

GLTHS on top step

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Designated a Level 1 school 3rd straight year

TYNGSBORO — For the third straight year, **Greater Lowell Technical** High School has been classified as a Level 1 school and is in select company throughout the state.

Only 29 percent of all public schools in Massachusetts have the distinction of being designated as Level 1. Factors taken into consideration include graduation rate, dropout rate and other student- success indicators weighted over a four-year period, including MCAS scores and Student Growth Percentile, or SGP.

“**Greater Lowell Tech** is very proud to be recognized as a Level 1 school,” Superintendent- Director Roger Bourgeois said. “Our students and faculty deserve all the credit. It is so gratifying to see their efforts and hard work recognized in the state’s Accountability System metrics.

“**Greater Lowell Tech** works very hard to offer its students two educations in one,” he added. “We want our students to be both college- and career-ready upon graduation so that they can either pursue additional postsecondary education or immediately enter the workforce.”

As it turns out, that’s exactly what happens. A recent survey by the school contacted 91 percent of its 2014 graduates and learned that 99 percent of those graduates are either working (49 percent), pursuing postsecondary education (46 percent) or in the military (4 percent). Also, many students take advantage of **Greater Lowell Tech**’s Cooperative Education program, with more than 29 percent of eligible juniors and seniors participating, the second-highest total in the state for vocational-technical schools.

“To me, that’s the evidence that we are truly fulfilling our mission and providing two educations in one,” Bourgeois said. “It’s about increasing options and opportunities for graduates to have a successful and rewarding future.”

Greater Lowell Tech’s graduation and dropout rates continue to be outstanding. The 95 percent graduation rate is 9 percent higher than the state’s average of 86 percent, while the dropout rate of just 0.3 percent is more than six times lower than the state average of 2 percent. Students with disabilities at **Greater Lowell Tech** are graduating at a rate of 89 percent, 20 percent higher than the state average.

While the statistics released by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education are impressive on their own, so, too, is the rate at which **Greater Lowell Tech** students are improving from previous years. It is ranked in the 42nd percentile compared to all public high schools, a jump of 26 percent from three years ago and 12 percent from last year.

“That’s a pretty impressive rate of

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GLTHS/ From Page B4 improvement in a very short period of time,” Bourgeois said.

The school's SGP in math and English Language Arts is impressive as well. **Greater Lowell Tech** is in the 64th percentile in math, a jump of 11 percent from last year, and the 56th percentile in ELA, up 8 percent from a year ago.

“We began a journey as a school community last year to create a culture of professional learning consistent with the national Professional Learning Community education reform model,” Bourgeois said. “We are so fortunate to have such a caring and talented faculty. We strive to welcome, accept, support and inspire all students to be successful every day. That’s what makes **Greater Lowell Tech** such a special place.”