

The Washington State Board of Education

Governance | Achievement | High School and College Preparation | Math & Science | Effective Workforce

Title:	Middle School Survey of College and Career Ready Practices	
As Related To:	<input type="checkbox"/> Goal One: Advocacy for an effective, accountable governance structure for public education <input type="checkbox"/> Goal Two: Policy leadership for closing the academic achievement gap <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Goal Three: Policy leadership to increase Washington's student enrollment and success in secondary and postsecondary education	<input type="checkbox"/> Goal Four: Effective strategies to make Washington's students nationally and internationally competitive in math and science <input type="checkbox"/> Goal Five: Advocacy for policies to develop the most highly effective K-12 teacher and leader workforce in the nation <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Relevant To Board Roles:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy Leadership <input type="checkbox"/> System Oversight <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communication <input type="checkbox"/> Convening and Facilitating
Policy Considerations / Key Questions:	What state policies or local practices are helping to better prepare students at the middle level for high school and beyond?	
Possible Board Action:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt <input type="checkbox"/> Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Materials Included in Packet:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Memo <input type="checkbox"/> Graphs / Graphics <input type="checkbox"/> Third-Party Materials <input type="checkbox"/> PowerPoint	
Synopsis:	<p>Throughout its three-year discussion of graduation requirements, SBE has repeatedly recognized pre-high school preparation as a contributing factor to high school success. In order to get a clearer picture of the college and career ready strategies practiced in Washington's middle schools, SBE surveyed principals in schools that included grades 6, 7, and/or 8. Of the 563 principals queried, 185 (33 percent) responded. This inventory of practice, listed by school, is now available on the SBE website under "For Schools." Individuals can search the database to identify schools that are engaging in similar practices. They can also identify schools that reported achieving significant success in improving student attendance, behavior, English or math performance that they would be willing to share with others. In order to create as comprehensive a resource as possible, principals of schools not currently included in the database are encouraged to complete the survey at: http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/507163/Middle-Level-Survey.</p> <p>Staff will present a brief overview of the results to date and suggest several next steps SBE may want staff to pursue.</p>	

Middle School Survey

Washington State Middle School
Career and College Ready
Practices in the Middle Grades

Jesse Burns, Consultant
Kathe Taylor, Ph.D. Policy Director

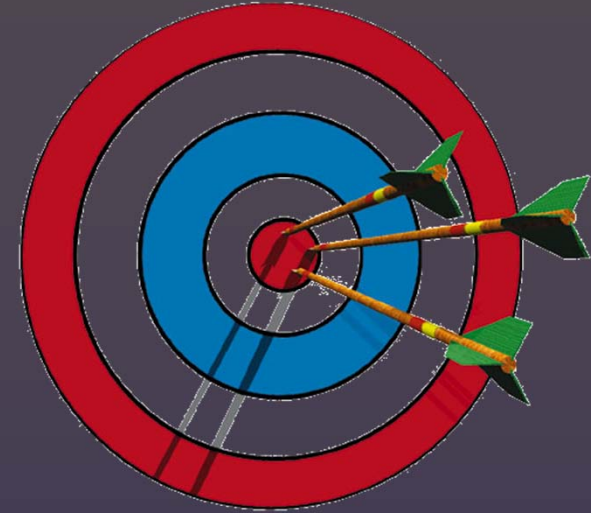
SBE Interest in Middle School

1. Goal 3 of SBE Strategic Plan: Provide policy leadership to examine the role of middle school preparation as it relates to high school success.
2. WA Career and College Ready Graduation Requirement Framework includes initiation of High School and Beyond Plan in middle school.
3. Research shows that student performance and behavior during the middle level years affects secondary success.

