



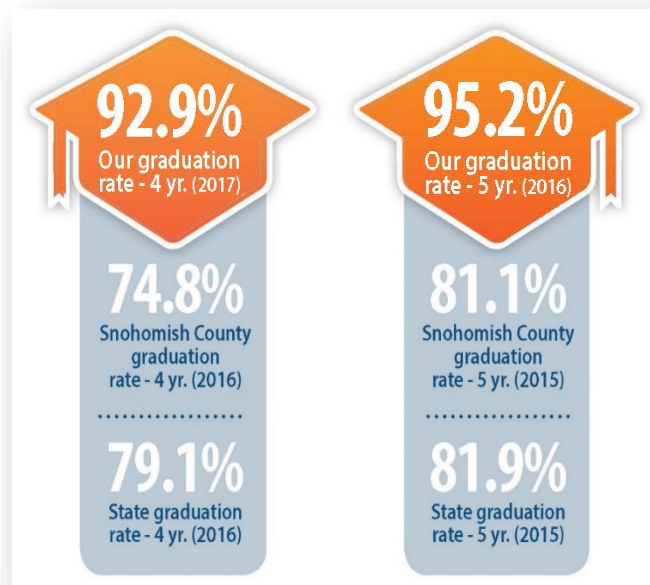
Our students will lead and shape the future

News release

November 16, 2017

Graduation rates up; vocational career pathways underway

Plans in the works to add specialty science, technology, engineering and math career pathway programs at each high school



Over the past 15 years, methods for calculating graduation rates have changed and become more precise.

High school requirements have changed. Students must earn more credits in different classes, including math and science, than they did 15 years ago. The tests used to measure student learning have changed; passing some of those tests are now requirements for graduation – another change from 15 years ago.

Also changed are the graduation rates. Since the graduation rates first inched above 90 percent for the class of 2015, the district has incrementally moved closer to its vision of a 100 percent graduation rate.

Four-year graduation rate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	81.8%	84.4%	89.3%	90.2%	90.9%	92.9%

Five-year graduation rate	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
	85.8%	88.5%	91.2%	94.5%	94.7%	95.2%

Superintendent Gary Cohn credits the partnership efforts of staff, parents and community for “doing what it takes” to meet the academic and social needs of each student in the district. “The result is more students crossing the graduation stage career and college ready.”

Changes in the works include plans Cohn says will “even more deeply enrich each high school student’s college and career readiness.”

Cohn explained that during the November 21 school board meeting the board will consider whether to ask residents to approve a construction bond in 2018. “The bond proposal the board is discussing would renovate high school facilities to add a specialty STEM program at each high school for vocational career pathways.”

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The bond projects, as explained by Cohn, would include transforming the entire Everett High vocational building into a center focused upon health and medical careers. Cascade High's science building would be modernized into an aerospace and advanced manufacturing learning complex. Jackson High would include learning facilities for communications and information technology. The district's fourth traditional high school (construction of which is one of the bond projects) is designed with learning labs focused on energy and sustainability.

As Cohn explained, "Our region's job growth will outpace the nation, according to the Washington Round Table. Today, businesses in our region are hiring workers from outside of our neighborhoods. Working with local businesses, we have designed ways our high schools can incorporate science, technology, engineering and math into career pathways so students can choose to live and work right here.

"At their next meeting on November 21, the board will decide whether to ask voters to approve a bond making these STEM/vocational career pathways possible."

Future readiness



Medical professions pathways

Will combine content and workplace practices as a foundation for student success in high demand healthcare careers, such as:

- Medical assistants
- Primary care nurses
- Physicians
- Behavioral health counselors



Future readiness



Aerospace & Advanced manufacturing

Will explore innovative technology, material science, applied math, and workplace skills needed in high demand and high paying careers

- Precision metal fabricator
- Tool & die maker
- Industrial maintenance mechanic
- Aerospace/advanced manufacturing engineer



Future readiness




Information & communications technology

Will build advanced knowledge and competencies in hardware and operating system technologies used in a growing number of regional and national businesses.

- Software publishing
- Computer services
- Electronic & catalogue shopping
- Communications equipment & services
- Electronic equipment & instruments
- Entertainment goods




Future readiness



Energy & sustainability pathway

Will explore the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze problems both natural and human-made as foundation for careers among our region's rapidly increasing number of industries dedicated to clean energy and sustainability.

- Environmental scientists and specialists
- Environmental techs
- Environmental engineering techs



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