



Inland Empire United Way

School Tools Evaluation 2008-09

Executive Summary

Inland Empire United Way



Encouraging smart, successful kids!

INTRODUCTION

This summary highlights the findings from the outcomes evaluation and teacher surveys of Inland Empire United Way's School Tools program during the 2008-09 school year. A more detailed analysis of the outcomes and surveys can be found in the full report.

DESCRIPTION OF SCHOOL TOOLS PROGRAM

Schools Tools is a program of the KidSmart Initiative at Inland Empire United Way that focuses on providing disadvantaged children with school supplies. School teachers "shop" at the Teacher Resource Center, located in Rancho Cucamonga, where they choose school supplies for their students' use. The School Tools program is a collaborative effort between Inland Empire United Way, the Kids In Need Foundation, local school districts, businesses, and community volunteers. During the past academic year, School Tools distributed almost half a million dollars worth of goods through teacher visits to the Teacher Resource Center and over \$250,000 worth of goods through special distribution events.

Some notable achievements for the 2008-09 school year include:

- All program outcomes showed positive results
- Increasing the number of schools participating from 21 last year to 27 this year
- Increasing the number of teacher visits by 14%
- Increasing the average dollar value of goods distributed per teacher per visit to \$757
- The total goods distributed through Teacher Resource Center teacher visits surpassed one million dollars

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ANALYSIS

The need for School Tools is great and has been increasing every year. Overall, teachers estimated that 65% of their students' families could not afford school supplies for their children. Indicators show that a lack of school supplies affects teachers' ability to teach and students' ability to learn and perform academically. It is also clear that the current economic recession is having a devastating impact on many students.

Inland Empire United Way's School Tools program has three outcomes as its goals. They are:

1. Low income children are better equipped with the basic tools for learning

Improvements were found for each indicator used to measure this outcome. The overall situation regarding having tools for completing in-class assignments and assignments at home improved significantly.

2. Teachers are able to enhance their instruction

The findings for this outcome are very encouraging. 87% of the teachers who participated in School Tools think they are able to do a better job as a result of receiving additional school supplies and 91% of the teachers indicated that School Tools supplies provided an opportunity to expand or improve instruction.

3. Teachers spend less of their own money to purchase supplies their students need

This year's participants, on average, are spending \$15 less than they did the previous year. Although this number may seem small, this is the first year that showed a decrease in year-to-year spending. 42% of the program participants are spending less and 30% are spending more.

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CONCLUSION

To differing degrees, all the School Tool outcome goals are being met. For two of the three School Tools program outcomes, the results clearly show that the program is succeeding in regards to its goals. For the first program outcome, low income children are better equipped with the basic tools for learning, and the second program outcome, teachers are able to enhance their instruction, the analysis revealed a great deal of improvement. For the third outcome, teachers spend less of their own money to purchase supplies their students need, the results are not as dramatic but still positive. It should also be noted that the expansion of the program also means that many more teachers and students are being impacted by the program so that on an absolute scale the impact of the program is increasing tremendously.