. The team is also looking into a database to track the PEAC students after high school graduation and into college.

The graduating 8th graders selected to enter the PEAC program in the Fall 2014 at San Marcos High gave a presentation to their parents during an orientation to discuss the goals and expectations of the program. Articulation between La Cumbre Junior High and San Marcos High staff continues positive. The PEAC program academic advisor from San Marcos High visits the students from time to time at the La Cumbre Westside Evening Program, and San Marcos teachers provide the PEAC program tutors with the class content and timelines.

PEAC program students have been meeting at the La Cumbre Westside Evening Program for tutoring and study hall since the program opened in October for the current academic year. San Marcos High has ensured that students have copies of their textbooks available at La Cumbre Junior High during the Westside Evening Program study hall hours. Also, through the PEAC program grant, computers and printers were purchased for PEAC students to utilize during the Westside Evening Program hours at La Cumbre Junior High.

Partnerships with local colleges have been strengthened. UC Santa Barbara offers students tutoring in high-level math and science classes as well as student mentoring and college campus trips. Santa Barbara City College (SBCC) provides mentoring, tutoring in high level courses and support services to PEAC students.

In March 2014, Santa Barbara City College (SBCC) hosted PEAC 11th grade students who spent half a day at the campus being introduced to the STEM Transfer Program and shadowed college students in math (Math 111) and science (STEM 101/Physics Lab) classes. The event was hosted through a partnership with SBCC Office of Educational Programs. PEAC students were treated to a campus tour by student outreach advisors, participated in mock interviews with college students, and ended their visit with lunch in the STEM Transfer Center with SBCC students, mentors, and teachers. Photos from their visit to SBCC:



Student progress as identified on the Student Success Pathway (Figure 2):

- The PEAC students have made significant progress this year. All three cohorts have maintained a 3.0 GPA or higher and continue to enroll in high level classes. **End of semester GPA:** PEAC 9th grade 3.30; PEAC 10th 3.23; PEAC 11th 3.0
- In May 2013, the first 10th grade PEAC cohort took the **California High School Exit Exam** (CAHSEE) and all students passed the Math and English sections of the test. Therefore, meeting the PEAC program outcome of 100% passing rate/proficiency. In May 2014, the current PEAC 10th grade cohort also had 100% passage rate on the CAHSEE.
- Since the inception of the Santa Barbara PEAC program in the Fall 2011, there has been a **steady increase of Latino Westside students in Honors and/or AP classes at San Marcos High**—from 27 in 2009 to 103 in 2011 to 120 at the end of 2012, and the rate continues to increase. The scheduling of PEAC students for next academic year 2014-15 shows a high number of students enrolled in Honors, Advanced Placement, and in college level classes (refer to Table 2). PEAC program students are also required to enroll in A-G (UC/CSU required) courses and complete these requirements by high school graduation

Table 2. Honors, AP, & Dual Enrollment for PEAC 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th grade students at San Marcos High for academic year 2014-15

Course Level	PEAC 9 th	PEAC 10 th	PEAC 11 th	PEAC 12 th
Honors	~38 in Honors Quantitative Physics ~36 in Honors English ~29 in Honors Geometry ~9 in Honors Algebra 2/ Trigonometry	~25 in Honors Chemistry ~26 in Honors English ~8 in Honors Algebra 2/ Trigonometry ~5 in Honors Pre-Calculus	~8 in Honors Pre-Calculus ~1 in Honors Chemistry	
Advanced Placement (AP)		~11 in AP World History	~21 in AP U.S. History ~17 in AP English ~1 in AP Environmental Science	~17 in AP English Lit. ~13 in AP Government ~11 in AP Macro-Micro Economics ~5 in AP European History
Santa Barbara City College (SBCC)		~3 in Spanish 101 SBCC summer class ~2 in History of Western Civilization 104 SBCC class	~3 in Biology 100 SBCC summer class ~6 in English 110 SBCC class	~7 in Political Science 101 SBCC summer class ~10 in Spanish 103 SBCC class ~11 in Math 117/ Statistics SBCC class

For PEAC students, the program is not only an opportunity to access academic supports, but also serves as an extended family. According to an 11th grade PEAC program student, who is interested in pursuing a career in marine biology, her PEAC mentor “is a positive influence and supports me like a mother would...I feel like [without PEAC] I wouldn’t have the support and benefits”.

Unfortunately, there is no library in the Westside community and many of our Westside students live in crowded home conditions with limited or no space to study. As a community school- La Cumbre Junior High provides a safe and supportive environment in the evenings for all Westside students to access academic supports. As expressed by a 9th grade PEAC program student- “the

challenges and obstacles I face at home is not having a quiet place to study and finish my homework...my life without PEAC would probably be stressful and I would be in the streets. The stress would be caused from not having a place to study, get academic help, and finish my homework”.

During her daily walks through the Westside Evening Program at La Cumbre Junior High, Principal Caines drops in at the PEAC 11th graders study hall and overhears PEAC 11th grade students discussing their classes. *“They were bragging to each other how many Honors and AP classes they were taking and they were challenging each other to push harder and achieve at higher levels.”* Many of the PEAC students’ younger siblings or friends at La Cumbre pronounce their intentions to perform even better than their older siblings. *“Coming from families where most parents do not have a high school diploma, the PEAC program has impacted the entire Westside as far as potential academic success in high school. Most importantly, the community views higher education as attainable,”* said Jo Ann Caines, Principal, La Cumbre Junior High.

Concluding Remarks

The work of La Cumbre Junior High and San Marcos High is definitely a model of student success that can be replicated. As a school district and a community, we are enthusiastic about offering the PEAC program college readiness strategies for students living in the Eastside community of Santa Barbara beginning the Fall 2015, with potential expansion in the coming years. In partnership with parents, colleges, businesses, community agencies, government, and neighbors—**we will continue to strengthen the program, build connections, and ensure the success of our students.**