



INCREASING POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT AMONG WASHINGTON STUDENTS

CASE STUDY: WEST VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT



More than 740,000 job openings are coming to Washington state, most of which will be filled by workers with a post-high school credential, such as a degree, apprenticeship, or certificate. Raising the post-high school enrollment rate of Washington students offers the best opportunity to increase the rate at which they earn credentials that open doors to opportunity. An estimated 40 percent of Washington high school students complete a credential today.

Our Goal: make it 70 percent by the high school class of 2030.



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WHERE WEST VALLEY WINS

More than 9 in 10 students in Spokane's West Valley School District graduate on time. Six in 10 enroll directly in postsecondary education. West Valley is outpacing the state as a whole on both metrics, and much of that success can be attributed to rigorous expectations paired with robust guidance. All students are encouraged to think about and pursue postsecondary education, with repeated outreach from adults to ensure students get the encouragement and support they need.

BY THE NUMBERS

West Valley School District serves nearly 4,000 students in 13 schools. More than half are from low-income households.

2017-2018	WEST VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT	WASHINGTON STATE
WHITE STUDENTS	80%	54%
STUDENTS OF COLOR	20%	46%
LOW-INCOME STUDENTS	51%	42%
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	3%	12%

2016-2017 Data

CLASS OF 2017 FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION RATE	97%	79%
2016 DIRECT POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT RATE	62%*	59%*

Data Sources: OSPI Washington State Report Card
*ERDC High School Feedback Report (Classic), 2016

#1 POST-HIGH SCHOOL MINDSET

- Beginning in elementary school, students are repeatedly exposed to the idea of postsecondary education through Spirit Days, college visits, and college signing day events.
- Persistent outreach encourages students to fill out financial aid and scholarship forms.
 - More than **70 percent** of students complete the FAFSA or WASFA each year; counselors follow up with students to help complete forms.
 - One hundred percent** of eligible students complete the College Bound scholarship application.
- PSAT and SAT tests are offered for free during the school day, and 100 percent of students participate.

#2 RIGOROUS ACADEMIC COURSEWORK

- Default course schedule aligns to the most rigorous courses available.
- Students are highly encouraged to enroll in pre-AP and AP courses.

#3 STRONG GUIDANCE FOR ALL STUDENTS

- Each student is assigned an adult mentor, with a 25:1 ratio.
- Staff and students use a "GPS" dashboard to track student grades and attendance with in-person check-ins every three weeks. The dashboard and meetings offer opportunity to identify and help address problem areas.
- GEAR UP advising provides tailored support to encourage postsecondary preparation and enrollment.

#4 ADDITIONAL SUPPORTS FOR SYSTEMICALLY UNDERSERVED STUDENTS

- Washington State Achievers Scholarships are prioritized for (but not limited to) students of color and low-income students.
- More girls are pursuing STEM thanks to the district's commitment to Project Lead the Way curriculum in engineering and bio-medical sciences.



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