



December 1, 2015

## **World's Best Workforce Summary Report**

Northwest Passage High School #4049

In accordance with 2013 Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.11, Northwest Passage High School is pleased to submit this report to the commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education, summarizing:

- The district's comprehensive, long-term strategic plan to support and improve teaching and learning that is aligned with creating the world's best workforce;
- Progress toward improving teaching and learning and striving for the world's best workforce, including current rates of:
  - Students attaining career and college readiness before graduating from high school;
  - Students graduating from high school; and
- Information about best practice strategies that were implemented and that are showing evidence of improving student outcomes and working toward creating the world's best workforce in Minnesota.

### **Identified Needs Based on Data**

Northwest Passage High School (NWPHS) uses Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) assessments. Based on those assessments between 40-48% of students enrolling in NWPHS are behind at least one grade level in reading over the past five years and between 47-58% are behind by at least a year in math.

Northwest Passage High School enrolls students in grades 9-12+ throughout the school year from surrounding school districts including district 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 279, 286, 621, 728 and others.

33-45% of enrolled NWPHS students are receiving special education services.

The Northwest Passage High School Board through the 2013 Strategic Plan established the following goals:

### **Academic Achievement**

A. Curriculum Design

All afternoon courses will be peer reviewed and include specific guiding questions and learner outcomes. Courses will include resource lists in the areas of technology, field studies and guest speakers. Courses will have unique individual or small group end products and have rubrics and final assessments to support those end products.

#### B. Test Scores

NWPHS will continue to administer NWEA testing in the fall and spring of each school year. 70% of incoming 9th graders will show one years growth for every one year at NWPHS. 60% of all other students will show one years growth for every one year at NWPHS. 70% of incoming 9th graders and 60% of all other students will reach expected growth as defined by Z score growth data. NWPHS will implement for the 2013-14 school year a program to identify and support students who are not achieving at grade level in math and reading.

#### C. Project Completion

NWPHS students are expected to earn 2.5 credits in independent Project work each year. NWPHS staff will work closely with students and parents to foster a greater sense of responsibility and understanding of the implication for not completing the minimum credit requirements. Staff will also help students better organize and manage their projects and timelines.

#### D. Course Completion

NWPHS students are expected to complete 5-seminar course and a J-term project each school year for a total of 2.75 credits. Earning full credit in a course is equivalent to earning at least a B in a traditional school course. NWPHS staff will continue to work closely with students and parents to provide updates and expectations for full completion.

#### E. Assessments

Every project and course will include at least two assessments. A student self-assessment and an assessment from the staff member approving the project or leading the course. Assessments will be documented in Project Foundry and discussed between the student and staff member. Assessments will be primarily from the 7 skills for 21st century learners, but other approved assessments can be used.

#### F. Conferences/Parent Communication

Parents/Student/Advisor conferences will be held four times during the school year. Conferences are 30 minutes in duration and must include all three members of the educational team – advisor, parent and student. The conferences will progress from advisor lead to student lead during the course of the school year. In addition to conferences advisors will establish a regular communication plan with parents. Communications between advisors and parents will be a minimum of bi-monthly.

#### G. Personal Learning Plans

All students will have a yearly PLP that includes short and long term academic, social and postsecondary goals. PLPs will be created and approved by student, parent and advisor. PLPs will be reviewed at conferences.

#### H. Portfolios

80% of graduating seniors will have completed a digital learning portfolio highlighting their growth and best works. Portfolios are started upon enrollment at NWPHS and have minimum yearly entries. The senior transition plan is the final entry and is required for all graduates regardless of portfolio completion.

#### I. Post Secondary Readiness

All NWPHS graduates will have a college and career readiness plan. The planning will begin in 9th grade. Each grade cohort will be assigned two advisees who will meet with the cohort once a month to plan and discuss post secondary options. Events will be planned throughout the year to help students and parents make wise decisions, including college fairs, FABSA seminars, and P.S.E.O. information. Additionally, all 11<sup>th</sup>

grade students will complete a Life Skills course and all 12<sup>th</sup> graders will participate in a Senior Seminar.

## **Support Category**

### **Students**

Students who are identified through the NWEA reading and math assessments as being behind in grade level, both students receiving special education services and those who do not, are provided with additional supports in those areas. Students who are behind in reading participate in SRA Corrective Reading program. Students are divided into small groups (1-6 students) based on assessed needs. Students participate in the reading group four days a week for 45 minutes each day throughout the school year. For students who are behind in mathematics NWPHS use a small group-tutoring program to assist students with specific math needs.

In addition to the formalized supports NWPHS continues to maintain small class sizes (16:1 student to teacher ratio), a long advisory model where students are with the same advisor for their entire enrolled, and small school model.

### **Teachers and Principals**

Northwest Passage High School has provided training in SRA Corrective Reading to about half of the current staff including all of the special education staff. We have also added a number special education paraprofessionals to assist with individual and small group reading and math groups.

