

SAN PABLO BEACON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

Dover Elementary School

2023-24 School Profile

Lead Agency: Bay Area Community Resources (BACR)

14 Students referred through CARE

485 Youth benefited from the SPBCSI

24 Youth in SPBCSI programs

Health & Wellness



The Beacon Director led a robust CARE team system and followed up with referrals throughout the year. They collaborated with teachers and staff on campus to best support students with mental health and resource needs.

Family Engagement



The Beacon Director worked diligently with the case worker and administration to welcome families on campus through events, volunteering, and workshops. Families enjoyed interacting with the new Beacon Director, since they had a long standing relationships with them in their previous Dover role.

School Culture & Climate



The Beacon Director led the Dover Climate Team to success this year. They collaborated with the Recess Coach to plan games, tournaments, and challenges that encouraged all students to play safely. They also implemented a Girls Group that helped upper elementary girls build self-esteem and receive social and emotional support.

100%

of youth surveyed like this program

97%

of youth surveyed feel safe in their program

97%

of youth say in this program adults care about them



City Investments

Each San Pablo school worked with a lead agency. The City granted each lead agency staffing and program funding to support the overall implementation of the San Pablo Beacon Community Schools Initiative at that school site.

Staffing

Beacon Director and Family Advocate

The Beacon Director provided leadership and implementation of the San Pablo Beacon Community Schools strategy at Dover. The part-time Family Advocate collaborated with the Beacon Director and Student Outreach Worker to provide additional supports for Dover families.



1.5

Full-time position

Grant Strategies: Coordination of Community Schools and Violence Prevention & Intervention Strategy

Agency: Bay Area Community Resources (BACR)

Program

Dover Leaders

This was a small youth leadership group that supported schoolwide activities.

24

Youth served

Grant Strategy: Youth Development & Leadership

Agency: Bay Area Community Resources (BACR)

"I like when I have to organize field days for kids. And how people are nice." — Dover student¹

"I like that I get to have more responsibility." — Dover student

¹ Youth quotes are modified in length and for clarity.

Events

The Beacon Director organized a variety of events throughout the school year to improve school culture and climate and engage with parents and families.

9

Events

378

Average
Student Attendance*

85

Average
Family Attendance*

2023-24 Dover Events

Costume Parade	There was a Costume Parade for the whole school where families were invited to the festivities.
Dover Winter Festival	Winter Festival performances featured all classes participating in festive shows. Families were invited to attend and enjoy their children's performances on-site.
Family Math Night	This event was a partnership with Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival. Teacher and student volunteers led the activities.
Multicultural Fair	The Annual Multicultural Fair featured each grade level learning and representing a different country through performances. The celebration offered a vibrant showcase of global cultures and student creativity.

Source: Cityspan Events data, August 2024. *Averages calculated across events that provided attendance data.

Youth Outcomes

San Pablo Beacon Community Schools Initiative programs are rooted in positive youth development practice. Youth survey data suggest programs are helping youth build personal and social competencies.

Figure 1: Youth felt empowered and supported.

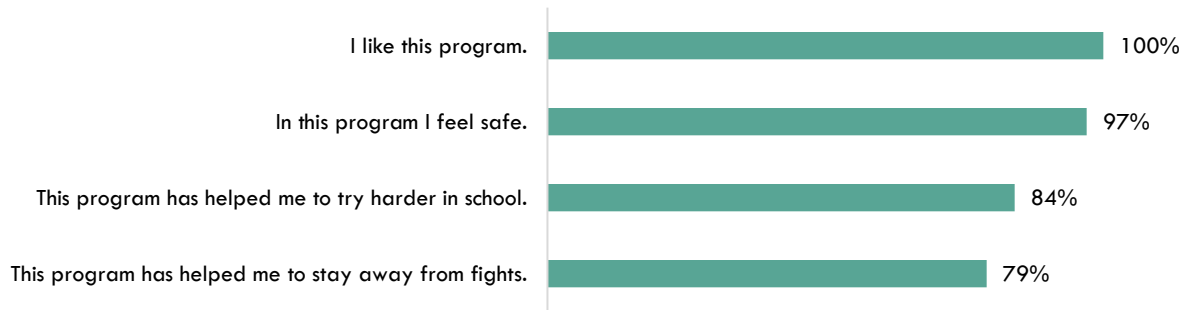


Figure 2: Youth developed social competencies.

