

InTech Collegiate Academy

Programmatic Monitoring Report August 30, 2023

Overview

The Utah State Board of Education Title IV, part A staff monitored InTech Collegiate Academy's programmatic use of funds in August 2023. This report outlines the observations, evidence, and any findings or recommendations from that site visit.

InTech Collegiate Academy is utilizing funds to expand the number of college credit-earning opportunities for students.

The monitoring visit was on-site with the Director of InTech, Jason Stenger.

Goals

InTech will use Title IV, part A funding to expand an existing Early College program, wherein InTech students are able to take college courses at Utah State University while still in high school. The provision of these courses will increase access for students since these courses would not be available to them otherwise. Funding for the Early College program will pay for tuition at USU for participating students.

To help ensure the desired impact of the Early College program, InTech faculty will provide ongoing counseling, disability, administrative, and IT support to facilitate students earning college credit through the Early College program. These support activities will be paid for by funds from other (non-Title IV) sources as their supplemental nature cannot be neatly determined from the regular support of all academic programs.

Highlights

InTech is one of six Early College High Schools (ECHS) in Utah. The unique mission of the ECHS is to raise the high school graduation and postsecondary success rates

of underserved youth. Utah has six Early College High Schools operating in partnership with seven of the state's higher education colleges and universities. The Early College program encompasses Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and Concurrent Enrollment (CE) programs. Early college high schools leverage their proximity to their University partner to provide students with consistent college experience and credit.

InTech enrolls just over 200 students. They have a 90% retention rate, including students who graduate early. Sixty percent of their students come from Cache County School District, a rural Northern Utah District. Between 22-36 out of 200 (approximately 15%) students are considered low-income. Approximately 12% of students are in special education programs, with as many as 24% of students on a 504 plan. With its smaller class sizes, increased flexibility, and personalization of instruction, InTech Collegiate Academy is a beautiful fit for neurodivergent students and students with anxiety, among others. In addition, InTech has a support system in place for first-generation college students.

InTech has seen an increase in funding for concurrent enrollment over the past four years. Utah State University (USU) offers a 50% tuition scholarship for high school students. InTech Collegiate Academy utilizes Title IV, part A to supplement the tuition costs for students, resulting in an increase in opportunities for students while simultaneously reducing the economic burden. Annually, the number of participating students has ranged from eight to 25. InTech has seen a slight decline in participation after the Covid pandemic, with students reducing their course load and enrollment in more advanced (CE and AP) courses. Students need more time to complete their chosen pathway to reach college readiness. According to the administration, students are experiencing increased anxiety and choosing to take a lighter course load or more online options. Reports also show that academics have not recovered from the pandemic. The students participating in the program come from a variety of academic backgrounds/experiences during the pandemic, some coming from schools that were shut down, others had their education continued online.

InTech Collegiate Academy is allocated the Title IV, part A program minimum of \$10,000. A portion of the students are enrolled in college courses at the USU campus that are not a part of the concurrent enrollment program. These students

are going above and beyond and taking graduate-level courses, such as mathematics, as juniors in high school. This opportunity for students provides the next level of education embedded in best practices of Gifted and Talented programs and Personalized Competency-Based Learning.

Overall, InTech is an Early College and STEM-focused school. The most popular courses taken by students through the early college program are: Computer Science 1400, Psychology, and the Gen Ed passport.

InTech Collegiate Academy shows more growth and rigor when comparing the growth rates of cohort peers. This is evidence that the framework is working. In addition, InTech Collegiate Academy students are among the top five highest ACT scores (22) in the state.

Title IV, part A funds are critical for InTech Collegiate Academy. The funds allow the school to offer a unique early college program.

Findings and Recommendations

InTech Collegiate Academy reported the need for more counseling support. They currently have a ratio of 1.2 counselors per 200 students. Counselors are currently funded from other sources. There is potential for Title IV, part A Funds to be braided into other funds to support mental health and other academic areas. The USBE Title IV, part A team recommends InTech Collegiate Academy to review their needs, engage with stakeholders, and data to ensure funds are utilized to best serve student needs.

Next Steps

InTech Collegiate Academy will be moving to a new campus. They hope to offer more technical degrees on the new campus. As noted above, a critical look at data and meaningful stakeholder engagement is recommended for future grant funding.

Photos and Evidence

