



January 2021

Introduction

This report is in response to the General Appropriations Act, S.B. 1, Article III – 7, Rider 6 from the 86th Legislature. Rider 6 stipulates that for students who completed the district’s program during the 2018 – 2019 biennium, the Windham School District (WSD) shall report to the 87th Legislature on the following: recidivism rates, employment rates, attainment of GEDs, high school diplomas, professional certification, and adult education literacy levels.

Recidivism Rates

A recidivism report on participating students of the 2018-2019 biennium was not possible because a minimum of three years post-release is required to measure recidivism. To be responsive to the Legislature, the WSD contracted for a report to evaluate the recidivism rate for the cohorts released in School Year (SY) 2015 through SY 2016. The results as identified in the *WSD Biennial Evaluation and Report* by the Institute for Measurement, Analysis and Policy at Texas Tech University and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Executive Services are as follows:

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

- WSD’s Cognitive Intervention Program (CIP) were 16.2% less likely to recidivate;
- WSD’s Career and Technical Education (CTE) were 25.5% less likely to recidivate;
- WSD’s Changing Habits and Achieving New Goals to Empower Success (CHANGES) were 9.5% less likely to recidivate;
- Multiple WSD programs (two or more) were, on average, 19.5% less likely to recidivate;

Note: The values are expressed as percent difference for recidivism.

It should also be noted that academic completion may/may not reflect an immediate positive impact regarding recidivism when viewed in isolation. The Academic program, however, serves as a foundation for the other programs by providing residents with the necessary tools to receive the optimal benefits of additional WSD programs. Academic skills often provide a baseline (i.e., High School Equivalency Certificate (HSEC)) that makes one eligible for employment.

Employment Rates

An employment rate report on participating students of the 2018-2019 biennium was not possible because a minimum of three years must lapse to allow for the capture of post-release earning data. To be responsive to the Legislature, the WSD contracted for a report to evaluate the employment rate for the cohorts released in SY 2015 through SY 2016. The results as identified in the *WSD Biennial Evaluation and Report* are as follows:

Compared to those who had not participated in WSD programming, those who had participated:

- WSD Cognitive Intervention Program (CIP) were 22.2% more likely to obtain employment;
- WSD Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs were 16% more likely to obtain employment;
- WSD Academics were 14.3% more likely to obtain employment;
- WSD Changing Habits and Achieving New Goals to Empower Success (CHANGES) were 17.6% more likely to obtain employment;
- Multiple WSD programs (two or more) were, on average, 18.7% more likely to obtain employment;

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

Attainment of GED (HSEC)

According to the *WSD Annual Performance Report 2017 - 2018*, the number of HSECs awarded during SY 18 was 3,653.

According to the *WSD Annual Performance Report 2018 - 2019*, the number of HSECs awarded during SY 19 was 3,888.

High School Diplomas

The number of high school diplomas awarded during 2017-2018 was 100.

The number of high school diplomas awarded during 2018-2019 was 90.

Professional Certifications

According to the *WSD Annual Performance Report 2017 - 2018* 24,940 CTE Certificates were issued, and an additional 33,451 third-party Industry Certifications were earned.

According to the *WSD Annual Performance Report 2018 - 2019*, 25,754 CTE Certificates were issued, and an additional 33,695 third-party Industry Certifications were earned.

Adult Education Literacy Levels

According to the *WSD Annual Performance Report 2017 – 2018*, the academic completions were as follows:

Completion of NRS* Educational Functioning Levels 2017-2018				
Beginning Educational Functioning Level	Grades within Functioning Level	Number of Students Beginning Level	Number of Students Completing the Level	Percent Completing Level*
Level 1 (0.0 to 1.9)	K & 1st	173	136	79%
Level 2 (2.0 to 3.9)	2nd & 3rd	2,119	1,077	51%
Level 3 (4.0 to 5.9)	4th & 5th	4,577	2,186	48%
Level 4 (6.0 to 8.9)	6th, 7th & 8th	7,126	2,733	38%
Level 5 (9.0 to 10.9)	9th & 10th	2,343	1,204	51%
Level 6 (11.0 to 12.9)	11th & 12th	2,457	2,029	83%
Total		18,795	9,365	50%

According to the *WSD Annual Performance Report 2018 – 2019*, the academic completions were as follows:

Completion of NRS* Educational Functioning Levels 2018-2019				
Beginning Educational Functioning Level	Grades within Functioning Level	Number of Students Beginning Level	Number of Students Completing the Level	Percent Completing Level*
Level 1 (0.0 to 1.9)	K & 1st	131	100	76%
Level 2 (2.0 to 3.9)	2nd & 3rd	1,922	952	50%
Level 3 (4.0 to 5.9)	4th & 5th	4,354	2,047	47%
Level 4 (6.0 to 8.9)	6th, 7th & 8th	6,978	2,715	39%
Level 5 (9.0 to 10.9)	9th & 10th	2,466	1,341	54%
Level 6 (11.0 to 12.9)	11th & 12th	2,504	2,095	84%
Total		18,355	9,250	50%

*NRS - National Reporting System

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

- *WSD Biennial Evaluation and Report*
- *WSD Annual Performance Report 2017 – 2018*
- *WSD Annual Performance Report 2018 – 2019*