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Response from High Tech High North County

High Tech High**Report Prepared for California State Board of Education****In reference to: High Tech High North County****Submission Date: April 13, 2018****Overview**

As requested by the California Department of Education, High Tech High submits the following Summary Report regarding High Tech High North County (HTHNC) in response to the three requested inquiries in support of the State Board of Education's (SBE) Annual Academic Memo (Academic Memo). Specifically, this report addresses:

1. A summary of school's reflections on its Fall 2017 Dashboard Results, identifying areas of greatest progress and greatest opportunity for growth.
2. A summary of the school's reflections on Element Two: Measurable Pupil Outcomes.
3. A summary of the school's reflections on Element Three: Method for Measuring Pupil Outcomes.

Section 1**School Reflections on Fall 2017 Dashboard Results****Identification of areas of greatest progress and greatest opportunity for growth**

HTHNC's Fall 2017 dashboard data indicates that the greatest opportunity for growth may be the **suspension rate** (showing an overall increase of 2.3%), and the greatest area of progress as the **graduation rate** (showing an overall increase of 1.4%). While the dashboard does not show any change in data for chronic absenteeism or English Learner (EL) progress, HTHNC has been putting systems in place to address both.

Greatest Opportunities for Growth*Suspension Rate*

Suspension rate is an area of opportunity for growth for HTHNC. The suspension rate for all students was 3.5% (rated as medium) for 2016-2017 school year. We are particularly concerned with the 7.8% suspension rate for students with disabilities. Suspension rates also increased for the subgroups: Latino, socioeconomically disadvantaged, and white. HTHNC administration has actively worked during the 2017-2018 school year to reduce the suspension rate in the following ways:

- HTHNC has engaged families more in discipline issues as a means of creating a school/home response.
- HTHNC has worked to identify students engaging in behaviors that *could* lead to suspension early, and implementing an early proactive intervention (mentoring, positive relationship building, consultancies with appropriate staff, etc.).

- HTHNC has engaged in restorative practices whenever possible - either within the classroom as a preventative measure, in lieu of suspension, or upon return from a suspension in order to reintegrate back into the community. HTHNC believes that the successful reintegration of students who have been suspended has been a key factor in reducing the amount of recidivism among suspended students.

As of March 15, 2018, HTHNC has had only 7 suspensions for the 2017-2018 school year, as opposed to 19 by the same date in the 2016-2017 school year. The practices listed above will remain in place as the resulting decline in suspensions is a positive change for the HTHNC community.

Areas of Greatest Progress

Graduation Rate

Graduation rate and a strong focus on college and career are an area of greatest progress for HTHNC. The dashboard shows HTHNC graduation rate at 96% which is 1.4% higher than last year. HTHNC staff works to ensure that students have the resources and support that they need to graduate. Four Education Specialists support students with special needs, and four Academic Coaches support all of our students academically. Additionally, each student is assigned a Faculty Advisor. Advisors follow their students through all four years of their high school experience and get to know them and their families.

One structure that we have implemented to address college readiness is App Fest Day. This is a Staff Day where all students are off campus with an exception of 12th grade students. App Fest Day is in the beginning of the year, during college application season. On this day 12th grade students work closely with staff members and get questions answered while filling out college applications.

HTHNC faculty and staff supports students in taking the SAT or ACT. During the 2016-17 school year, 98.4% of HTHNC students took the SAT/ACT's. The school supports SAT/ACT completion by hosting the SAT on campus and making sure that students have access to the funding that they need to pay for the test administration.

An additional support of student college and career readiness, is a new staff position at HTHNC: College Persistence Coordinator. The College Persistence Coordinator has been instrumental in providing college support for all students. This year, the College Persistence Coordinator has connected with Alumni and hosted an alumni luncheon attended by over 100 students. She has set up numerous college visits for socioeconomically disadvantaged students. She has also helped organize a three-day college trip for our entire 10th grade. Both our College Persistence Coordinator and our College Advisor meet with all students and families to support them in their college application process.

In 2017-18 Youth Truth data, 12th grade students reported feeling prepared and supported throughout the college application process. HTHNC staff are planning to take everything

learned this year through having a college persistence coordinator and implementing those systems again next year. The Leadership Team (Director, Dean, College Advisors and 12th grade teachers) will continue to train teachers in learning about the college application process through morning professional development sessions.

