



# Redefining The Senior Year and... Taking the Steps to Get There

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# Alignment to Learning Forward Standards

## Redefining the Senior Year

- The new education law, *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*, redefines professional development with a purposeful influence from *Learning Forward*.
- *Learning Forward*, a national association recognized as leaders in professional learning, has established standards for professional learning that set a high bar for quality learning experiences.
- This session aligns to the following standard(s):
  - **Learning Communities** *Professional learning that increases educator effectiveness and results for all students occurs within learning communities committed to continuous improvement, collective responsibility, and goal alignment.*
  - **Learning Designs** *Professional learning that increases educator effectiveness and results for all students integrates theories, research, and models of human learning to achieve its intended outcomes.*
  - **Implementation** *Professional learning that increases educator effectiveness and results for all students applies research on change and sustains support for implementation of professional learning for long-term change.*

# Welcome!

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In 6 words or less, can you identify why you think redefining the senior year is needed?

Examples:

Create transition(s) to college or career.

Pursue passions with guidance and guardrails

Prepare students for future they desire

# New Skills for Youth Objectives

## The Vision

To ensure all students have the opportunity and support to successfully secure a postsecondary degree and/or industry certification that reflects each individual's passions and skills.

**Objective 1 – Employer Engagement**

**Objective 2 – Rigorous and Quality Curriculum**

**Objective 3 – Career Focused Accountability – Postsecondary Indicators**

**Objective 4 – Multiple Pathways That Culminate in Credentials of Value**

**Objective 5 – Aligned Funding**

**Objective 6 – Cross Institutional Alignment**

**Objective 7 – Strategic Communication**



# National Commission on High School Senior Year

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The nation faces a deeply troubling future unless we transform the lost opportunity of the senior year into an integral part of students' preparation for life, citizenship, work, and further education.

# High School Senior Voice

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“It should be your most important year. It should be your most focused, but instead I think a lot of it gets looked at as, oh, my last year. I have my credits or whatever -Then when you are in what they call the real world, things hit people like a ton of bricks.”

# Elevate+ Student Voice

Elevate+ In “Changing the Conversation,” members of State Superintendent of Public Instruction Joy Hofmeister’s 2016-2017 Student Advisory Council speak out on two important questions –

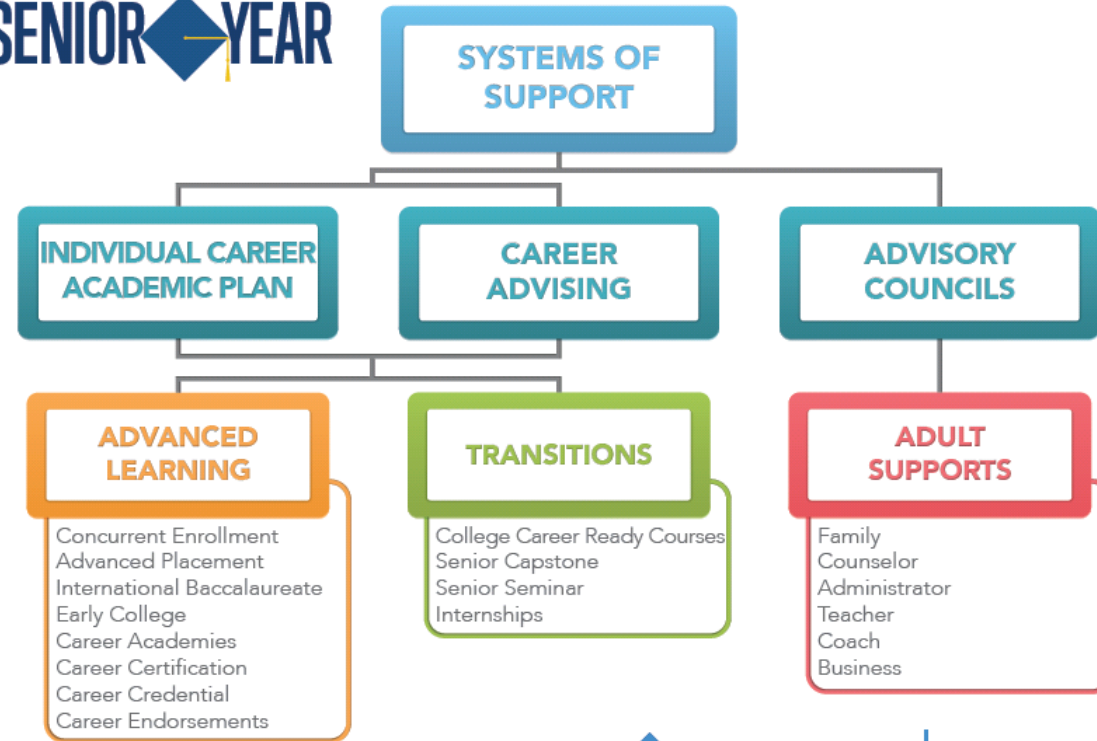
1. What would you change about public education in Oklahoma?
2. How would you redefine your senior year?

