

PROJECT GRADUATION: The Digital Advantage

Demographics

Staff

17,306

District Student Enrollment

Hispanic	87.7%
Anglo	5.6%
Native American	4.1%
African American	2.1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.5%

English Language Learners

Grades K-5	42.1%
Grades 6-8	23.4%
Grades 9-12	16.2%
K-12	31.6%

Eligible for free and reduced meals

14,434 students	83.6%
Homeless	5.8%
Graduation Rate	63%

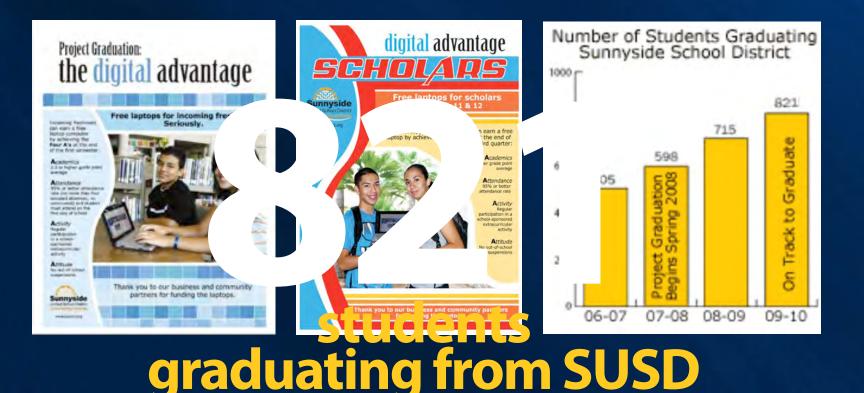


Certified	1,128
School site administrators	37
Central administrators	29
Support staff	1,044

Project Graduation: The Digital Advantage Program

Launched in the 2008-09 school year

 1,700 laptops awarded to students in the 2009-10 and 2010-11 school years



From dropout factory to Tech-Savvy District



What they are saying about us...

SCHOLASTIC

AdministratorProfile SUPERINTENDENT MANUEL L. ISQUIERDC

Demand for Online Education Grows 20

Improving Graduation Rates with an Innovative Rewards P

WHEN MANUEL L. ISQUIERDO joined the Sunnyside (Ariz.) Unified School District (SUSD) as superintendent in 2007, school board president Louie Gonzales let him know that there was no time for a honeymoon period. He had to hit the ground running The district's two high schools col-



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States of DEBATE



Tech-Savvy Superintendent of the Year

Sunnyside Unified School District's Dr. Manuel L. Isquierdo has been named one of the nation's ten Tech-Savvy Superintendents of the Year by eSchool News, an online resource for technology news for today's K-20 educator. Winners were selected based on their ability to demonstrate ex-



A Historic Event The 2010 graduation ceremonies for Desert View and Sunnyside High Schools



unce and achievemen LY BEFORE MANUEL (50) URRIG became superintendent of Sunnyside Unified School District #12 in July 2007 a Johns Hopkins report labeled the downtown Tueson, Arizona, district a dropout factory. So his top priority was not in doubt.

"Our big goals were to cut the dropout rate and boost the student graduation rate and achievement." Isquierdo savs. His main focus freshmen and seniors.



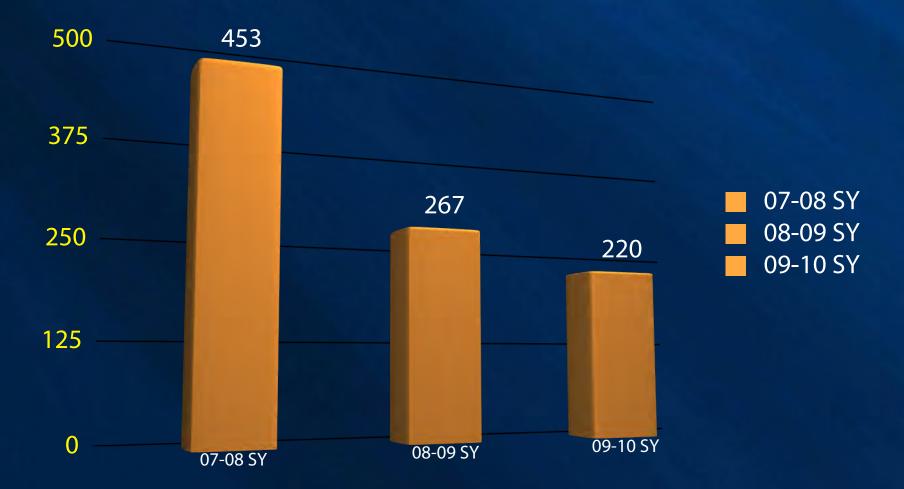
NISTRATOR

Graduation Numbers 4yr & 5yr



Tier 5 Trend Data Digital Advantage

Two F's or more, less than 95% attendance

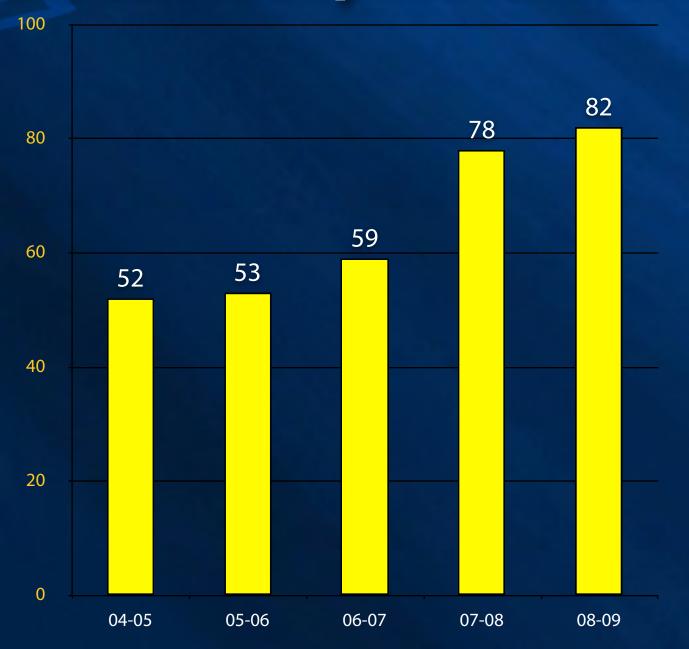


* Not correlated with less than 95% attendance

Sunnyside HS Unknown/Unexcused Attendance



DVHS Promotion to Sophomore Status



PROJECT GRADUATION: THE DIGITAL ADVANTAGE PYRAMID OF INTERVENTIONS - FRESHMEN INTERVENTION NEEDS

TIER 1- 505 DIGITAL ADVANTAGE COHORT

TIER 2- 83 Students

PROFILE: Students with a 2.5 or higher but less than 95% attendance **INTERVENTION:** Referral to advisory Teachers and Ignite mentors to foster connections to the school

