

RMC Research Corporation

Native Youth Community Project, Nevada Department of Education Summary Report of McDermitt Area Parent/Caregiver Perceptions of Year 4

November 2021

Background of the Native Youth Community Project

The Nevada State Department of Education's *Native Youth Community Project* (NYCP) seeks to prepare American Indian students in Grades 7-12 for college and careers using a three-fold plan that includes: (a) the support of a College and Career Coach (CCC) and School Community Liaisons (SCLs); (b) activities designed to improve student academic performance, including tutoring and summer programs, conferences designed to engage students, and guided visits to colleges; and (c) community collaborative events. Three tribal groups at two sites receive support in these efforts. Members of the Yerington Paiute Tribe and the Walker River Paiute Tribe attend school in the Yerington, NV, area. Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribal members attend school in the McDermitt, NV, area. This report provides a summary of parent/caregiver perceptions of Year 4 in the McDermitt area.

Description of the Sample

The paper-and-pencil *NYCP Parent/Caregiver Survey* was administered during a Back-to-School event held in August 2021. Twelve parents/caregivers responded to the survey. The sample is comprised exclusively of female respondents. The parents/caregivers who responded have children in Grades 7-12 at McDermitt Combined School who participate in the NYCP program. All survey responses are included in the analyses in this report.

Description of the Survey Instrument

The *NYCP Parent/Caregiver Survey* included a total of 12 items: four items regarding demographic information, one item pertaining to the activities in which parents/caregivers participate, two items on the perceived helpfulness of these activities in supporting their child's learning, and five open-ended items designed to gather data on the NYCP's overall impact and to assess further needs.

Two of the items used four response categories: *very helpful*, *somewhat helpful*, *not helpful*, *don't know/did not attend*. See Attachment A for the survey and Attachment B for parent/caregiver comments.

Parent/Caregiver Participation in Activities

The number and percentage of parents/caregivers who participated in a variety of activities and events are reported in Table 1. Parents/caregivers reported the highest participation in meetings with their child's teacher (42%) and Back-to-School or Open House events (42%). Parents/caregivers reported lower participation in meetings to learn about the college application and financial aid application processes (both 8%), the Parent Advisory Council (8%), and to volunteer at a school event (8%).

Table 1*Parent/Caregiver Participation in Activities and Events*

Activity	N Respondents	N Respondents Who Participated	% Respondents Who Participated
A meeting with my child’s teacher or another member of the school staff to discuss my child’s class schedule, grades, and/or learning goals	12	5	42
A meeting with the College and Career Coach or Community Based Instructor	12	3	25
A meeting to learn about the college application process	12	1	8
A meeting to learn about the college financial aid application process	12	1	8
An event that focuses on native culture and/or wellness	12	2	17
An event that focuses on how I can support my child’s learning	12	4	33
A meeting of the Parent Advisory Council	12	1	8
Volunteer at a school event	12	1	8
Back-to-School Night or Open House	12	5	42

Perceived Helpfulness of Activities

The perceived helpfulness of various meetings and activities offered by the school and the NYCP to support children’s learning is reported in Table 2. The results reported in the table must be interpreted with caution, as they are based on 10 or fewer responses to each of the items. Overall, perceptions of the various support activities were favorable. All participants agreed that 9 of the 10 listed meetings and activities were *helpful* in supporting learning. Activities with the highest percentages of parents/caregivers indicating they were *very helpful* include:

- A meeting with my child’s teacher or another member of the school staff to discuss my child’s class schedule, grades, and/or learning goals (80%),
- Back-to-School Night (60%), and
- Community and cultural events hosted by NYCP (50%).

Table 2*Parent/Caregiver Perceived Helpfulness of Activities to Support Learning*

Activity	N Respondents	% Very Helpful	% Somewhat Helpful	% Not Helpful
A meeting with my child’s teacher or another member of the school staff to discuss my child’s class schedule, grades, and/or learning goals	5	80	20	0
A meeting with the College and Career Coach or Community Based Instructor	3	33	67	0
A meeting to learn about the college application process	3	33	67	0
A meeting to learn about the college financial aid application process	3	33	67	0
An event that focuses on Native culture and/or wellness	6	33	50	17
An event that focuses on how I can support my child’s learning	6	17	83	0
A meeting of the Parent Advisory Council	2	0	100	0
Volunteer at a school event	2	0	100	0
Back-to-School Night	5	60	40	0
Community and cultural events hosted by NYCP	10	50	50	0

Eight parents/caregivers provided commentary on what they thought were the most important ways the NYCP has helped their children. Parents/caregivers cited that the NYCP provided new opportunities for students, increased their awareness and understanding of their Native culture and heritage, and exposed them to post-secondary and leadership opportunities. They expressed that this has been done through a variety of activities and supports, including cultural events, trips to conferences and colleges, and various training sessions. These sentiments are evidenced by the following parent/caregiver comments regarding the most important way(s) the NYCP has helped their children:

The fact that my child was able to meet so many Natives who made something great of

themselves was amazing! The parent training was very helpful.