Students from Alva, Ardmore, Chisholm, Garber, Millwood, Norman, Owasso, Ponca City, Stilwell and Woodward share their thoughts and ideas about strengthening public education in our state.



# Redefining the Senior Year and Taking the Steps to Get There....

REDEFINING THE  
SENIOR  YEAR



# WHY?

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- Nearly half of recent high school graduates report they were not fully prepared for their next steps
- Recent grads tell us they would have worked harder if they had fully understood the challenges that lay ahead
- Both college students AND non-college students report not having as much academic preparation as they needed
- Recent Grads—whether they are in college or working—feel better prepared if they took more advanced courses in high school



# WHY?

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employers report

recent public high school grads  
have **gaps in preparation** for  
jobs and advancement in their company

SOURCE: Achieve, *Rising to the Challenge: Views on High School Graduates' Preparedness for College*, July 2014.



SOURCE: Achieve, *Rising to the Challenge: Views on High School Graduates' Preparedness for College*, July 2014.

# What Is Included in Redefining the Senior Year?

*What impact would this have in encouraging high school students to work harder and be better prepared for life after high school?*

All high school graduates



## Opportunities for real-world learning



**Total  
would  
improve  
90%**

## Communication early in high school about courses needed for college/careers



**87%**

## Opportunities to take challenging courses



**86%**

## More help for those who need extra tutoring



**83%**

## Assessments late in HS so students can find out what they need for college



**77%**



# Individual Career Academic Plans

Redefining the Senior Year

# Individual Career Academic Plan Purpose

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- **Individual Career Academic Plan (ICAP) is a multi-year process that intentionally guides students as they explore career, academic, and postsecondary opportunities.**  
Beginning with the family and student involvement in the ICAP process and support from educators, students develop the awareness, knowledge, and skills to create their own individual, career pathway to be career and college ready.

<http://www.sde.ok.gov/sde/new-skills-youth>



# System Supports and Transitions

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## **Career Advising**

- Create an environment for seniors that gives them a more purposeful final year of high school.
- Keep seniors engaged and in the game for the full year.
- Provide a flexible and adaptable educational experience.
- Scheduling freedom for students and staff - Restructure the school day.

## **Advanced Learning Opportunities**

- Create an appropriate instructional setting where more Advanced Placement and Concurrent courses can be offered.
- Provide non-college bound students with career connections opportunities.
- Simulate their next transition in life (Provide seniors with options and ask them to make choices)
- Create a more career focused student with a better awareness of career choices so the student can determine what best fits their needs.

## **Transitions**

- Expand Internship experiences and opportunities
- Opportunity for more online course work
- Expand extracurricular offerings for all students (Intramurals)(Music) (Arts)

# School-Wide Career Advising

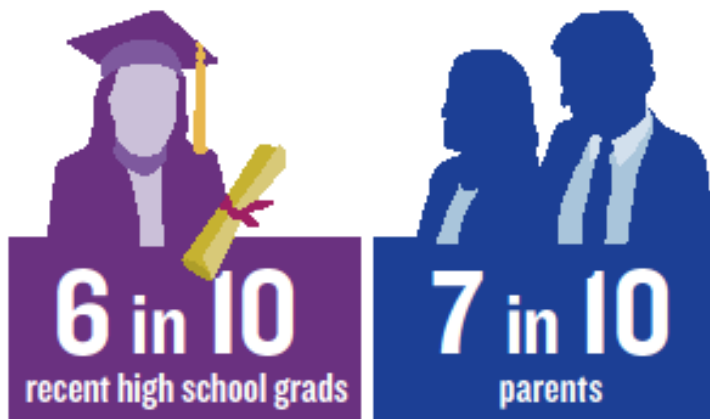
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# Why Career Advising?

