

ITEM FOR INFORMATION**SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT: 9th GRADE SUCCESS & GRADUATION RATES****SUMMARY**

This spotlight report provides an overview of 9th grade on-track achievement and graduation rates across comprehensive high schools and option schools. The presentation will highlight the critical relationship between strong 9th grade academic success and improved long-term outcomes, including increased graduation completion rates. Emphasis will be placed on how early credit attainment, attendance, and engagement in 9th grade serve as key predictors of future high school success.

BACKGROUND

Research and district data consistently show that 9th grade success is one of the strongest indicators of a student's likelihood to graduate on time. Students who remain on track during their first high school year—earning sufficient credits, passing core courses, and maintaining regular attendance—are significantly more likely to persist through high school and earn a diploma.

This presentation will include an overview of current 9th grade supports and intervention strategies implemented at both option schools and comprehensive high schools. These supports may include targeted academic interventions, credit recovery opportunities, advisory and mentoring structures, attendance monitoring, social-emotional supports, and enhanced transitions from middle school to high school. The impact of these strategies will be demonstrated through recent trends showing increased percentages of students on track to graduate.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff will present data and analysis related to 9th grade success and graduation rates, including progress trends and the effectiveness of current supports. No board action is requested.

Belong. Believe. Achieve.