Redefining The Senior Year and…
Taking the Steps to Get There

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Alignment to Learning Forward Standards
Redefining the Senior Year

• The new education law, *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*, redefines professional development with a purposeful influence from *Learning Forward*.

• *Learning Forward*, a national association recognized as leaders in professional learning, has established standards for professional learning that set a high bar for quality learning experiences.

• This session aligns to the following standard(s):
  • **Learning Communities** *Professional learning that increases educator effectiveness and results for all students* occurs within learning communities committed to continuous improvement, collective responsibility, and goal alignment.
  • **Learning Designs** *Professional learning that increases educator effectiveness and results for all students* integrates theories, research, and models of human learning to achieve its intended outcomes.
  • **Implementation** *Professional learning that increases educator effectiveness and results for all students* applies research on change and sustains support for implementation of professional learning for long-term change.
The nation faces a deeply troubling future unless we transform the lost opportunity of the senior year into an integral part of students’ preparation for life, citizenship, work, and further education.
Welcome!

In 6 words or less, can you identify why you think Redefining the Senior Year is needed?

Examples:
Create transition(s) to college or career.
Pursue passions with guidance and guardrails.
Prepare students for future they desire.
New Skills for Youth Objectives

The Vision
To ensure all students have the opportunity and support to successfully secure a postsecondary degree and/or industry certification that reflects each individual’s passions and skills.

Objective 1 – Employer Engagement

Objective 2 – Rigorous and Quality Curriculum

Objective 3 – Career Focused Accountability – Postsecondary Indicators

Objective 4 – Multiple Pathways That Culminate in Credentials of Value

Objective 5 – Aligned Funding

Objective 6 – Cross Institutional Alignment

Objective 7 – Strategic Communication
College and Career Readiness

College and career ready means that students graduate from high school prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary opportunities whether college or career.
Elevate+ Student Voice

Elevate+ In “Changing the Conversation,” members of State Superintendent of Public Instruction Joy Hofmeister’s 2016-2017 Student Advisory Council speak out on two important questions –
1. What would you change about public education in Oklahoma?
2. How would you redefine your senior year?

Students from Alva, Ardmore, Chisholm, Garber, Millwood, Norman, Owasso, Ponca City, Stilwell and Woodward share their thoughts and ideas about strengthening public education in our state.
Changing the Conversation
Play video:

https://youtu.be/78jRRdr8sME
Redefining the Senior Year and Taking the Steps to Get There….

http://www.sde.ok.gov/sde/new-skills-youth
WHY?

• Nearly half of recent high school graduates report they were not fully prepared for their next steps
• Recent grads tell us they would have worked harder if they had fully understood the challenges that lay ahead
• Both college students AND non-college students report not having as much academic preparation as they needed
• Recent Grads—whether they are in college or working—feel better prepared if they took more advanced courses in high school
WHY?

4 in 5 employers report recent public high school grads have gaps in preparation for jobs and advancement in their company.


96% of two-year college faculty & 88% of four-year college faculty report that their students arrive at college with gaps in their preparation.

Which of these do you believe would have the greatest impact in encouraging high school students to work harder and be better prepared for life after high school?

1. Opportunities for real-world learning
2. Opportunities to take challenging classes
3. Support for students who need extra tutoring
4. Communication early in high school about courses needed for college/careers
5. Assessments late in High School so students can find out what they need for college
What Is Included in Redefining the Senior Year?

What impact would this have in encouraging high school students to work harder and be better prepared for life after high school?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Slightly Agree</th>
<th>Total Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities for real-world learning</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication early in high school about courses needed for college/careers</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>87%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opportunities to take challenging courses</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>86%</td>
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<tr>
<td>More help for those who need extra tutoring</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessments late in HS so students can find out what they need for college</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All high school graduates*

*Rising to the Challenge: Hart Research/POS April 2015*
Individual Career Academic Plans

Redefining the Senior Year
Individual Career Academic Plan Purpose

- Individual Career Academic Plan (ICAP) is a multi-year process that intentionally guides students as they explore career, academic, and postsecondary opportunities. Beginning with the family and student involvement in the ICAP process and support from educators, students develop the awareness, knowledge, and skills to create their own individual, career pathway to be career and college ready.

http://www.sde.ok.gov/sde/new-skills-youth
Oklahoma Legislation HB 2155

B. 2. The ICAP system shall be implemented according to the following schedule:

a. For the 2017-2018 school year, the Oklahoma State Department of Education shall work with school districts, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the Oklahoma State Board of Career and Technology Education to develop individual career academic planning tools for students in grades six through twelve.

b. For the 2018-2019 school year, the Department shall incorporate the ICAP as described in paragraph 1 of this subsection on a pilot program basis, and

c. For the 2019-2020 school year, and each school year thereafter, school districts shall fully incorporate and put into operation the ICAP as described in paragraph 1 of this subsection for all students entering the ninth grade.

C. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent a district from implementing the ICAP for students in earlier grades.
System Supports and Transitions

Career Advising
• Create an environment for seniors that gives them a more purposeful final year of high school.
• Keep seniors engaged and in the game for the full year.
• Provide a flexible and adaptable educational experience.
• Scheduling freedom for students and staff - Restructure the school day.

