Pierce County Financial Aid Cohort

vear-to-date

Why



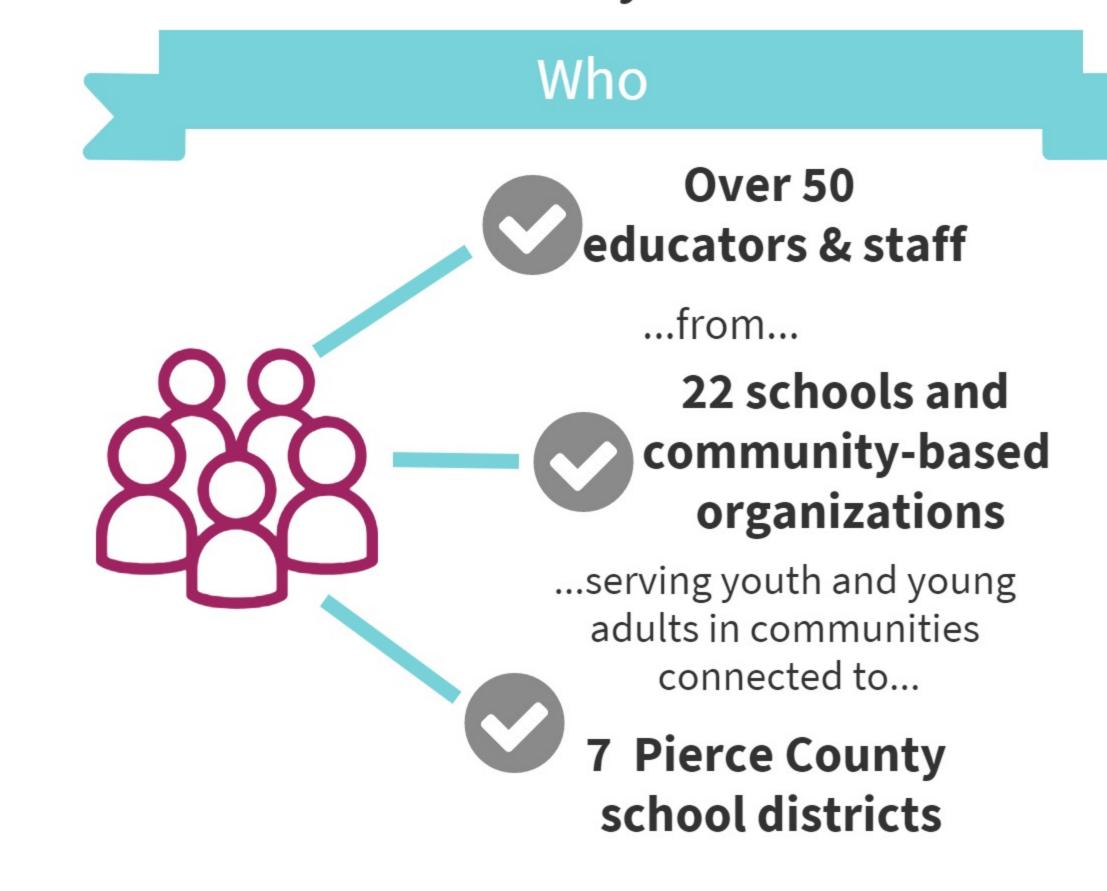
Jobs in WA that will require 70% postsecondary education or training by 2020

Top College Concern: Paying for it

Federal student grant aid that went unclaimed last year: About \$2.7 million



Stronger Together: local student feedback indicates students want a continuum of aligned & accessible college and career readiness supports and resources



What

During the 2017-18 school year, teams from Pierce County school districts, colleges and community organizations convene to share, learn and advance strategies for increasing financial aid completion and T-2-4 (college)-going culture and support partners from throughout Pierce County working to increase access to postsecondary for all students.

Resources

shared with over 50 educators and community-based organizations:



Financial Aid Toolkit

An online resource that was designed for schools, district staff and community organizations to access common regional financial aid resources to support students and families with the financial aid application process.



College Knowledge Materials

23 digital handouts covering the most requested college readiness topics. Students provided continuous feedback that led to the final materials, which are available in English and five additional languages.

Access the resources at http://psccn.org

Training Since August 2017, the cohort has covered topics including:



Financial Aid 101: things every practitioner needs to know about supporting students and families through the financial aid process.



Financial Aid Data & Strategies that Work for All Students: effective promising practices from one district that has seen significant gains in financial aid completion.



Parent Engagement in Financial Aid: local parents share strategies for incorporating meaningful parent engagement into postsecondary transition supports.



Perspectives on Financial Aid from College Partners: obstacles college financial aid officers address around financial aid and their insights on supporting students through the entire process.

Impact Snapshot



"Thank you so much for all of your help through the workshops I have attended, the amazing staff training you provided and all the resources that you have shared. We had our Financial Aid Night tonight and over 90 students attended along with their parents. Never in our history have we had such a turn out. . . . As a staff we are better prepared to assist students. . . . "