TIER 3- 142 Students:

PROFILE: Student with 95% attendance, but lower than a 2.5 GP. **INTERVENTION:** Individual student plan of action working with GEAR-Up; family contact; referral to Reading Plus

TIER 4- 163 Students:

Pyramid of Inconstrant 2013 (THERS 25) Pyramid of Interventions (THERS 2.5) **PROFILE:** Less than a 2.5 GPA, less than 95% attendance, failing 0 - 1 class **INTERVENTION:** Intervention by counselors; potential to earn partial summer school scholarships for credit recovery

TIER 5-267 Students

PROFILE: 2 F's or more, less than 95% attendance **INTERVENTION:** Intervention by counselors; potential to earn partial summer school scholarships for credit recovery

Even with a laptop initiative, challenges remain.

Record number of grads in 2010

The Sunnyside District reached its goal of 800 graduates in 2010. A total of 821 students graduated from Desert View and Sunnyside high schools, and STAR Academic Center, up from 715 in 2009 and 598 in 2008.

Our Goal for 2010-11 **0**75











Our tech-savvy graduates are prepared to create their own future. Sunnyside Unified School District in Tucson, Arizona www.susd12.org

Project Graduation: The Digital Advantage Legacy Program

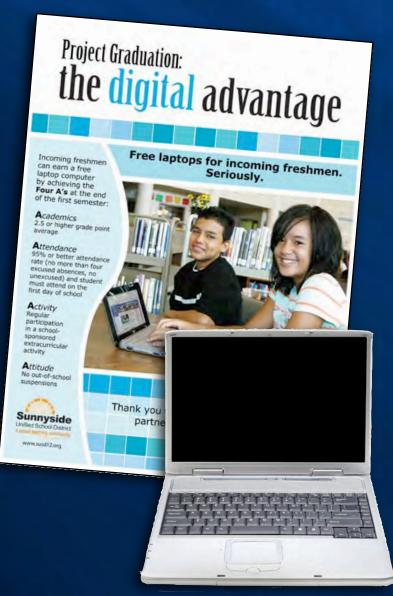
A netbook computer will be provided for every incoming freshman student who achieves the 4 A's by the end of the first semester:

✓ Achievement – 2.5 GPA

✓ Attitude – positive, good citizenship and no disciplinary issues

✓ Attendance – 95%

✓ Activities – participation in at least one extracurricular activity



Project Graduation: The Digital Advantage



Is a multi-phased, research-based effort aimed at significantly reducing the number of high school dropouts and increasing the graduation rate.

In Tucson, Arizona the Sunnyside Unified School District graduated 821 students in May 2010; a 30% increase in the number of graduates in just two years.

Under the leadership of Superintendent Dr. Manuel L. Isquierdo, Project Graduation was launched in November 2007, with the goal of having 558 students on track in the fall graduate in May 2008. In fact, 598 students graduated. In 2009, the number rose to 715, and 821 in 2010.

They made it possible



Walmart >< AMON



Margot & John Lane Foundation









Mayor Bob Walkup and the City of Tucson

PROJECT GRADUATION

Transforming Communities through Education and technology

Site-Based Graduation Plan	Credit Recovery	 Advisory	Attendance Monitoring	Freshmen Intervention	Digital Advantage
Objective: Each high school will have a graduation plan that is site- based and that is developed by all stakeholders.	Objective: Increase the number of seniors on track to graduate and increase the number of on-time grade promotions at the high school level through the use of credit recovery courses.	Objective: Connect all students with an adult on a daily basis at school to foster a sense of belonging, while monitoring academic and attendance process with emphasis on research-based Curriculum that is designed to improve student success.	Objective: Increase the daily attendance rate & decrease the number of truancies for freshmen while creating a culture that connects attendance to academic achievement.	Objective: Identify freshmen needs and challenges prior to the school year and throughout the freshmen year experience to ensure academic success and promotion .	Objective: Provide laptop computers to freshmen who achieve the 4As by the end of the first semester.
 Strategies: 1. Do the math 2. 3-yr data trend review 3. Identify obstacles 4. AYP status 5. Create a new culture of high expectations and new focus 6. Color coded data of graduates and their credits 7. Awareness campaign related to the importance of graduation PreK-12 levels 	Strategies: 1. Monitor student enrollment/earned credits in courses required for graduation 2. Offering credit recovery courses after school, on Saturdays, and during summer 3. Increase opportunities for online courses	 Strategies: Adults will connect with students through weekly interactions Teach life, social, & study skills Relay academic/ attendance progress in all courses on student's schedule Communicate attendance issues/errors to appropriate personnel Assist students with academics and refer when appropriate 	Strategies: 1. Improve attendance monitoring through organizational efficiency 2. Regularly monitor Attendance with customized weekly reports 3. Use incentives, interventions, & consequences 4. Improve communication with students & parents families	 Strategies: 1. Identify through data analysis freshmen study skills and literacy proficiency and other personal, social, and academic need needs Offer literacy skills classes for at-risk students Hold parent engagement meetings for all freshmen students Focus on AIMS Readiness throughout freshman year Develop freshmen transition program for all incoming freshmen Align programs such as AVID and Gear-UP 	 Strategies: 1. Use laptops as an incentive for graduation 2. Use technology as a tool to change learning culture, teach students & families 21st century skills that align with Graduation and postsecondary areas 3. Develop a marketing campaign to promote the laptop initiative school and district wide 4. Develop district wide celebrations to award laptops at the end of the first semester 5. Align the laptop initiative with the district's technology plan 6. Develop after school programs and support for

