

Implementation Spotlight

Englewood 1 School District



COLORADO
Department of Education

Dropout Prevention Strategy: Multiple Pathways to Graduation

Design pathways to provide students with clearly defined opportunities to customize their education to meet their unique needs and circumstances and gain real-world knowledge, skills, and experiences leading to high school and postsecondary success.

Program Description

The Englewood 1 School District has developed a graduation pathway that allows greater flexibility for high school students to accrue credits in core courses required for their high school diploma. Students are allowed to take sections of the Graduate Equivalency Degree (GED; Mathematical Reasoning, Reasoning Through Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science) and waive the associated graduation credits if they demonstrate competency. For example, if a student passes the Science section of the GED, then the science credit requirement for their high school diploma is waived. This pathway was developed by updating the district's policy for graduation and building out the support structure for students in this path.

Outcomes and Measures

The goal of the program is to help students demonstrate mastery in order to improve course passage, leading to an increase in graduation rates and a decrease in dropout rates. Staff members are assessing program effectiveness and possible adaptations based on the number of practice exams taken and passed, the number of GED exams passed, time taken to complete exams, postsecondary outcomes, concurrent enrollment data, and the number of students who have taken advantage of this pathway.

Adaptations

The district reported that an influx of students have entered the program. The district secured grant funding to expand programming and allow access for up to 50 students a year. New advising protocols were implemented in the high schools to ensure this option matches the student's unique needs and goals after high school.

Lessons Learned

The district shared that there were misconceptions regarding the rigor of the GED test. The district needed to work on its communication with educators to emphasize that students still need to be proficient in the same standards that are required in the regular courses.



About Us

District: Englewood Schools
Region: Metro Area
Locale: Denver Metro

Highlighted Strategies

- Multiple Pathways to Graduation

Name of Program/Intervention

- Englewood GED to diploma program

Implementation Stage

- Implementing-Innovating

Outcomes and Measures

- Increase the graduation rate
- Decrease the dropout rate (fewer students drop out)

Students Served

- Other