



**Sovereign Community School  
Action Plan and Report  
2021-2022**

**Prepared by: Stacie Thrasher and Kyla Molina**  
**Website: <https://www.sovereignschools.org/>**

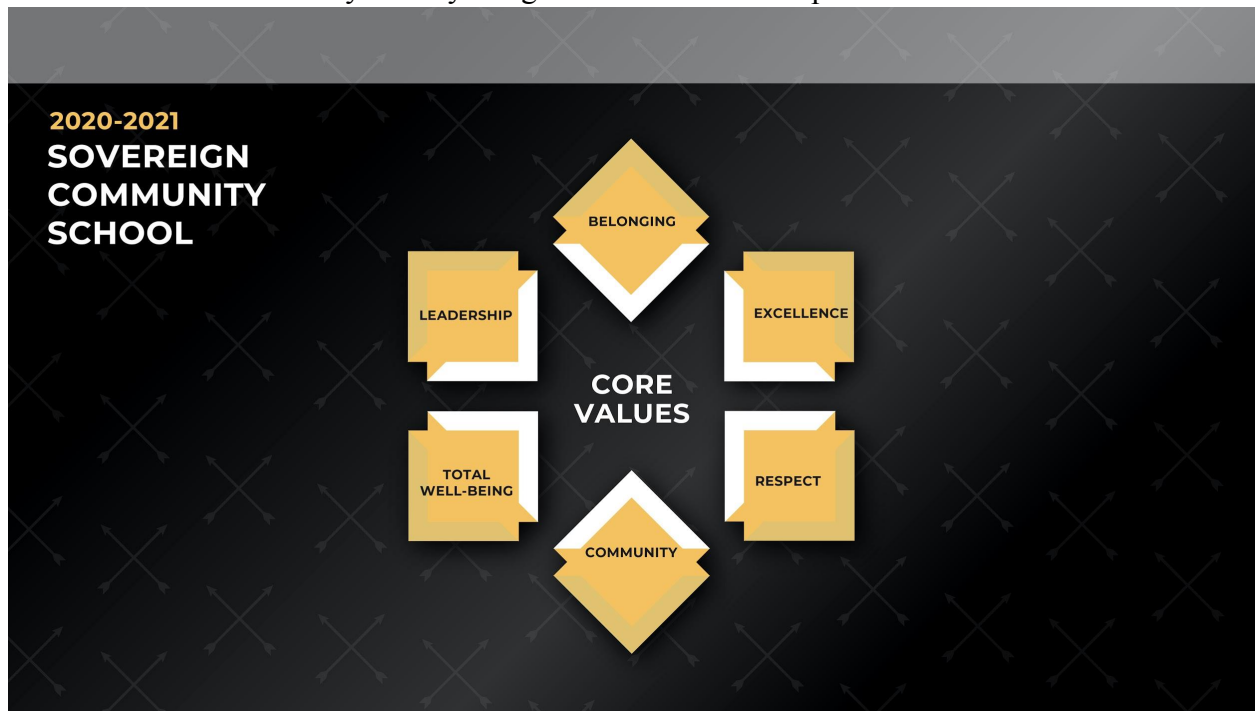
**Why we are here:**

**Mission Statement**

The Sovereign Community School will activate the next generation of indigenous leaders by engaging our youth with rigorous, culturally relevant curriculum that challenges them to understand and affirm their roles as citizens in our many Native nations.

**Vision**

Our school is born from the ideas of the Native community of Oklahoma City and from them we believe first that meeting student wellness needs is foundational to our children’s academic success. We believe that rigorous and culturally relevant classroom content increases student engagement, learning, understanding and critical thinking while also elevating student consciousness about justice for our communities. We believe that creating a space for indigenous people to build community, fellowship and solidarity in Oklahoma City strengthens our kids, families and our nations. The wisdom of our Grandmothers and Grandfathers is key to realizing our mission and that by placing that wisdom foremost we will activate the next generation of holistically healthy indigenous leaders and empowered citizens.



