

Top 10 Accomplishments

1 District Strategic Plan and benchmarks

In 2011, the School Board adopted the district's first modern strategic plan with four goal areas - academic excellence, partnerships, early learning and safety. In 2012, the board adopted the first 31 benchmarks - or metrics - the district will track over time to demonstrate progress or lack of progress toward achieving its goals.

2 Tacoma Whole Child Initiative beginning in 2013-2014

In partnership with the University of Washington Tacoma, we have begun a 10-year plan to train staff at all schools how to set school-specific positive behavior expectations and reinforce them by catching kids behaving well. Early results from the first 13 schools shows teachers have more time to teach, schools have built a positive sense of community, tardies have plummeted and total discipline has dropped dramatically.

3 Full-day kindergarten at every elementary school

State funding for kindergarten covers half-day programs with limited extra funding for low-income schools. Beginning in 2009, Tacoma Public Schools used local voter-approved levy funds to launch full-day kindergarten at every elementary school, which data shows has better prepared students for first grade and standardized tests.

4 The Reengagement Center

The district invested \$455,000 to create a new kind of school - the Reengagement Center - for 2013-2014, which targets dropouts and students at risk of dropping out with custom-designed programs of online and in-class sessions to help them get back on track to graduate or get their GED (high school equivalency).

5 Academic Acceleration Policy: More students taking IB and AP classes

The school board adopted an innovative new policy in 2013 that automatically enrolls high school students (who meet academic standards in basic courses) into more rigorous advanced placement and International Baccalaureate courses. The number of high school students taking at least one rigorous advanced class has risen from 31% in 2012-13 and 46% in 2013-14 to 57% in 2014-2015.

6 Free tests for all students: PSAT, SAT, AP, IB

To help eliminate achievement gaps and create a greater college-bound culture, Tacoma Public Schools began in 2013 to pay the costs for students taking tests for placement in more rigorous coursework and college-entrance tests - and gave those tests to all students free of charge.

7 Pre-school expansion

Using federal Title I funds, Tacoma added 12 new preschool sessions - two at five elementary schools - beginning in 2012-2013 as part of an effort to expand free early learning to some of the city's most vulnerable populations. For 2014-15, the district remodeled part of a closed elementary school for the first Early Learning Center, featuring preschools, the Child Find preschool assessment program and space for community partners who serve preschool populations.

8 An instructional coach for EVERY school beginning in 2013-2014

Putting a world-class teacher in front of every student will make the most impact on student academic achievement. To work toward that goal, the district invested \$4.7 million to put an instructional coach - a master teacher of teachers - in every school to work with individual teachers and groups of teachers at their school to coach them on a wide range of best practices in classroom management, engaging students and instructional skills, among other things.

9 Improved learning environments

In February 2013, voters approved a \$500 million capital construction bond issue - by a record-setting 70 percent YES vote - to renovate or replace 14 schools over the next 10 years and make hundreds of other smaller physical improvements at other schools.

10 Expansion of middle school athletics beginning in 2012-2013

Statistics show students engaged in athletics perform better in school and develop a more positive connection with their school than students who don't. By increasing athletic team opportunities for students by nearly 2,500 roster spots - from tackle football to cross country - we will see greater academic growth throughout the district.

Federal Priorities

Title I and IDEA programs

Preserve funding for vital programs and avoid sequestration reductions that would reduce funding - and educational services - to pre-2003 levels.

Head Start and Early Head Start

Increased grant funding for school districts to promote kindergarten readiness through education, health, nutrition, social and other services for disadvantaged children.

Multiple Measures of student achievement to determine student proficiency and school performance

Expand measures of student success to include more than just a state standardized test score and include a "Whole Child" report card - evaluations, criterion or norm-referenced exams, diagnostic and summative assessments, and project-based learning demonstrations.

Establish a system that provides differentiated support based on circumstances and needs of each school and district

Rather than a one-size-fits-all approach to accountability, create a system of rewards and incentives, including flexibility of categorical funding for states, districts and schools that consistently perform well, close achievement gaps and succeed in cohort growth or improve educator effectiveness.

Enhanced support for educator effectiveness

Broaden funding, set minimal educator standards and require accountability for college teacher education programs to increase preparedness of teachers. Then establish a teacher evaluation and growth system based on a combination of locally defined inputs, including, but not limited to, student performance, classroom observations and feedback.

