



The Eight Critical Elements Leading to Positive Graduation Outcomes

AN OVERVIEW



THE IMPERATIVE TO IMPROVE

Oregon's four-year graduation rate falls below the national average. For some groups of students including, our American Indian /Alaskan Native, our students of color, students with disabilities, those living in poverty and male students, our education system is failing to help them reach this important milestone.

Across all of the research and recommended strategies several clear themes rose to the top, *relationships*, *partnerships*, and *equity*. At the core of the issue of graduation are the relationships that we foster and nurture. Students need to feel that they matter, that somebody cares about them as an individual and will advocate for their needs. They need to know that we expect the most of them and will support them with time and resources in achieving their goals. Students need to feel heard and that their story, their strengths and their interests are integrated into school. Schools and teachers need to have strong relationships with their students, the students' families and the communities surrounding them.

LEADERSHIP

Strong leadership is concerned about the overall well-being of students. Leaders recognize that embracing each student's identity and strengths is essential to creating improvement. Partnerships with families and communities with shared leadership build trusting relationships that foster success.

Strategies:

- Distributive Leadership
- Professional Learning Communities for School Leaders
- Administrator Mentoring Programs

START STRONG

Starting strong means making sure families, early learning providers and schools work together to create a strong educational foundation for students. Early learning can provide some of the largest returns on investment in education.

Strategies:

- Pre K- 3rd Grade Alignment
- Professional Early Learning Community Partnerships and Early Learning Hubs

WHOLE CHILD APPROACH

The Whole Child Approach to education ensures that each child - in every school and in all communities - is healthy, safe, engaged, supported and challenged. Whole Child Education requires students, families, schools and communities to all work together.

Strategies:

- Trauma Informed Practices
- Child Nutrition: Alternative Breakfast Programs
- Physical Education
- Mentor Programs
- School-based Health
- Social/Emotional Learning Integrated into Curriculum

INCLUSIVE SCHOOL CULTURE

Building practices and systems that create a sense of belonging and inclusion for all students rather than systems that isolate or disengage students leads to improved student outcomes.

Strategies:

- Restorative practices
- Active parent engagement and partnerships with communities
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

QUALITY DATA SYSTEMS

Data can be used to identify students at risk of not graduating. Schools that have a strong culture of using data to inform instruction and programming can help foster relationships and supports needed for student success.

Strategies:

- Multi-tiered System of Support (MTSS)
- Addressing chronic absenteeism
- Early Warning Systems
- Partnerships with community resources such as: mental and physical health providers, human services, tribes and culturally specific community organizations
- Academic support: tutors / mentors

P-20 SEAMLESS EDUCATION SYSTEM

Programs that support students and families during the transition between grades and schools are vital to successful outcomes.

Strategies:

- Summer bridge programs and camps
- Effective use of School Counselors
- Intentional focus on transitions between buildings and coordination of supports
- Reengagement centers
- Ongoing vertical curriculum alignment

CLEAR EDUCATION PATHWAYS

Relevant and challenging educational opportunities that help students achieve their personal goals promote engagement and build skills necessary for success in the 21st Century.

Strategies:

- Career technical education
- Accelerated Learning (Earning college credit while in high school)
- Student Education Plan and Profile
- Career pathways and career guidance
- Creative course offerings and flexible credit options

EFFECTIVE INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES

The core of education happens with the interaction and relationship between students and teachers. In student centered education teachers know they can make a difference by focusing on the needs of each child.

Strategies:

- Culturally responsive teaching practices
- Effective use of formative assessment process
- Personalized learning and student centered instruction
- Offering relevant, engaging and challenging learning opportunities aligned to students' goals
- Integrating growth mindsets and social emotional skill development for students and teachers

LINKS TO RESOURCES FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND FURTHER RESEARCH

Research:

EPIC Study: What works Oregon

https://www.oregon.gov/ode/reports-and-data/taskcomm/Documents/16.05.11.QEC_college-readiness-case-study-project-pg-1-16.pdf

Resources:

US Department of Education briefs: High School Strategies Designed to Help At-Risk Students Graduate

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/opepd/ppss/reports-high-school.html>

Quality Education Model Report 2016

<http://www.ode.state.or.us/wma/research2016-quality-education-model-final-report--revised.pdf>

Everyone Graduates

<http://www.every1graduates.org/>

Oregon Chief Education Office Graduation Report

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2017R1/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/98845>

NSIF Glossary of Innovation

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B-fAujJ3jMd3dUhzclliOUZzLXM/view?usp=sharing>

Oregon's ESSA Plan

<http://www.oregon.gov/ode/rules-and-policies/ESSA/Pages/default.aspx>

Further Research and Resources

http://libguides.osl.state.or.us/grad_outcomes