

AAA = Academics, Attendance, Achievement

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Key words: Attendance, school climate, dropout prevention, graduation, credits

Funding Sources:

- Grants
- PBIS
- Stay In the Game
- General school state funds
- District supported incentives

Project Cost and Budget Narrative

- Weekly Incentives/Semester lunch \$840.30 per year
- Student bags \$22.76 each
- AAA Spiritwear \$ 7907.75

Project Description:

The AAA = Academics, Attendance, Achievement program is for high school seniors who are at-risk for graduation. Akron Public School seniors who are at-risk for dropping out of high school or not graduating are referred to AAA by their high school counselor. Once enrolled, AAA students have access to the same provisions as they would have at their home high School. That would include Breakfast and Lunch. Every Akron Public School student is provided a chromebook. Each receives an AAA backpack so every student is set up with all the school supplies they need to succeed. Each backpack contains:

- AAA logo drawstring bag
- 1” 3 Ring Binder
- Dividers for the Binder
- Loose leaf paper
- 2 pocket folders
- One subject Notebook
- Post-It Notes
- Pencils
- Pens
- Highlighter
- Eraser
- Mouse (for their chromebook)
- Earbuds (so they can listen to their classes)
- Hand sanitizer
- Welcome Note from one of the AAA staff members

Once enrolled in AAA they are assigned to a mentor teacher who guides the students to set goals and keep track of their course progress. The progress is monitored very carefully to ensure that if a student is not making progress the mentor can put scaffolding in place to ensure success. The mentor teachers meet with every student daily/weekly depending on their need.

Once a week we provide incentives for the students who have had perfect attendance for the week. The incentives vary from Gatorades, chips, or candy.

We have four cohort thermometers in the hall. The first thermometer, or first cohort is for students who have 0-9 credits. The second thermometer, or second cohort are for students who have 10-13 credits. The third thermometer, or the third cohort are for students who have 14+ credit. The final thermometer is for credit complete students. Once the students have completed their required credits and have completed all other graduation requirements, they fill out a graduation cap with their name on it and it is displayed

on a bulletin board.

We continually monitor credit acquisition. When a student moves from one cohort or one thermometer to the next they scratch their name or student ID number off of the cohort they are moving from and write their name or student ID number on the thermometer or cohort they are moving to. We take pictures of this event and the students are awarded with incentives.

Every grading period we celebrate 80% or better attendance for the semester. Every student is provided incentives such as AAA t-shirts, crew sweatshirts, hoodies, water bottles, travel mugs, hats, and long sleeve t-shirts.

Every grading period we celebrate credit achievement. The students who have earned at least 1.5 credits in a grading period are also provided incentives such as AAA t-shirts, crew sweatshirts, hoodies, water bottles, travel mugs, hats, and long sleeve t-shirts.

The first semester students are awarded a lunch with an ice cream sundae bar for the students who have earned 3 credits and have had 80% attendance for the semester.

The student who has earned the most credits at the end of the 1st and 2nd semester receives a pair of wireless earbuds.

Staffing Pattern:

The program is staffed by AAA teachers and staff.

Administrators: Becky Green-Pallotta, Gini Rasnick

Lead Teacher: [Mary Carter-Berry](#)

School Counselor: [Heather Waterhouse](#)

Classroom Facilitators: [Maureen Stone](#), [Richard Edwards](#), [Ryan Andrick](#), Lisa Daykin, Paul Dorando

Intervention Specialist: Beth Asad, [Lisa Hasenyager](#)

English Language Tutor: [Andrew Helems](#)

Population Served:

High School seniors, up through 22 years of age.

Project Origination:

The project was created based on the need for students to be prepared for class, improve attendance, and increase credit acquisition for students who have had life challenges and have not been successful at school.

Issues Addressed:

Being prepared, attendance, and credit acquisition

Desired Outcomes and Measurable Objectives:

The desired outcome of this project is to increase student graduation.
Data has been collected for:

- Student graduation
- Attendance
- Credit completion

Strategies and/or Interventions of the Project:

Mentoring, Achievement, Connection/Belonging, and Autonomy.

