

IPEI-Funded Programs Increase Student Engagement



IPEI now has research-based evidence for what it has always believed: the programs and activities that it funds through grants to teachers and schools are effective at increasing student engagement.

Data from reports submitted by teachers who were awarded grants during the 2012-13 school year show that ICSD students' engagement rose by an average of nearly 50 percent following an IPEI grant-funded activity. For students identified as "performing below grade level," the average increase in engagement was even higher, almost doubling after participation in IPEI-funded programs.

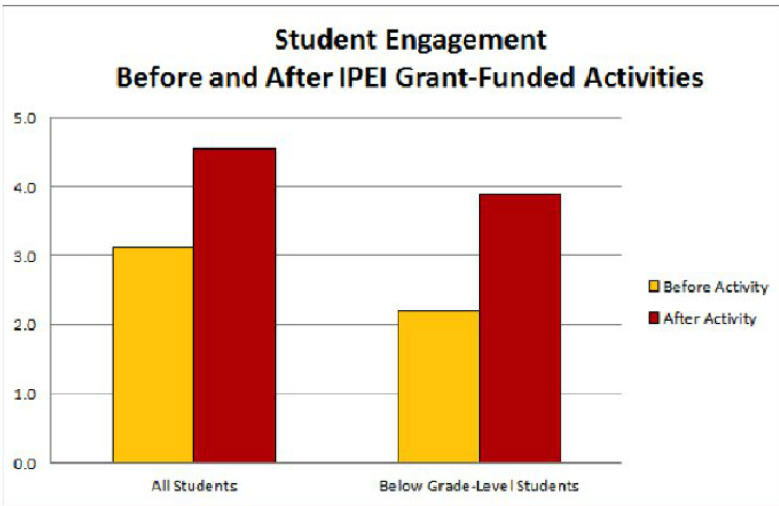
IPEI Grants Committee Chair Pat Tempesta states, "The research is clear: active student engagement is an important indicator for learning. As an organization, IPEI is pleased to see that our grants are a successful tool for teachers."

"Engaging our students in learning when they are young will open up so many opportunities for them throughout their lives," says Christine Sanchirico, IPEI's executive director. "They will be more inclined to become self-motivated in their studies and ultimately in their careers."

Terry Byrnes, IPEI's president expressed, "IPEI grants engage students' creative energies and awaken their imaginations, all of which makes a positive difference in student learning. Teachers have told us this for years—but now we have more concrete evidence. With continued community support, we will make many more IPEI grants in the future."

Thanks to funding from the Park Foundation, retired Caroline teacher Janie Moon Clark was hired to analyze what IPEI could evaluate to determine the impact of its grants. She then worked with Tempesta to develop a new grant report form to gather the relevant data as measured by classroom teachers.

Five measurements of student engagement were reported by teachers: body language, verbal participation, physical participation, independence and excitement. Students were ranked on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the greatest level of engagement, both before and after the activity.



IPEI Red and Gold Grants
[CLICK HERE](#) to view the list of the first-round grants for 2013-14
 Deadline for second round is Dec. 2, 2013