Project Graduation: GOALS

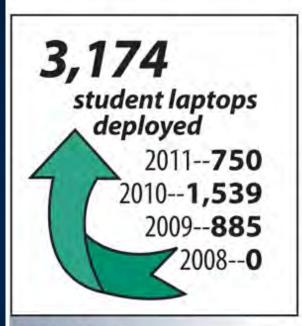
- ✓ Increase the average grade point average earned by freshmen students (Academics)
- ✓ Decrease the number of absences (Attendance/ADA)
- ✓ Decrease the number of out-of-school suspensions by freshmen students (Attitude)
- Increase the promotion rate of freshmen
- ✓ Increase the number of freshmen students participating in high schoolsponsored extracurricular activities (Activity)

- ✓ Increase the high school graduation rate and the number of graduates
- ✓ Decrease the high school dropout rate
- ✓ Increase Parental Engagement
- ✓ Improve Organizational Efficiency in the area of Attendance Operations
- ✓ Increase the number of students prepared to enter a four year college (College Readiness)
- ✓ Each of the goals will be measured quarterly through benchmarks established by the district and school sites (Program Evaluation)

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Outcomes

Through Project Graduation: The Digital Advantage, the Sunnyside District has been able to bridge the digital divide while improving student attendance and graduation rates.

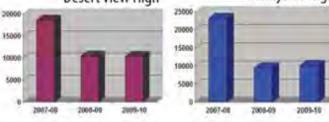


DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHICS

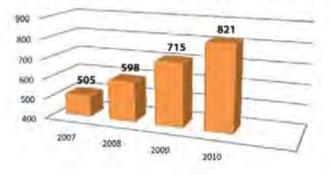
Student population: **17,500 87.7%** Hispanic **86% are** eligible for free/reduced meals



Desert View High Sunnyside High

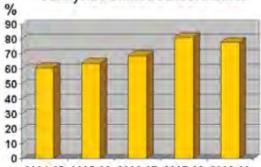


Graduation Numbers: 2007-2010

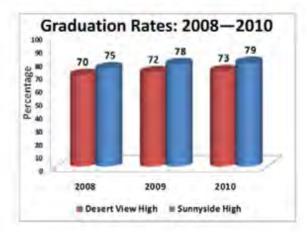


Freshman Promotion Rate

Sunnyside Unified School District



2004-05 2005-06 2006-07 2007-08 2008-09



Tech-Savy District

National and state recognition



Sunnyside Governing Board

recipient of the 2010

Lou Ella Kleinz Award of Excellence

the Arizona School Boards Association's highest honor, for the most outstanding educational leadership by a school board in Arizona

The SUSD Governing Board has led the district's development of Project Graduation: The Digital Advantage, which is becoming a state and national model. The Board is leading the Sunnyside District's implementation of one-toone computing, assigning computers this year to every fifth-grader and to every teacher. The Board has maintained its commitment to early childhood education with the continuing support of all-day kindergarten, the establishment in 2010 of the Ocotillo Early Learning Center and continued support of Parents as Teachers.



The 2010 SUSD Governing Board:













Welcome to American School Board Journal's Magna Awa the past 16 years, we've featured many excellent examp no exception. Again, we found common threads running ommunity, collaboration, and partnership.

URRENT ISSUE

Good luck!

HOME SUPPLEMENTS MAGNA Magna Awards

Here's how.

American 🗖

ARCHIVE

THE MAGNA AWARDS 2011 NOMINATION PERIOD I

notification of your nomination's status by close of

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Every year the judges tell us the Magna Award non

read about the winning programs and to meet the l

benefits the students and the communities they ser

that encourages innovative thinking in public educ Steve Dunmore, president, Sodexo School Service

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ABOUT US

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. It is inspiring to ork clearly

What they are saying about us...



Governing Board earns top honor The Sunnyside District Governing Board received the Lou Ella Kleinz Award of Excellence from the Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) Dec. 16, 2010. The award honors the most outstanding educational leadership by a school board in the state of Arizona, and is the ASBA's highest honor.

Project Graduation in Ed Tech Magazine

The February/March 2011 issue of EdTech Magazine: Focus on K-12, features the





Sunnyside District's Project Graduation in an article entitled "Crossing the Threshold – Schools are leveraging technology to increase graduation rates. Here's how."

Sunnyside District is reinventing itself

The Sunnyside District was one of the five districts highlighted in the Winter 2011 issue of Scholastic Administrator Magazine. The feature article, "5 School Districts Reinvented," focused on Sunnyside's Project Graduation and one-to-one computing initiative.

Governing Board wins national Magna Award

The Sunnyside District Governing Board has been named winner of a 2011 Magna Award for its leadership of Project Graduation: The Digital Advantage. The Magna Award is a national recognition program co-sponsored by American School Board Journal, the National School Boards Association, and Sodexo School Services that honors school board best practices and innovative programs that advance student learning.





Dr. Isquierdo earns national tech-savvy award

Sunnyside Unified School District's Dr. Manuel L. Isquierdo has been named one of the nation's ten Tech-Savvy Superintendents of the Year for 2010 by eSchool News, an online resource for technology news for today's K-20 educator. Winners are selected based on their ability to demonstrate exemplary vision for the use of technology to improve all facets of education and outstanding leadership in making this vision a reality.

Project Graduation receives state award

Project Graduation: The Digital Advantage was awarded the 2009 Pathways to Higher Education Award by the Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education for being an outstanding college access program which prepares, encourages and transitions students into postsecondary education.

Marketing efforts honored at state level



The Sunnyside District Office of Public Relations received a 2009 ASPRA*tions Award for Excellence from the Arizona School Public Relations Association for its marketing of Project Graduation: The Digital Advantage.

