

INCREASING POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT AMONG WASHINGTON STUDENTS

CASE STUDY: CHEHALIS SCHOOL DISTRICT



Washington state is home to a diverse economy with a broad range of anchor industries. Increasingly, the jobs available in our state are being filled by workers who have completed 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 raise the rate at which they earn credentials that open doors to opportunity. An estimated 41 percent of Washington high school students complete a credential today.

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



READY FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER IN CHEHALIS

In the Chehalis School District, more than 9 of 10 students are graduating in four years from W. F. West High School, a rate that's higher than the state average. An increasing number are going on to pursue a post-high school credential. The "credential going" culture has developed out of the district's commitment to increased dual-credit opportunities and rigorous coursework, an active partnership with Centralia College, strong supports for students who have been systemically underserved, particularly first-generation college students and those from low-income households, and active collaboration among staff. The district has set a goal that, by the class of 2020, 80 percent of students will graduate high school with a four-year-degree-ready diploma, meaning they will have completed state and district graduation requirements, as well as meeting credit-based entrance requirements for the state's most rigorous four-year programs.

BY THE NUMBERS

The Chehalis School District has set a goal that 60% of its students will go on to earn a two- or four-year college degree, an apprenticeship, or enter the military by the high school class of 2022.

2018-2019	CHEHALIS SCHOOL DISTRICT	WASHINGTON STATE
WHITE STUDENTS	75%	53%
STUDENTS OF COLOR	25%	47%
LOW-INCOME STUDENTS	40%	46%
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	4%	12%
CLASS OF 2019 FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION RATE	95%	81%
DIRECT ENROLLMENT* RATE IN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION: 2016	64%	59%
DIRECT ENROLLMENT RATE IN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION: 2018	73%**	NOT AVAILABLE***



* These figures indicate enrollment rates one year after high school graduation.
 **Based on data from the Chehalis Student Achievement Initiative.
 *** State data has only been collected through the Class of 2016.

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#1 POST-HIGH SCHOOL MINDSET

- Beginning in elementary school, students engage repeatedly in activities that showcase postsecondary opportunities and career pathways through college tours, assemblies, and conversations about teachers' career journeys.
- Middle school students have dedicated time during their core classes, led by school counselors, to research college options and visit campuses.
- The high school schedule includes a 30-minute time block every day focused on college and career readiness.
- Students are eligible to take one credit-bearing course at Centralia College for free the summer before their senior year, which enables them to earn college credit and see themselves as college students.
- The post-high school mindset is reinforced by two dedicated college advisors in the middle and high school, along with a robust community mentorship program.

#2 RIGOROUS ACADEMIC COURSEWORK

- Intensive, school-wide efforts align courses, particularly in math and science, with four-year college entrance requirements.
- Expanded College in the High School course offerings enable students to experience college-level coursework and earn dual credit while staying on the high school campus. Since 2015, the number of students taking dual credit courses has grown more than 50 percent.
- District staff keep a close eye on student progress, analyzing transcripts annually and aligning course offerings to ensure students are on-track and have opportunities to meet four-year college entrance requirements.

READY FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER IN CHEHALIS

#3 SUPPORTS FOR SYSTEMICALLY UNDERSERVED STUDENTS

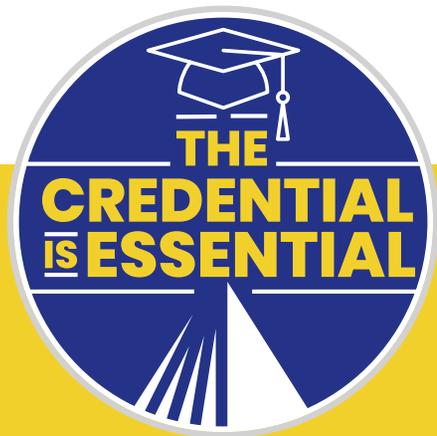
- Students engage in one-on-one conversations with counselors starting in middle school about how to pay for college.
- Counselors reach out to students and families about the College Bound scholarship. For the class of 2024, 90 percent of eligible students signed up.
- The district employs Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID), a proven way of teaching that prepares students—particularly first-generation college goers—for postsecondary education and career.
- A career and college counselor works one-on-one with each student to complete financial aid forms and hosts financial aid information nights for families.

#4 STRONG PARTNERSHIP WITH CENTRALIA COLLEGE

- Full-time staff at the high school and at Centralia College work together to enroll students in college and support the transition from high school.
- A mentor program at Centralia College pairs second-year college students with high school students.
- Incoming college students get contacted during the summer if they have not yet registered for classes. These nudges come from community mentors, as well as high school and college counselors.
- Math instructors at the high school and college work together to align and coordinate instruction.
- Centralia College offers incentives for students to register for courses, such as credit to spend at the bookstore.

“ We want to make sure the four-year pathway stays open to students. ”

—Trisha Smith,
Director of Teaching and Learning for
Chehalis School District



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