Total Tribal Affiliations: 26

## Student Tribal Affiliations

- ❖ Choctaw - 16
- ❖ Creek - 8
- ❖ Absentee Shawnee - 7
- ❖ Cheyenne-Arapaho - 7
- ❖ Sac and Fox - 7
- ❖ Seminole - 7
- ❖ Wichita and Affiliated Tribes - 5
- ❖ Comanche - 4
- ❖ Kiowa - 4
- ❖ Kickapoo - 4
- ❖ Ponca - 4
- ❖ Caddo - 2
- ❖ Pawnee - 2
- ❖ Shoshone - Bannock - 2
- ❖ Bois Forte - 1
- ❖ Cherokee - 1
- ❖ Citizen Potawatomi - 1
- ❖ Confederated Salish and Kootenai - 1
- ❖ Cree - 1
- ❖ Laguna Pueblo - 1
- ❖ Navajo - 1
- ❖ Northern Cheyenne - 1
- ❖ Omatta Tribe of NE - 1
- ❖ Quapaw - 1
- ❖ Seneca-Cayuga Nation - 1
- ❖ Wyandotte - 1

## **Financial Update**

### Current and projected Budgets

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ZROSbXiMAqvluj5fZ9oBeHE6P3m0AP3c-XQymQ107QE/edit?ts=6059f936#gid=0>

Above you can see three proposed budgets for the 2021-2022 school year. All three budgets do not include federal aid or financial sponsorships.

\*Attached email from Brook Levenitis regarding SFS loan payback

There are two loans. The first one was a short-term loan for \$50,000. That loan was to be repaid on September 12th, 2020. The lender (SFS) may at any time declare the full amount (\$51,000) due and payable; obviously, that has not happened. Mr. Brewster will determine when this should be repaid.

The second loan is for \$250,000. Per the loan agreement, Section 2.1, clause D. the repayment schedule is as follows - The first interest payment is due January 1, 2022, second due on January 1, 2023, and the final payment will include the interest and principal balance due on January 1, 2024.

## **Financial plan moving forward**

- Our above projected budgets do not include in the following
  - Federal funding (Meeting with OPSRC will give us projections)
  - Year 2 carryover

- Grants
- Additional funding
- Below is the funding we plan to apply for, following the State Meeting
  - Inasmuch foundation 75,000
  - ANA Native American Language Preservation and Maintenance
    - Grant floor 100,000, Grant Ceiling 300,000
  - Social and Economic Development Strategies - Growing Organizations (GO)
    - Grant floor 50,000, Grant ceiling 200,000
- We have held Three info sessions seeking tribal support and have contact with two tribes the Cheyenne Arapaho and Chickasaw Nation for possible funding. Below is the link to this presentation.
  - [SCS Partnership Info Night \(1\).pdf](#)

## Continuity Plan

The first image below shows progress made from Probation terms.

The second image shows one plan of how Sovereign moves forward.

The third image shows the plan if Sovereign ceases at the end of the year.

# Progression of Probation Terms since January 2021.

## Obligations

- Oklahoma Teachers Retirement System (TRS) obligation paid in full February 2, 2021.
- PPP Loan Forgiveness: 100% Forgiven on March 22, 2021.
- SFS Loan- 1st Payment 2022
- Audit was completed by Bledsoe, Hewett, and Gullekson
- Personnel Reporting Updated
- School Board Meetings and Committee meetings being met as requested
- Monthly emails and frequent communication among Interim Superintendent, Interim Board President, Brad Clark, and SDE staff to work show consistent communication between Sovereign and the state.



## **Rigorous Content**

**1d: Big Ideas, Understandings, and Essential Questions:** *What big ideas are explicit in the mission? What are the essential questions and enduring understandings that will guide the development of the school?*

