

Support Personnel Accountability Report Card (SPARC) CSDE07

Developed by Los Angeles County Office of Education, Division of Student Support Services



International-Polytechnic High School
3801 W. Temple Avenue, Building 128-16
Pomona, CA 91768

Grade Levels: 9-12
Enrollment: 430
School Year: 2001-2002

Principal: Elsa Martinez
Assist. Principal: Lucille Berger
Counselor: Lori Hunzeker

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENTS

It takes a village to raise a child! —African proverb

I-Poly truly is a village that comes together to raise its children. We believe that all students can learn! Therefore, guidance is everyone's job. The counselor as well as teachers, staff members, the school psychologist, resource specialist, administrators, and parents are important to student support. This is the philosophy to which International Polytechnic High School subscribes.

The I-Poly Counseling Program implements the National Standards for School Programs as set forth by the American School Counselor Association. These standards include: *Academic Development, Career Development, and Personal/Social Development.* The counselor ensures that all I-Poly students are placed in rigorous college preparatory curriculum. The counselor then monitors their progress and coordinates access to college courses. In place of Advanced Placement (AP) classes, the counselor encourages students to take university courses through the Young Scholar Program.

Nothing is a stand-alone program at I-Poly. Key aspects of the Counseling Program are integrated into the curriculum itself. Each semester project is an orientation into a career pathway. The Counseling Center becomes the resource for career enrichment introduced through these projects. Supported by the counselor, cohort-learning groups called *Houses* become a personal/social support system.

I-Poly's collaborative community approach creates a safe campus. As students enter I-Poly, they are taught the valuable life skills of conflict mediation, group dynamics, personality assessment, and self-reflection. A celebration of diversity is integral to learning, and as a result, we believe that we have one of the most tolerant and accepting populations anywhere. Because of this unusually integrated approach to learning, counseling becomes the *heart beat* of our village support system. The counselor is pivotal to its success.

SUPPORT PERSONNEL STUDENTS

I-Poly is an urban village comprised of children from Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, and Orange Counties. They reflect the multi-cultural profile of Southern California. I-Poly students have a broad range of abilities and socio-economic diversity. Twenty-eight percent of I-Poly's students are on the Free and Reduced Lunch Program, and 34% speak a language other than English.



From its inception, I-Poly High School was uniquely focused on student support. However, it was not until a fulltime counselor was hired in 1996, that the total integration of curriculum and student support merged. The village concept became a reality.

Currently, one full-time counselor is available to all 430 students and their parents, but I-Poly is unique in that the principal, the assistant principal, and the counselor all have advanced degrees in school counseling. Among them, a total of 40 years of counseling experience is brought to the school.

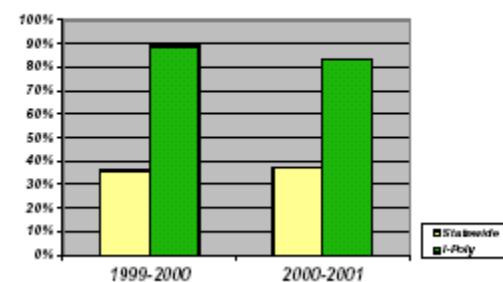
In coordination with the counselor, the foundation for student development begins with the ninth grade teacher team through the project "Journey of Discovery." The students' continued journey is supported by other dedicated individuals:

- Cal Poly Pomona English and Math Tutors
- English Language Learner Specialist
- Office Staff
- Paraeducator
- Peer Counselors
- School Administrators
- School Psychologist
- Special Education Resource Teacher
- Student Recruiter
- Teacher Teams
- Technology Specialist

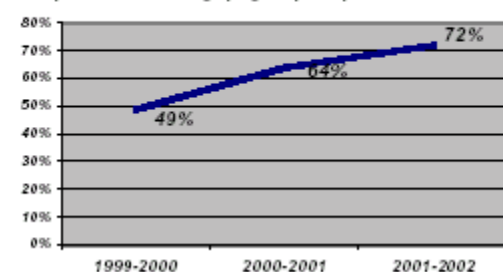
RESULTS

I-Poly Counseling Center's primary academic goal has been equal access to higher education opportunities. As a result, we find 100% targets in the following arenas both necessary and achievable:

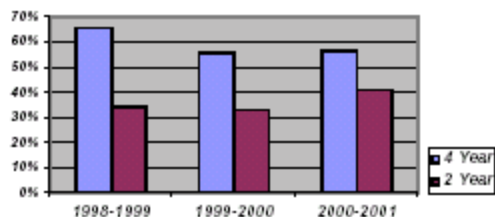
1. I-Poly's target is 100% participation of 10th and 11th grade on the Preliminary SAT (PSAT). As a result, more than 80% of I-Poly students take the SAT as compared to 36% at the State level.