Reauthorization of ESEA

Allow for school district discretion over the use of federal funds so each district can address the unique needs of its neediest students and improve their academic performance.

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WASHINGTON'S MOST INNOVATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT



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Washington's Most **Innovative** School District



Our City: Tacoma, WA

Tacoma delivers the amenities of a big city with the charm of a small town. With a leading international port on majestic Commencement Bay, Tacoma serves as a gateway to the Pacific Rim.

With its diverse population now over 200,000, Tacoma offers a uniquely pro-business environment and some of the most livable neighborhoods in the Puget Sound area just 18 miles south of Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

Tacoma's urban core is evolving as the downtown for a South Sound region of nearly one million people anchored by a burgeoning high-tech industry and steadily growing University of Washington Tacoma downtown campus. The Tacoma area offers four community/technical colleges, two private universities and one four-year state university.

Fifteen neighborhood business districts serve a vital role in Tacoma's economic development strategy, which extends the benefits of development into core neighborhood business areas. The neighborhood districts offer a diverse array of goods and services, live music, dining venues, artisan coffee shops, unique boutiques and more.

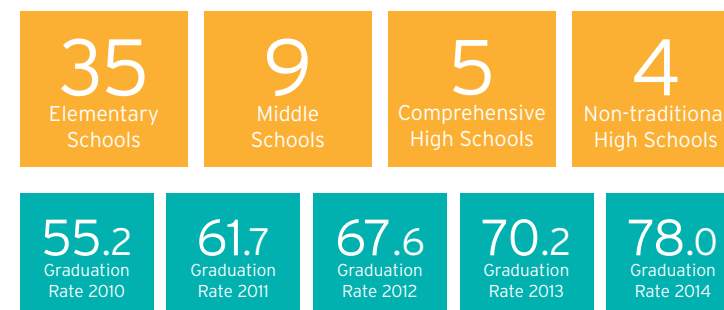
Tacoma Public Schools

OUR VISION

We will be an outstanding school district in which all students exhibit high standards of achievement and critical thinking skills, and are socially responsible, contributing members of our society.

OUR MISSION

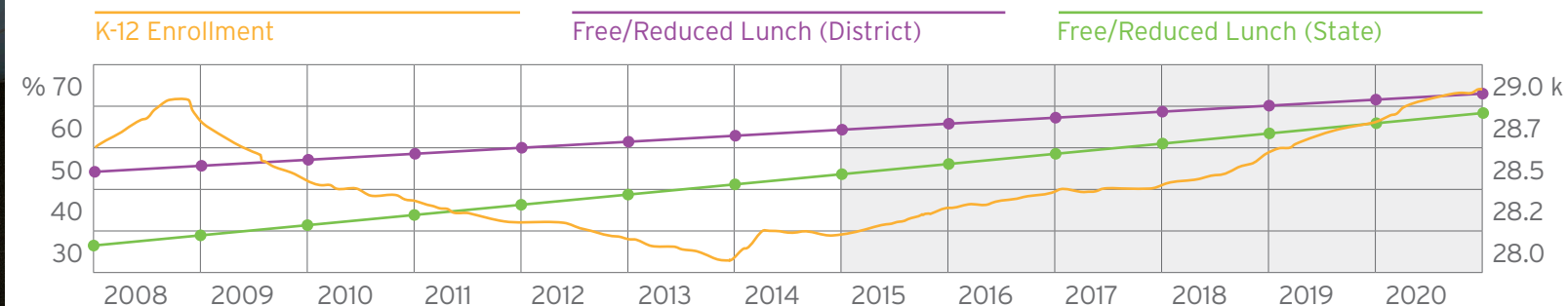
In partnership with parents and community, we will provide a comprehensive educational experience that is rigorous, individualized and enables students to contribute to a changing and diverse world.



INNOVATING FOR ACHIEVEMENT

Students in Tacoma Public Schools have their pick of more innovative options for their education than any other district in the state. In 2012, State Superintendent Randy Dorn named Tacoma Public Schools as **the state's first-ever and only district-wide Innovation Zone for education**. Eleven of the 32 schools statewide to earn the innovative designation are in Tacoma.

