

Pittsworth SHS



Evidence in progress snapshot

IAS Review

November 2017

Background

Pittsworth State High School's I4S funding was targeting at increasing attainment rates for students and measured by A – C results.

- Pittsworth SHS is a rural school sitting on the Darling Downs with an ICSEA of 963.
- Our vision for shaping futures is of a vibrant and diverse community motivating and challenging students to achieve their maximum potential by setting high expectations
- Academic success in Junior Secondary is crucial to ensuring that students are prepared for senior assessment in the future.
- Improving students' literacy abilities was found to have a significant impact on attainment data.
- PSHS aimed to increase A – C attainment for whole school across all KLAs to 90%.

Design – Line of sight

- Teachers were provided with professional development, coaching and release time to support them in implementing the school's literacy plan.
- A – C data was been tracked at each reporting period throughout 2017.
- Individualised curriculum plan were implemented where students were identified as being two years below their cohort.
- I4S funding supported both a wider curriculum for students and smaller class sizes.
- In addition funding was used to provide more teacher-aide support in the classroom to support learners on individualised curriculum plans.
- HODs were involved in QELI Leadership training and redeveloped Pittsworth SHS's pedagogical framework.
- HODs enacted strategies from Fisher and Frey "Visible Literacy".
- Students identified as requiring literacy support were enrolled in ReaDiscover through BSDE.

Impact – Student improvement

Smaller class sizes and increased teacher-aide hours allowed for more individualised teaching. A consistent literacy approach has also had a positive impact on outcomes. An intensive focus on outcome data within departments has led to teaching focused on individualised outcomes.

- Whole school A – C results improved from term one 2017 to term three 2017 87.2% to 90.4%
- Whole school A – C results improved from 2016 to term three 2017 88.6% to 90.4%
- Year 7 A – C results improved from term one 2017 to term three 2017 93.4% to 94.4%
- Year 8 A – C results improved from term one 2017 to term three 2017 92.2% to 93.7%

Scalability – Potential to implement

- All staff were provided with in-service and ongoing coaching in Literacy and 21st Century Fluencies throughout 2017.
- The Master Teacher led the implementation of the literacy plan across the school.
- Case management focussed on students on ICPs
- Coaching with literacy was provided to all junior secondary teachers
- Intensive literacy support was offered through BSDE's ReaDiscover course.
- Students were provided with literacy support to assist them in accessing the Australian Curriculum. A whole school approach to literacy created consistency of approach for students.

Investment – Creating value

- resources required for the initiative, including:
 - QELI Leadership course for HODs
 - Additional .6 teacher
 - 20 Hours per week teacher-aide funding
 - Online PAT R and PAT M
- the costs in relation to the improvement, which may include:
 - Pittsworth SHS expended its I4S allocation of \$166130

Conclusion

Identify learnings and/or recommendations for sustaining and/or building on improvement success. Pittsworth State High School has been successful by applying a school wide approach to improving outcomes for students. There has been a focus on developing the leadership skills of Heads of Departments to lead improvement strategies in their departments. A whole school literacy approach has been implemented with staff provided with in-service and coaching. Data has been evaluated and acted upon across the school. Individual students have been coached to improve literacy outcomes. These strategies have led to A – C data improving across the school.