



Special Committee on Education

March 13, 2013



Success is our only option.

"Failure is not an option. That is why I will be asking everyone – students, parents, teachers, institutional and business leaders, community leaders and others – to get out of their comfort zone, to think big, and to think boldly."

- Mayor Angel Taveras, Inaugural Address, January 3, 2011

"...we struggle with the development of our most precious resource: our children. Many of our public schools are under-performing. In this era, when even the most basic jobs require advanced skills, far too many of our children aren't even graduating from high school.

More than half of our students are not proficient in reading and more than three quarters of our students are not proficient in math. **It is unacceptable – and unconscionable – that we provide anything less than the absolute best: a college ready education for every single child in this city, regardless of family income, regardless of skin color, regardless of zip-code."**

- Mayor Angel Taveras, Education is the 'path out of poverty'

Our Charge.

- To develop and execute a clear and concise plan for our district to address, mitigate, and resolve the looming graduation crisis
- To take bold collective action as we make critical decisions in preparation for the new PBGRs
- To each commit to do our part in making the Graduation Campaign a success.

- **Introduction and PBGRs**
- **Campaign Structure**
- **Action Plan and Next Steps**

Introduction and Overview

The Situation

- We are committed to preparing all students for success in their chosen colleges and careers.
- Beginning with the class of 2014, a level 2 or higher on NECAP is required.
- Despite our commitment and best efforts, we are falling short of the goal.

The Challenge

- 2012 NECAP scores identified close to 65% of the Class of 2014 who did not score at least a Level 2 on NECAP Math and Reading.
- Action must be taken within the context of current contract provisions, budget parameters and existing staff.

The Opportunity

- There is good news—we have invested in foundational systems and district-level infrastructure while also pursuing innovative reform strategies.
- PBGRs can become a catalyst to build community-wide urgency to improve student achievement.
- Everyone must be part of the solution—students, parents, community and educators.

© 2012 Providence Public School District



5

New Graduation Performance-Based Graduation Requirements (PBGRs)

1

21 Credits

- 4 credits in Math
- 4 in English
- 3 in History
- 3 in Science
- 2 in Foreign Language
- 2 in Physical Education
- .5 in Art
- .5 in Technology
- 2 in Electives

2

Diploma Assessments

- Senior exhibition/Senior project
- Comprehensive course assessments

3

NECAP Level 2+

- Level 2, 3, or 4 (partially proficient or above) on Reading NECAP exam
- Level 2, 3, or 4 (partially proficient or above) on Math NECAP exam

Our Primary Concern

© 2012 Providence Public School District



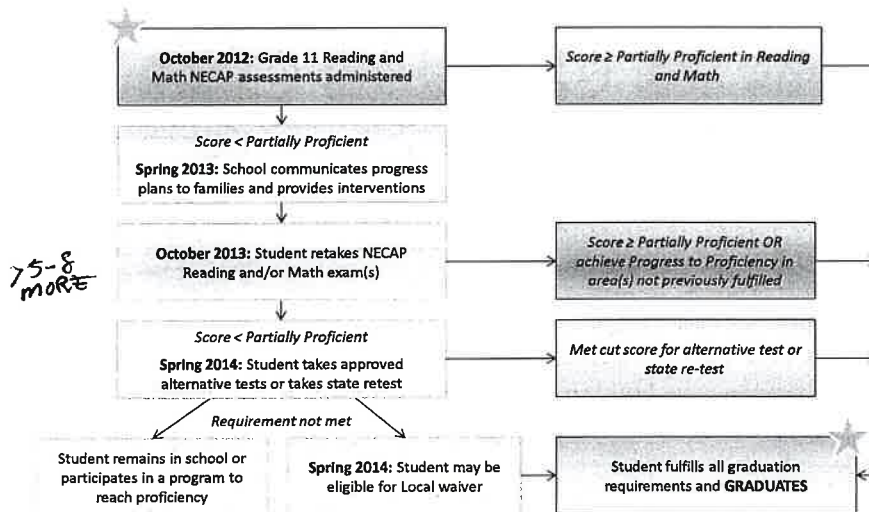
6

By the Numbers

Bottom Line—The NECAP requirement potentially puts at least 65% of students in the Class of 2014 at risk of not graduating.

