



What is the Student Success Initiative?

The Student Success Initiative is a statewide LSTA grant-funded project led by the Pacific Library Partnership (PLP) that seeks to provide support and mentorship to California public libraries in creating partnerships with schools that result in library cards for students.

Why was it started?

According to the California Department of Education, there is 1 teacher librarian per 7,187 students, an average school library collection size is 13,000, and quite often, schools have few or no databases available. Public libraries have a variety of resources to help K-12 students succeed in school and beyond, including books, online databases, tutoring programs, and Internet access. In 2015, the Obama Administration and IMLS announced the ConnectED Library Challenge, which called upon cities, school districts, and public libraries to come together to ensure student success by providing all students with a free public library card.

www.plpinfo.org/student-success

What was done in the first year?

Building on the ConnectED Challenge, PLP was awarded an LSTA Pitch-an-Idea grant in 2016 for the Student Success Initiative. "Pilot" libraries seeking to establish these types of programs were paired with "mentor" libraries who had already had established relationships with schools for library cards. The 15 Northern California libraries supported one another in sharing models to establish student success initiatives and cultivate positive relationships with schools. It can take on average 18-24 months to establish an initiative.

PLP developed a Student Success Initiative Implementation Toolkit, complete with case studies from the first pilot libraries and supporting documents. The Initiative has garnered the support of the California Department of Education.

What is happening in the second year of Student Success Initiative?

The Student Success Initiative is now working with 45 libraries across the state to help establish initiatives. A new toolkit will be developed outlining on sustaining student success programs and relationships with stakeholders.

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