

County schools show mixed results on report cards

Local school districts rated against state, similar districts

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County's school districts had mixed results on the annual report cards released by the Oregon Department of Education.

The reports compared the county's five school districts — Astoria, Warrenton-Hammond, Knappa, Seaside and Jewell — to their own recent performance and with the state and demographically similar districts.

Clatsop County's high schools mostly improved graduation rates during the 2013-14 school year, while comparing favorably with similar districts in completion, continuing education and dropout rates.

The report cards, released Thursday, looked at the graduation, completion and dropout rates for the class of 2014. The reports also tracked how many graduates from the class of 2013 furthered their education, as well as how many of the class of 2019 were on track to graduate in four years.

Graduation rates

Astoria High School reported a 65.6 percent four-year graduation rate for the class of 2014, a 3.6 percent decrease from the previous year and more than 10 percent lower than the average graduation rate of the 20 most similar schools in Oregon.

Principal Lynn Jackson said the graduation numbers are easily skewed in the coast's smaller school dis-

Grading Clatsop County schools, 2013-14

District report cards give insight into previous years' outcomes.

| Item | Astoria | | Warrenton-Hammond | | Knappa | | Seaside | | Jewell | | Statewide |
|---|---------|----------|-------------------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|-----------|
| | 2013-14 | Similar* | 2013-14 | Similar* | 2013-14 | Similar* | 2013-14 | Similar* | 2013-14 | Similar* | 2013-14 |
| Four-year graduation rate | 65.6% | 75.8% | 66.7% | 68.1% | 65.9% | 81.4% | 76.3% | 71.9% | 100% | 79.8% | 72% |
| • Economically disadvantaged | 53.2 | 70.2 | 55.6 | 63.6 | 42.9 | 80.6 | 76.4 | 65.6 | 100 | 76.3 | 64.2 |
| • English learners | 50 | 67.5 | N/A | 76.2 | N/A | 100 | 66.7 | 72.3 | N/A | N/A | 64.2 |
| • Students with disabilities | 45.2 | 58 | 41.7 | 45 | 80 | 75 | 33.3 | 51.3 | 100 | 74.2 | 51.1 |
| Completion | 76 | 83.2 | 85.3 | 81.4 | 87 | 88.3 | 85.1 | 84 | 100 | 90.8 | 82.1 |
| • Economically disadvantaged | 71.1 | 77.3 | 85.2 | 76.4 | 77.8 | 85.1 | 81.5 | 80.8 | 100 | 86.9 | 77.1 |
| • English learners | 66.7 | 75.8 | N/A | 76.5 | 100 | 100 | 93.3 | 76.6 | N/A | 100 | 72.3 |
| • Students with disabilities | 40 | 70.1 | 72.7 | 61.6 | 100 | 76.4 | 88.2 | 64.7 | 100 | 83.3 | 63.4 |
| Dropout rate | 5.1 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 3.6 | 0.7 | 4 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 2.3 | 1.3 | 4 |
| • Economically disadvantaged | 6.9 | 2.8 | 3.9 | 2.8 | 1.6 | 4.2 | 2.3 | 3.6 | 4 | 1.8 | 3.8 |
| • English learners | 9.4 | 6.2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1.7 | 3.2 | N/A | 0 | 4.9 |
| • Students with disabilities | 7.3 | 4.7 | 2 | 6.4 | 4.2 | 3.3 | 2.4 | 5.7 | 0 | 2.6 | 6.1 |
| Freshmen on track to graduate in 2014-15 | 79.6 | 80.2 | 68.8 | 79.2 | 94.9 | 84.7 | 82 | 79 | >95 | 83.9 | 79.9 |
| • Economically disadvantaged | 72.1 | 67.7 | 62.1 | 71.7 | 93.8 | 78 | 74.4 | 72.2 | >95 | 77.3 | 70.8 |
| • English learners | 80 | 69.5 | N/A | 74.5 | N/A | >95 | 76.9 | 81.4 | † | † | 74.4 |
| • Students with disabilities | 82.4 | 64.1 | 77.8 | 64.6 | 85.7 | 66.7 | 81.3 | 67.7 | † | 76.7 | 64.3 |
| Continuing education | 69.4 | 54.3 | 57.7 | 48.6 | 70 | 55.5 | 54.6 | 48.7 | 13.3 | 51.5 | 60.5 |

Source: Oregon Dept. of Education

*Five or fewer students involved; redacted to protect privacy.

Edward Stratton and Alan Kenaga/EO Media Group

tricts. He said Astoria, based on preliminary reports, graduated 73 percent of the class of 2015.

Jackson said he worries more about the reports he and staff create, since Astoria is small enough that they can look at what happened to every student who came through the halls of the high school, including the five or 10 students he said might stay in Astoria for a month or less.

Warrenton (66.7 percent) and Knappa (65.9 percent) both increased four-year graduation rates in 2013-14 to Astoria's level. Seaside (76.3 percent), outperformed the state and similar districts, with more than three-quarters of its class of 2014 graduating in four years, and 87 percent completing high school in some other manner. All of the class of 2014 graduated in four years at Jewell, a tiny, timber-funded district with tiny graduating classes.

Dropout rates

Astoria's dropout rate in 2013-14 topped 5 percent, 40 percent higher than in comparable districts. Warrenton and Seaside both decreased dropout rates, performing favorably to other districts. Knappa decreased its dropout rate to 0.7 percent, less than one-third of its rate the previous year.

Astoria, Seaside, Warrenton and Knappa all vastly outstripped their peers and the state in the share of students of the class of 2013 furthering their education after high school.

About 70 percent of the classes of 2013 at Astoria and Knappa continued their educa-

tion, the best performance in the county and more than 10 percent better than the state average. Warrenton and Seaside high schools, which are used to leading the county in con-

tinuing education, saw 12 percent drops in their continuing education rates, with 54 to 57 percent of their classes of 2013 moving on.

Jewell, which usually graduates almost all students

in four years, continued to struggle with students continuing after high school. Only 13.3 percent of the class of 2013 continued to further their education, a nearly 30 percent drop from the class of 2012. Despite continually strong K-12 performance, half or fewer of many graduating classes at Jewell go on to further education.

A new start

The district report cards provided little in the way of historical comparisons on test scores, as last year was the first time students took the Smarter Balanced exam in English, language arts and mathematics. The exams, a

replacement for the Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills, assess how students are grasping the newer, tougher Common Core State Standards meant to nationalize school standards. As a reprieve, schools did not receive overall ratings on their performance in the first year of the new test results.

But the report showed Astoria compares favorably with the state and even more so with similar districts, except in high school mathematics and all levels of science. Warrenton-Hammond School District largely performed better or comparably on tests to similar districts, as did Seaside.

REPORT CARDS:

For the full district report cards, visit <http://tinyurl.com/nbjh8v>

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