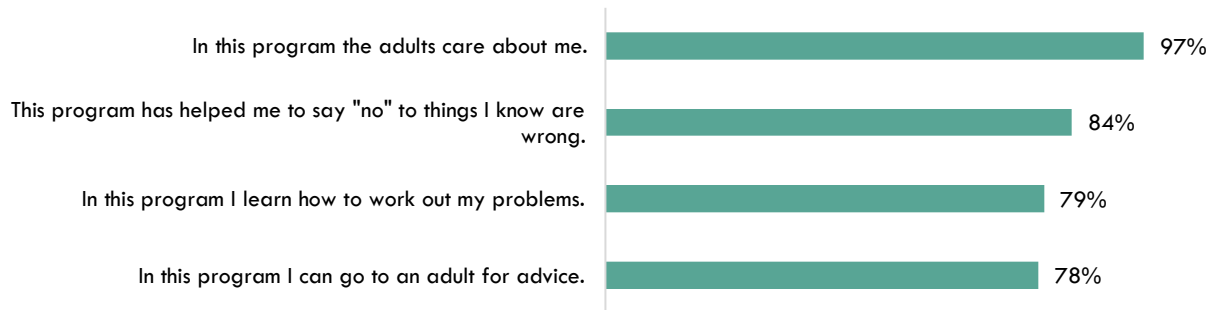
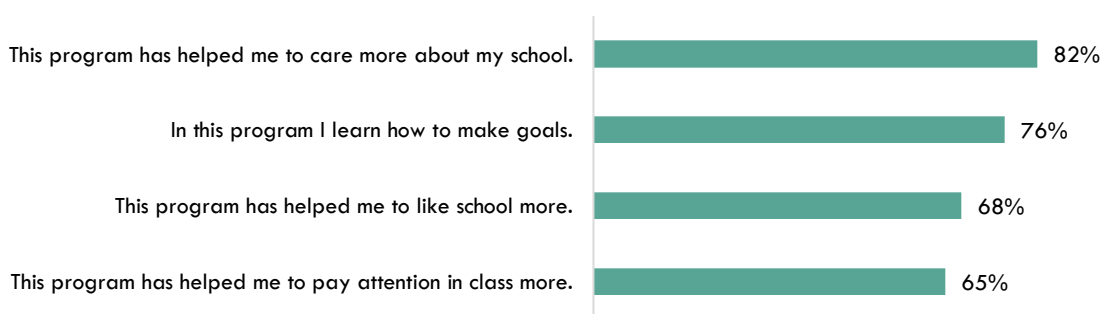


Figure 3: Youth demonstrated commitment to learning.



Source: Youth Surveys (N=38), 2023-24. Surveys are from programs directly funded by the SPBCSI or led by a Beacon Director. This represents a subset of the total programs offered at the school.

Community Schools Coordination

For the 2023-24 school year, San Pablo schools focused on implementing the San Pablo Beacon Community Schools Initiative priorities focused on health and wellness, family engagement, and school culture and climate. In this section, we summarize findings drawn from interviews with the school's Principal, Beacon Director, and lead agency supervisor, as well as documents provided by the City of San Pablo.

Family engagement at Dover was a huge success thanks to the collaboration of the Beacon Director, Case Manager, and administration team. The Family Center on campus was fully staffed this year and included the School Community Outreach Worker (SCOW), Beacon Director, and Case Manager. This team collaborated to create fun-filled and engaging events for families all year long. Also, the Beacon Director engaged many partners on campus like 18 Reasons Cooking and Go Public Schools to provide supportive family workshops and classes.



Health and Wellness

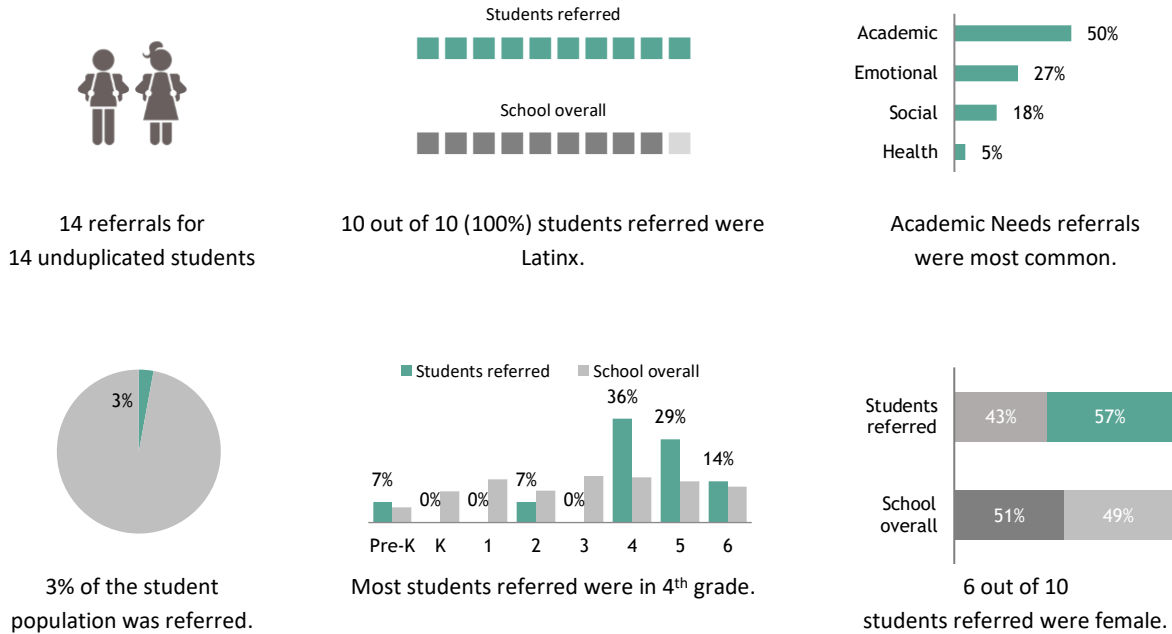
"We have [the Beacon Director's] CARE team, which I'm sure other schools have as well, we meet twice a month for an hour and a half. The one for CARE team is more mental health related." —Principal