A goal for 2018 is to have those plans in place before the school year starts in order to communicate those plans to families early. In addition, HTHNC has hosted multiple family college information sessions for parents of students in different grade levels. By providing multiple opportunities for families to have questions answered, the Leadership Team has provided varying levels of support that can be given to the students through family, grade level teachers, college advisor, college persistence coordinator, and advisory teachers.

Section 2

School Reflections on Element Two: Measurable Pupil Outcomes

Areas of Greatest Progress and Greatest Opportunities for Growth

As noted in Section 1 above, HTHNC has been focused on the goal of improving college going culture, and recent data indicates that HTHNC has been making progress in improving college going culture.

HTHNC is approaching its goal of 100% of HTH graduates securing admission to an institution of higher education. In 2017, HTHNC was at 98.2%. In terms of matriculation to four year programs, in 2012, 54.74% of HTHNC students committed to and attended four year institutions, whereas in 2017, 72% of students committed to and attended a four year institution. HTHNC has a goal of 75% of HTH graduates securing admission to a four-year institution and committing to attend a four-year institution, and staff are working towards that goal.

One major structure implemented is that all students receive support through their advisory teacher. Through advisory, HTHNC staff members are addressing college application preparation beginning in 9th grade through Naviance.

In addition, students participate in a school-sponsored college day trip where students tour a California public or private institution.

Professional development has been implemented to ensure that teachers understand college applications, discuss the value of college for all students, and support students through the college application process.

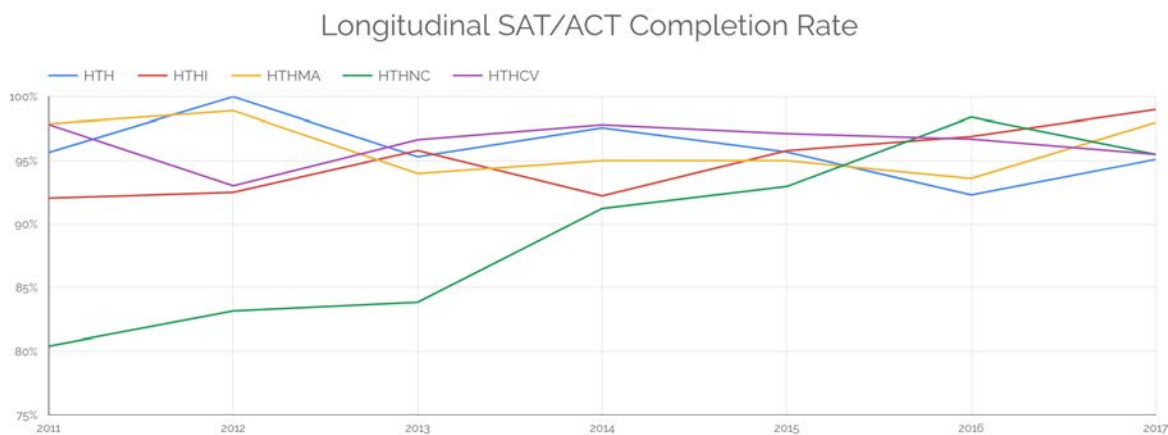
All students who graduate from HTHNC have completed of study that meets all requirements for entry into the University of California system (UC A-G). Junior and senior students have the option to take any core-academic course for honors credit. Courses offered include:

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- English: English I, English II, English III, English III (H), English IV, English IV (H);
- History/Social Science: World Cultures and Geography, World History, U.S. History, U.S. History (H);
- Mathematics: Math I, (Algebra 1), Math II (Geometry), Math III (Algebra II), Math III (H), Math IV, Calculus (H);
- Lab Sciences: Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Biology (H), Physics 3,4 and Physics 3,4 (H);
- Foreign Language: Spanish I, Spanish II, Spanish III, Spanish III (H);
- Visual Arts: Video Production, Multimedia I, Multimedia II;
- College Prep Electives: Engineering Design & Development

Another noteworthy celebration is that HTHNC has met its high expectation that almost 100% of graduates will have taken the SAT or ACT. In 2016, 98.4% of students took the SAT or ACT. However, the SAT/ACT completion rate dropped slightly in the last year (approximately 2.9% decrease). As a result, in 2018 HTHNC will reflect on to the way professional development and class time was spent to ensure that these numbers rise again. In 2016, HTHNC engaged in improvement science work during professional development time based around our college-going culture and that improvement work was a success. HTHNC will re-implement that work next year, with the support of the HTH Center for Equity and Innovation in Education.