Advanced Learning Opportunities
• Create an appropriate instructional setting where more Advanced Placement and Concurrent courses can be offered.
• Provide non-college bound students with career connections opportunities.
• Simulate their next transition in life (Provide seniors with options and ask them to make choices)
• Create a more career focused student with a better awareness of career choices so the student can determine what best fits their needs.

Transitions
• Expand Internship experiences and opportunities
• Opportunity for more online course work
School-Wide Career Advising

Redefining the Senior Year
Career Advisement Theory of Change

IF *Every student* in our schools knew that someone – a staff member – really cared about him/her and;

IF *All students* had educational, career and personal goals toward which they were working and could see their courses as useful in reaching these goals and;

IF *All parents* personally knew someone at school whom they could call – who really knew their child – and how well they were doing and;

IF *All school staff* had the opportunity to develop close connections and mentoring relationships with a small group of students throughout their middle/high school years;

THEN students would be prepared to fulfill their goals and aspirations for being college and career ready.
Career Advising

Goal for Developing Career Advising Toolkit
• Our goal in Oklahoma is to see that every child is proficient and prepared for success. National research shows that education reform is moving towards smaller learning communities, more student-centered school experiences, more personalized programs with support services and increased intellectual rigor.
• The establishment of career advising programs in secondary schools is essential to Oklahoma’s mission of increasing student success. Research shows that if schools create safe, supportive, and respectful learning environments that personalize young people’s learning experiences, we can help them achieve more academic success.
Benefits of School-Wide Career Advising

**Goal:** The primary goal of [advisory programs] is to provide students with *early awareness of the benefits of continuing their education*” beyond *high school*, whether that be a two year or four year college or university experience or career certification (U.S. Department of Education, 2007). By having a caring adult as a mentor/advisor, students feel more connected to their school, and as a result tend to have a better educational experience.

**Benefits:** This *advising relationship* can result in reduced retention rates, decreased truancy and behavioral issues, increased test scores and graduation rates, as well as improved interpersonal relationships and workforce readiness.
Advisory Boards

Redefining the Senior Year
Advisory Boards

Connect the organization to the outside world – voice of the community to the school, voice of the school to the community

- Student Advisory
- Parent Advisory
- Educator, Student, Parent, Business Advisory
- School-Based Program Advisory
- Parent Advisory
- Joint Secondary-Postsecondary Program Advisory
Advanced Learning Opportunities

Redefining the Senior Year
Advanced Learning Opportunities

Advanced Placement
International Baccalaureate
Concurrent Enrollment
Industry Credentials
Industry Certification
Industry Certificate
Competency-Based Education
Career Technology Academies
Transitions
Redefining the Senior Year
Why Transitions?

Perhaps nowhere are the deficiencies [of American high schools] more pronounced than during the senior year of high school. Some students who have already been accepted to college routinely ignore the high school's academic demands. "Senioritis" sets in. Senior year becomes party-time rather than a time to prepare for one of their most important life transitions. Students are bored and studying becomes irrelevant.

Transitions

College Career Ready Literacy Course - SREB
College Career Math Ready Course - SREB
Credit Recovery
Alternative School
Summer School
Apprenticeships, Internships, Mentorships
Career Endorsements
National Academy Foundation

What is available in your district?
Strategies for Redefining the Senior Year and Taking Steps to Get There
Our district/school has the following strategies/programs…(check all that apply)
1. Individual Career Academic Plans
2. School-wide Career Advising
3. Transition Math or Literacy Senior Class
4. Career Academies
5. Project Lead the Way
6. Early College Model
7. Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate
8. Concurrent Enrollment
9. Internships
10. Teacher Externships
11. Business/Education Advisory
12. Student Advisory
Voices from the Field

Hilldale Public Schools Internship for Seniors – Dr. Kaylin Coody
- Elevate Story www.sde.ok.gov/sde/new-skills-youth

Ada Public Schools – High School Aviation Initiative Paula Kedy
https://youcanfly.aopa.org/high-school/about

Union Public Schools – Project Lead the Way K-12
http://www.unionps.org/project-lead-the-way/

Oklahoma City Public Schools – National Academy Foundation – Cindi Walls https://www.okcps.org/Domain/123

Pontotoc County Career Discovery Program – East Central University Senator Susan Paddack
The research suggests that providing real academic challenge for high school students and communicating with them about what is needed for future success helps to better prepare grads for the road ahead. Providing consistent and regular signals to ALL high school students about what academics are needed to be ready for college and careers is key.

- **For all 12th Graders**
  - Assessments of readiness
  - College success courses and advising
  - Community service & internships
- **For 12th graders who are “ready”**
  - Dual enrollment
  - Begin college course of study
  - Begin industry certification
- **For students who are “not ready” by 12th grade**
  - Transition course (prepare for credit-bearing courses)
  - Dual Enrollment with Co-Requisite Course for Academic Support
Please complete at least two sentences.
1. Today was perfect because...
2. Today would have been better if...
3. If I were in charge, we would have...
4. Next time, I hope we...
5. I’m leaving feeling...
THANK YOU!