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Students and parents agree:



say they would have worked harder if they understood the **EXPECTATIONS OF COLLEGE** and the **WORKING WORLD**

say they should have been more involved in their child's **HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION**

Source: Achieve, *Rising to the Challenge: Are Recent High School Graduates Prepared for College and Work?*, October 2015.  
<http://www.achieve.org/rising-challenge-survey-3-powerpoint>

# What is Purpose of Career Advisement?

## What if...

- *Every student in our schools knew that someone – a staff member – really cared about him/her?*
- ***All students** had educational, career and personal goals toward which they were working and could see their courses as useful in reaching these goals?*
- ***All parents** personally knew someone at school whom they could call – who really knew their child – and how well they were doing?*
- ***All school staff** had the opportunity to develop close connections and mentoring relationships with a small group of students throughout their middle/high school years?*

These “what ifs”, if realized, could make school a more rewarding place for everyone.



# Career Advising

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## **Goal for Developing Career Advising Toolkit**

- Our goal in Oklahoma is to see that every child is proficient and prepared for success. National research shows that education reform is moving towards smaller learning communities, more student-centered school experiences, more personalized programs with support services and increased intellectual rigor.
- The establishment of career advising programs in secondary schools is essential to Oklahoma's mission of increasing student success. Research shows that if schools create safe, supportive, and respectful learning environments that personalize young people's learning experiences, we can help them achieve more academic success.



# Benefits of School-Wide Career Advising

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**Goal:** The primary goal of [advisory programs] is to provide students with **early awareness of the benefits of continuing their education” beyond high school**, whether that be a two year or four year college or university experience or career certification (U.S. Department of Education, 2007). By having a caring adult as a mentor/advisor, students feel more connected to their school, and as a result tend to have a better educational experience.

**Benefits:** This **advising relationship** can result in reduced retention rates, decreased truancy and behavioral issues, increased test scores and graduation rates, as well as improved interpersonal relationships and workforce readiness.

# Advisory Boards

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# Advisory Boards

## Advisory Boards

Connect the organization to the outside world – voice of the community to the school, voice of the school to the community

- District-wide Strategic Advisory
- Regional Industry-Cluster Advisory
- School-based Program Advisory
- Student and Community Advisory
- Parent Advisory
- Joint Secondary-Postsecondary Program Advisory



# Advanced Learning Opportunities

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# Advanced Learning Opportunities

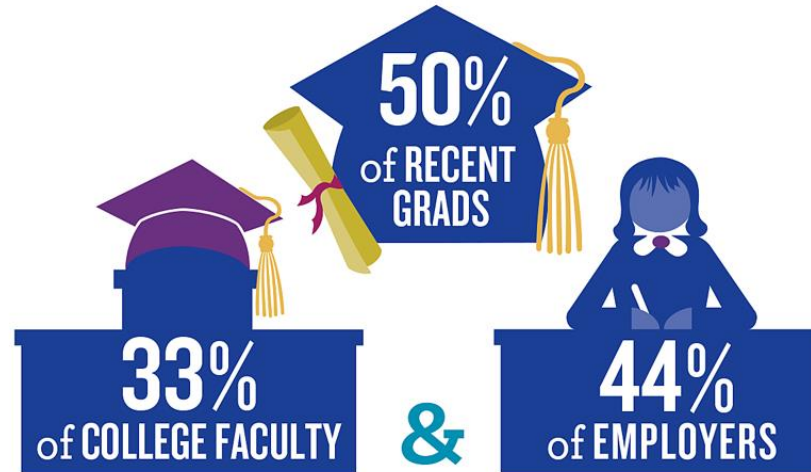
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Advanced Placement  
International Baccalaureate  
Concurrent Enrollment  
CLEP  
Industry Credentials  
Industry Certification  
Industry Certificate  
Competency-Based Education  
Career Technology Academies



# Advanced Learning Opportunities

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**believe**

**increased opportunities** for challenging courses (including honors, AP, and IB courses) would **GREATLY IMPROVE** graduates' preparedness for life after high school

SOURCE: Achieve, *Rising to the Challenge: Views on High School Graduates' Preparedness for College*, July 2014.

# Transitions

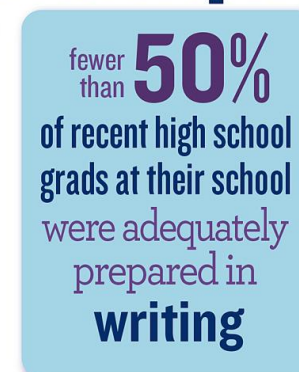
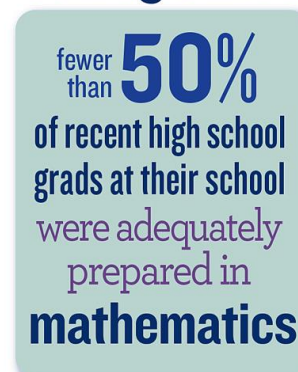
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# Why Transitions?

