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**Hillsboro School District Graduation Rates Rise, Despite Official Results**

*Internal data issue led to incorrect results in ODE release; on-time grad rate actually increased by 1.26 pct. pts.*

**January 26, 2017, Hillsboro, OR**—Hillsboro School District saw its on-time graduation rate rise in 2016, despite official results released by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) today, which indicated that the rate had dropped.

District staff were alerted to the potential anomaly when they received embargoed graduation rate data in early January, noticing that the information did not align with what they had been tracking internally last spring about students who had left the district or were otherwise not on track to graduate.

Staff have since gone back through each one of the records for the 233 students ODE identified as “other non-completers” and discovered that 88 students should have been classified differently—74 of them impacted the on-time graduation rate, either because they should have been removed from the cohort or counted as graduates, and 14 of them did not. Unfortunately, the window for making changes to the data was closed, and information could not be corrected in time for the planned annual release of graduation rates for the state.

The District’s correct graduation rates are as follows:

	<b>2016 Total Students (adj. cohort)</b>	<b>2016 Graduates</b>	<b>2016 Grad Rate</b>	<b>2015 Grad Rate</b>	<b>Δ (in percentage points)</b>
<b>Century HS</b>	392	336	85.71%	87.13%	-1.42pp
<b>Glencoe HS</b>	405	348	85.93%	85.42%	+0.51pp
<b>Hillsboro HS</b>	382	300	78.53%	75.85%	+2.68pp
<b>Hillsboro Online</b>	34	17	50.00%	64.81%	-14.81pp
<b>Liberty HS</b>	385	327	84.94%	81.75%	+3.19pp
<b>HSD</b>	1627	1329	81.68%	80.42%	+1.26pp

The District is providing this data to ODE so that records can be updated when the five-year cohort graduation rate for the class of 2016 is released next January.

Processes have now been implemented to ensure students who are dropped from enrollment are re-coded correctly at both the district and state level once they have re-enrolled in a different school or program in or out of the state or country, and that students who complete final credits in a summer program and earn their diploma are coded as 4-year cohort graduates (students have until August 31 of their graduation year to be counted as such).

“While we will never be satisfied until we can ensure each student is able to access and successfully complete their K-12 education on time, we are pleased that our graduation rates are increasing,” notes Superintendent Mike Scott. “We attribute this increase to quality teaching in the classroom, purposeful tracking of students who are at-risk, and our provision of targeted interventions and supports.”

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