## **Best Practice Strategies and Action Steps**

Based upon our contract with Bethel University the following student performance goals are in place for all students.

1. **Student Performance Goal:** 70% of continuously enrolled students who begin at NWPHS as true freshmen will gain one year of growth for one year of academic opportunity in Math and Reading on their NWEA MAP baseline assessment.
2. **Student Performance Goal** For students that begin their schooling at NWPHS after 9<sup>th</sup> Grade and who are continuously enrolled, 65% will gain an average of one year growth based on a 3-5 year average, by capturing their highest and lowest recorded score on the NWEA MAP assessment.

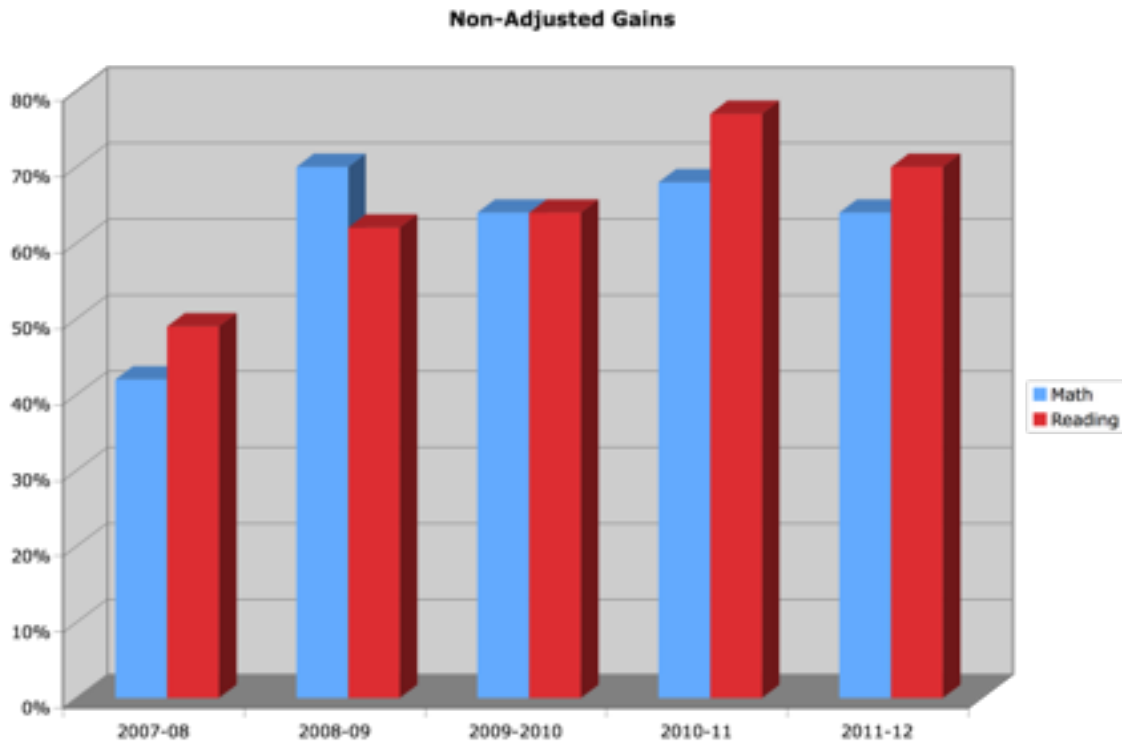
## **Current Student Achievement Plans**

Northwest Passage High School has implemented a number of student achievement plans including a Local Literacy Plan with the SRA Corrective Reading Program, a Student Transition Plan to College and Career Readiness and Principal Evaluations based on student achievement.

**Data Collection:**

NWEA MAP testing was conducted in the fall, winter, and spring of each school year. Students included in this data set were students who started on Tuesday after Labor Day and were still enrolled on June 1, of the following school year. Any student enrolled was given the NWEA test but for the purposes of measuring improvement, only students enrolled the entire year were analyzed.

After collecting the data, it was put into a database and sorted based on percent gains. Any student who had a positive number was counted and a percentage was calculated by dividing the number of students with a positive gain by the total number of students enrolled for the entire year. (See Below Chart)



**All Students Graduate:**

Northwest Passage High School continues to assist students who have struggled to be successful in other school settings. Traditional graduation rate metrics are difficult to measure since the majority of students entering NWPHS are behind in credits and enroll after their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year. NWPHS has put in place data gathering protocols to identify the number of students enrolling behind in credits, the grade level they enter and the graduation rate (both 4 and 5 year graduation rates). Graduation trends continue to be strong for both 12 grade students and Super Seniors (students who have passed their original cohort date) despite enrolling

more than 80% of student who are behind in credits. Over the past five years our graduation rate for seniors has remained between 55-60%.