2. The counselor engages 11th and 12th graders in concurrent enrollment in college courses at Cal Poly Pomona and community colleges. The table below (for 12th grade students) demonstrates the upward trend in college program participation.



3. As a result of I-Poly's equal-access approach to college testing and concurrent enrollment, I-Poly's success in college admissions stands among the finest in the State of California.



SURVEY/ASSESSMENT RESULTS

The counselor refers students for:

- Special education assessment and assists in the development of Individualized Education Plans (IEP's).
- English Language Learner Assessment and placement.

The counselor also:

- coordinates college placement testing and interprets results.
- distributes and explains SAT 9 results.
- assists with planning for students not passing the California High School Exit Exam.
- administers college surveys that lead to targeted small group workshops.
- assesses student transcripts and follows up with academic planning workshops.
- administers career and personality assessments (MBTI, SII, Learning Styles) leading to class presentations on career decision making.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

The counselor is consistently striving to improve procedures to ensure active involvement of parents and community members in problem solving and active decision-making. A Guidance Advisory Council which included Cal Poly Pomona and I-Poly staff, as well as I-Poly students and parents, held regular meetings during the 1998- 99 school year in order to develop a guidance survey to distribute to all constituents. In the spring of 2000, parent members of the Student Support Committee for the accreditation process collaborated with the counselor, students, and staff to develop additional surveys regarding student support. Based on the results of these surveys, three new parent orientations have been created in order to improve staff and parent communication. Parents also volunteer their professional expertise as guest speakers in classrooms. Counselor updates are given monthly at the Parent, Faculty, Student Association (PFSA) meetings.

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

The Counseling Center at I-Poly is the hub of information regarding academic progress, career/college direction, financial aid, and personal/social advice. Students access the Counseling Center for assistance in all of these areas. The Counseling Center also disseminates to parents:

- college admissions and financial aid information.
- progress and Assessment Reports.
- school testing information and results.
- yearly Graduation Status Reports with suggestions for students to make up deficient courses.

OUR MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

The greatest award achieved by the I-Poly counseling program is that student support has become a real and intrinsic part of the school. In 1993, the State of California published *Second to None*, which describes the high school of the future. I-Poly embraces the tenets of this document and actualizes the tenet describing *Comprehensive Support for All Students*. Counseling support is integrated into I-Poly projects. Teachers serve as coaches and advisors in

collaboration with the counselor. The school is proud that its holistic approach creates students who advocate for themselves. As a result of this approach, two notable successes have occurred. First, in 1999 the I-Poly Physical Education Program was named State Program of the Year. The program includes integration of conflict mediation into its curriculum. Second, I-Poly has the distinction of being affiliated as an academic program with a College of Education and Integrative Studies. I-Poly is poised to impact the training of teachers in developing a holistic approach to teaching.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

I-Poly High School has a unique opportunity to draw students from four Southern California counties and 81 cities. As a result, our sense of community (our village), is as broad and diverse as our student population. To bring cohesiveness, community involvement is focused in three distinct arenas: the university, college communities, and the community at large.

Cal Poly Pomona

Admissions Office
Associated Students Inc.
Career Center
Collaborative Academic Preparation Initiative (CAPI)/
Precollegiate Academic Development (PAD)
Project Sister
Student Outreach and Recruitment
Young Scholar Program

Mt. San Antonio Community College

After School College Program
High School Outreach Center
College Exploration Workshops
College Starter Program
Community Education Center
Counseling Center
Student Tutoring Program

Community at Large

Armed Services
Department of Child & Family Services
Department of Mental Health Services
Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) Special Education Services
Regional Occupation Program (ROP)
Student community service projects
Upward Bound
Various community counseling services

OUR FOCUS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Our look to the future is centered around providing more complete counseling services for all students. The development of an articulated career development program, supported by strong personal/social goals established in the ninth grade curriculum, is our next goal.

By 2005, we will research, document or provide the following services to 100% of each specified grade level:

1. Assess career development plan already in place.
2. Write a four-year plan to include:
 - career and personal inventories
 - resources and funding for these inventories
 - funding for the *College and Career Handbook*, to be included as a component of the articulated career plan
 - development of electronic portfolios, to begin with 9th grade in first year of initiation
3. Write four-year development competencies for each grade.