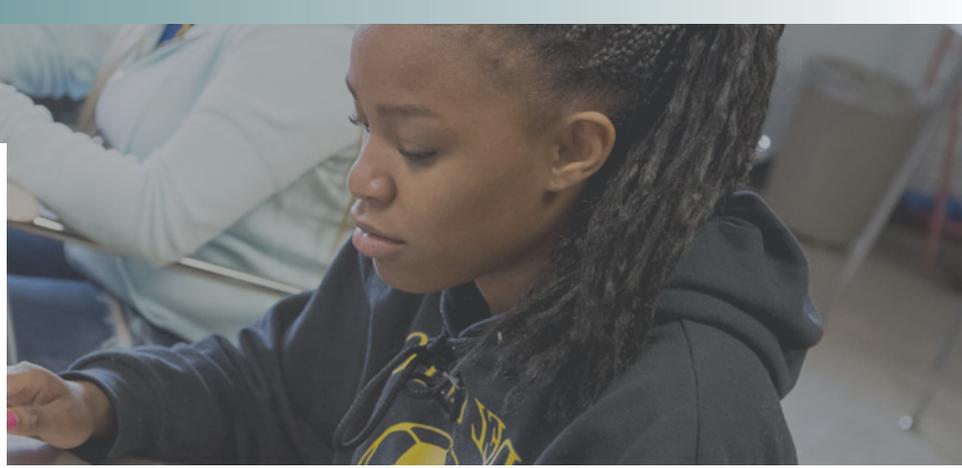




NAVIANCE
BY HOBSONS



Case Study

Everett Public Schools



WA

Snohomish County, WA

Everett Public Schools is located north of Seattle, WA.



20,948

Student population

The district serves 27 K-12 schools.



2014

Naviance client

Everett Public Schools implemented Naviance in 2014.

"We didn't have that one-stop shopping. And none of our tools did all that Naviance does."

Becky Ballbach,

Director of Student Support Services at Everett Public Schools

Focusing on SEL to Increase Graduation Rates by Over 64%

College and career readiness has long been centered around academic skills, career knowledge, and college knowledge. However, research shows that for many students, this is not enough. The College, Career and Life Readiness (CCLR) Framework includes additional competencies that research shows are critical for student success. By serving the whole student, schools and districts are beginning to prepare their students for life beyond high school in all aspects - including transition skills, interpersonal competencies, and social emotional learning (SEL).

The Challenge

Everett Public Schools is located just north of Seattle, Washington and serves over 20,000 students. Approximately 37% of students in the district qualify for free and reduced lunch, and another 13% are English language learners. In 2003-04, the district found themselves facing a graduation crisis, in which only 58% of students were graduating from high school on time. The district understood that they had to take a holistic approach to create change. What began as a movement to increase graduation rates developed into a deliberate focus on social emotional learning.

SEL encompasses emotional intelligence, grit, self-awareness, the ability to make informed decisions, and an understanding of one's strengths and interests. Students who understand their strengths can begin to build goals toward a future that best fits their interests and skills. When students develop grit and perseverance, they are better able to overcome obstacles they are faced with in school and life. After shifting focus to include social emotional learning, the district increased their on-time graduation rate from 58% to 95%, representing a 64% increase.

Solution

In 2005, high school principals began holding weekly meetings with other administrators to evaluate the data they had on students who were and were not graduating on time. "Very soon into the initiative, we realized that we needed to focus more on the relationships with students," said Dr. Jeanne Willard, Director of College and Career Readiness & On-Time Graduation at Everett Public Schools.

"Each student came with a story of what was going on in their lives that was preventing them from graduating and achieving their high school and postsecondary goals," said Becky Ballbach, Director of Student Support Services at Everett Public Schools. "Naviance provides us with information about students' strengths and interests and that gives us a much fuller understanding of their story," said Willard. "We use every single tool in Naviance."

“When a foundation for social and emotional skills is established early on, students transform into effective adults.”

Becky Ballbach,
Director of Student Support Services at Everett Public Schools



Results

While measuring SEL can be difficult in the traditional sense, Everett Public Schools uses student response surveys to identify progress and trends.

“We are able to measure growth mindset, grit, school safety, teacher/student relationships, self-management, a sense of belonging, and social awareness,” said Ballbach.

Since starting on this path towards preparing students for college, career and life, the district’s on-time four-year graduation rate has risen to 95%.

With their focus on social emotional learning, Everett Public Schools is helping to prepare a new generation of students to be successful in college, career and life.

Learn more about
Naviance by Hobsons:
naviance.com

Through their efforts, on-time graduation rates began to rise. Ballbach believes those results go well beyond academics. “If a student cannot cooperate and communicate with classmates and teachers, they are not going to learn. When a foundation for social and emotional skills is established early on, students transform into effective adults,” said Ballbach.

Taking SEL Culture District-Wide

For years, school counselors were known as the social emotional learning experts in Everett Public Schools. However, Ballbach and other administrators realized the necessity to expand that responsibility to others in the district. “Research tells us that social emotional learning should be shared by the entire school system.”

Today, the responsibility for implementing SEL is shared by all school staff. Willard credits district leadership with leading the charge on establishing SEL as a district-wide initiative. The district’s strategic plan was revised to provide a specific focus on supporting students not only academically, but also emotionally.

Previously, the district operated on the goal that “all students graduate college and career ready.” Today, the goal has been expanded to “all students will graduate college, career and life ready.”

SEL has been integrated into all classrooms throughout Everett Public Schools, from elementary to high school. The district established a specific scope and sequence that includes many Naviance activities and lays out the particular goals and performance indicators that students should achieve in each grade level. For example, students in 7th grade are required to establish a SMART goal in Naviance, complete the career cluster finder, and complete a reflection activity about what they’ve learned and how they will apply it. Activities like these help students to have a better understanding of themselves, and help them to begin thinking about their future.

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