### **Mission Statement**

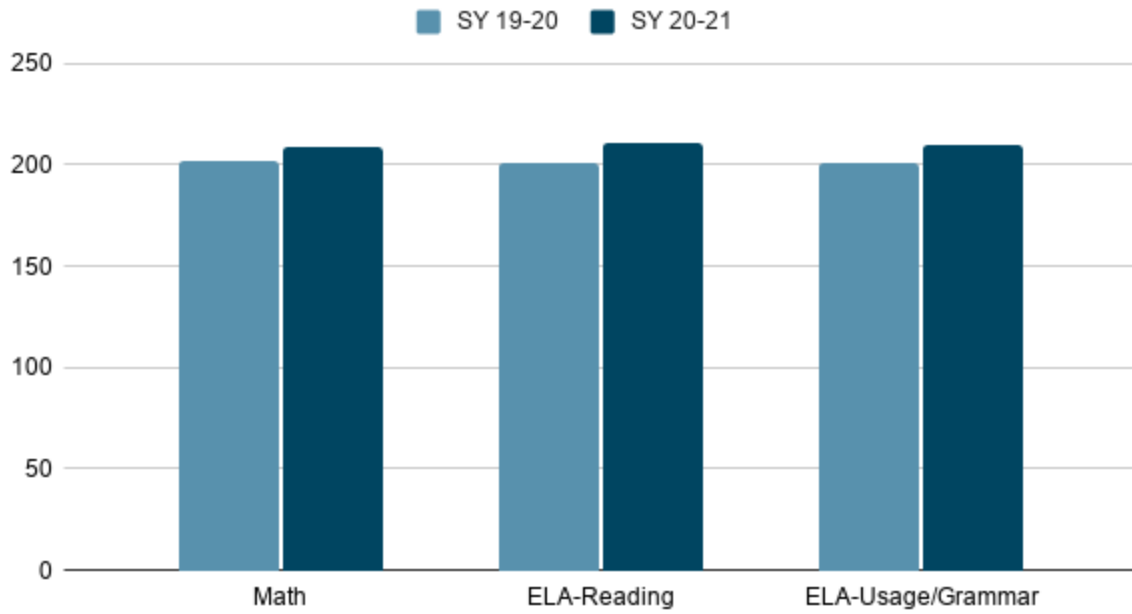
The Sovereign Community School will activate the next generation of indigenous leadership by engaging our youth with rigorous, culturally relevant curriculum that challenges them to understand and affirm their role as citizens in our many Native nations.

<b>Big Idea:</b>	<b>Essential Question that encourages critical thinking about the purpose of the big idea in the mission of the school:</b>	<b>Enduring Understanding: The mantra, proverb, or understanding that grounds the community in this big idea.</b>
Holistic Student Wellness	How does a school create opportunities to support students' mental, physical, cultural and social wellbeing?	Meeting student wellness needs is foundational to our children's academic success.
Rigorous Indigenized Learning Community	Why is indigenizing curriculum important to the success of our communities?	Rigorous culturally relevant content increases student engagement, learning, understanding, and critical thinking, while elevating student consciousness about justice for our communities.
Intertribal Inclusivity	What spaces exist in Oklahoma City to foster intertribal cooperation and what role can our school play in building an indigenous community of solidarity?	Creating a space for all indigenous people to build community and fellowship in Oklahoma City strengthens our kids, families and Native nations.
Cultural Connectedness	What intergenerational impacts are possible when indigenous children are given the space to explore, grow, and affirm their cultural identities?	We activate the next generation of indigenous leaders and empowered citizens of our Native nations by applying the wisdom and knowledge of our Grandmothers and Grandfathers.
<b><u>VISION STATEMENT</u></b>		
<p>Our school is born from the needs and ideas of the Native community of Oklahoma City and from them we believe first and foremost that meeting student wellness needs is foundational to our children's academic success. We believe that rigorous and culturally relevant classroom content increases student engagement, learning, understanding and critical thinking while also elevating student consciousness about justice for our communities. We believe that creating a space for all indigenous people to build community and fellowship in Oklahoma City strengthens our kids, families and our nations. We believe that the wisdom of our Grandmothers and Grandfathers is key to realizing our mission and that by placing that wisdom foremost we will activate the next generation of holistically healthy indigenous leaders and empowered citizens.</p>		