New explorer





EXPLORENS 5th-grade 1-to-1 computing

a computer for every 5th-grader

Sunnyside Unified School District

bringing the world into your classroom



Next Step

How do I replicate Project
Graduation in our District?
Go to <u>www.susd12.org</u>
Fill the form/School profile
Take reference material
Give us your contact info





Schools Parents & Students Community News

District

Our tech-savvy graduates are prepared to create their own future. Sunnyside Unified School District in Tucson, Arizona www.susd12.org scrimination | FAQs 545-2120



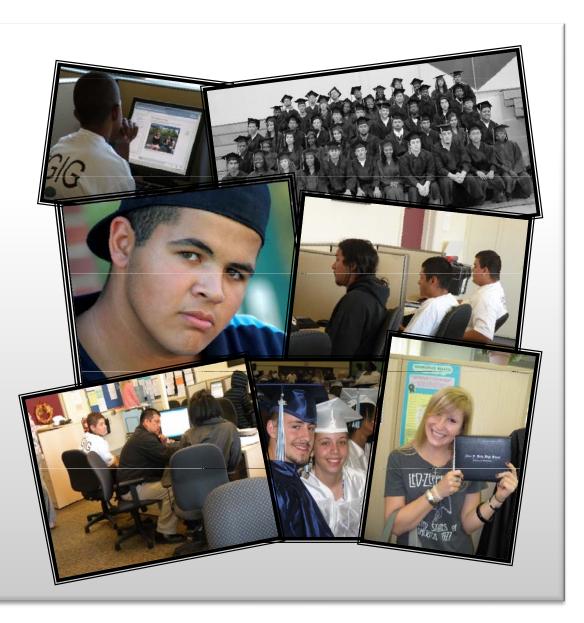
"To enrich lives and improve society through education – one student at a time"

CDE / ScholarCentric Dropout Prevention & Student Engagement Summit

February 18, 2011

John Murray - CEO

John Super - President



Each year, the high school drop out rate is greater than twice the American casualties of World War II.



It is not too late!



C § "To earlch lives and improve society through education - one student at a time"

AdvancePath Model – Based On Broad Research

30 Years Of Research Has Determined That At-Risk & Dropout Students Need

- > A Safe & Secure Environment (somewhere students, <u>and teachers</u>, want to be)
- **Caring Adults** (inside and outside of the learning environment)
- **To Take Ownership** (stop blaming the adults around them)
- > A Flexible Schedule (allowing additional choices, not limiting them)
- > A Culture Of Trust & Mutual Respect (neither a Love Fest, nor a Boot Camp)

□ AdvancePath Has Systemically Implemented That Research And

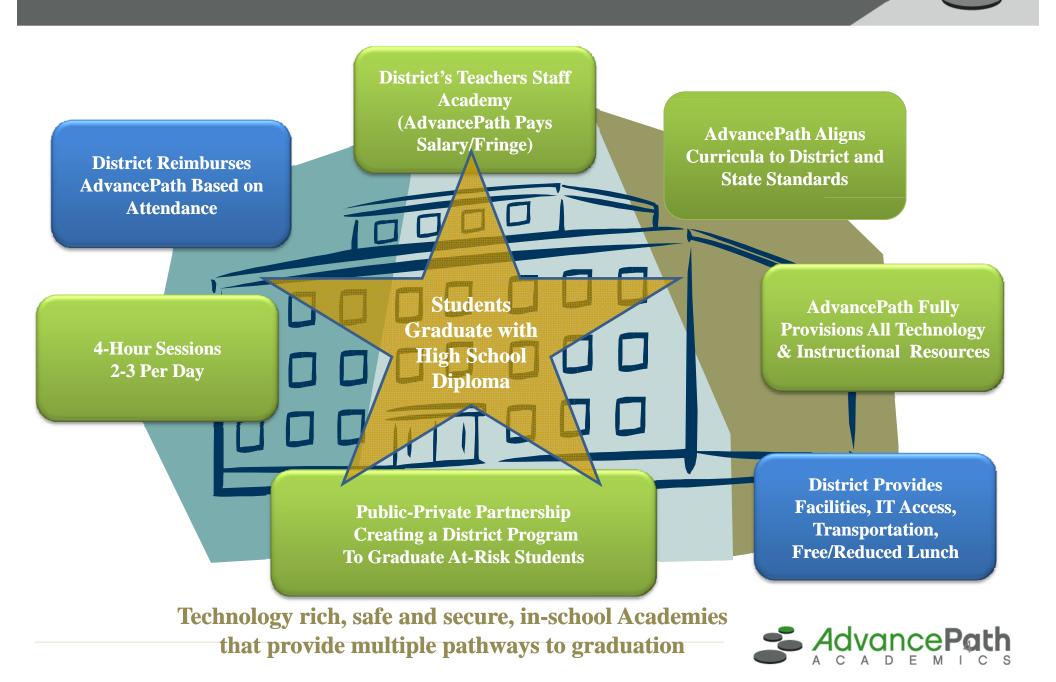
- > Developed a Strong Culture of Team Teaching & Team Learning
 - ✓ Supported by in-depth initial training and ongoing professional development
- > Uses Highly Rigorous Curricula & Sets Lofty Student Goals
- > Provides Ongoing Interventions For Students & Teachers Alike

