

White House Convening on Strengthening School Counseling and College Access San Diego State University, November 17 & 18, 2014

1. List your team members and their roles.

Team Leader: Jeanne Willard, Director, On-time Graduation

Team Members and Roles:

- Jeanne Willard, Director, On-time Graduation
- Becky Ballbach, Director, Student Services

Everett Public Schools

Everett, WA

2. Review current initiatives being actively implemented. (Templates A, B, C)

Template A

Initiative: Shaping the role and impact of counselors, K-12

White House Commitment:

#4: Creation of state or school district policies and procedures for the hiring of school counselors.

Owners: Jeanne Willard and Becky Ballbach

Role: Director, On-time Graduation and Director, Student Services

Template B

Initiative	Strategic Objective	Driving Data	Data	How does this support reach higher?
K-12 counseling curriculum	#4	Counselor-reported data, curriculum, events	Counselor-reported data, curriculum, events	College planning begins early
Technology tools to support counseling curriculum	#4	Student and staff survey data	Student and staff survey data; graduate follow up surveys; college enrollment data	Supports transition from high school with innovative tools
College and career readiness seminar	#4	Student and staff survey data	Student and staff survey data	Counseling curriculum in a core class
School district trainings in curriculum and data	#4	Counselor reported data; grad plan completion data	Student information system	Counselors will monitor student progress with dashboards and just-in-time data

Template C

1. *Which of your initiatives have strong key leadership (e.g., superintendent, president, etc.) support?* All initiatives have strong key leadership support, including the Board of Directors, superintendent, cabinet, and district and school administrators and leaders.
2. *Which initiatives are tied to a national data set, state data set, local data set?* All four initiatives are tied to the school district data showing a trend of increasing high school graduates and slightly decreasing college enrollment rates. The district is committed to ensuring students are ready to transition to college and career.
3. *How does each initiative improve the College Career Ready culture? (List Reasons)* All of the initiatives support a College Career Ready culture. By addressing students and families from the time students start in Kindergarten and extending beyond high school, the current counseling curriculum, technology and resources, College and Career Readiness Seminar for high school seniors, and trainings address the cultural changes taking place in our district's high school. We are moving from college and career readiness being the work of a few counselors to counselors leading schools in making this everyone's work!
4. Identify the initiatives that have the most checks based on the questions above and select one project to discuss during the convening.

3. Identify how each initiative supports the Reach HIGHER vision and enter the corresponding commitment. (Templates A, B, C) *Above*

4. Identify a team focus area based on a Problem of Practice or the implementation of a college and career readiness strategy that you will address during the convening that supports the REACH HIGHER Initiative.(Template D)

Our **Problem(s) of Practice** are

1. administrators do not adequately understand the role of school counselors so that school counselors have been marginalized
2. AND school counselors do not adequately understand their role so that they reinforce institutional gatekeeping toward high school graduation and college readiness.

5. Develop 1 to 2 strategic objectives that will guide your work in San Diego. (Template E)

Our **Strategic Objectives** are

1. Our strategic objective is to frame the role of the school counselor as the catalyst for a culture of college and career readiness for all students.
2. (Everett Public Schools Strategic Plan Goal 1.1) Each student graduates from high school ready for college and career with 21st century skills.

6. Identify opportunities to create strategic partnerships with donors and funders interested in supporting/promoting new systemic change models that address implementation of policies and practices to increase college and career readiness measures for practicing school counselors and school counselor programs that advance student achievement outcomes. (Template F)

Strengthening School Counselor Policies:

Everett Public Schools has been engaged in a partnership with Everett Community College to help ensure students are ready for college and career. Over the last three years, Washington State agencies have been included in this local partnership. Washington Student Achievement Council, for example, has taken an active role in the discussions and considerations of this local group. As a result of this partnership, policies and practices at the state level are changing. Some of those changes will mean increased access to data and funding to link local schools to state postsecondary institutions.