



January 2017

Introduction

This report is in response to the General Appropriations Act, S.B. 1, Article III – 7, Rider 6 from the Eighty-fourth Legislature. Rider 6 stipulates that for students who completed the district’s program during the 2014 – 2015 biennium, the Windham School District (WSD) shall report to the Eighty-fifth Legislature on the following: recidivism rates, employment rates, and attainment of GEDs, high school diplomas, professional certification, and adult education literacy levels.

Recidivism Rates

A recidivism report on participating students of the 2014-2015 biennium was not possible because a minimum of three years post-release is required to measure recidivism. However, to be responsive to the Legislature, the WSD contracted for a report to evaluate the recidivism rate for the School Year (SY) 2010 through SY 2012 release cohorts. The results as identified in the *WSD Biennial Evaluation and Report* by the Institute for Measurement, Analysis and Policy at Texas Tech University are as follows:

Compared to those who had not completed WSD programming, those who had completed:

- WSD Cognitive Intervention Program (CIP) had a 31.5% lower recidivism rate;
- WSD Changing Habits and Achieving New Goals to Empower Success (CHANGES) had a 20.3% lower recidivism rate;
- A HSEC (High School Equivalency Certificate, previously referred to as the GED[®]) or high school diploma through Academic programming had a 4.3% lower recidivism rate;
- WSD Vocational had a 34.6% lower recidivism rate;
- Students who earned an industry certification through a vocational course had a 22.5% lower recidivism rate.

Note: Propensity Score Matching (PSM) for group comparisons was utilized and the values are expressed as percent difference for recidivism and employment rates.

It should also be noted that Academic completion may/may not reflect an immediate positive impact regarding recidivism when viewed in isolation. However, the Academic program serves as a literacy foundation for the other programs by providing offenders with literacy tools to better experience optimal benefit of additional WSD programs. Academic skills often provide a baseline (i.e., HSEC) that makes one eligible for employment.

Employment Rates

An employment rate report on participating students of the 2014-2015 biennium was not possible because a minimum of three years must lapse to allow for the capture of post-release earning data. However, to be responsive to the Legislature, the WSD contracted for a report to evaluate the employment rate for the SY 2010 through SY 2012 release cohorts. The results as identified in the *WSD Biennial Evaluation and Report* are as follows:

PSM offenders compared to those who did not have any WSD programming:

- Offenders who had an industry certificate through Career and Technical Education course(s) had an 11.8% higher employment rate;
- Offenders who completed CIP had a 4.4% higher employment rate;
- Offenders who completed CHANGES had a 12.0% higher employment rate;
- Offenders with a HSEC (High School Equivalency Certificate, previously referred to as GED®) had a 9.4% higher employment rate.

Attainment of GED (HSEC)

According to the *WSD Annual Performance Report 2013 – 2014*, the number of HSECs awarded during SY 14 was 5,095.

According to the *WSD Annual Performance Report 2014 – 2015*, the number of HSECs awarded during SY 15 was 5,194.

High School Diplomas

According to the *WSD Annual Performance Report 2013 – 2014*, the number of high school diplomas awarded during SY 14 was 27.

According to the *WSD Annual Performance Report 2014 – 2015*, the number of high school diplomas awarded during SY 15 was 91.

Professional Certifications

According to the *WSD Annual Performance Report 2013 – 2014*, 4,613 Vocational Certificates were issued, and an additional 8,126 Industry Certificates were awarded.

According to the *WSD Annual Performance Report 2014 – 2015*, 6,445 Vocational Certificates were issued, and an additional 11,183 Industry Certificates were awarded.

Adult Education Literacy Levels

According to the *WSD Annual Performance Report 2013 – 2014*, the literacy completions were as follows:

Completion of Literacy Levels 2013-2014			
Literacy Levels	Number of Students With Pre and Post Tests	Number of Students Completing Literacy Level	% Completing Literacy Level
Level I (0.0 to 3.9 grade levels)	2,605	1,190	46%
Level II (4.0 to 5.9 grade levels)	5,196	2,493	48%
Level III (6.0 and above grade levels)	13,432	5,252	39%
Total	21,233	8,935	42%

According to the *WSD Annual Performance Report 2014 – 2015*, the literacy completions were as follows:

Completion of Literacy Levels 2014-2015			
Literacy Levels	Number of Students With Pre and Post Tests	Number of Students Completing Literacy Level	% Completing Literacy Level
Level I (0.0 to 3.9 grade levels)	2,572	1,204	47%
Level II (4.0 to 5.9 grade levels)	5,137	2,455	48%
Level III (6.0 and above grade levels)	12,886	4,083	32%
Total	20,595	7,742	38%

The following reports can be viewed in their entirety at www.wsdtx.org.

- *Windham School District Biennial Evaluation and Report*
- *WSD Annual Performance Report 2013 – 2014*
- *WSD Annual Performance Report 2014 – 2015*