- During the 2011-12 school year and prior to the NECAP Requirement, **65%** of students graduated from PPSD.
- During the October 2012 NECAP administration, **290** students (or **19%**) did not reach a Level 2 (or Partially Proficient) on the **Reading** NECAP exam.
- During the October 2012 NECAP administration, **994** students (or **65%**) did not reach a Level 2 on the **Math** NECAP exam.
- Of those students, **277** did not reach Level 2 on either the Math or Reading NECAP.
- With these scores, the NECAP Requirement would put **65.6%** of students at risk of not graduating.
- An analysis of the Class of 2014's 8th grade NECAP scores put **34%** of students at risk of scoring Level 1 on the 11th grade NECAP (i.e., at risk of not graduating); however, another **43% of students had no data available** to make a prediction as to their 2012 scores.

Class of 2014: State Assessment Schedule and Student Impact



- Introduction and PBGRs
- Campaign Structure
- Action Plan and Next Steps

1. Goals

- 1 Create a community-wide sense of urgency around the needs of our students and our schools.
- 2 Maximize the number of students graduating on time and with the knowledge and skills necessary for post-secondary success.
- 3 Engage family and community members as key partners in promoting student success and timely graduation.

2. Campaign Framework



Academic Interventions: Organize immediate academic interventions designed to maximize ELA and math supports for struggling students.



Extraordinary Oversight: Promote the continuous use of data to inform decision-making and allow for heightened accountability at all levels of the organization.



Community Engagement: Design and implement a robust strategy to engage parents and community members in the graduation campaign.



Policy Development: Investigate alternative policy approaches that maintain high expectations for student learning with the context of new standards and assessments.

3. Activities



Academic Interventions

- Maximize use of existing and newly adopted programming
- Continue to provide rigorous core courses, intervention programs in reading and math, test prep, credit recovery, tutorials, and summer learning opportunities
- Maintain a focus on transitioning to the Common Core Standards and significantly improving the quality of first time teaching and learning
- Increase common planning time and require weekly lesson plans
- Realign and leverage existing contracts with partners



Extraordinary Oversight

- Create Personalized Graduation Plans (PGPs) for all students
- Proactively monitor student progress using all available data
- Proactively monitor the quality of instructional
- Develop and execute a Campaign Accountability Plan (incl. progress indicators, performance metrics, and targets)
- Continue to build a culture of accountability at all levels
- Use Mayor's emergency purchasing authority to expeditiously secure necessary contracts and services.

3. Activities Continued



Community Engagement

- Mayor and Superintendent champion this campaign at all events
- Launch a multifaceted and ongoing communications plan
- Host informational meetings for parents and community partners
- Host Grad Forums at every high school
- Engage students in a Graduation Pledge
- Promote attendance and sponsor a Grads within Reach Walk



Policy Development

- Review and revise the Providence School Board adopted graduation policy
- Build awareness of the Common Core Standards and PARCC assessment system
- Analyze graduation requirements and systems in other states, specifically those states with conjunctive systems
- Engage stakeholders in the process of building awareness and soliciting feedback

4. Key Messages

We are facing a critical moment, and a monumental task, to ensure that our students graduate on time and well-prepared. The new system of high school graduation requirements beginning with the Class of 2014 calls for completion of 21 course credits in specific areas, a senior project, comprehensive course exams, and a score of two or better in both reading and math on the NECAP exam. **Recent data shows that the NECAP may be a stumbling block for at least 65% of our high school students.**

Students will need our support, guidance and instruction to meet and surpass this challenge, as well as the perseverance and drive to keep trying until they do. **Success is our only option** – we owe it to our students, our families, and to the very future of our own community and state to ensure that we **graduate young adults who are skilled, informed, and ready to take on new challenges.**

We will work together – students, families, educators and community – to ready our students to achieve the high graduation standards set for them. **It is our duty to see that every student who is willing to contribute the time, the effort and the dedication to his or her own success will earn a diploma with meaning and value evident to all, setting that student's course to a bright future.**

4. Key Messaging

Communication to our students remains crucial. Our students need to know that that we believe in them and that we are here to support them.