> The Results Speak For Themselves

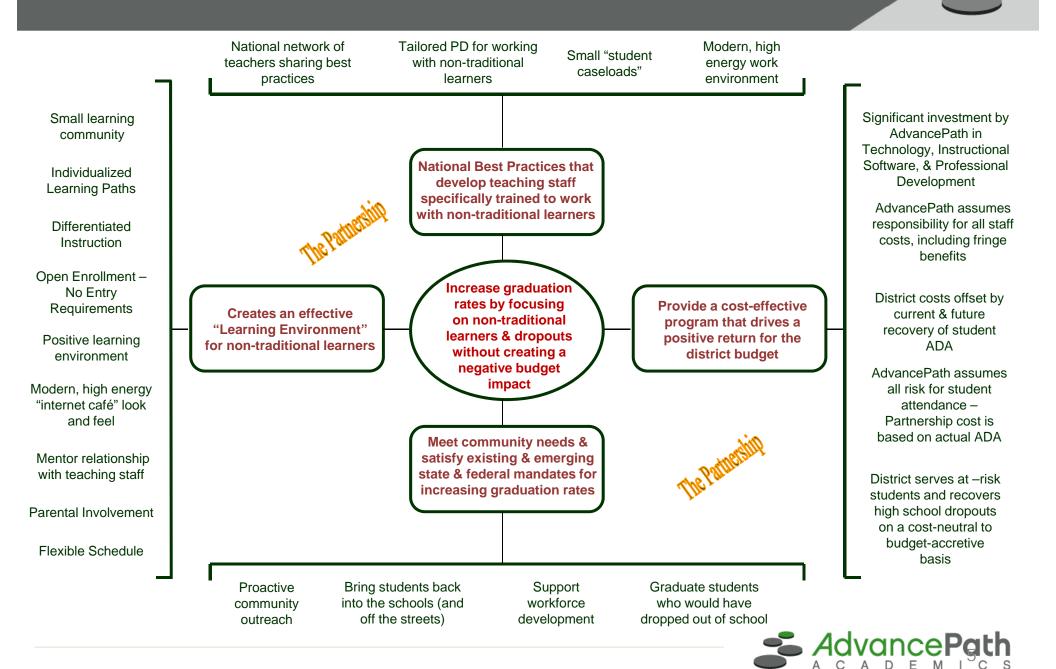
- Success For 9 Out Of 10 Eligible Students
- Creating A Level Playing Field Across Ethnicity's

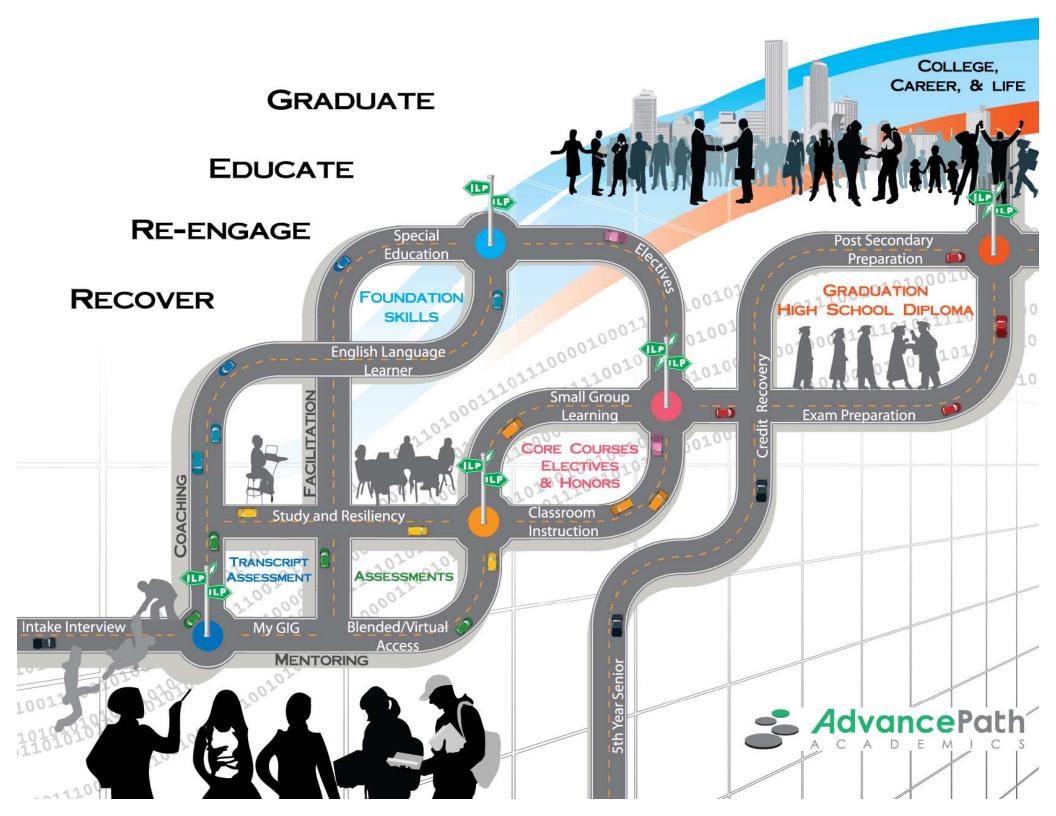


AdvancePath Partnership Model

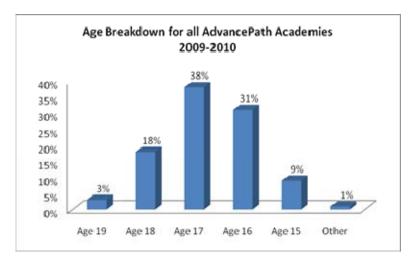


Benefits Of The AdvancePath District Partnership





Student Profile and Progress Data



er of Students	School Year Deficit
74	1.25
373	1.95
798	1.95
658	0.74
197	0.31
	373 798 658

Student Academic Deficiency At Enrollment

Gain in Credit Attainment by Age

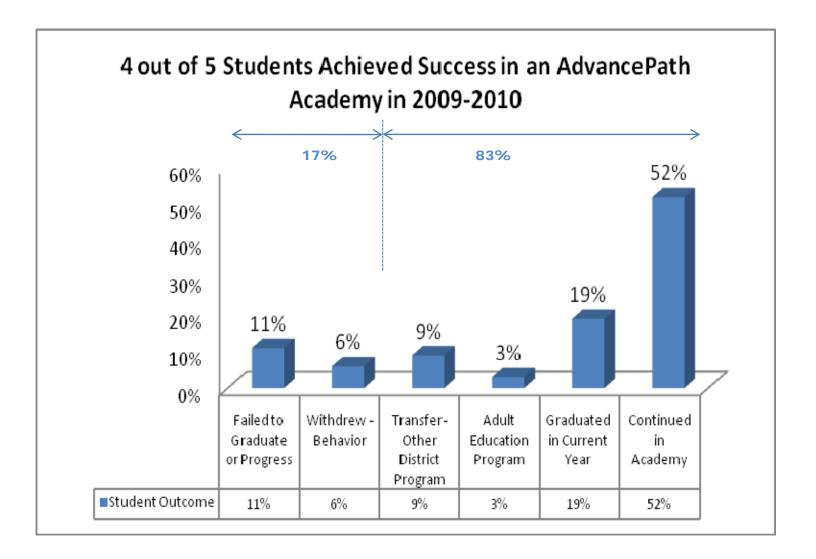
	Number of Students	Pre-Enrollment Index	Post Enrollment Index	Percentage Gain
Age 19	74	0.25	0.50	100%
Age 18	373	0.27	1.32	389%
Age 17	798	0.28	1.33	375%
Age 16	658	0.30	1.29	330%
Age 15	197	0.33	0.97	194%

