

Wisdom Project

The Wisdom Project is a high school completion and college readiness initiative that will serve the middle school and high school students of the Indian Oasis – Baboquivari Unified School District (IOBUSD) located on the Tohono O’odham Nation in southern Arizona. It brings the resources of Tucson and Pima County through the City/County Metropolitan Education Commission to respond to the needs within IOBUSD. Youth and young adult school dropouts will resume their studies through alternative education while Juvenile Detention Center youth will receive education services. A total of 1,000 students will be served by the four-year project.

Objectives: The Wisdom Project is designed to transform Baboquivari Middle School (BMS), Baboquivari High School (BHS), and IOBUSD alternative sites into high-performing schools, each with a rigorous college preparation curriculum. The project will increase the high school graduation rate and the percentage of students prepared for and entering postsecondary education. The plan is to increase BHS’s high school graduation rate from 56% in 2011 to at least 70% by the end of the project in 2015. The IOBUSD graduates will be technologically prepared for college and for life.

Special features: Project services consist of three main components: 1) Improving the college readiness of IOBUSD students; 2) Enhancing the use of technology for instruction in IOBUSD; and 3) Improving alternative education options on the Tohono O’odham Nation. This is an Investing in Innovation (i3) development project that is designed around the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) college-preparation curriculum, innovations in technology, and a successful model for alternative education.