

DISCOVERY HIGH SCHOOL
STRATEGIC SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
LONGVIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT
October 11, 2019

Discovery High School - Strategic School Improvement Plan 2019-20

DISCOVERY HIGH SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Build a thriving, individualized, academic environment wherein each student finds success, meets graduation requirements, and develops the skills they need for lead to a prosperous future.

DISCOVERY HIGH SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT

We will be the state's premier alternative high school, with a broad cohort of alumni leading prosperous lives.

AT DISCOVERY HIGH SCHOOL:

We believe that every student can succeed and graduate, and that we must sustain an atmosphere in which our kids can learn. We are dedicated to doing what is best for our students and to giving them a platform for success.

With that in mind:

Our kids come first.

Each student matters.

We focus on graduation and the next step.

Our kids' parents and guardians are an important part of the team.

We are focused on what students *need*, even if it's learning *how to learn*.

We find opportunities for everyone - staff and students alike - to grow and thrive.

Our strength begins with "meeting kids where they are" and then guiding them forward.

There is at least one staff member - one impactful adult - with whom each student can connect.

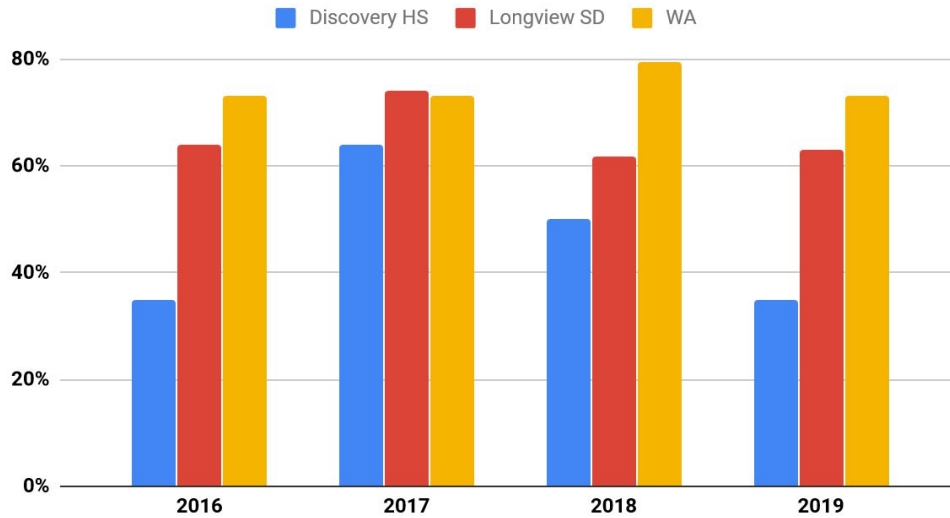
Each student, one success at a time.

Discovery High School - Strategic School Improvement Plan 2019-20

1A. Student Achievement Data and Goals

English Language Arts (ELA)

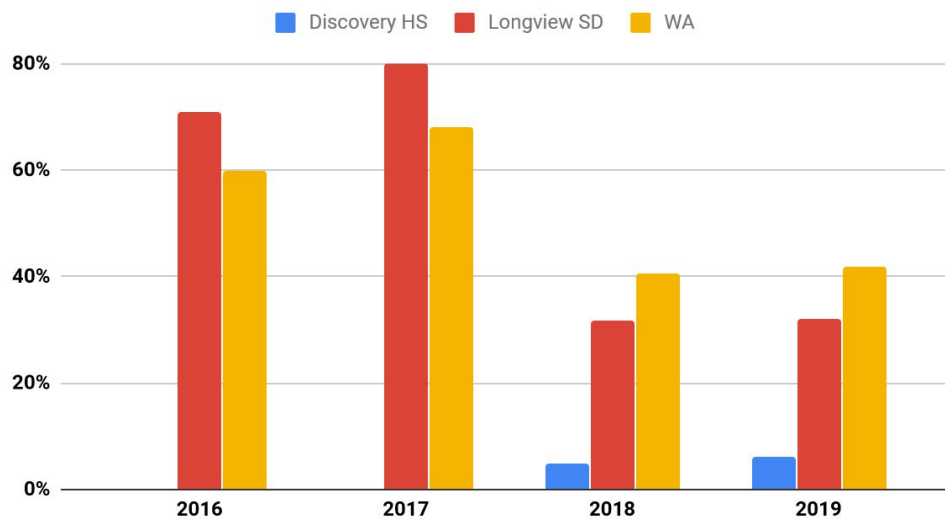
Discovery High School 10th Grade SBA ELA performance



2019-20 Building ELA goal: Raise the rate of 10th graders meeting standard on SBAC to 50%

Mathematics

Discovery HS Spring 10th Grade SBA Math Performance



2019-20 Building Math goal: Raise to 25% the rate of 10th graders meeting standard on SBAC math.