Gain in Credit Attainment by Ethnicity

	Number of Students	Pre-Enrollment Index	Post Enrollment Index	Percentage Gain
African American	432	0.24	1.23	413%
Caucasian	375	0.30	1.37	357%
Hispanic/Latino	1,131	0.29	1.30	348%

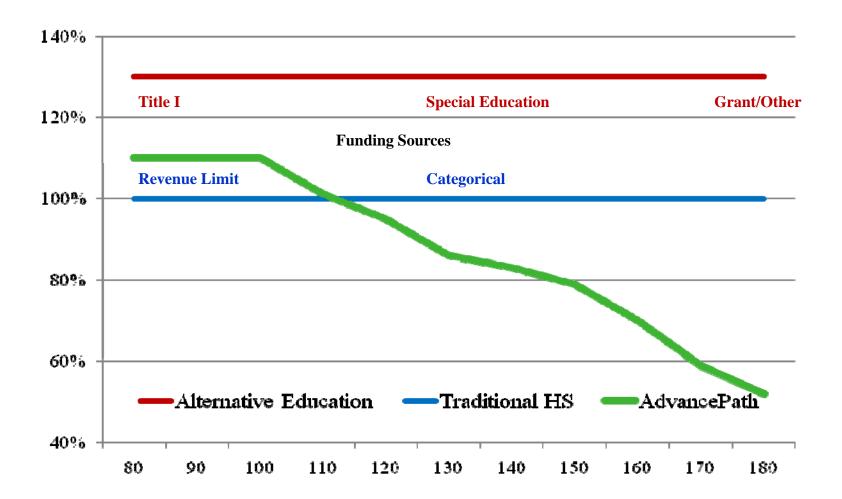


Student Profile and Progress Data





Cost Per Student



Students Attending



What Our Students Say



"I was just done with it ... didn't like it ... didn't want to go"



"I see it as a second chance to redeem yourself and show other people that you can graduate ... with your class"



"Everything is in one spot ... easy to keep organized ... easy to get it done because you can focus and do it at your own pace"



"I just get home and get on my computer and carry on from where I left off"



"I believe if I was in a different high school I wouldn't have been able to finish"



"AdvancePath has opened my eyes to a new world ... a new way of learning ... a new way of going about trying to succeed"





Official's Response

"That's our job – it's to educate EVERY child We partnered with AdvancePath because it's OUR Curriculum, OUR Rigor and OUR Teachers"



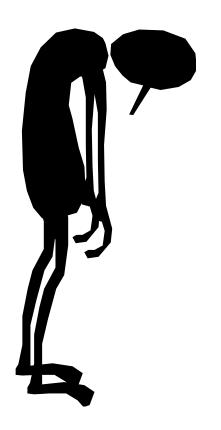
"Why don't we have this kind of operation throughout the United States I'm hoping we can transfer this environment into classrooms across the country.... We're going to see the same kind of student behavior and student outcomes."

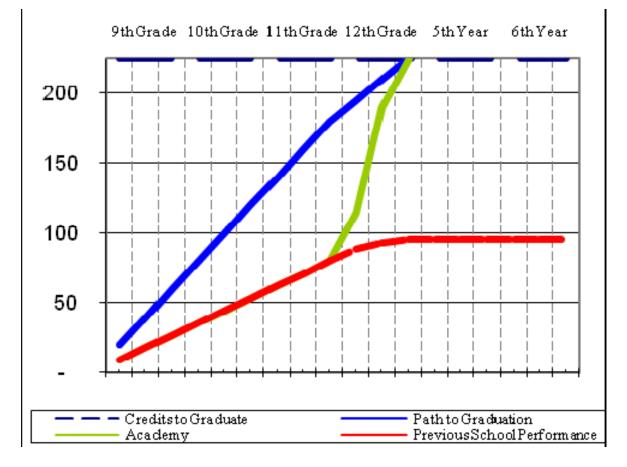






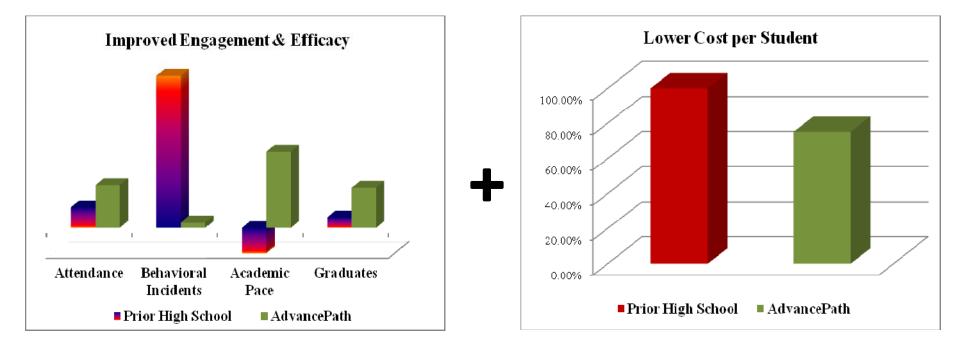
Education Budgets Are Under Siege! But, ALL Children Still NEED To Be Served





Click to View Video

AdvancePath - District Value Proposition



- **Improved Graduation Rate**
- **Lower Dropout Rate**
- More Dollars To Spend On Traditional Programs
 - A More Educated Workforce
 - A Safer Community





Although Education Budgets Are Under Attack



There Is A Greater Expectation Of Academic Outcomes

How Can We Pull In The Same Direction?

