Update on Graduation Rates*
April 16, 2018

*All 2016-17 data in this presentation is preliminary.
The goal of Destination Excellence is to make Tulsa a destination for top educators and a proof point for what’s possible in urban education.

To accomplish this, we developed a five-part strategy:

1. Create powerful learning experiences for all by implementing an aligned PreK-12 instructional program.
2. Cultivate safe, supportive, and joyful school cultures.
3. Attract, develop, and retain a highly effective and empowered team.
4. Incubate and implement innovative classroom, school, and district designs.
5. Modernize the District Office to be a service and strategy partner.

### DESTINATION EXCELLENCE GOALS
- Masterful Teaching
- Instructional Leadership
- Supportive Learning
- Student Culture of Care and Respect
- Talent
- Innovation
- Continuous Improvement
- Service to Schools

### OUTCOMES
- **Graduating, College & Career Readiness**
  - Graduation Rate
  - SAT Scores
- **Academic Excellence**
  - 3rd Grade Reading
  - Math & Reading Proficiency
  - Reading & Math Growth
- **School Culture**
  - Attendance
  - Suspension Rate
  - Student Climate
- **Organizational Health**
  - Novice Teacher Retention
  - Employee Engagement
  - District Office Service
Our world is rapidly changing. High school graduation is critical to ensuring post-secondary and career success.

The U.S. Census Bureau has also estimated that a person with a high school diploma will earn $10,386 more per year than a non-graduate.

* U.S. Department of Labor, 2016
Graduating students and ensuring they are prepared for college and career is essential to serve our students, families and our community.

“Workforce challenges are not unique to Tulsa, but our ability to rise above them will determine how seriously we can compete as a region in the years to come. It is imperative that we have a strategy for doing so.”

– Mike Neal, President and CEO of the Tulsa Regional Chamber
"Instead of waiting for seniors to reach their four-year mark, we want to start getting close to them and building relationships in their freshman year."

Jason Gilley
Principal
How are graduation rates calculated?

Understanding Graduation Cohort

Student enters high school → Student graduates

4 school years

Student enters high school in the 2017-2018 school year → Student is assigned to the 2021 graduation cohort

4 school years
How are graduation rates calculated?

The Calculation

Total number of on time graduates

Total number of students in graduation cohort

• Graduate early
• Graduate on time

• Drop out
• Exit to homeschooling
• Exit and receive their GED
• Finish out the year
• Over compulsory age
How are graduation rates calculated?

Understanding Graduation Cohort

Student enters high school in the 2013-2014 school year

4 school years

Students assigned to 2017 cohort
We are making progress! Overall, our graduation rate increased by more than 4 percentage points from 2015-16 to 2016-17.

Our 2016-17 graduation rate is the highest of the past five years.

*All 2016-17 data in this presentation is preliminary.
The 2016-17 graduation rate increased for most races/ethnicities.

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However, we have work to do. Gaps in graduation rates exist across several demographic areas.

2016-17 Graduation Rates

Gender

- Female: 79.6%
- Male: 74.1%

English Learners

- No: 78.6%
- Yes: 55.1%

Students with Disabilities

- No: 77.9%
- Yes: 71.9%

Free or Reduced Lunch

- No: 82.6%
- Yes: 73.8%

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As a district we engaged in a set of systemic actions to support our students in graduating.

- Established action plans for different groups of students
- Monitored progress toward graduation throughout the year
- Expanded summer opportunities to make up credits
"We use a set of early warning indicators - attendance, behavior, and coursework - to identify students who need a champion to work directly with them to provide the supports that they need to be successful."

Shelly Holman
Principal
Several of our high schools saw significant increases.

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Four year graduation trends are positive for the majority of schools.
School teams worked tirelessly to support 2017 seniors.
I just want to thank you for your help all my senior year and during the summer… I am at NEO, and I really like it here. I wouldn't even be here if it wasn't for you!

– Leslie Ramirez, 2016 cohort Winter graduate
We are learning from our successes to ensure we continue to support students.

• Launched graduation credit monitoring tool in the data dashboards to help high school counselors identify students who may be off track quickly and easily.

• Continuing to meet with high school administrative teams to clarify how the students in the federal graduation cohort are identified can help further concentrate our efforts.

• Creating systematic dates for monitoring progress toward graduation can maintain a consistent focus and alignment across schools.

• Concentrating efforts at the site to focus on both active and inactive students in the 2017 cohort has been key.
  • Keep our Kids in School Week this past September helped us re-enroll inactive students, and we will continue to refine and expand these efforts.

• Expanding credit accrual options provides opportunities for students to get back on track earlier and during school hours.
As we continue on our journey to Destination Excellence, we will keep a relentless focus on creating the conditions necessary to ensure that every Tulsa Public Schools graduate is prepared for the greatest success in college, careers, and life.