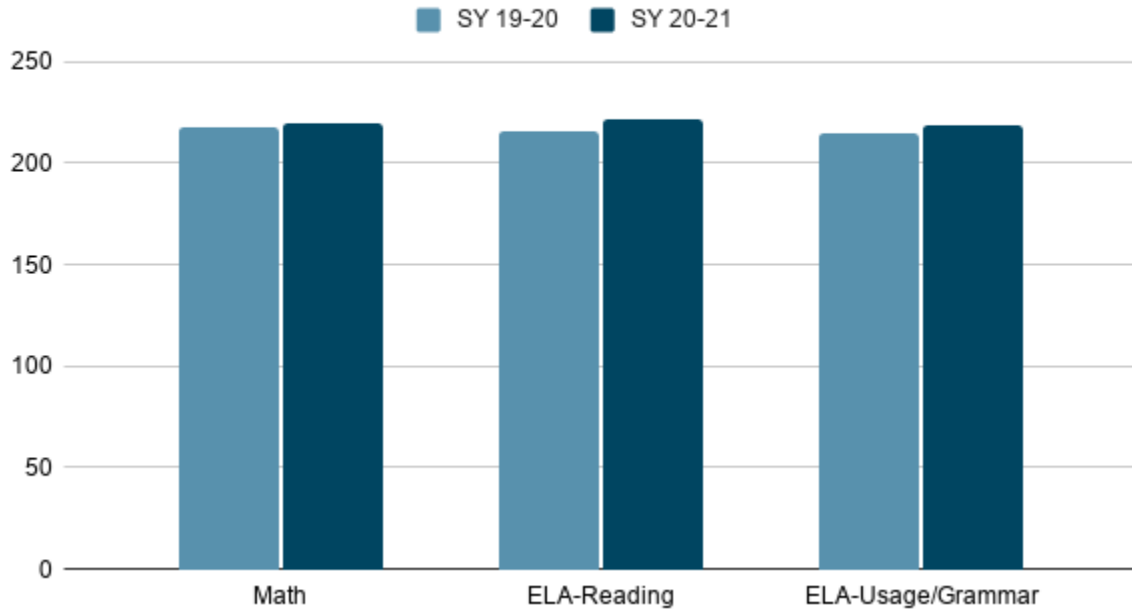
Currently our teachers are working hard to create rigorous content. This has always been the mission at SCS to impact our students using the above model.

Review of our testing data last year showed tremendous growth with some students increasing scores up to 300%. This year's preliminary data (\*shown below) shows that students that we had last year on average show an increase in testing data and have maintained their growth during these uncertain circumstances. This data is overall scores to protect student confidentiality.

## 7th Grade NWEA Data



## 10th Grade NWEA Data





## **Recruitment Goals:**

      In order for Sovereign to be sustainable and lean less on donations, grants, PPP loans, and other loans we have to have a strong enrolled student base. This will create long term success. The focus on grants and donations will be needed in this next year to support Sovereign until the mid-year adjustment.

- Goal 1: Enroll 150-200 students this would be an increase of 80-100 students.
  - Objectives:
    - Begin weekly updates regarding recruitment (15 new enrolled)
    - Monthly vendor event to draw attention to the school
    - Recruitment table to Powwows and cultural events
      - Memorial day powwow
      - Monthly vendor event
    - Facebook posts are running ads to increase site traction and direct toward enrollment
    - Enrollment flyers are being handed out at monthly tacos sales to increase enrollment
- To Date enrollment for 2021-2022
  - 19 students pre enrolled (new)
  - 80 students (returning)

## **Community support and partnerships**

- The Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma
  - Introductory partnership for grants
- The Kwek Society
  - Provides moon bags to female students
- Teacher for America
  - Partnership to provide ongoing teacher support and possible placement for Alumni teachers
- The Auntie Project
  - Provides families with meals and other assistance as needed
- We The People consulting services
  - Generating tribal partnerships
- Walton Family Foundation
  - Provided SCS start up foundation money
- OKCIC Dental and Behavioral Health

- Conversations are in the process to provide services to our students when they return to campus
- Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference
  - Monetary donations to students
  - Private/individual tutoring offered through Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference
- Research opportunities
  - SCS is currently looking for research partnerships
- MOU Haskell
  - Allowing our students to participate in concurrent enrolment and proceed to get a four -year degree if college is the track they choose.
- Oklahoma Arts Council
  - Classroom funding for art projects and grants available
- First Americans Museum
  - Student have been asked to be present for the grand opening and volunteer
- Feed the Children
  - Items were donated that include, books, supplies, and food items
- National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum
  - Donations, and teacher trainings
- Oklahoma Public Charter School Association
- Oklahoma Public School Resource Center
  - Continued consulting services, professional development, and products

### **Targeted services**

- Mental health services

Mental health can affect a student's energy level, concentration, dependability, mental ability, that can hinder performance, when not having services available. Research suggests that the student demographic that Sovereign serves will benefit with consistent mental health services along with the rigorous curriculum provided, and will set a path of success for every student. The goal of SCS is to develop a program to continue to implement targeted mental health services.