To Improve Academic Outcomes And Live Within Your Current Expenditures

Each year, the high school drop out rate is greater than twice the American casualties of World War II.



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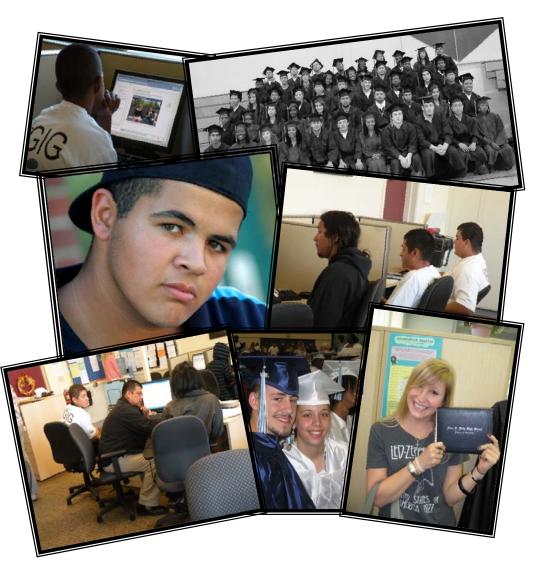
John Super - President



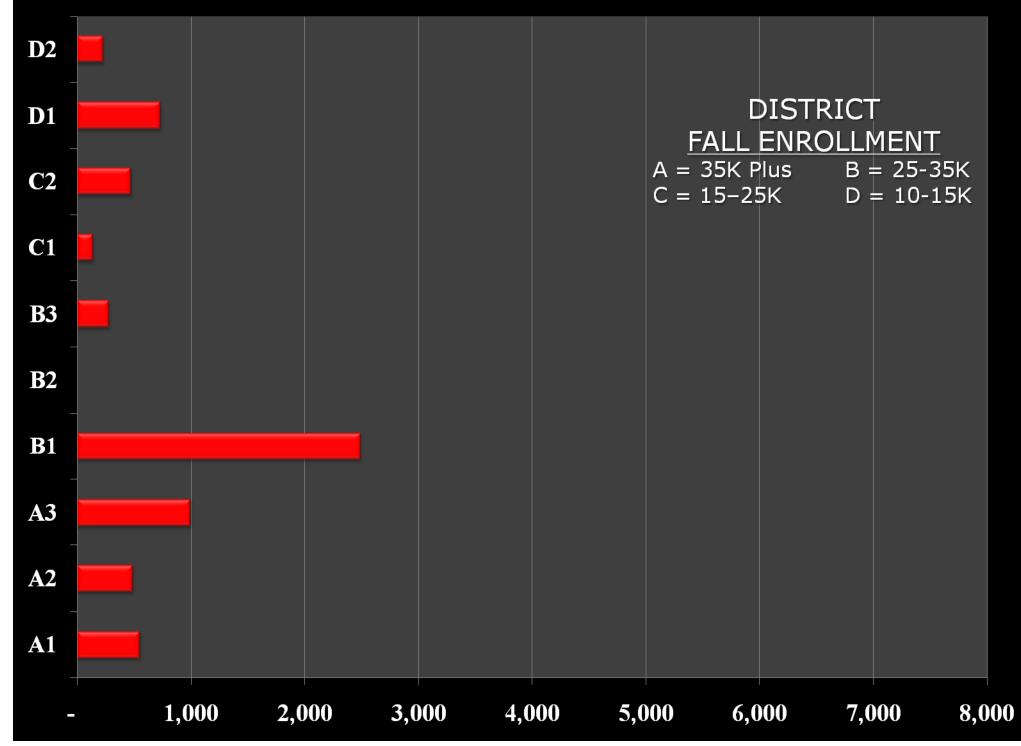
A Different View:

High School Dropouts and Non-Graduates

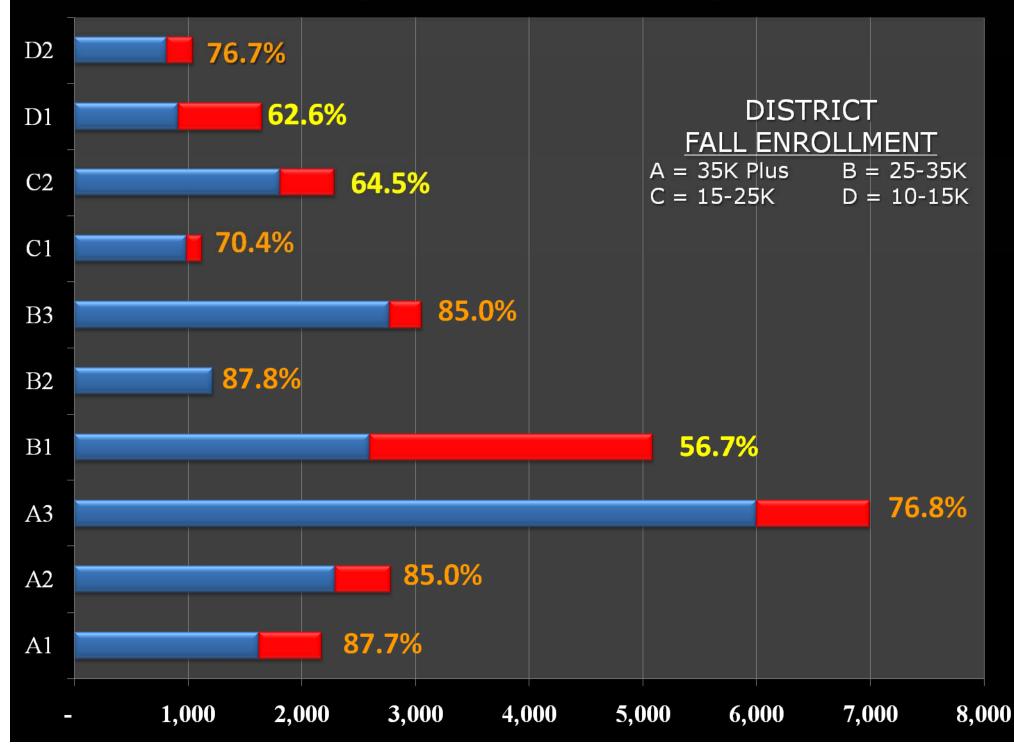
A Look Across the High School Population

