



FIRST SEMESTER REPORT

2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR



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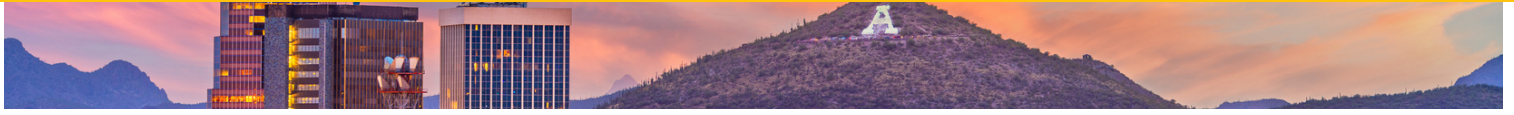


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HOW WE MEASURE SUCCESS: RESTART SMART OUTCOME DATA



This report highlights collective first-semester data across all Restart SMART Sites. Stay tuned for the end-of-year report, featuring individual views of each site!

3,669

Total number of students enrolled across all RS Sites during Fall 23-24

522

Direct caseload students supported

295

Family contacts supported

3.8%

Average reduction in chronically absent students

11.1%

Average increase in enrollment from the beginning of 23-24 academic year

Average reduction in discipline incidents since S1 22-23

Aggression related

14.2%

Substance-use related

33.5%

305

School professionals supported through professional development

18

Hours of professional development given to school personnel

\$27,450

Worth of HG-facilitated professional development for school personnel

HOW WE MEASURE SUCCESS: IMPACT STORIES

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY IMPACT

Apollo Middle School aimed to boost family engagement through positive school experiences. The Apollo Restart SMART Team leveraged over \$6,500 in monetary value to host La Posada event, an academic showcase and family event, utilizing school resources for entertainment and food. With HG funding support, Chef Marvin sourced ingredients for the culinary program, while performing arts classes provided musical entertainment. Community partners donated items for raffles, and a local folklorico instructor performed. La Posada featured COVID kits, flu shots, and information from the local library. The event received positive feedback from parents, staff, students, and partners. Notably, even staff that typically do not stay for after-school events attended until the end, expressing appreciation for community involvement and increased parent support.

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY IMPACT

Southside Community School has seen a decline in student participation and initiatives since the pandemic. Higher Ground's goals include boosting student motivation, engagement, and family involvement. We collaborated with the student council to launch a monthly newsletter. A dedicated group of seven students, the Newsletter Committee, received training in journalism and graphic design skills using Canva. We printed and distributed 150 copies to students and families.

STUDENT IMPACT

One student who faces many personal challenges came to the first day of school purposely out of the dress code. Unfortunately, the student was ultimately suspended for a month due to continued behavioral struggles and impulsivity during school.

After returning from suspension, the Student Support Coordinator met with her to brainstorm a fresh start according to her goals. She expressed a desire to start a school step team. The Restart SMART Team helped her create flyers, discussed leadership skills, and attended her first team meeting. She has been able to work alongside her sister, who also attends Utterback, in teaching 8-10 girls new steps and dances. She saw an increase in attendance of 31% from Q1 to Q2 of this school year and a decrease in discipline incidents by 50%.

FAMILY IMPACT

Safford has seen an increase in refugee families this year. A new family from Belize has been on the run from a drug cartel that the father had crossed. The father is estranged from the family and living in Mexico. They are going through the refugee process, but the mother has not yet received her papers allowing her to work legally in the country. She has been making money by selling food from a food cart. We invited her to sell from her cart at the Fall Festival, and she was able to make enough money to pay for half her rent. Refugees are often exploited. We partnered her with an organization that is helping her to get her papers and other issues resolved at no cost.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIGHER GROUND & RESTART SMART

HIGHER GROUND:

The overall nonprofit and first training entity for the Community Schools strategy in Arizona.



Operating for almost 20 years in Tucson, Arizona, Higher Ground creates youth engagement opportunities in neighborhoods with access gaps. Most known for our previous after-school enrichment work at the David Bradley Wellness Center, we also implement our Restart SMART strategy at schools across Southern Arizona. We specialize in providing broad-reaching partnership support to critically at-risk students and families who suffer from the effects of the pandemic, poverty, and generational trauma. We offer a range of trauma-informed, research-supported training and professional development for school professionals, organizations, and nonprofit entities.

RESTART SMART:

Higher Ground's approach and strategy to the Community School model, focusing on student, family, and community well-being.

SMART signifies that interactions with students, families, and community members are **S**trategic, **M**indful, **A**gile & **A**ware, **R**esilient, and **T**rauma-Responsive



We use an evidence-based, Community School model to support youth & their families. We work with school leadership to place a Restart SMART Site Director, Student Support Specialist, and Family Support Specialist at schools whose population faces high poverty rates and related opportunity gaps. Using our Data-Powered Life-Coaching Technology, Support Specialists and Site Directors focus on student, family, and community well-being according to that person's specific needs. Knowing that each person is the expert in their own life, this strategy empowers students, families, schools, and communities to develop sustainable systems to support their unique goals.

SAME MISSION

Empower one life at a time, to reach, transform and elevate their community through love and building character



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STAY IN TOUCH FOR THE END-OF-YEAR REPORT



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