Following is a visual shows longitudinal SAT/ACT completion rate:



HTHNC has set a goal that all students who qualify for federal financial aid will complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA](#)). FAFSA completion is another aspect of college access with which HTHNC has demonstrated success in the past, but struggled with this year. In 2016, HTHNC had a high percentage of students who filled out the FAFSA and this number has also dropped this year.

To address this, the staff of HTHNC are engaged in improvement work related to FAFSA completion. HTHNC is working with members of the HTH Center for Research on Equity and Innovation (CREI) on a yearly basis to gather data, set goals for growth, and implement changes. Our efforts are part of High Tech High's organizational drive to apply a continuous improvement approach to education.

Finally, one goal of hiring a College Persistence Coordinator, is to work more closely with alumni. HTHNC is currently working towards having at least 60% of its alumni complete 4-year college degrees within 6 years of graduating from HTHNC. One specific way HTHNC is working towards this goal is to collect contact information for all graduating students before they graduate and then keep a constant stream of communication throughout the following years. This is a focus of the work our College Persistence Coordinator.

Section 3

School Reflections on Element Three: Method for Measuring Pupil Outcomes

Areas of Greatest Progress and Greatest Opportunities for Growth

Measurable pupil outcomes for High Tech High North County included in this section are: to ensure high quality work, to nurture a sense of belongingness among all students, and to ensure college access for all students.

Ensuring High Quality Work

HTHNC works to ensure high quality of work as shown in exhibitions held at the culmination of projects and Presentations of Learning at the culmination of semester terms. The school holds an all school and community exhibition in December in which more than 1000 people visit the school view and interact with student products. All students are required to attend and participate in the school-wide exhibition. The exhibition is focused on highlighting not only beautiful work but the process of creating a project to demonstrate how many lessons, activities, rounds of critique and revision and research contribute to a product.

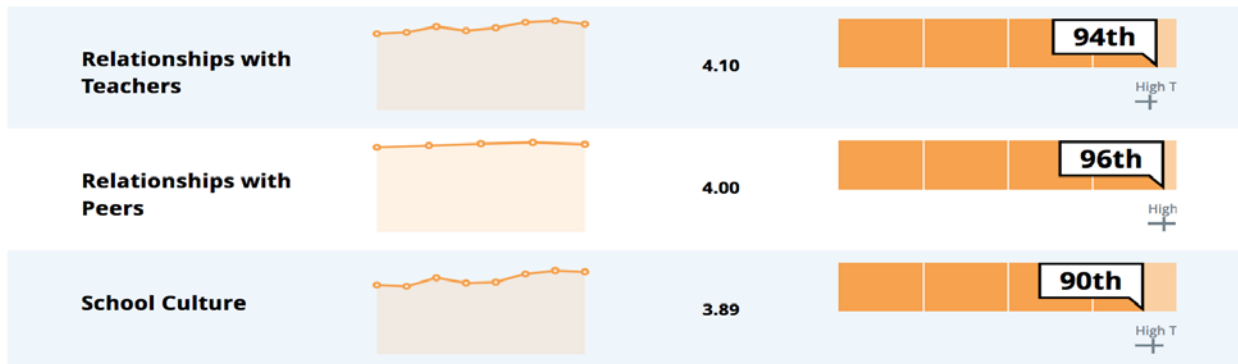
In December of 2017, the 11th grade was tasked with quantifying novel visitor entries as part of a collaborative grant with UCSD. They found 1152 visitors participated in their part of the school wide exhibition. In addition to the school wide exhibition in the fall semester, all students participate in a spring exhibition either on site or at a location deemed appropriate to the project collaboration such as at a university, museum, or public space. In 2018, some of those exhibitions include a cross grade project in ecology at the UCSD's natural sciences building, a plant physiology project presented at the San Dieguito River Park's Birdwing Classroom, a school musical held at the San Marcos Civic Center, and a World's Fair integrated history, literature, art and chemistry project on campus. Student work is also shown at numerous events hosted by the school such as San Diego Science Festivals "STEM in your Backyard" at HTHNC and the Cabrillo National Monument Science Day.

