Santa Ana Unified School District

1 Page SPSA Questionnaire for Board
2015-16

School: Valley High School

1) What is your site doing *differently* this year from last year to improve student achievement?
- Reexamining practices for providing access to rigorous coursework (e.g. AP) to ensure inclusion of students regardless of self-advocacy tendency or completion of "gatekeeper" courses.
- Identifying and implementing restorative practice approaches to addressing problematic student behaviors, seeking to provide targeted support and follow-up according to identified root psychological and emotional drivers of behavior.

2) What is your site doing this year that is considered *new* to improve student achievement?
- Fully investing in a Literacy and Instructional Support Team comprised of two Literacy Coaches, the English Language Development Coordinator, a data lead, an instructional technology lead, and three departmental teacher-leaders. The team works with teaching staff to develop effective instructional practices in an environment of collaboration and support.
- Conducting Freshman Interviews to provide our 9th grade students an opportunity to share about themselves with a panel of Valley stakeholders. Freshmen are then encouraged toward academic programs, activities, and supports according to their needs and interests.

3) What is your site doing *more of* this year to improve student achievement?
- Connecting more students to High School, Inc. academy programs to better leverage the positive outcomes, including increased connectedness, graduation rates, college and career preparedness, afforded to students through these career academies.
- Increasing support to incoming 9th grade students by arranging a comprehensive freshman orientation. We strive to foster connectedness and acculturate new students by offering a warm welcome, pairing freshmen with dedicated upperclassman mentors, and guiding them through the initial registration process.
- Making a concerted effort to develop a shared common language and culture to foster students' sense of ownership of their school and their education.

4) What is your site doing *less of* this year to improve student achievement?
- Dedicating less staff meeting time to procedural items and is instead focusing more time on professional development.
- Focusing less on prepackaged curricula and more on the schoolwide development of capacity toward effective pedagogy, including differentiating instruction to address student needs.

5) What is your site doing this year that is *innovative* to improve student achievement?
- Using technological tools such as Google Classroom, Canvas, Newsela, and Nearpod to extend access to course content outside the school day, provide individualized instruction to foster growth, and allow students to demonstrate learning in diverse, practical ways.
- Targeting professional development for teaching staff based on individualized areas of focus.
- Developing cross-curricular courses taught by language arts/science teacher teams collaborating to engage struggling students in reading and writing around high-interest topics.
- Implementing supported online program verification, providing the opportunity for the time that parents and students spend on campus to be focused on informing and connecting.