At Dover, the Beacon Director led a comprehensive CARE team and held bimonthly meetings with staff. During meetings, staff discussed how they used their resources like mental health counseling to support students. The Beacon Director worked closely with the School Psychologist to create a more streamlined system to better support school staff. The staff also provided updates on how to track referred students' status, for example if they are still awaiting services.



The Beacon Director also arranged a fun Teacher Appreciation Week where they hosted a Mental Health Day. During this day, teachers received massages, acupuncture services, and facials. On another day, caregivers brought homemade food for staff to enjoy as an appreciation for their hard work. Teachers felt appreciated and enjoyed the events all week long.

Figure 4: CARE referrals



Sources: Cityspan Crisis Assessment Referral and Evaluation (CARE) data, August 2024; CDE, DataQuest 2023-24 Enrollment Data, accessed August 2024.



Family Engagement

“She helped make sure that family engagement is a priority. Whenever we're dealing with a community, I mean all day, every day, something that I coined in talking with her is family engagement is like customer service.” — Principal



Before the school year started, Dover staff participated in a two-day family engagement training hosted by the District. Staff reflected on how families were engaged on campus and identified new opportunities for family engagement. The newly hired Beacon Director had a strong and tenured relationship at Dover before transitioning to their new role. Their previous work experience as a family liaison allowed them to grow even stronger relationships at Dover and with families, because the Director is also bilingual and intentional about building relationships. This year, a family Case Manager was hired through BACR to provide extra staff capacity and focus solely on family engagement.

The Beacon Director supported many events with the new family Case Manager over the school year like cooking classes and family principal chats. They also hosted science, math, and literacy nights where families were invited to campus to engage in fun academic activities. During the Literacy Night, students were excited to practice reading and went home with free books. Family

engagement was successful because of the Beacon Director’s planning committee’s commitment to high quality events and intentional community engagement.

In collaboration with colleagues, the Beacon Director also hosted weekly caregiver workshops focused on student attrition and mental health. During the workshops, caregivers shared their challenges around helping their students with homework and how to best support them. The Beacon Director gave them open space to share and then provided additional resources for homework support.



School Culture and Climate

“The Girls Group was a need in February. We figured it out in January and we needed it to happen in February moving forward. [The Beacon Director] stepped up for that. She’s like, ‘I can do it,’ and it’s helping.” — Principal

The Beacon Director worked closely with teachers and staff to ensure students and families had events to foster a positive school community. This year, the City of San Pablo Childhood Obesity Prevention Grant funded a Recess Coach. They organized games and sports for students to play safely. The Recess Coach brought music to the playground every day and encouraged the students to dance, sing, and play creatively. The Beacon Director collaborated with school staff and created cultural events throughout the year like Hispanic Heritage Month events and a multicultural fair. These events engaged student and family volunteers to attend and celebrate the diverse cultures at Dover.

During the spring semester, the teachers and Beacon Director noticed their upper elementary girls struggling with social conflicts, self-esteem, and academic achievement. In response, the Beacon Director created a curriculum to implement a Girls Group at Dover. The Girls Group allowed students to share about their experiences and gain support from their community and the Beacon Director.



In addition, the Beacon Director, Case Manager, and family liaison worked closely on defining roles in the Family Center. The Family Center is an open community center space where families can visit and staff can host events. It is a welcoming space for families to receive support and engage with on-campus staff. The Beacon Director collaborated and hosted successful events to promote positive school spirit and hopes to continue doing so for next year.

Lessons Learned

At the close of the interviews, the Principal and Beacon Director reflected on their experiences from the past year.

- “Parents came, community came, but they also need to see the teachers. And that's the message that we shared with the staff in August, because we have a training for a couple days in August before school starts. So we did put some money aside in the budget, so we can pay teachers when they join us.” – Principal
- “We [Administration team] still need to put a lot of systems in place. We're trying to build a system where our families feel welcome.” – Beacon Director

Plans for Next Year

The Principal and Beacon Director also took time to share their plans for the coming school year.

- Host more family event opportunities and invite teachers to join.
- Collaborate and create consistent school-wide communication systems for families and staff.



*“[The Beacon Director] is returning to their community in a sense. So they have the kind of foundation of a certain community that they're reading over of parents based on that and on the scale part. So they have a connection with the community. They are bilingual, which is incredibly helpful.” —
Principal*