Results (Outcomes and Achievements)

Sept 1 - 17, 2021

- 2 finished on 9/17
- 8 more projected to finish by their Mentor/Cohort teacher

As of Sept 17, 2021:

39 students have finished a total of 104 classes (ranging from .25 credits/class - .5 credits/class)

- 20 of 39 are 5th year students
 - 10 of 39 are 6 - 8 year students
 - 9 of 39 are true seniors
-

October 12, 2021

53 students earned credits through Sept 24

- 13 of 53 students who earned credits were 4th year
- 27 of 53 students who earned credits were 5th year
- 13 of 53 students who earned credits were 6 - 8 year students

13 Students graduated between Sept 1 - Sept 24 using the Covid Relief

- 8/42 True seniors have less than 6 credits (12 classes) and are currently projected to be graduates
 - 25 of 42 true seniors started with 0 - 9.75 credits
 - 10 of 42 true seniors started with 10 - 13.75 credits
 - 7 out of 42 have 14 - 21 credits
 - 2 of 20 6-8 year seniors started with 0 - 9.75 credits
- 42/79 5th year seniors are

- 17 of 87 5th year seniors started with 0-9.75 credits
- 21 of 87 5th year seniors started with 10 - 13.75 credits
- 49 of 87 year seniors started with 14 - 21 credits

Data through 10/22/2021

35 students earned credits from 10/1 - 10/22:

- 14 of 35 students who earned credits were 4th year
- 12 of 35 students who earned credits were 5th year
- 9 of 35 students who earned credits were 6 - 8 year students
- Of the 35 students who earned credits, 5 are on an IEP

2 students Graduated from 10/1 - 10/22. Both were 6 year students who met the Alternative Option 1 Pathway for their cohort year. Both students were regular education students.

5 students moved from having less than 9.75 credits (red) to 10 - 13.75 (yellow)

3 students moved from having 10-13.75 (yellow) to having 14-20.75 (green)

Data through 11/23/2021

24 students earned credits from 10/23 - 11/23

- 8 of 24 students who earned credits were 4th year
- 9 of 24 students who earned credits were 5th year
- 7 of 24 students who earned credits were 6 - 8 year students
- Of the 24 students who earned credits, 6 are on an IEP

3 students Graduated from 10/23 - 11/23. 2 of the students were 6 year seniors and the other one was a 5th year. All 3 of the students were regular education students who met the Traditional Option.

3 students moved from having less than 9.75 credits (red) to 10 - 13.75 (yellow)

0 students moved from having 10-13.75 (yellow) to having 14-20.75 (green)

4th Year

0-9 Credits : 22

10-13 Credits: 16

14 or More: 16

5th Year

0-9 Credits: 2

10-13 Credits: 17

14 or More: 31 (11 of these have already graduated to date)

Data through 12/17/2021

16 students earned credits from 11/23 - 12/17

- 1 of 16 students is in 11th grade
- 3 of 16 students who earned credits were 4th year
- 7 of 16 students who earned credits were 5th year
- 5 of 16 students who earned credits were 6 - 8 year students
- Of the 16 students who earned credits, 2 are on an IEP

1 student Graduated from 11/23 - 12/17. The student who graduated was a 7th year Regular Education student who used the Alternative Pathway.

0 students moved from having less than 9.75 credits (red) to 10 - 13.75 (yellow)

0 students moved from having 10-13.75 (yellow) to having 14-20.75 (green)

4th Year

0-9 Credits : 22

10-13 Credits: 15

14 or More: 18

5th Year

0-9 Credits: 2

10-13 Credits: 11

14 or More: 21 (11 of these have already graduated to date)

Data through 1/13/22

61 students earned credits from 12/15 - 1/13

- 1/61 students are in 11th grade
- 40/61 students who earned credits were 4th year
- 16/61 students who earned credits were 5th year
- 4/61 students who earned credits were 6 - 8 year students
- Of the 61 students who earned credits, 16 are on an IEP