Discovery High School - Strategic School Improvement Plan 2019-20

1B. Action Steps to Achieve ELA and Math Goals

Rigor and Relevance

Strengthen the practice of students' self-monitoring of their progress toward graduation. This will be the focus of our weekly Advisory period.

Provide increased opportunities for cross-curricular experiences with reading, writing, and communication in all content areas. This will be evident through in-depth analysis and synthesis of specific content in a variety of applications.

Continue project-based learning (PBL) experiences, in order to better prepare our students for a future work environment that will demand malleable, *applied* thinking.

Integrate academic language into instruction in all content areas, to prepare students for increased understanding, academic success and attainment of state learning standards.

Focused Intervention

Continue to pursue funding/resources for mental and behavioral health.

To eliminate academic "silos," continue to develop cross-curricular lessons, especially in math. Currently, we have developed a dual "Applied Math and Civics" course. It is co-taught, wi

Continue with reading and writing skill interventions, both general and content-specific.

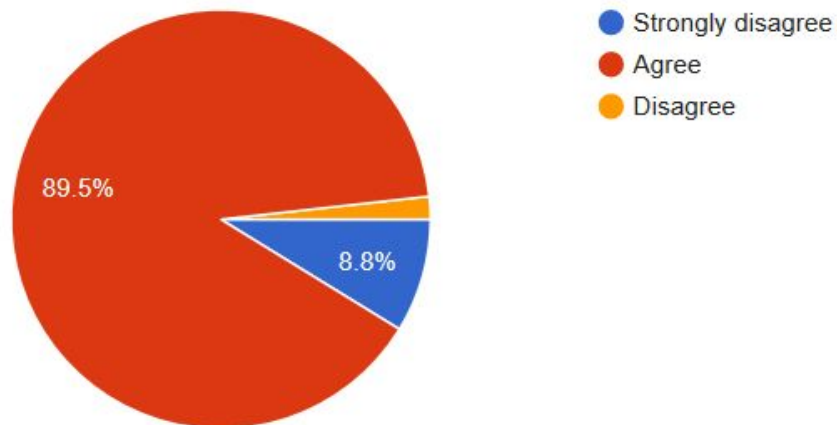
Institute SBA-based, common scoring rubrics—explanatory and argumentative—in all content areas that require extended essay responses, presently English and History/Social Studies.

2A. Climate and Culture

Student perceptions of staff

My teachers help me understand what I need to learn and how to be successful in my studies.

57 responses



2019-20 Staff Effectiveness Goals:

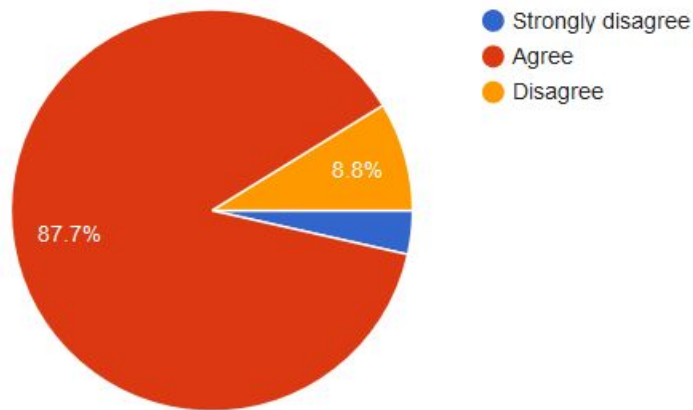
1. Continue to improve the involvement of our Spanish-speaking parents through the increased use of bilingual written materials and translated parent calls.
 2. In order to generate the best possible data, we will continue to improve our questions and number of responses.
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Discovery High School - Strategic School Improvement Plan 2019-20

