

RMC Research Corporation

Native Youth Community Project, Nevada Department of Education Summary Report of Yerington 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 Community-based Instructors (CBIs); (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 Yerington area.

Description of the Sample

The paper-and-pencil *NYCP Parent/Caregiver Survey* was administered during Back-to-School events held in August 2021. The parents and caregivers who did not attend these events were given an additional opportunity to complete and return the surveys through the CBI. All survey responses are included in the analyses in this report. Twenty-six parents/caregivers responded to the survey. Of these, 54% have children who attend Yerington High School, 27% have children who attend Yerington Intermediate School, and 19% have children who attend both of these schools. The sample includes significantly more female respondents (73%) than male respondents (27%). The parents/caregivers who responded have children in Grades 7-12 who participate in the NYCP program.

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 (54%) and Back-to-School or Open House events (31%). Parents/caregivers reported lower participation in meetings to learn about the college financial aid application processes (8%) and the Parent Advisory Council (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	26	14	54
A meeting with the College and Career Coach or Community Based Instructor	26	3	12
A meeting to learn about the college application process	26	3	12
A meeting to learn about the college financial aid application process	26	2	8
An event that focuses on native culture and/or wellness	26	5	19
An event that focuses on how I can support my child’s learning	26	3	12
A meeting of the Parent Advisory Council	26	2	8
Volunteer at a school event	26	7	27
Back-to-School Night or Open House	26	8	31

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. 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. At least half of the parents/caregivers indicated that all of the activities were *very helpful* in supporting their children’s 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 (82%),
- Back-to-School Night (69%),
- An event that focuses on Native culture (64%),
- An event that focuses on supporting learning (64%),
- Volunteering at a school event (62%), and
- Community and cultural events hosted by NYCP (62%).

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	22	82	14	5
A meeting with the College and Career Coach or Community Based Instructor	11	55	45	0
A meeting to learn about the college application process	8	50	50	0
A meeting to learn about the college financial aid application process	8	50	50	0
An event that focuses on Native culture and/or wellness	14	64	36	0
An event that focuses on how I can support my child’s learning	11	64	36	0
A meeting of the Parent Advisory Council	10	60	40	0
Volunteer at a school event	13	62	38	0
Back-to-School Night	13	69	31	0
Community and cultural events hosted by NYCP	21	62	29	10

Seven 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 has provided new opportunities for students, increased their awareness of their Native culture and heritage, and helped them be more successful academically. They expressed that this has been done through a variety of activities and supports, including the presence of the CCC in the school, the close monitoring of student academic progress, and a variety of activities. These sentiments are evidenced by the following comments regarding the most important way(s) the NYCP has helped their children:

By allowing them the opportunity to be able to go to someone within the school when they have an issue or question.

Getting them out there and participating in groups and doing/learning new things.

Developing pride in being native.

Get her ready for college.

Four 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 increased their understanding of their children's education, including keeping them informed about their children's progress, helping the students to believe in themselves, and offering academic tutoring, particularly in the area of math.

Parents/caregivers also listed areas of support they would like to see offered to their children that are not currently available. The 10 who responded to this item expressed a desire to have additional information provided on post-secondary planning, including information on vocational school and life skills, individual counseling, classes on Paiute Language and Native culture, academic tutoring, ACT preparation, and continued communication on student progress. These sentiments are evidenced by the following comments:

Opportunities and information for other routes outside of college - trade schools/culinary.

Culture-based programs – hand drum making, Paiute language learning.

Contacting me, and tutoring, and talking with me in progress or struggles.

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

Summary of Year 4 Yerington 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 (54%) and Back-to-School or Open House events (31%). 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 82% 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 helped them to be more successful academically. 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 post-secondary planning, including information on vocational school and life skills, individual counseling, classes on Paiute Language and Native culture, academic tutoring, ACT preparation, and continued communication on student progress.

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:

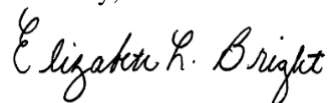
RMC Research Corporation is working with the Nevada Department of Education to conduct an evaluation of the *Native Youth Community Project*. The purpose of this study is to measure the impacts of the project activities on participating students, students' families, and community members. Gaining information 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 elizabethlbright@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...**
 - By allowing them the opportunity to be able to go to someone within the school when they have an issue or question
 - Developing pride in being native
 - Get her ready for college
 - Getting them out there and participating in groups and doing/learning new things
 - Is to keep them up with their grades
 - Making them more successful
 - Did not help my child

- 9. The most important way the Native Youth Community Project has helped me to support my child(ren)'s learning is...**
 - Giving me updated information about where my child is struggling and how to help fix it
 - Keep me informed
 - Making them believe in themselves
 - Math

- 10. Help that I would most like see offered to my child(ren) that is not currently offered is...**
 - ACT Prep
 - Assistance with athletic activities
 - Contacting me, and tutoring, and talking with me in progress or struggles
 - Communication
 - Counseling, awareness
 - Culture based programs – hand drum making, Paiute language learning
 - More life skills
 - Opportunities and information for other routes outside of college - trade schools/culinary
 - Tutoring
 - Tutoring

- 11. I would like to attend an event for parents/caregivers that focuses on...**
 - Awareness [of] these generational warnings
 - Helping my child in school
 - How to communicate when I don't understand my child's frustration with a teacher
 - The various programs that are offered like tonight
 - Life skills
 - Wellness

- Yes, on learning techniques and also how get him help and his future

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

- College preparation, future ideas
- Financial aid
- How to teach him, and communicate when frustrated, and also to make sure he is well taken care of through school year and future after he wants go (peace core, international)
- Life skills – etiquette
- Parenting teenagers! Need to host some events in Schurz area
- The way staff assist the native students now that our youth don't have someone in-house to go to
- Tutoring services in specific subject
- Wellness