# Inside Schools: The High School and Beyond Plan

Mara Childs and Madaleine Osmun State Board of Education March 12, 2015

# **Student Updates**

- Testimony on HB 1031 and 1081
  - Both expand access to College in the High School to sophomores
- Madaleine
  - Track season began Monday, March 2nd
  - Regional National History Day competition
  - Mt. Spokane HS will add a financial literacy course for next year.

#### Mara

- Water Polo season began Monday, March 2nd
- Shorecrest HS held an Anti-Bullying Assembly on Friday, March 6th
- > Shoreline SD continues to adjust bell schedule based on feedback

# Purpose of Presentation

- Inform the Board about student opinions
  - High School and Beyond Plan in general
  - Graduation Requirements
  - Post-high school readiness
- Share anecdotal evidence
- Introduce teacher input about the HSBP
- Continue active dialogue about how the State Board can best help students be successful

# **Focus Groups**

- Held at Mt. Spokane High School and Shorecrest High School
  - Mt. Spokane was a mixed grade Link Crew/Leadership class
  - Shorecrest High School was a Senior Civics class (a required course for the class of 2015)
- Five questions asked of each group
- Gave particularly insightful comments on what the HSBP looks like in schools
- Illustrates how much students have to say about what schools can do to better help them be ready

# **Question 1, Mt. Spokane**

#### What has your school done to prepare you for life after high school?

- Marketing classes and learning how to build a resume
- Practice interviews and practice writing emails, college entrance essays
- Learn cooking and how to live independently
- Learn about personal finance

# **Question 1, Shorecrest**

#### What has your school done to prepare you for life after high school?

- Access to the Career Center jobs, community service, post-HS help
- Certain opportunities for life skills like cooking
- Options to go on field trips to local community colleges
- Personal finance options (economics), senior civics courses
- College focused support, FAFSA meetings with parents

# **Question 2, Mt. Spokane**

# In what grade were you first exposed to the HSBP or activities to think about current skills and future goals? And by whom?

- Junior Year, at school
- 7th Grade "Too early."
- Right time? "Beginning of high school"
- "We aren't allowed to be kids for very long."
- "All of that pressure to decide so early makes students detest education. You should want to learn."

# **Question 2, Shorecrest**

In what grade were you first exposed to the HSBP or activities to think about current skills and future goals? And by whom?

- Elementary school "I watched my sister do her senior project!"
- 7th grade, by teachers of language and math, and counselors
- Middle school pamphlets about going to college
- Freshman year doing personality and skills inventory tests (cluster finders)

# Question 3, Mt. Spokane

#### What options were shown to be possibilities for after high school?

 "I worked up at Mt. Spokane Ski and Snowboard Park and I was in the food area and I flipped patties and I realized that I didn't want to do that for the rest of my life, so I'm going to be an electrician."

# **Question 3, Shorecrest**

#### What options were shown to be possibilities for after high school?

- College "Adults push too hard towards college."
- Community College "It's like college if you're not as good."
- Gap Year "Sometimes people say you're lazy."
- Entry-Level Jobs "But who wants to say they do that?"
- Military
- Internships

# **Question 4, Mt. Spokane**

# What skills do you think every student should have when graduating high school? Does your school offer courses or activities to develop these skills?

- Social skills
- How to be responsible with your money and in general
- Finance skills
- Realizing that everyone is human
- Embracing differences

- How to be independent
- Study Skills
- How to be mature
- How to vote

# **Question 4, Shorecrest**

# What skills do you think every student should have when graduating high school? Does your school offer courses or activities to develop these skills?

- Basic reading and writing
- Know your own study habits
- How to do laundry
- Be ready to not be coddled
- How to grocery shop
- How to vote
- How to navigate basic tech
- Household management

- Budgeting/Personal finance
- How to file taxes
- Communication skills
- How to apply for jobs
- Better sex education
- How to give back to your community
- How to eat healthily

# **Question 5, Mt. Spokane**

What could schools do better to prepare you for life after high school?

Teach basic life skills

Class on budgeting, paying bills

 Real world applications: poverty, taxes, relationships, interest, stock markets, etc.

# **Question 5, Shorecrest**

# What could schools do better to prepare you for life after high school?

- Freedom of choice
- Trips to colleges for everyone
- Office skills
- ❖ A job shadow
- More class periods/opportunities
- Prepare people for the fact that bad things can happen
- No coddling
- Life skills beyond "book smarts"

# **Big Picture**

- Schools do a good job of doing college-oriented things
- Schools are beginning to branch out
- Narrow focus on college is detrimental to some loses their attention
- Kids want to be better rounded in their skills, most parents do not teach these things
- Practical skills are more important than rote memorization
- Hands-on experiences beat a textbook any day

### Talk to a Teacher

- We interviewed teachers and asked:
  - How do you view (school)'s High School and Beyond Plan?
  - What do you think students need to be able to be prepared for a successful life after graduation?
  - What do you think a student's role is in preparing them for their life after graduation? What is the school's/teacher's role?
  - How well do you think the current system is working for students?
  - What are your suggestions for improving the HSBP?
- They are the ones influencing students most at school





## **Kids Go From Students...**

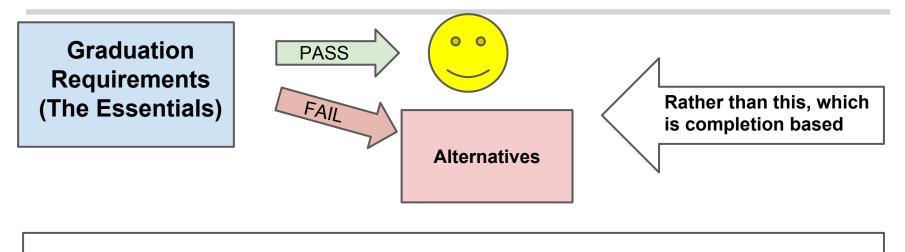
- Teachers are not preachers, but they are role models.
- After high school, we want to be well-rounded individuals that are prepared for daily life.
- During high school, we want to be prepared to take on challenges like college or a job.
- Things like community service teach important lessons
- Something like a senior project should be more than our graduation checklist.

## To Citizens of the World

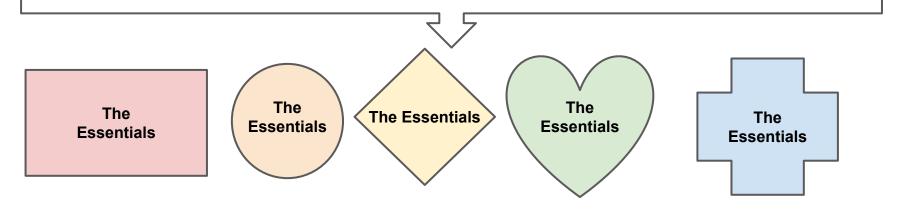
- Please be careful of "borrowed time" trial and error is great, but what happens to the kids in the "error" years?
- The best thing the State Board can do is support teachers while they support the kids in Washington.
- Washington has kids going all over the world doing all kinds of things
- The most powerful thing is to give someone the tools to figure things out in the world for themselves.

# **Well-Rounded Options**

- For well-rounded students and citizens
- Failing the mainstream process isn't just a student's failure
- Integrate a belief in the essential value of a high school diploma
- Less like a sieve and more like a menu
- There are skills that every human needs in today's world
- Create a transparent and cooperative education system between all entities and participants
- Accountability at different points will put less pressure on high school and beyond and emphasize becoming a lifelong learner







# Thank you!

**Questions?**