4 students Graduated from 12/15 - 1/13. The students who graduated were:

- 3 were 5th year students
- 2 of the 3 5th year students were on IEPs.
- 1 was a 6th year Regular Education student
- 4 of 4 grads met Traditional Option 1

3 students moved from having less than 9.75 credits (red) to 10 - 13.75 (yellow)

3 students moved from having 10-13.75 (yellow) to having 14-20.75 (green)

4th Year: 53 students enrolled as of 1/13

0-9 Credits : 19

10-13 Credits: 15

14 or More: 19

5th Year: 27 students enrolled as of 1/13

0-9 Credits: 1
10-13 Credits: 9
14 or More: 17

23 GRADS from Semester 1:

12 - 5 year students became grads
11- 6-8 year students became grads

Data from 1/14/2021 - 2/25/2021

18 students earned credits from 1/14 - 2/25

- 1/18 students is in 9th grade
- 1/18 students are in 11th grade
- 11/18 students who earned credits were 4th year
- 3/18 students who earned credits were 5th year
- 2/18 students who earned credits were 6 - 8 year students
- Of the 18 students who earned credits, 7 are on an IEP

2 students Graduated from 1/14 - 2/25. The students who graduated were:

- 1 was a 5th year student
- 1 was a 6 year student
- Both students were Reg Education students who Graduated with Trad Opt 1

0 students moved from having less than 9.75 credits (red) to 10 - 13.75 (yellow)

0 students moved from having 10-13.75 (yellow) to having 14-20.75 (green)

1 - 5th year student moved to course complete and is just working on Pathway.

4th Year: 79 students enrolled as of 2/25

0-9 Credits : 26
10-13 Credits: 22
14 or More: 31

5th Year: 25 students enrolled as of 2/25

0-9 Credits: 1
10-13 Credits: 9
14 or More: 15

61 students earned .25 or more credits

40 = 4th year

16 = 5th year

16 SWD earned .25 or more credits

Data from 2/25/2021 - 3/18/2021

40 students earned credits from 2/25-3/18

- 0 students from 9th grade

- 1 student is in 11th grade
- 29 students who earned credits were 4th year
- 6 students who earned credits were 5th year
- 4 students who earned credits were 6 - 8 year students
- Of the 40 students who earned credits 9 are on an IEP

3 students Graduated from 2/25 - 3/18. The students who graduated were:

- 1 was a 5th year student - used Trad Opt 2
- 1 was a 6th year student - used Trad Opt 1
- 1 was a 7th year student - used Alt Opt 1
 - 1 of the students had an IEP

5 students moved from having less than 9.75 credits (red) to 10 - 13.75 (yellow)

4 students moved from having 10-13.75 (yellow) to having 14-20.75 (green)

1 - 5th year student is course complete and is just working on Pathway.

4th Year: 88 students enrolled as of 3/18

0-9 Credits : 17

10-13 Credits: 22

14 or More: 49

5th Year: 21 students enrolled as of 3/18

0-9 Credits: 1

10-13 Credits: 7

14 or More: 13

40 students earned .25 or more credits

29 = 4th year

6 = 5th year

7 SWD earned .25 or more credits

Data from 3/19/22 - 4/26/22

42 Students earned credits from 3/19-4/26

- 1 students from 9th grade
- 1 student is in 11th grade
- 33 students who earned credits were 4th year
- 5 students who earned credits were 5th year
- 2 students who earned credits were 6 - 8 year students
- Of the 42 students who earned credits, 6 are on an IEP

3 students Graduated from 3/19 - 4/26. The students who graduated were:

- 2 were 5th year students
 - 1 Trad Opt 1
 - Seals

- One was Reg Ed, One was SPED
- 1 was a 6th year student
 - ESL student
 - Used Alt Opt 1

1 student moved from having less than 9.75 credits (red) to 10 - 13.75 (yellow)
 3 students moved from having 10-13.75 (yellow) to having 14-20.75 (green)
 1 - 5th year student is course complete was working on Pathway and OST
 1 - 6 year student moved to a Graduate

