

New Direction Program Report Zion Benton Township High School

Reporting Period: January – March 2025

Prepared By: New Direction Leadership Team

Executive Summary

The New Direction program launched its official integration at Zion Benton Township High School in February following a successful targeted recruitment phase. The initiative has already served 82 participants, surpassing 50% of our projected enrollment goal. Notably, we exceeded our site capacity in February with 68 participants, which led to a natural reduction to our current 51 engaged students. We are actively seeking to fill the remaining 9 available slots.

Our approach is non-traditional yet highly effective, centering on consistent relationship-building with students. Through weekly group mentorship sessions and bi-weekly 1:1 mentorship check-ins, we've created a safe and empowering environment. This structure allows our team to dig deep into each participant's growth areas and provide tailored support.

Key data points include:

- January served as our recruitment and launch phase, enrolling 35 students.
- February participation peaked at 68.
- March held steady with 51 consistent participants.
- 78% attendance rate across all sessions.
- Academic performance and behavioral progress are tracked through student check-ins, weekly grade checks, and partnerships with the deans' office.
- Students below a 2.0 GPA or with D- or F grades are placed in mandatory tutoring at the Inspire Center on Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:00–4:30 PM.
- Peer-to-peer tutoring is being implemented to build leadership and community among participants.

The program is reaching its stride—relationships have now been formed, trust is building, and we anticipate tremendous impact on student behavior, academic awareness, and leadership development. There has been strong interest from students, and multiple sites have requested the program through word of mouth alone, reinforcing the demand and scalability of New Direction.

Key Program Metrics

Metric	January	February	March	Total/Status
Student Participation	35	68	51	82 Total Reached
GPA Check-ins (Bi-weekly)	0	35	48	100% Participation
Attendance Rate	N/A	68%	78%	73% Average Attendance
Program Completion (Stripes Earned)	0	0	25	50% of Active Students
Behavioral Incidents	0	0	0	No Incidents Reported

Core Program Features

- **1:1 Bi-weekly Mentorship**
 - **Weekly Group Sessions**
 - **Academic & GPA Tracking**
 - **Peer Tutoring for D/F Students**
 - **Transportation to Inspire Center**
-

Student Success: Alan Maldonado

Alan joined in February with all failing grades. Since then:

- All Fs eliminated
- Now passing all classes
- Regularly attends mentorship sessions

Alan is on track to earn his stripe by the next reporting period.

"I didn't think I could catch up, but having people check in on me every week gave me the push I needed." — *Alan Maldonado*

Service Alignment

Department	Focus Area	Point of Contact
College/Career	Exposure, Post-secondary Prep	Jacob Carlson
Athletics	Student-athlete Mentorship	Jack Niemi
Academics	GPA Support, Peer Tutoring	Melissa Digangi

Challenges

- Over-capacity enrollment in February
 - Transportation demand exceeding budget
-

Looking Ahead

- Fill final 9 spots to reach full capacity
 - Integrate New Direction programming into ZB East Campus with adjusted supports for younger students
 - Expand tutoring and academic interventions
 - Strengthen internal alignment with school services
 - Track year-end impact for Q2 report
 - Increase student storytelling across media
-

Media for Web/Socials (To Cheri Bridge)

- "Earn Your Stripes" Celebration (25 Students)
- Mentorship & Tutoring Highlights
- Guest Speakers
- Student Testimonials