New Tech Network

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Powerful results

Rigorous academics and 21st century skills prepare New Tech students for success in college, life and the careers of tomorrow.

In 2008-09, New Tech (NT) schools demonstrated high levels of student engagement and continued growth along several measures of academic progress. Results on Reading and Science achievement, college acceptance rates, and behavioral indicators point to strong performance levels among many New Tech schools. However, achievement remained lower across some upper grade subject areas, particular in Math, among several schools.

Postsecondary Readiness

In 2008-09, 85% of the reported NT seniors applied to one or more colleges. Among these students, a total of 98% were accepted to at least one postsecondary institution. The acceptance rate for students who applied to a 2-year college was 100%, while the rate for those who applied to a 4-year college was 85%. It should be noted that these figures are based on a subset of NT schools and a comprehensive data collection process will be established for 2009-10.

Behavioral Indicators

NT schools displayed high rates of attendance and low drop out and suspension rates in 2008-09.

- Overall, 26 of 28 NT schools (or 93%) had attendance rates between 90-100% in 2008-09.
- Almost two-thirds of the NT schools had a 0% drop out rate across grades in 2008-09. Only five schools had a rate of 1-2% while 3 sites had a rate higher than 2%.
- Almost half of NT schools had a 2008-09 suspension rate between 0-5%. An additional 40% of the schools had suspension rates between 6-10%.

Data Analysis

As part of its annual data analysis efforts, the New Technology Network (NTN) examined the impact of its model on student achievement across network schools. Data on NT schools and comparison schools were gathered from school sites, district research departments, and state education department websites. Comparison schools were identified as the larger shared campus or former comprehensive high school from which each NT school originated.

Subject Area Achievement

Results were analyzed from each NT school's Reading, Math, and Science state tests. Proficiency or pass rates were compared to comparison schools for 2008-09 and 2007-08.

Reading Achievement

Reading achievement was strong at grade 9 but decreased somewhat in upper grade levels. Overall, 89% of NT schools outperformed the 9th grade Reading rates of their comparison sites. In contrast, slightly lower rates were evident in 10th and 11th grade Reading – between 63-67% of NT sites surpassed comparison schools.

Math Achievement

In Algebra I, 50% of the NT schools surpassed comparison school rates. Also, 38% of NT sites outperformed comparison schools in Algebra II, while 43% did so in Geometry.

Science Achievement

The majority of NT schools performed well in Life Science and Biology and had lower achievement in Chemistry. In Life Science and Biology, NT schools outperformed comparison sites at high rates (75% and 69%, respectively).

The majority of NT schools showed growth across multiple subject areas from 2007-08 to 2008-09. The highest growth rate was evidenced in Life Science with 83% of NT schools demonstrating a higher proficiency rate over the 2 year period. The next highest rate was in Geometry at 75%, followed by 10th grade Reading (67%) and Chemistry (67%).

Implications and Next Steps

As NTN refines its model and scales to reach more schools in 2010 and beyond, we are revisiting strategies for school support and accountability given the presented findings. In particular, we are engaged in strategic planning processes around the following:

- Constructing benchmarks to continuously assess individual school progress along a series of implementation and outcome measures
- Enhancing strategies for identifying specific school needs and providing differentiated support
- Developing data inquiry processes at both the organization and school levels for using benchmark results and other data sources to improve implementation
- Broadening the types of indicators collected to align with the organization's goals, including measures of 21st century skills, participation in internships, college credit earned, etc.
- Developing a comprehensive organizational research agenda to identify priorities for further study and potential research partners.
- NTN is examining factors contributing to different levels of math performance as well as best practices research to develop appropriate interventions to raise math achievement