4th Year: students enrolled as of 4/26

0-9 Credits : 17
 10-13 Credits: 22
 14 or More: 54

5th Year: 21 students enrolled as of 4/26

0-9 Credits: 1
 10-13 Credits: 6
 14 or More: 14

42 students earned .25 or more credits
 33 = 4th year, 5 = 5th year
 8 SWD earned .25 or more credits

As of 5/12/22:

- 91 4th year seniors enrolled
 - 52 are considered non-grads
 - 24 are still working as potential graduates
 - 15 have already been confirmed as graduates for May
 - 39 out of 91 students are projected to graduate: resulting in 43% of our 4th year seniors will graduate
- 38 5th year seniors enrolled
 - 12 are considered non-grads
 - 6 are still working as potential graduates
 - 5 have already been confirmed as graduates for May
 - 15 graduated in January
 - 26 out of 38 students are projected to graduate: resulting in 68% of our 5th year seniors will graduate
- 20 Adult (6-8 year) seniors are enrolled
 - 2 are non-grads
 - 3 are still working as potential graduates
 - 4 have already been confirmed as graduates
 - 11 graduated in the winter
 - 18 out of 20 students are projected to graduate: resulting in 90% of our Adult (6-8 year) seniors will graduate

FINAL STATS OF THE YEAR:

This does not include the data for students who graduated. Graduation data is found below.

39 students earned credits from 5/19-6/2

- 2 students from 9th grade
- 14 students in 11th grade
- 21 students who earned credits were 4th year
- 1 student who earned credits were 5th year
- 1 students who earned credits were 6 - 8 year students
- Of the 39 students who earned credits, 11 are on an IEP

20 students Graduated from 05/19 - 6/2.

1 student moved from having less than 9.75 credits (red) to 10 - 13.75 (yellow)

3 students moved from having 10-13.75 (yellow) to having 14-20.75 (green)

1 - 5th year student is course complete was working on Pathway and OST

1 - 6 year student moved to a Graduate

Yearly Grad Data: 84 students graduated

Attendance

1st semester 8% of the students had 80% or better

2nd semester 19% of the students had 80% or better

Project Timeline:

This is an ongoing project that will be repeated each school year. We are starting year two.

Outcomes Related to School Completion, Dropout Prevention, and/or Graduation Rates:

- increase in credit acquisition
- increase in attendance
- increase in graduation rates

Special Conditions, Expertise, and/or Skills Required to Carry Out Project:

- data collection
- grant writing
- mentor training

Current Status of Project:

We are in year two of our project. We have seen student success in implementing our procedures.

Role in Project as a NDPS Certification Program Participant:

I am the School Counselor at Akron Alternative Academy. Once a student is enrolled with us, I get them acclimated with our school, our expectations and explain how we can guide them towards graduation. I review with the students their individual Audit, which shows exactly what classes, state tests and graduation pathway requirements remain so they know exactly what they still need to complete to graduate. Together, we develop long term course completion goals for graduation as well as discuss post secondary goals. I assign and introduce them to their Mentor Teacher who will use their long term goals to establish and monitor progress toward short term goals. It is my responsibility to track and use school wide data. We use this data to determine who is on track to graduate and celebrate their successes.

Lessons Learned:

- Due to barriers that our students encounter, every student may not be able to attend regularly. Modifications to their schedule may be necessary to help the student be successful. We can utilize lessons learned from working with students during Covid to modify schedules as needed.
- Ask for student input when purchasing incentives.
- Accurate data collection is imperative.
- High expectations for students and staff.

Advice for Dropout Prevention Practitioners about the Project:

- Don't get discouraged.
- Build strong relationships.
- Set reasonable goals with staff and students.
- Staff buy-in is imperative to success.
- Be consistent.
- Know what you want to track, and what outcomes you are looking for, to develop your own data tracking system.
- Be the best mentor you can be.