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*Perhaps nowhere are the deficiencies [of American high schools] more pronounced than during the senior year of high school. Some students who have already been accepted to college routinely ignore the high school's academic demands. "Senioritis" sets in. Senior year becomes party-time rather than a time to prepare for one of their most important life transitions. Students are bored and studying becomes irrelevant.*

*The Lost Opportunity of the Senior Year. Preliminary Report. <http://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED453604.pdf>*



SOURCE: Achieve, *Rising to the Challenge: Views on High School Graduates' Preparedness for College*, July 2014.

# Transitions

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College Career Ready Literacy Course - SREB

College Career Math Ready Course - SREB

Credit Recovery

Alternative School

Summer School

Apprenticeships, Internships, Mentorships

Career Endorsements

National Academy Foundation

What is available in your district?

# Survey –Poll Everywhere.com

Strategies for Redefining the Senior Year and Taking Steps to Get There

Our district/school has the following strategies/programs...(check all that apply)

1. Individual Career Academic Plans
2. School-wide Career Advising
3. Transition Math or Literacy Senior Class
4. Career Academies
5. Project Lead the Way
6. Early College Model
7. Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate
8. Concurrent Enrollment
9. Internships
10. Teacher Externships
11. Business/Education Advisory
12. Student Advisory



# Voices from the Field

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**Hilldale Public Schools** Internship for Seniors – Dr. Kaylin Coody

Elevate Story [www.sde.ok.gov](http://www.sde.ok.gov)

**Ada Public Schools – High School Aviation Initiative** Paula Kedy

<https://youcanfly.aopa.org/high-school/about>

**Union Public Schools – Project Lead the Way K-12**

<http://www.unionps.org/project-lead-the-way/>

**Oklahoma City Public Schools – National Academy Foundation –**

Cindi Walls <https://okcps.org/Domain/123>

**Pontotoc County –**



# VOICES FROM THE FIELD

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ELEVATE: Interning For Success:

<https://youtu.be/SGnCRlxRe3Y>

# Redefining the Senior Year For All Students...

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- **For all 12<sup>th</sup> Graders**
  - Assessments of readiness
  - College success courses and advising
  - Community service & internships
- **For 12<sup>th</sup> graders who are “ready”**
  - Dual enrollment
  - Begin college course of study
  - Begin industry certification
- **For students who are “not ready” by 12<sup>th</sup> grade**
  - Transition course (prepare for credit-bearing courses)
  - Dual Enrollment with Co-Requisite Course for Academic Support



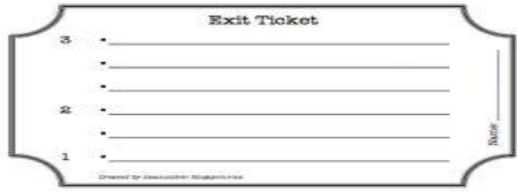
# Summary

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The research suggests that providing real academic challenge for high school students and communicating with them about what is needed for future success helps to better prepare grads for the road ahead.

**Providing consistent and regular signals to ALL high school students about what academics are needed to be ready for college and careers is key:**

- Set rigorous expectations, students will rise to the challenge
- Have graduation requirements that ensure academic preparation for all
- Encourage all students to take the most advanced classes
- Ensure the rigor of classes offered; reliance on course titles can lead to watered down courses
- Communicate with students early in high school (if not before) about the expectations and skills (including courses) needed for future success—including college admissions and career interests
- Regularly tell students whether they are “on track”
- Tie learning in high school to life outside the classroom by providing real-world learning opportunities
- Provide support/help for students who need it (e.g. tutoring)
- All means ALL. Be sure all students understand and know the benefit of preparation for college and careers; everyone needs to be prepared for their next steps.

An illustration of an exit ticket form. It is a rectangular card with rounded corners and a decorative border. At the top, it says "Exit Ticket". Below that, there are five numbered lines for writing, labeled 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 on the left side. On the right side, there is a small box labeled "Date".

# EXIT TICKET

***Please complete at least two sentences.***

- 1. Today was perfect because...*
- 2. Today would have been better if...*
- 3. If I were in charge, we would have...*
- 4. Next time, I hope we...*
- 5. I'm leaving feeling...*

# THANK YOU!