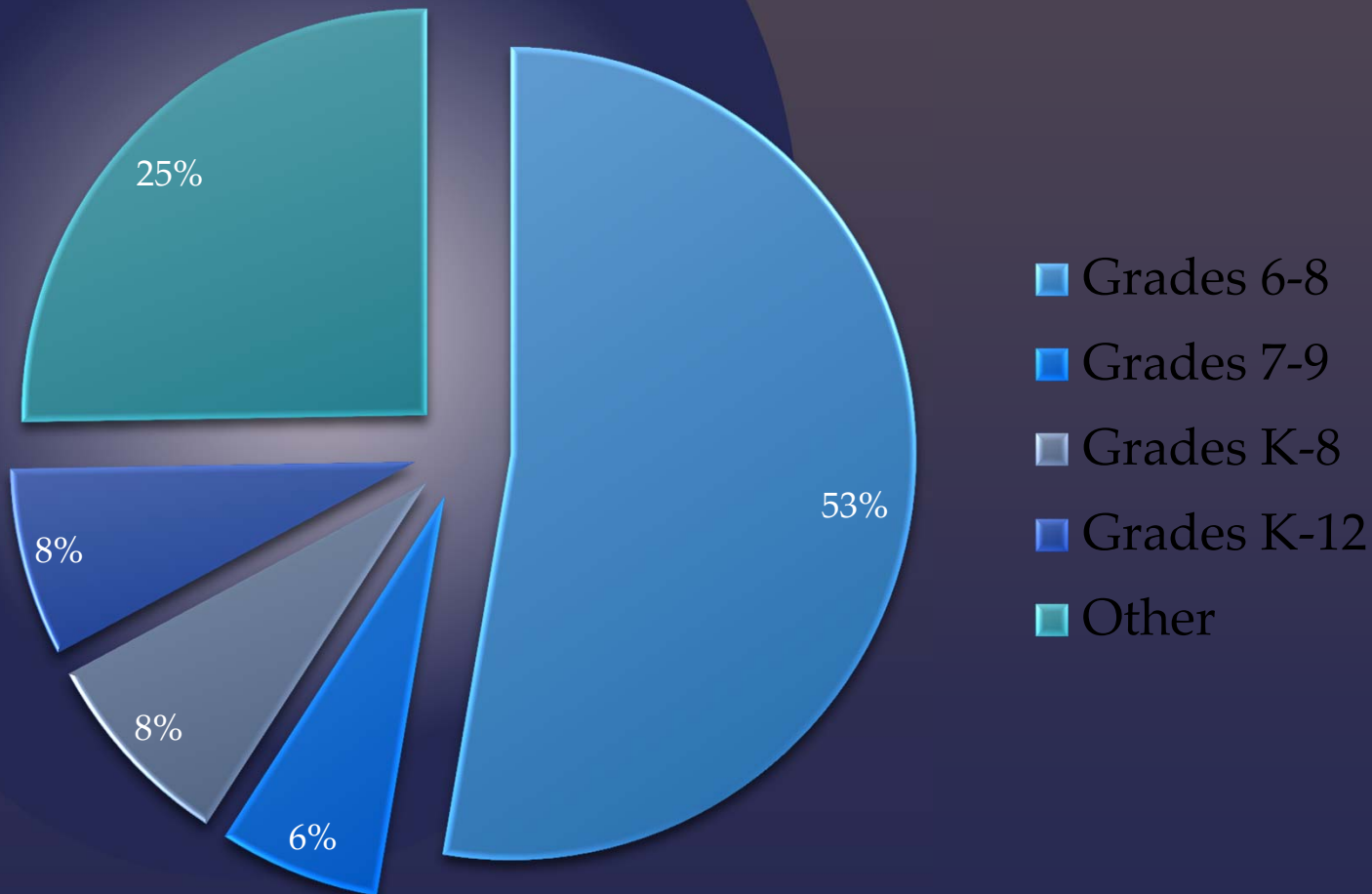
Beginning in the Middle: Critical Steps in Secondary School Reform.
October 2008. National Association of State Boards of Education