My child got to participate in conferences in Florida, Tahoe.

They helped out by taking them to visit colleges.

Six parents/caregivers provided commentary on what they thought were the most important ways the NYCP has helped them support their children's learning. Parents/caregivers cited that the NYCP has provided training opportunities for parents/caregivers, taught students respect and responsibility, and has helped students view education more positively.

Parents/caregivers also listed areas of support they would like to see offered to their children that are not currently available. The six parents/caregivers who responded to this item expressed a desire to have additional information provided on life skills, classes on Native language and culture, academic tutoring, and continued trips to conferences and colleges. One parent expressed that they would like to see more in-person trainings offered. These sentiments are evidenced by the following comments:

I really want more in person trainings, more exposure to new experiences.

Learning more of their language.

More traveling.

Six parents/caregivers listed topics for future events and areas of support they would like help with. These included: (a) how to better understand, support, and encourage their children's learning; (b) post-secondary planning; (c) Native culture; and (d) wellness and life skills.

Summary of Year 4 McDermitt Parent/Caregiver Survey

Year 4 of the NYCP grant was well-received by the parents/caregivers. Participants indicated that the NYCP had a positive impact on their children. During Year 4, parents/caregivers participated in a variety of events and activities. They reported that they most often participated in meetings with their child's teacher (42%) and Back-to-School or Open House events (42%). All parents/caregivers who participated agreed that 9 of the 10 listed meetings and activities were helpful in supporting learning. A meeting with their child's teacher or another member of the school staff to discuss their child's class schedule, grades, and/or learning goals was perceived to be the most helpful, with 80% of the parents/caregivers rating this as *very helpful*.

In terms of the perceived impact of the NYCP, the open-ended responses highlighted that parents/caregivers believe that the NYCP has provided new opportunities for students, increased their awareness of their Native culture and heritage, and exposed them to post-secondary and leadership opportunities. Parents/caregivers expressed that this has been done through a variety of activities and supports.

In terms of supports still needed, the open-ended responses highlighted the desire for additional information on life skills, classes on Native language and culture, academic tutoring, and continued trips to conferences and colleges.

Attachment A: Nevada Native Youth Community Project Parent/Caregiver Survey

Principal Investigator: Elizabeth Bright

Co-Investigator: Linda Fredricks

PARTICIPANT INFORMED CONSENT FORM: PARENTS/CAREGIVERS

August 2021

Dear Parent, Grandparent, or Caregiver:

RMC Research Corporation is working with the Nevada Department of Education to conduct an evaluation of the *Native Youth Community Project*. The purpose of this study is to measure the impacts of the project activities on participating students, students' families, and community members. Gaining information from the evaluation will help to provide valuable feedback to project staff and will ensure that it is effective and will continue to have positive influences on students and on the community.

The following survey contains questions about your experiences with the Native Youth Community Project's services offered at your child's school. There are no right or wrong answers to the questions on this survey, and it is expected that it will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Answers to survey questions are strictly confidential and all responses are aggregated in our reports. Individual responses will not be shared with school officials or anyone else. No names are used in our reports.

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You are free to withdraw your consent and discontinue participation in this study at any time without prejudice or penalty. Your decision to participate or not participate in this study will in no way affect your relationship with the school or any of its employees.

If at any time before, during, or after the study you have questions, please contact Elizabeth Bright, Principal Investigator at RMC Research Corporation, at (800) 762-5001 or email at sturner@rmcres.com or elizabethbright@gmail.com, and she will be happy to answer any questions you have. If you have any questions regarding your rights as a participant in the study, you may contact Solutions IRB (the organization that oversees the protection of study participants) at 1-855-226-4472 or email participants@solutionsirb.com.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Bright

By signing your name below, you indicate that you understand the conditions of this study and voluntarily agree to participate.