Know the requirements:

- completion of **21 course credits** in specific areas,
- a score of **two or better** in both **reading and math on the NECAP exam**
 - You have more than one opportunity to take NECAP.
 - You can show growth and meet the requirement.
 - It's really a matter of answering 5-8 more questions correctly.
- Successful completion of **comprehensive course exams**
- Successful completion of the **senior exhibition,**

We believe in you and are committed to supporting you in reaching graduation. Continue to work hard.

Be involved in developing your graduation plan. Stick to it.

Don't put planning for college on hold. Keep your eyes on the prize. Fill out those applications.

Attendance matters. Come to school on time each day.

Successfully complete your courses the first time you take them. Stay on track.

Be respectful and stay in class so that you can engage in learning.

Use your teachers and guidance counselors as resources. Don't be afraid to ask questions.

Take risks. The most successful people make mistakes and fail. Pick yourself up and keep going.

Encourage your friends. Work together to help each other stay focused and on track.

- **Introduction and PBGRs**
- **Campaign Structure**
- **Action Plan and Next Steps**

Roles for Community Partners

Community Partners:

- Know the graduation requirements.
- Know about student graduation plans.
- Actively participate on school teams.
- Attend school informational meetings.
- Help organize school events.
- Actively promote your programs and services.
- Share experiences and information with teachers and administrators.
- Partner to provide expanded learning opportunities.
- Understand the tools and programs that the district is using to support student learning.

17



© 2012 Providence Public School District

Key Events and Actions

2/7/13	Graduation Campaign Launch
2/8/13	RIDE publicly releases NECAP results. Schools ready NECAP notification letters
2/11/13	PPSD sends letters home to the parents/guardians of each grade 11 student to notify parents of results.
2/11/13-2/15/13	School staff conduct individual outreach to Students and Parents.
2/18/13-3/17/13	Phone Banks Implemented—Calls to raise awareness and encourage attendance at Grad Info Sessions
2/25/13	Grad Info Session—Central @ 5:30 pm
2/27/13	Grad Info Session—MPHS @ 5:30 pm

18

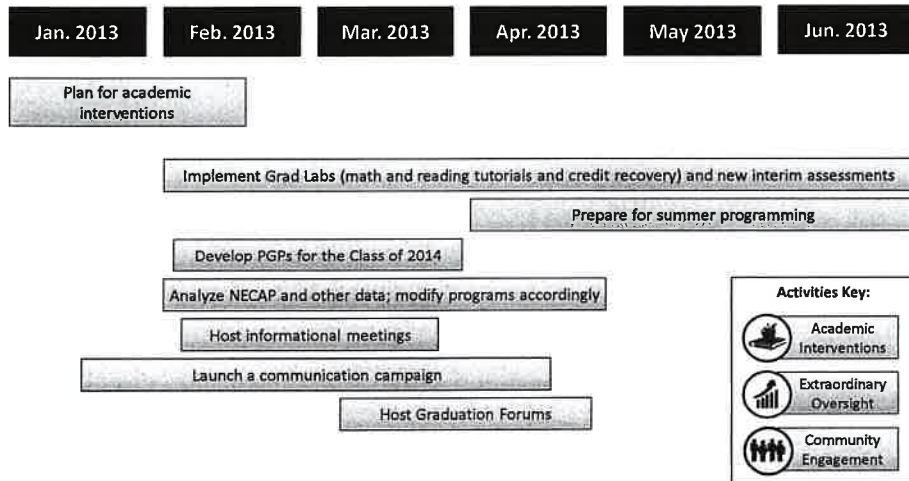


© 2012 Providence Public School District

Key Events and Actions

2/28/13	Grad Info Session—E-Cubed @ 6:00 pm
3/2/13	Grad Info Session—PCTA (10:30 am) & Alvarez (1:30 pm)
3/5/12	Grad Info Session—Classical @5:30 pm
3/6/13	Grad Info Session—JSEC @ 6:00 pm
3/7/13	Grad Info Session—Hope @ 5:30 pm
3/11/13	Grad Info Session—Times 2 @6:00 pm
3/18/13	Grad Info Session—ACE @ 6:00 pm
3/11/13—3/29/13	Grad Forums held at each school site.

2012-13 Timeline



We control our response...

How you respond to the challenge in the second half will determine what you become after the game, whether you are a winner or a loser.

--Lou Holtz