

RHIP Mini-Grant Final Report for Three Rivers School, Sunriver
“Three Rivers School BRYT Otter Den”
Reviewed by the Promote Enhanced Physical Health Workgroup

Summary of Results:

- The Otter Den served students with a wide variety of needs.
- Twelve students used the rooms daily (either one class period per day scheduled in the Otter Den or scheduled breaks taken there).
- Ten students used the rooms when needed on a drop-in basis (~2-3 times per week).
- Students’ behavioral needs varied from refusal to work on classroom activities and internalizing behaviors (signs of depression and withdrawal) to more external behaviors such as class disruption, verbal outburst, defiance, and physical aggression.
- The rooms were also used for some limited academic instruction and support (for students who struggled to complete their academic work in their classrooms).
- Most of the students accessing the rooms have been formally diagnosed with mental health, social/emotional, or behavioral disorders or challenges.
- Additionally, most of the students have been experiencing trauma outside of the school. Several of the students have been dealing with homelessness.

Story:

In September, two 6th grade twins enrolled at Three Rivers School from out of state where they had previously been in a self-contained program for students with severe behavioral challenges. After a challenging fall (daily outbursts, defiant behaviors, failing classes), both twins started to improve, becoming more compliant and productive in academics, better able to communicate their needs, and happier overall. By the end of the school year, both twins were passing their classes with reduced incidents. The twins’ father repeatedly expressed his appreciation of all the support his sons received. He was very pleased with the fact his sons were able to be included with their peers in general education classes rather than attending a self-contained class as they did during their previous school experience.