In the student's Presentations of Learning (POLs) students defend their work in school over the semester, celebrate achievements, review areas of growth and share goals with teachers,

classmates and parents. Parent attendance is mandatory and students must attain marks for reflection based on rubrics specific to the grade level and projects presented. Much of the reflection in POLs is content-based as compared to Student Led Conferences (SLC's) in which students review areas of growth, strengths and character based goals each semester with teachers and parents. The first semester SLCs are with a core teacher that the students connects with, and the second semester SLC is with the student's advisor.

A Culture of Belonging

One of the most important aspects of HTHNC is personalization and schoolwide efforts to nurture a *Culture of Belongingness*. HTH schools create safe, inclusive environments where students feel a sense of belonging, are supported with socio-emotional needs, develop strong relationships and experience joy. HTHNC participated in Youth Truth and findings from students show a strong sense of belonging through their relationships with teachers, peers and their perception of positive school culture.



In addition to building strong relationships, there is a culture of trust and value of work being done on campus. As a result the chronic absenteeism rate at HTHNC is lower than the county at statewide average. Chronic absenteeism for low income students at HTNCH is even lower, at a 4.3%.

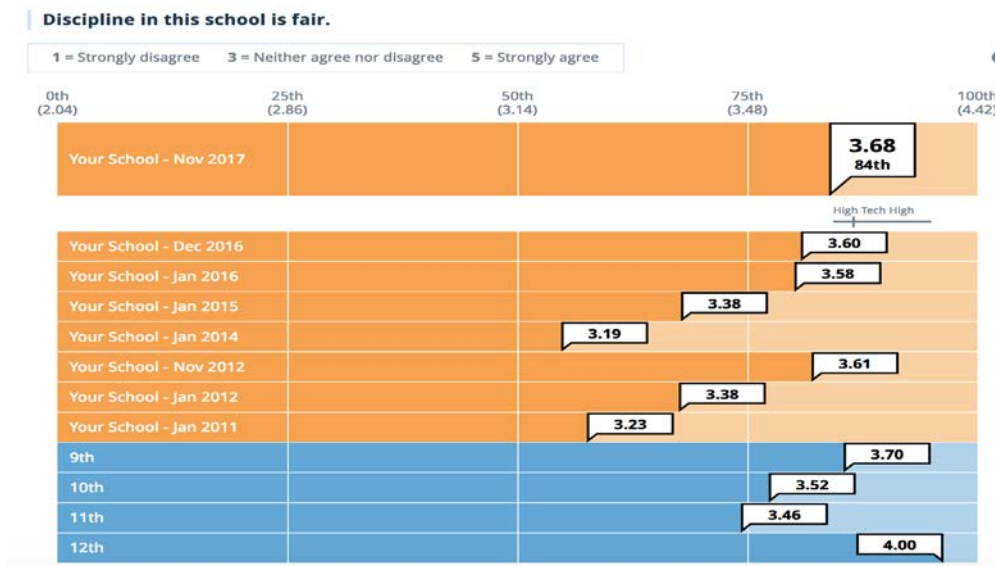
Name	Cumulative Enrollment	Chronic Absenteeism Count	Chronic Absenteeism Rate
High Tech High North County	454	32	7.0%
SBC - High Tech High	2,517	186	7.4%
San Diego County	529,961	54,237	10.2%
Statewide	6,405,496	694,030	10.8%

The HTHNC Dean of Students has implemented the following structures to support and decrease the rate of chronic absenteeism at HTHNC: after 5 absences the school sends a letter home to the family. If the absenteeism continues, the school sends an additional letter home,

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and a meeting is scheduled with the family.

As noted in Youth Truth, the majority of students reported feeling that discipline is fair at



HTHNC:

The Director and Dean are working together to understand all of the Youth Truth Data related especially to student belongingness. Multiple professional development sessions were dedicated to this as well as a share out discussion with students and a focus group of upperclassmen. This will be ongoing throughout the remainder of the year and a focus for next year, as well.

Ensuring College Access

As mentioned above, HTHNC is working to ensure *College Access & Persistence*. HTH schools support all students in accessing and excelling in college. HTHNC students graduate with A-G approved coursework. In 2017, 95.5% of HTHNC students took the SAT/ACT which is a slight drop from 2017, where 98.4% took the college acceptance exams. As a school, HTHNC Leadership staff plan to implement increased professional development around this goal. To ensure that HTHNC supports all students in accessing college, a college advisor and a college persistence coordinator are on staff.

Conclusion

Please feel free to contact us if there are any questions regarding the HTHNC Summary Report.