NINTH GRADE SUCCESS TEAM GRANT PROGRAM | PROPOSED BUDGET PROVISO | 2021-2023 BIENNium

It’s time to expand the Ninth Grade Success Team program and increase graduation rates:

- This **cost-effective $4 million biennial grant program** will fund implementation and training costs for Ninth Grade Success Teams in eighty high schools.
- It would **scale up proven strategies** that are already keeping students on-track to graduation.

**NINTH GRADE IS THE “MAKE OR BREAK YEAR” FOR GRADUATION**

Being “on-track” in ninth grade (passing all classes) is a stronger predictor of on-time graduation than a student’s background or test scores. With a focus on equity at their core, Ninth Grade Success Teams are proving to effectively close gaps and reach students in need.

**GRANT PROGRAM WILL EXPAND SUCCESSFUL 2019-21 OSPI PILOT**

A 2019 budget proviso created an OSPI pilot program in five districts alongside a partnership with the Center for High School Success. Each district established Ninth Grade Success Teams made up of teachers, administrators, counselors, and support staff trained to efficiently use early warning data such as attendance, behavior, and grades to identify struggling students early and intervene to get them on-track.

**TIMELY STRATEGIES PROVED EFFECTIVE DURING COVID-19 CRISIS**

COVID-19 disrupted the 2019-20 school year but 4 of 5 districts in the Ninth Grade Success Team pilot saw increases in their on-track rates by the end of first semester. Educators relied on the Ninth Grade Success Team strategy as they supported students through the pandemic.

“Even with COVID cutting the year short, we had success. We made an impact. Imagine what we could do with a full normal year and practice under our belts?”

- WA educator who participated in the 2019-20 OSPI Pilot

**Students are 4x more likely to graduate if they’re on track by the end of 9th grade.**

**9TH GRADE ON-TRACK RATE 2019-21 OSPI PILOT DISTRICTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>2018-2019 End of Year</th>
<th>2019-2020 Semester 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ellensburg</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>86.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandview</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moses Lake</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toppenish</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wahluke</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>88.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**State Avg: 72.9%**

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