

Executive Summary

Based on the 2016 Social Indicator of Need report produced by the Student Assessment and Research Department, schools will be identified and rank-ordered as needing intense support services. By rank order, the schools that have the highest social need index will be identified for additional support. The Student Services Department developed the Connect for Success Model of practice, pairing school social workers with a ReServist, a retired professional who spend approximately 20 hours per week in each identified school, working closely with the school leadership team and the school social worker. Using the Student Services service model of "Connect for Success," each ReServist is assigned approximately 20 students, who were identified as chronically absent the previous school year. The ReServist works by engaging students and their parents through encouraging regular school attendance, establishing connections and promoting yearly retention. The goals of the initiative are to increase the student's average daily attendance, reduce chronic absenteeism, help each student feel connected to school, decrease behavioral infractions, and to improve academic performance as measured by grades and tests scores. By achieving these goals, students will be more likely to successfully complete current level, transition to the next, and ultimately graduate from high school.

Based on the implementation of this model last school year (2014-2015), there was a 78% increase in the average daily attendance rate with some students having a 100% decrease in their rate of absenteeism. There was also a significant decrease in behavioral infractions.

The financial impact will be \$288,000. The source of the funds is in the Title 1 Part A Grant budget. There is no additional financial impact to the District.