Student Perceptions of Discovery HS

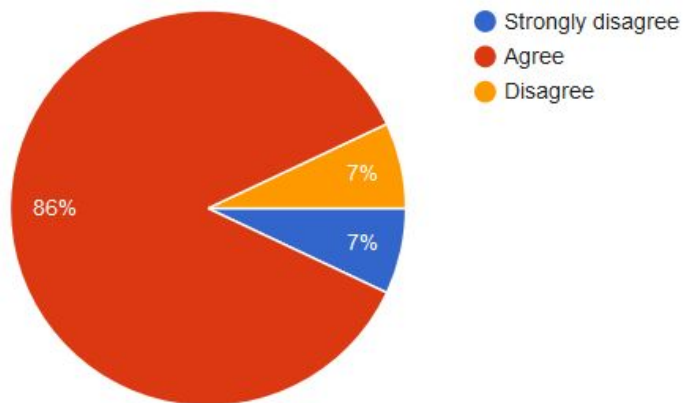
My school is a place where people care about one another.

57 responses



I feel supported and respected in my school and classrooms.

57 responses



2019-20 Student Perception Goals: We have two Student Perception Goals:

1. To raise our "supported and respected" responses to 95%.
2. In order to generate the best possible data, we will continue to improve our questions and number of responses.

Discovery High School - Strategic School Improvement Plan 2019-20

Graduation

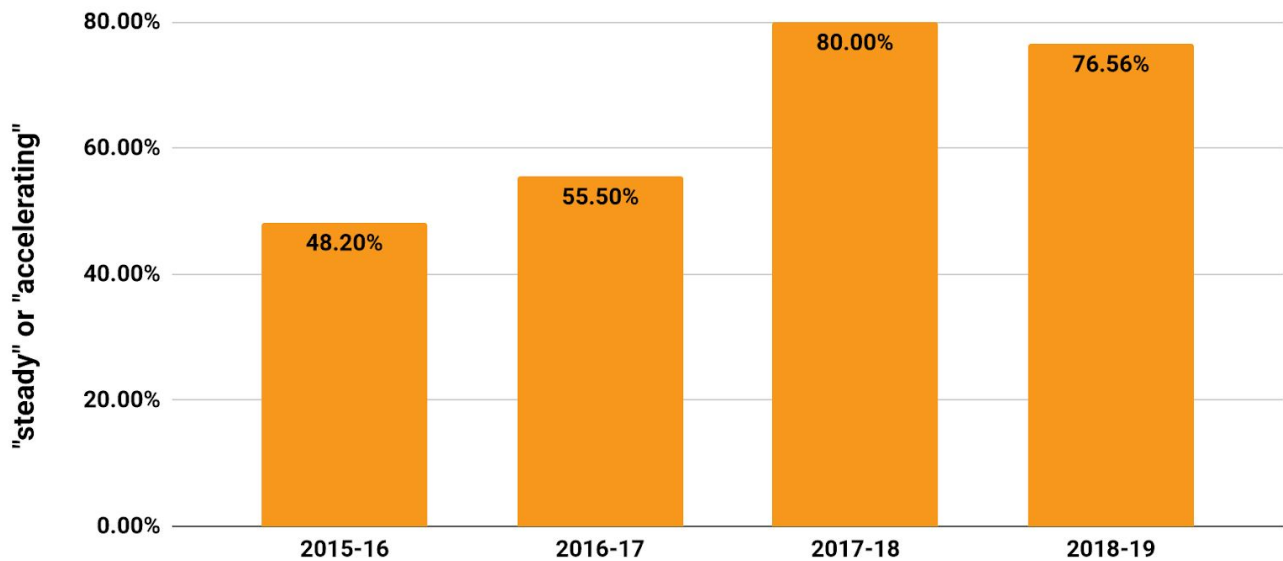
“On track for graduation” is a problematic metric for alternative high schools. After all, kids are here for a reason.

With the support of District Administration, OSPI, ESD112, and the people who do the coding for Skyward, we have spent the last year building a report that determines student progress *before* Discovery and *after* enrolling here.

We settled on “credits per month” as the measurement. In the end, students are either “slowing,” “steady,” or “accelerating.” The past four years are represented below.

