Data Driven Efforts to Improve Graduation Rates in WCSD

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Today’s Presentation

• Every child, by name and face, to graduation!

• A strategic plan and “Pathway to Excellence”

• A need to study the “pathway” and to turn data into action

• Executing on the plan

• Monitoring progress
Framing the Discussion

WCSD Graduation Rates (Adjusted Cohort Model)

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A need to study the “pathway” and to turn data into action.

• WCSD and REL West research collaboration.
Predicting High School Graduation from Grade 8 CRT Performance
About Half of the Students Expected to Graduate in 2009 Passed All Four CRTs as Eighth Graders

Based on 3,644 students expected to graduate in 2009 who attended Washoe schools in eighth grade and in high school and who attempted all four tests.
Graduation Rate
Varied with the Number of Tests Students Passed in 8th Grade

- 4 Tests: 84%
- 3 Tests: 63%
- 2 Tests: 52%
- 1 Test: 36%
- 0 Tests: 13%
Is “Proficient” Good Enough for “College Ready?”

Figure 2. The probability a student will be judged ready for college-level mathematics courses as a function of the student’s scale score on the statewide grade 8 mathematics test.

- SS 300 = 12% Prob
- SS 365 = 50% Prob
- SS 419 = 84% Prob
When Students Leave High School Before Graduating
Cumulative Percentage of Students Leaving 2010 Graduation Cohort by Quarter

[Graph showing cumulative percentage of students leaving the graduation cohort by quarter from 2006/07 to 2009/10.]
Executing the Plan!

- The High School Graduation Initiative
- High School Signature Programs
## Alternative Learning Options

### Outreach and Enrollment

**Reengagement Centers**
- Six centers regionally located and embedded in community
- Outreach to students who are not enrolled or who are at-risk of dropping out
- Case management to meet immediate physical and social-emotional health needs
- Transitional site: “shepherded” into educational system

### Transitional Learning Site

**School Within a School** at North Valleys High School
- Two additional SWS sites will open in 2012-13 and 2013-14
- Alternative school environment, credit recovery structure
- Focus on personalized instruction
- Students may temporarily enroll in SWS to “catch up” or may remain through graduation

### Alternative High School

**Washoe Innovations High School**
- Online and main campus with day and evening programs
- Alternative school environment, credit recovery structure
- Access to career and technical education opportunities
- Focus on personalized instruction
Re-Envisioning of Traditional High Schools

- Early identification of student needs through multi-tiered systems of support
- Focus on personalized instruction
- Expanded credit recovery options
- Increased accountability to meet academic and social-emotional student needs
2012-2013 WCSD High School Options

AACT HS
The Performing Arts Center (PAC) at Damonte Ranch HS
Health Sciences Academy at Hug HS
Global Studies Academy at McQueen HS
Wooster’s IB Program

H.O.P.E. Academy at Reed HS
S.T.A.R.S. CTE Academy at Reed HS

TMCC HS
Wooster Sustainable Resource Academy (WSRA)
Microsoft IT Academy of Excellence at Sparks HS
WOLF
Cougar Academy of Media Arts & Communications at Spanish Springs HS
Red House Project at Reno HS

Zoned High School
Continuous Improvement!

• Use of data to evaluate, plan, and to monitor progress.
  – Supporting students and schools as they make the journey to college and career readiness.
WCSD Pathway Performance Scorecard (All Schools)
Detailed School Profiles and Performance Targets

High Expectations & Support:
- Schools
- Teachers
- Grade levels
- Student groups
- Students
## Student Monitoring Tool

*Every Child, By Name and Face, To Graduation*

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Risk Index
Early Warning Systems Based on Displayed Risk Factors

Risk Index (0-10) = Attendance (0-2) + Transiency (0-2) + Retention (0-2) + Reading (0-2) + Math (0-2)

- Risk is Based on Reading & Math Assessment Performance, Attendance, Mobility, and Retention
- Based on research developed by Balfanz (2007), and tailored to WCSD data and student population
  - In WCSD Risk is significantly associated with year-end GPA, credit attainment, suspensions
- ALL schools serve at-risk students but risk across schools is uneven
- School Leadership and Counselors are using the student risk index to identify students and build connections
- Family engagement office is using the student risk index to help schools identify families and to build connections with them
Conclusion

• WCSD is dedicated to fulfilling its mission and making its vision a reality.
• An unrelenting focus on the needs of students serves as our compass.
• Using data to guide decision making, with respect to both outcomes as well as process, enables us to continuously improve in our efforts to support students.
A Continuing Need to Improve

WCSD Graduation Rates (Adjusted Cohort Model)

Percentage Receiving Standard Diplomas

2009 2010 2011

All Students 56 70 70
Hispanic 40 55 54
African American 42 54 63
White 19 25 78
IEP 16 16 54
LEP 39 54
Low SES 62 62 62
Two Students’ Tales of Success!

- Yomali, Sparks Re-engagement Center
- Victor, Sparks Re-Engagement Center
Thank You 😊

Questions ?
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