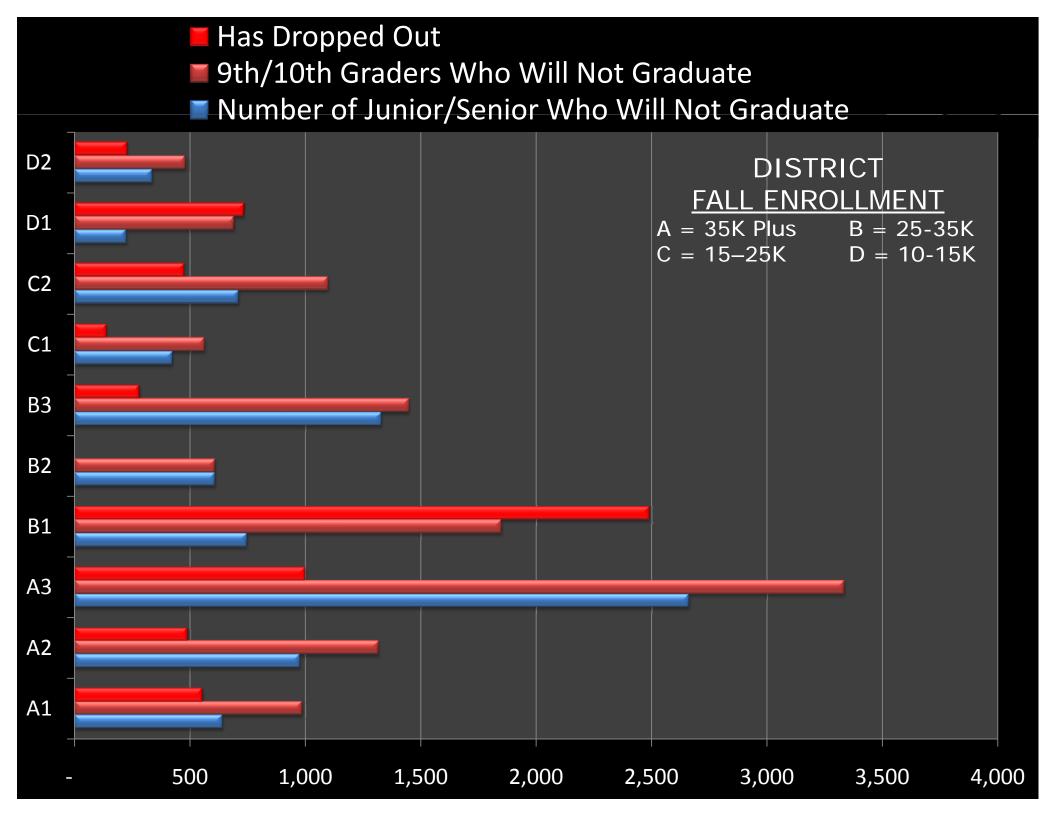


Has Dropped Out

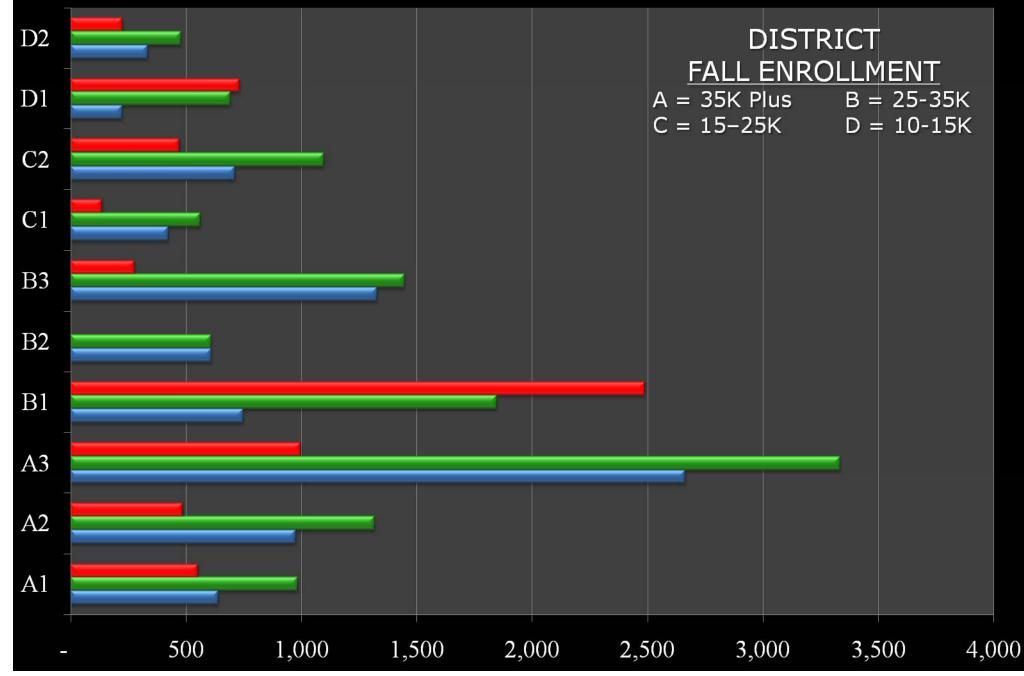


Will Dropout/Not Graduate Has Dropped Out





Has Dropped Out 9th/10th Graders Who Will Not Graduate Number of Junior/Senior Who Will Not Graduate



On The First Day of High School Each Year:

- □ 39,500 Enrolled Students Will Not Graduate
- > 15,500 Juniors and Seniors
- > 24,000 Freshmen and Sophomores
- □ 14,500 High School Dropouts Already Out of School

50,000 HS Students Who Will Not Graduate





John Super

jsuper@advancepath.com