Alternative Accountability Report

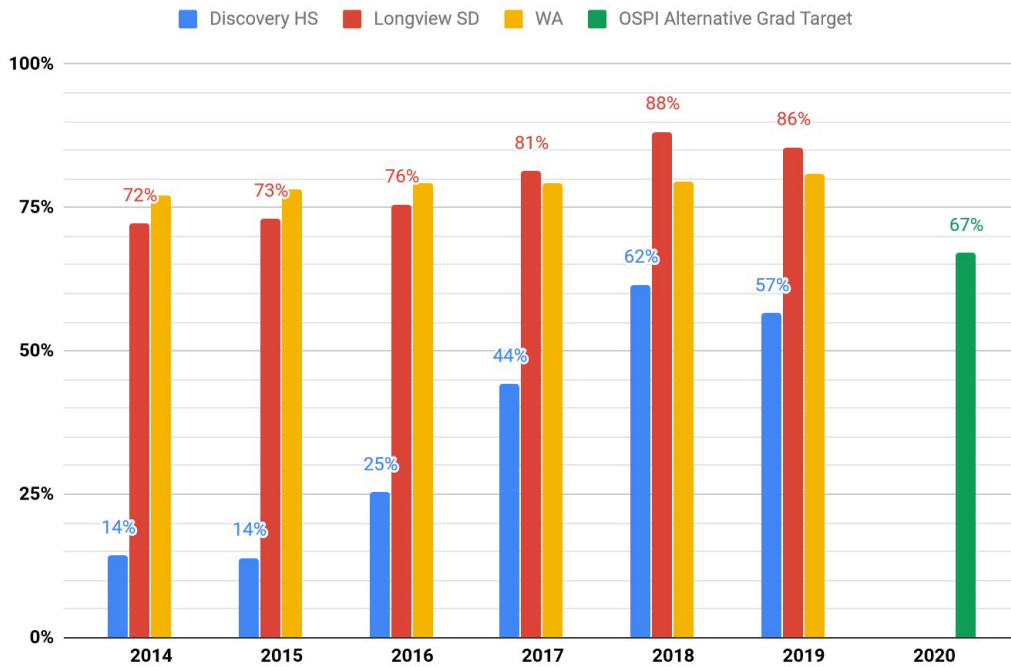
(comparing students' performance before and after enrolling at Discovery HS)



2019-20 Alternative Accountability Goal: 90% of students enrolled by April 1st will show “steady” or “accelerating” rates of credit attainment.

Discovery High School - Strategic School Improvement Plan 2019-20

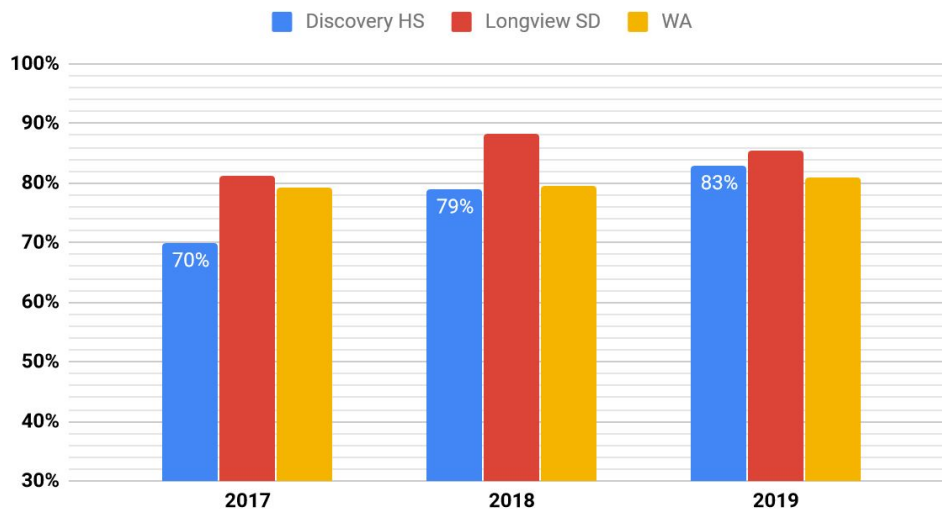
Discovery HS Graduation Rate (as reported to OSPI)



2019-20 State Graduation goal:

Exceed the State's alternative school graduation target of 67%

Discovery HS "Internal" Graduation Rate (only students served in LPS)



2019-20 Graduation goal: Raise Discovery's "Internal Grad Rate" to 90%.

2B. Action Steps to Achieve Climate and Culture Goals

Our climate and culture plans are interwoven into the Design for Excellence.