Purpose of SBE Survey

1. Create an inventory of current district practices.
2. Provide a tool for districts to share practices.



185 Principals Responded (~33%)



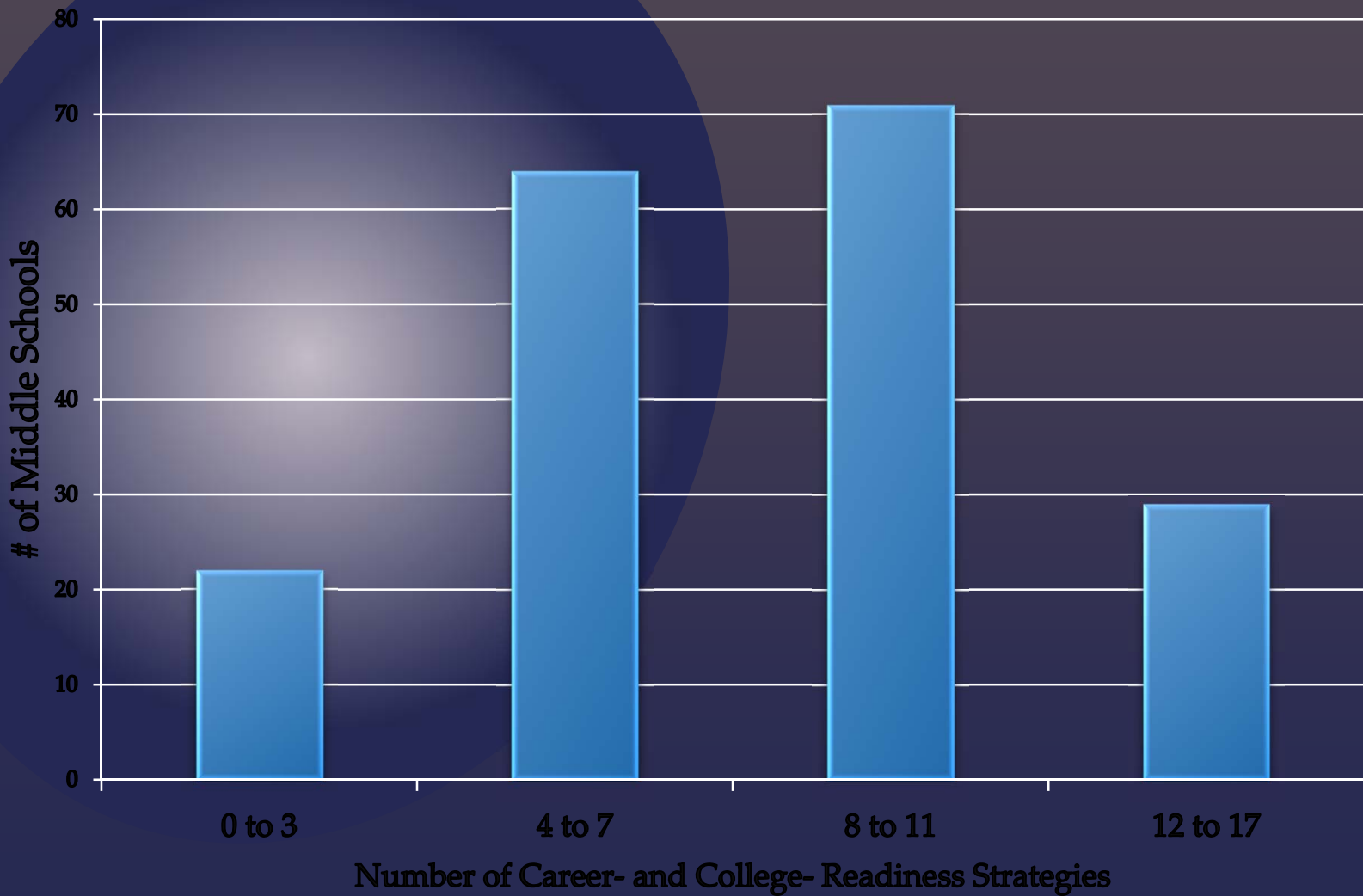
Sample College/Career Ready Strategies

1. **Offer** career exploration classes.
2. **Require** student-led conferences.
3. **Provide** advanced study for high school credit.
4. **Require** a High School and Beyond Plan.
5. **Ensure** access to career and college resources.
6. **Encourage** College Bound Scholarship enrollment.

