



SAN BERNARDINO CITY
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Making Hope Happen

Mauricio Arellano
Superintendent

Dec. 12th, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Wil Greer, and I am the Director of the Department of Equity and Targeted Student Achievement in the San Bernardino City Unified School District. A critical part of our work is to improve outcomes for our African American (AA) students. Valdez Tutoring has been an important partner and collaborator in this mission. They have my full recommendation.

We started working with Valdez Tutoring early in the 2022-23 academic year. We piloted a program where we deployed their math tutors at three of our six comprehensive high schools. The goal was to reduce our high D/F rates. The tutors worked daily with high need AA students in grades 9-10. They pushed directly into students' math classes and supported them with daily assignments, notes, and classwork. The students were identified based on their test scores and grades.

At each of the three sites where tutors were deployed, we had an *equity counselor* (EC). The ECs coordinated the tutors' schedules, communicated with teachers and parents, and checked in regularly with the students. The ECs were also supported weekly by my program specialist, who visited, met with, and coached them. In short, this was a well-designed and well-coordinated intervention.

By year's end we saw incredible outcomes at the three pilot sites. The math D/F rates ranged from 26%-56% for AA freshmen and sophomores. By comparison, rates at the three control high schools ranged from 38%-80%. This was powerful, as some of the pilot sites previously had math D/F rates of 60%-80%. Qualitatively, reports from the ECs, site principals, and math teachers have been positive. Valdez math tutors are working well with students and staff, and are supporting a positive school culture. Likewise, Mr. Valdez, the company's owner, has been extremely easy to work with, accommodating, and supportive. In a short while they've helped us intentionally close gaps and improve student success. Valdez Tutoring has my full recommendation.

Sincerely,

Wil Greer, PhD, Director
Dept. of Equity & Targeted Student Achievement
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Equity & Targeted Student Achievement