Demographics



Strategic Plan Goals



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

All students will perform at or above grade level, and we will eliminate disparities among all groups of students.



PARTNERSHIPS

We will fully engage our parents, community and staff in the education of our children.



EARLY LEARNING

We will focus on early assessment and intervention at the Pre-K through third grade levels to ensure early academic success.

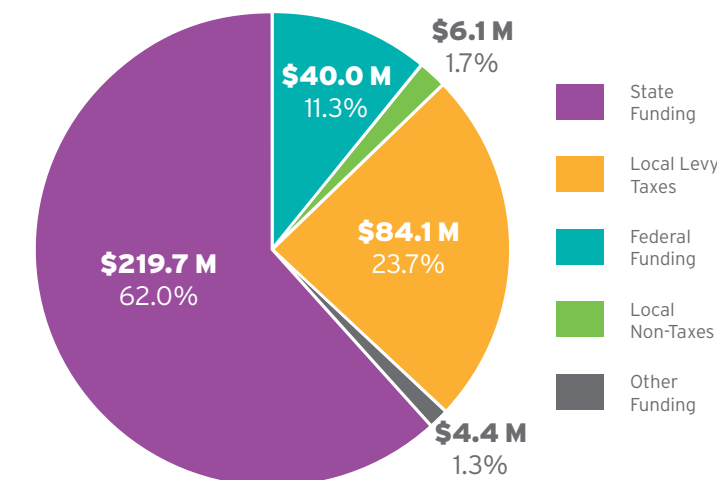


SAFETY

All schools will create and maintain safe learning environments that promote excellent academic achievement.

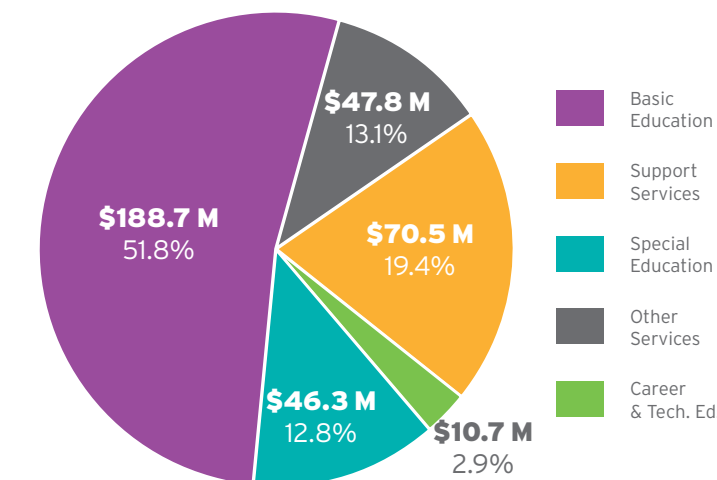
General Fund Revenues

\$354,257,091 (2014-15)



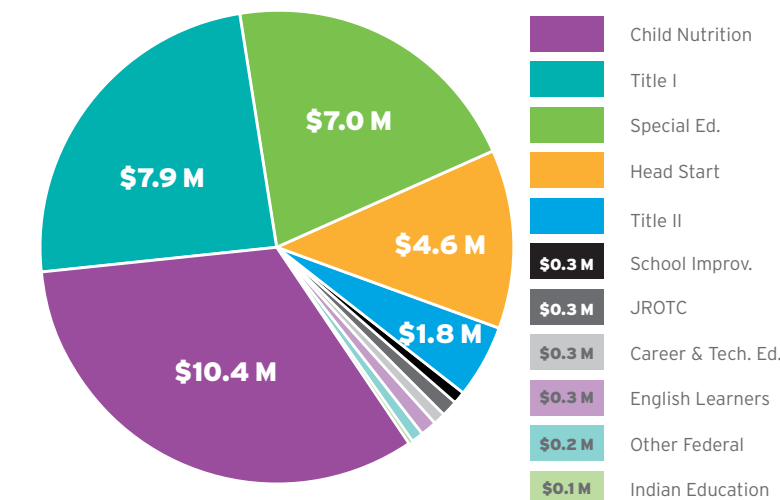
General Fund Expenditures

\$363,959,013 (2014-15)



Actual Federal Expenditures

\$33,213,570 (2013-14)



Wilson High School