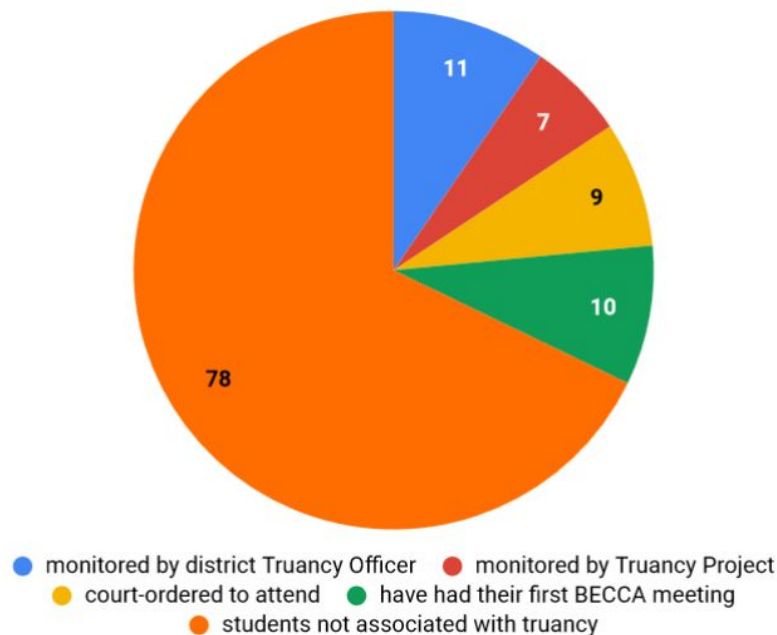
Below we address each of those six areas.

Improving graduation rate:

1. We are continuing to develop our Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) focus, to help ameliorate the external stresses that lead to dropping out.
2. Re-align our strategic partnerships with Lower Columbia College, so that students attending LCC are part of an Open Doors program and not represented on Discovery's grad rate.

Improve Attendance - We recognize that the primary reason students fall behind is because of poor attendance. Discovery students are heavily involved in the Truancy process. As of this printing:

Discovery and Attendance (based on enrollment of 115)



We are working toward early intervention for absent students, *regardless of whether or not those absences are excused.*

At Discovery, we believe that a welcoming, supportive climate is the first step to keeping kids in school. The following elements of the Design For Excellence are geared toward that.

Discovery High School - Strategic School Improvement Plan 2019-20

Student Connectedness

1. Coordinate between School Counselor, Career Liaison, and Principal, to host a 1-1 meeting with each prospective Senior by the end of October, to make a personalized graduation plan for each.
2. Continue implementing a true "site council," wherein their contributions become a part of the overall school improvement plan.
3. Expand clubs and activities, as well as community meals and other gatherings.

The Whole Child

1. Continue to integrate our Columbia Wellness Behavioral Health Specialist into our Student Support Team meetings, and work to make thoughtful referrals for our struggling kids.
2. Our Horticulture and Health programs continue to focus on student wellness and nutrition. For 2019-20 we rebuilt our student lunchroom into a "Home Economics and Nutrition Center," where we can cook the food we grow in our greenhouse.
3. Partnering with Cowlitz Indian Tribe to provide Social and Emotional wellness interventions for our freshmen: conflict resolution, coping skills, emotional regulation, goal setting, community engagement, personal strengths.

Student Connectedness

1. We have monthly community gatherings, where we have a meal together and celebrate student successes.
2. We are pioneering Student Leadership Council, which is uncommon (and uncommonly valuable) in Alternative schools.

Financial Prudence

Using multiple grants, we:

1. began working with consultants to address Secondary Trauma as one of the governing dynamics of working with an at-risk population;

Discovery High School - Strategic School Improvement Plan 2019-20

2. added emergency exit doors to four classrooms;
3. rebuilt and stocked the Home Economics and Nutrition Center;
4. paid for teachers to develop new courses, specifically geared toward credit recovery and students with significant deficits;
5. will begin establishing activities for our nascent Student Leadership group.

Dynamic Facilities

1. In 2019-20 we will convert an office into a sound-proof counseling space, for use by Behavioral Health and Crisis counselors;
2. aforementioned Home Economics space;
3. discuss expanding our usable space by enclosing the 2500 sq. ft. of 'courtyard' that abuts the bus lane.

Rigor & Relevance

1. Our entire staff actively collaborates with job-alike in other buildings. We are "silo busters," and see Discovery as an integral part of Longview's secondary system;
2. we are actively adding organizational skills content to our credit recovery classes;
3. we are building collaborative classes, with an eye toward building *confidence* in math.