

# impact

University of Idaho Extension programs that are making a difference in Idaho.

## Long-term partnership with Hansen School impacts students

### AT A GLANCE

With limited out-of-school opportunities, Hansen Impact Club provides a safe environment for rural students to participate in enrichment programs.

### The Situation

Hansen School District has a high rate of students living in poverty, 5% more than the Idaho average, where 78% of students qualify for free or reduced lunch. In addition, the school district operates on a four-day school week. As a result, students were going home to empty houses with little or no supervision and often no support for additional learning or completion of homework. With no public transportation to nearby larger communities where opportunities are available, students are missing quality enrichment programs outside of the school setting.

### Our Response

In 2016, Hansen School District administration solicited community partners for a 21st Century Community Learning Center grant (21st CCLC) to provide a safe, supervised environment for students when school is not in session with programs that focus on providing a variety of enrichment opportunities focusing on English Language Arts and Mathematics.

Hansen School District provided 21st CCLC grant funding for a part-time student intern, hired by UI Extension, and supplies to offset costs of youth programs focusing on the experiential learning model in Healthy



Hansen Impact Club youth learn to play Ukuleles during Special Interest program.

Eating and Active Living; Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM); and Financial Literacy. Two additional interns, funded through the county budget, were utilized in implementing the program to an average of 47 K-8 grade students. Programming consisted of three one-hour rotations on designated Fridays throughout the school year and was tailored to the needs of students in each grade level.

Through continuing partnerships and financial support, programming has evolved, offering youth one two-hour rotation and one one-hour rotation on Special Interest (SpIn) Fridays. An average of 48 youth met at least six times during the semester for two hours to focus on a 4-H project. Eleven Hansen School students participated in the 4-H Shooting

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Sports/Hunter Education SpIn project, completed a 4-H shooting sports project, and received their Idaho Hunter Education card with completion of the program.

Hansen School District continues to provide federal funding for part-time support staff and supplies to offset the costs of youth programs provided by UI Extension. The recurring county support grant allocates funds to supplement additional temporary help to assist program support staff. UI Extension has partnered with Hansen 21st CCLC grant for the last four years.

### Program Outcomes

Students served by the program at Hansen School District are 61% white; 32% Hispanic; and about 7% other races. Thirteen percent are identified as students with disabilities; 20% are identified as English Learners (EL) students; and 68% are of low socioeconomic status qualifying for free or reduced lunch. The program enrollment consists of 58% male and 42% female students.

2017-18 Quantitative data was compiled on the Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI) and Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT). IRI result increases varied between grade levels, with the highest increases in kindergarten of 69% for students who attended more than 40% of program days. ISAT result increases also varied depending on the grade level, with the highest increases reported in seventh grade math (100%) and fifth grade literacy (50%).

Data from the 2018-19 IRI for program participants indicate that 64.2% were performing at grade level by year end. This represents a 125% increase in performance from the 2018 fall test.

Youth, parents and staff of the program were interviewed during the third-year evaluation.

**Students Perceptions:** Students were overwhelmingly positive about their experience.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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- 81.8% of participants surveyed indicated that they like how they learn things in this program.
- 86.4% of students surveyed indicated that they feel safe in this program.

**Parent Perceptions:** Overall, parents support the program and have positive regard for the adults working with their children. Parents also agreed that the program is serving their needs and needs of their children.

- 90% of the parents surveyed indicated that this program is a benefit to their child and that their child enjoys the program.
- 80% of parents surveyed indicated that their child learns more by participating in this program.
- 90% of parents shared that they feel their child has improved their overall grades.
- 80% feel their child's attitude toward school has improved.

In addition, multiple parents made the following comment when asked what the most positive result of your child's participation in Hansen Impact Club has been: The extra enrichment activities — "I love the extra activities that gave my child an opportunity to try new things."

**Staff perceptions:** 100% of Hansen Elementary School staff felt that this program is an asset to their school community.

- 84.6% of staff surveyed indicated that they feel the program strengthened student academic achievement.
- 76.9% of staff surveyed indicated that they feel the program provides support of student social and behavioral development.

### The Future

With funding due to expire at the end of 2020-21 school year, Hansen School administration is exploring funding opportunities to continue Hansen Impact Club for kindergarten through third grade.