

Making the Case for LINK CREW Funding Title I

Title I — Improving the Academic Achievement Of The Disadvantaged

Title I is a federal program designed to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high quality education. Title I funds aim to bridge the gap between low income students and other students. The U.S. Department of Education provides supplemental funding to local school districts to meet the needs of at risk and low income students, helping them to reach, at a minimum, on challenging State academic achievement standards and state academic

Schools with Title I funds have found that implementing the LINK CREW program in their schools is a highly effective way to achieve the goals Title I aims to address, effectively helping close the achievement gap between high and low performing children, especially underrepresented children.

HOW LINK CREW ALIGNS WITH THE GOALS OF TITLE 1

1. Ensuring that high quality academic assessments, accountability systems, teacher preparation and training, curriculum, and instructional materials are aligned with challenging State academic standards so that students, teachers, parents, and administrators can measure progress against common expectations for student academic achievement.

Link Crew sets up a structure within a school for disseminating information and ensuring that the entire school community has the opportunity to engage in and support the defined mission and strategic goals.

With Link Crew, trained student leaders (juniors and seniors) are able to communicate and demonstrate the purpose and direction with and among those within the school population who might otherwise be disengaged: freshmen. Link Crew focuses the information dissemination process through the connection both one on one and in small groups. This makes it far more likely that critical information is received and remembered.

2. Meeting the educational needs of low achieving children in our Nation's highest poverty schools, limited English proficient children, migratory children, children with disabilities, Indian children, neglected or delinquent children, and young children in need of reading assistance;

3. Closing the achievement gap between high and low performing children, especially the achievement gaps between minority and non minority students, and between disadvantaged children and their more advantaged peers;

HOW LINK CREW ALIGNS WITH THESE STANDARDS:

Link Crew enhances student responsibility and improves performance of both transitioning students and leaders. Academic provide tools for academic success and support to underrepresented students.

Using juniors and seniors as Leaders for freshmen, Link Crew intentionally and structurally supports all freshmen. On the first day, the freshmen experience an interactive and powerful orientation where Link Crew Leaders begin to provide information, a sense of connection to their new school and someone to whom the freshmen can turn in order to feel a sense of safety. The program then continues throughout the year with a series of follow ups where Link Crew Leaders and their freshmen connect both inside the classroom and out. Link Crew Leaders, who have walked in the shoes of freshmen just a couple of years ago, are able to provide the support that adults cannot due to the fact that teens turn to one another for advice and information about how to live in the high school world.

Data has been collected from individual school sites that use a before and after approach for some of their more important indicators of success including grades, discipline, connection to school and feelings of safety. With the correct implementation, Link Crew has also worked for schools to increase test scores and lower dropout rates. Link Crew also interfaces with the Search @ 40 Assets, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Model Programs Guide, as well as the Collaborative of Academic, Social and Emotional Learning goals and objectives.

4. Holding schools, local educational agencies, and States accountable for improving the academic achievement of all students, and identifying and turning around low performing schools that have failed to provide a high quality education to their students, while providing alternatives to students in such schools to enable the students to receive a high quality education;
5. Distributing and targeting resources sufficiently to make a difference to local educational agencies and schools where needs are greatest;
6. Improving and strengthening accountability, teaching, and learning by using State assessment systems designed to ensure that students are meeting challenging State academic achievement and content standards and increasing achievement overall, but especially for the disadvantaged;
7. Providing greater decision making authority and flexibility to schools and teachers in exchange for greater responsibility for student performance;
8. Significantly elevating the quality of instruction by providing staff in participating schools with substantial opportunities for professional development;

HOW LINK CREW ALIGNS WITH THESE STANDARDS

The Link Crew Coordinator training not only improves classroom instruction, it also trains the Coordinators to take leadership roles within the school, district, and professional community. Trained Link Crew Coordinators experience positive personal and professional transformations, a shared responsibility for student achievement and strengthened connections and communication between staff and students.