

San Bernardino City Unified School District Posts API Gains after Recent DAIT Work

By Judy White - September 25, 2009

Eight out of nine schools in the San Bernardino City Unified School District that worked with a District Assistance and Intervention Team from Total School Solutions (TSS) posted gains that met or topped their growth targets in last week's release of 2009 Growth Academic Performance Index data by the California Department of Education (CDE).

Two elementary schools in the district – Inghram and Muscoy – posted strong double digit gains. Howard Inghram Elementary went up 43 points, to an API of 625, surpassing the 11 point growth target set by the CDE by an almost four-fold margin. Muscoy Elementary rose 42 points, to an API of 717 – a much larger rise than the 6 point growth target.

Shandin Hills Middle School went up 41 points, to an API of 670, more than four times the 9 point growth target.

San Bernardino High School raised its API by 28 points (to 611), almost triple the 11 point growth target.

Several other district schools posted significant gains, including Hunt Elementary (topping the 9 point growth target by rising 21 points, to an API of 644), and E. Neal Roberts Elementary (up 11 points, to an API of 710, beating the 5 point growth target).

District schools that met growth targets included Del Vallejo Middle School (up 8 points to an API of 642) and Golden Valley Middle School (up 8 points to an API of 657).

The eight schools were selected after a competitive interview process according to the State Guidelines. Working with Total School Solutions reflects the maximum positive potential of a collaborative yet accountable partnership. There were systems put in place that have improved the District as a whole. The most notable change has been in providing reading intervention classes at the secondary level and improving the communication systems from department to department and divisions.”

Total School Solutions worked with individual schools to revise their governance plan and implement according to design. They provided strategic monitoring and leadership building. The support to the District Office was achieved through specific implementation of the DAIT plan and the monthly face to face updates.

The most important variable however was the people. The knowledgeable and competent staff of Total School Solutions observed, listened, validated, modeled and offered proven solutions. Total School Solutions lived up to their name by being solution driven, school focused and total in its approach.

Tahir Ahad, president of Total School Solutions, expressed appreciation for “the work done by district staff, especially to Superintendent Arturo Delgado for his leadership and vision, and to Judy White for her hands-on approach, personal commitment and hard work.”

San Bernardino City USD is a large district in Southern California’s Inland Empire, with over 50,000 students. Over 68 percent of the district’s students come from a Hispanic/Latino background, with another 15 percent coming from African American heritage, and another 10 percent coming from white (non-Hispanic) background.

Editor's Note: Dr. Judy White is Deputy Superintendent with the San Bernardino City Unified School District.

Total School Solutions (TSS) is a State-approved District Assistance and Intervention Team (DAIT) provider. With its eight approved team leaders and a number of education, business, human resources, facilities and operations professionals on its staff, TSS offers and provides unmatched opportunities for the districts in need of DAIT assistance.