Name (please print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Native Youth Community Project Parent/Caregiver Survey

As you answer the survey questions, please keep in mind that the *Native Youth Community Project* (NYCP) includes activities such as after-school tutoring, spring break and summer camps, meetings with the College and Career Coach, wellness or cultural events, camps or conferences, college visits, and youth summits.

1. Please describe yourself.

- Parent
- Grandparent
- Other caregiver

2. Please indicate your gender.

- Female
- Male

3. What grade level is your child (or children) currently enrolled in? (Check all that apply).

- Grades K-4
- Grade 9
- Grade 5
- Grade 10
- Grade 6
- Grade 11
- Grade 7
- Grade 12
- Grade 8

4. What school do(es) your child(ren) currently attend? (Check all that apply).

- McDermitt Combined School
- Yerington Intermediate School
- Yerington High School
- Other (please specify) _____

5. During the past school year, I was invited to attend and/or participated in the following activities (either in-person or virtually) offered by my child’s school (please check each column as appropriate):

	I was invited to participate	I did participate
a. A meeting with my child’s teacher or another member of the school staff to discuss my child’s class schedule, grades, and/or learning goals.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. A meeting with the College and Career Coach or Community Based Instructor.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. A meeting to learn about the college application process	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	I was invited to participate	I did participate
d. A meeting to learn about the college financial aid application process.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. An event that focuses on native culture and/or wellness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. An event that focuses on how I can support my child's learning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. A meeting of the Parent Advisory Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Volunteer at a school event	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Back to School Night or Open House	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Other (please specify): _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. Of the following activities that you participated in within the last year, how helpful were they to you in supporting your child's learning?

	Very Helpful	Somewhat Helpful	Not Helpful	Don't Know/ Did Not Attend
a. A meeting with my child's teacher or another member of the school staff to discuss my child's class schedule, grades, and/or learning goals.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. A meeting with the College and Career Coach or Community Based Instructor.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. A meeting to learn about the college application process	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. A meeting to learn about the college financial aid application process.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. An event that focuses on native culture and/or wellness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. An event that focuses on how I can support my child's learning.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. A meeting of the Parent Advisory Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Volunteer at a school event	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Back to School Night or Open House	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Other (please specify): _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. **Overall**, during the past year, how helpful to you in supporting your child’s learning were the community and cultural events hosted (either in-person or virtually) by the Native Youth Community Project (NYCP)?

Very helpful Somewhat helpful Not helpful Don’t Know/Didn’t Attend

8. **The most important way the Native Youth Community Project has helped my child(ren) is...**

9. **The most important way the Native Youth Community Project has helped me to support my child(ren)’s learning is...**

10. **Help that I would most like see offered to my child(ren) that is not currently offered is...**

11. **I would like to attend an event for parents/caregivers that focuses on...**

12. **So that I can better support my child(ren)’s learning, I would like to learn more about or receive help with...**

Thanks for completing this survey!!

Attachment B: Parent/Caregiver Comments

[Note that the parent/caregiver comments in this attachment were corrected for grammar and spelling in cases where not doing this hindered the ability to understand the comments.]

- 8. The most important way the Native Youth Community Project has helped my child(ren) is...**
 - Awareness
 - Being involved. I myself did not attend anything because of my job. This is the first time attending an event.
 - Cultural events
 - Learning about culture
 - My child got to participate conferences in Florida, Tahoe.
 - My older grandkids went on trips.
 - They helped out by taking them to visit colleges.
 - The fact that my child was able to meet so many Natives who made something great of themselves was amazing! The parent training was very helpful

- 9. The most important way the Native Youth Community Project has helped me to support my child(ren)'s learning is...**
 - Being there for them
 - Culture
 - Him attending
 - I was able to listen in on a lot of the meetings.
 - My child has seen education in a positive view of her education.
 - Teaching respect and responsibility

- 10. Help that I would most like see offered to my child(ren) that is not currently offered is...**
 - I really want more in person trainings, more exposure to new experiences.
 - Learning more of their language
 - Life skills
 - More traveling
 - Teaching the young children how to do the Native American dancing
 - Tutoring

- 11. I would like to attend an event for parents/caregivers that focuses on...**
 - Better care for children
 - Homework
 - Sharing information and sharing culture
 - Time
 - Ways to encourage Native youth (education, lifestyle, mental health, etc.)

- 12. So that I can better support my child(ren)'s learning, I would like to learn more about or receive help with...**

- Discipline
- Gathering, traveling, sharing information
- Nothing much
- I want to expose my child to as many successful Native Americans as possible. She will be one, because she already has it in her.
- College information