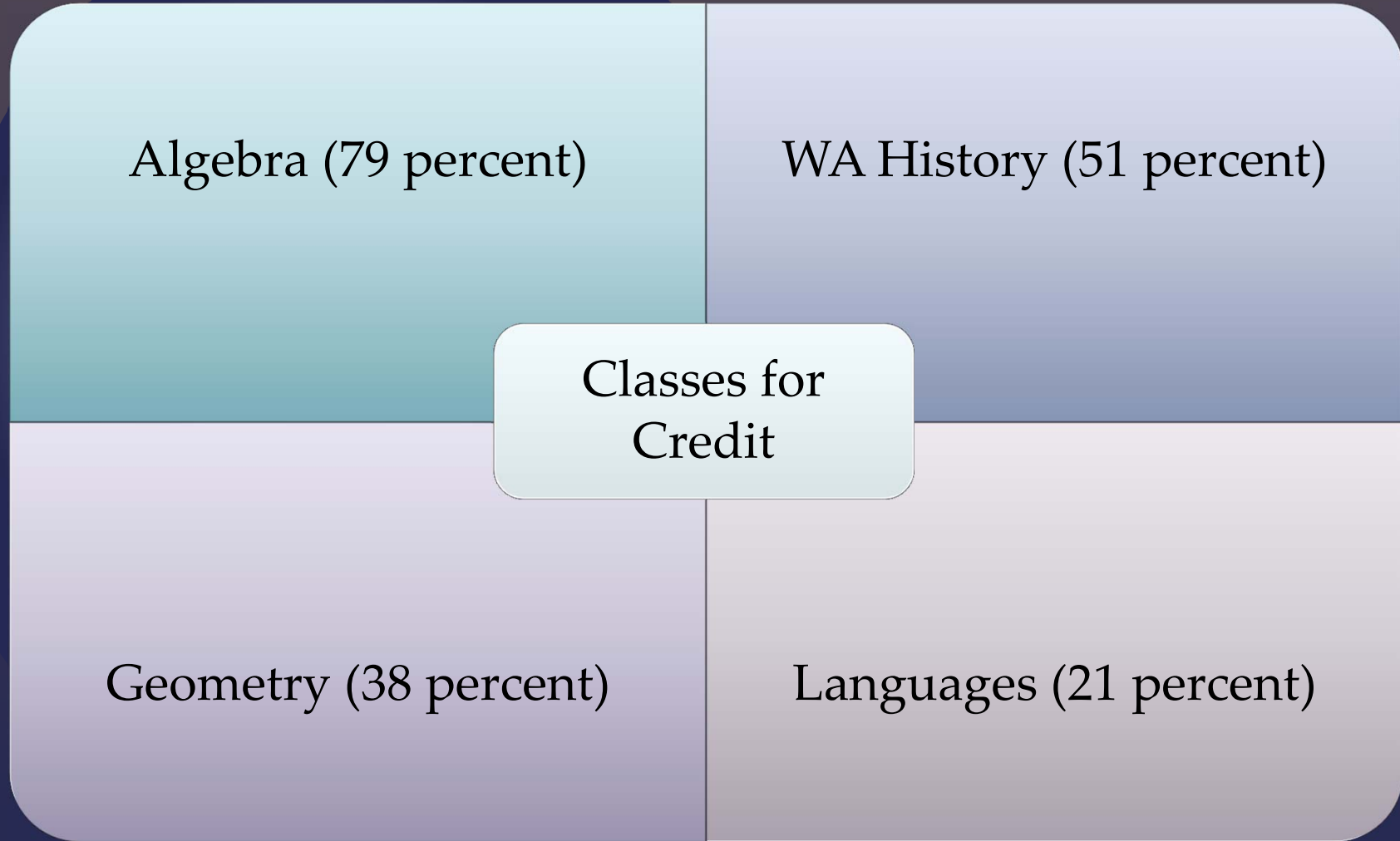
Accessing the Survey and Inventory

1. Go to: <http://www.sbe.wa.gov>.
2. Click on “For Schools → and then select “Middle-Level Survey” or “Database.”
3. Schools that have not yet completed the survey can still complete it to add their information.

Number of Strategies Employed



Classes Offered for H.S. Credit

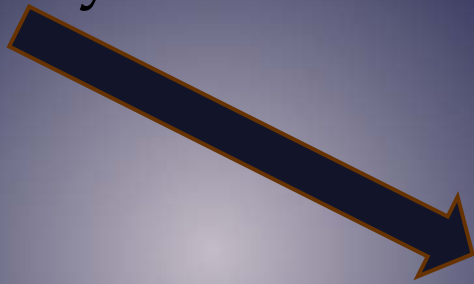


Middle-level Endorsements

- In Washington, teachers of the middle level grades must hold a K-8 endorsement.
- Endorsements in middle level subject areas (math, science, humanities) are optional.

Strengthening Transition Points

Elementary



Middle



High School

Over 64 percent of the respondents offer programs to aid students in their transition to and from middle school.

Schools Reporting Student Improvement in:

Attendance

139

English

128

Math

127

Behavior

107

Next Steps

1. Continue to encourage schools to complete the survey.
2. Use the inventory to develop case studies or to determine a focus for an advisory group
3. Consult PESB about middle school level teacher credentialing.
4. Other?