



**WATSONVILLE
WILDCATZ**
GRADUATION
LEAPS
OPPORTUNITY
WITHOUT
LIMITS

S.P.A.R.C

Support Personnel Accountability Report Card

developed by Los Angeles County Office of Education, Division of Student Support Services

School Name: Watsonville High School

Address: 250 E. Beach St.

GRADE LEVELS: 9, 10, 11, 12 **ENROLLMENT:** 3,200 **SCHEDULE:** 6 period day

SCHOOL YEAR: Traditional

PRINCIPAL: Josè Banda

Principal's Comments

Watsonville High School is a comprehensive high school of 3,200 students where their safety and well-being are priorities. The campus was designed for 1800 students but due to increased enrollment it currently houses over 3,000 students. Fifty five percent of the student population is identified as English language learners (ELL) and over forty percent is identified as migrant.

Watsonville High School is a low-performing school and presently qualifies to receive II/USP (Immediate Intervention / Underperforming School) and HPSG (High Priority School Grant) funds. This additional funding will be used to improve teacher training and data analysis. It will also provide time for ongoing teacher collaboration.

The guidance program provides a variety of support services through counselors, a guidance tech, psychologists, attendance specialist, police resource officer, nurse, speech and language specialists, three assistant principals, clerical staff and other resource personnel. In 1999, after a six-year absence, counselors were reinstated in the Guidance Department. Counselors are implementing the National Standards for School Counseling Programs and have been working closely with all departments, support personnel and the community partnerships to comprehensively address student guidance and achievement. They have developed curriculum for use in their daily practice and in the classroom where they work with all ability and grade levels.

Support Personnel & Students

Watsonville High School's guidance program serves 3200 students, of whom nearly 55% are designated Limited English Proficient and nearly 40% are identified as Migrant. Approximately 40% of the student body qualifies for free and reduced lunch and over 88% of the entire student body is Hispanic.

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| Asst. Principal of Guidance & Counseling | Regional Occupation Program / Career Counselor |
| Credentialed Counselors (6) | Psychologists (2) |
| Guidance Technician | School Nurse |
| Registrar | Health Clerks (2) |
| Administrative Secretary | Test Specialist |
| Data Entry Technician | Independent Studies |
| Migrant Counselors (3), Work Experience, Pass & Tutorial (2) | Teen Age Mothers, |
| School Resource Officer | School Age Parenting & Infant Development |
| Office Assistants (3) | |

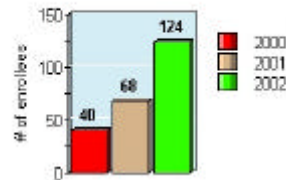
Seventy-eight percent of the guidance staff is bilingual. They communicate on a regular basis with students and parents regarding appropriate class placement for the current school year, as well as planning for the future. Modifications and adjustments are made to students' programs to support them in their academic, career and personal/social development throughout their high school careers.

A guidance curriculum was established in 1990 and was revised on a yearly basis until 1993, when the Pajaro Valley Unified School District eliminated the counselors from the guidance program. In 1999 the school board reinstated counselors again and the curriculum is currently being updated and revised. Periodic collaborative planning occurs between guidance and the various curricular departments to monitor student progress and to recommend alterations of program that will aid in meeting students' educational needs and goals.

Results

The Guidance Department has begun implementing the National Standards for Counseling Programs. The following graphs represent some sample results:

Concurrent Enrollment



ACADEMIC DOMAIN

Concurrent Enrollment:

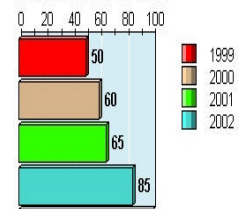
The number of students concurrently enrolled at Cabrillo Community College has increased as a result of counselors teaching and advocating for specific college classes.

ACADEMIC, CAREER & PERSONAL/SOCIAL DOMAINS

Increase In The Number of Parent / Student / Counselor Conferences Since Counselors Were Reinstated:

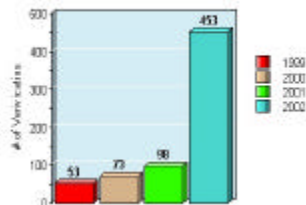
The percentage of 9th grade Parent / student conferences increased from 50% to 85% between the years 1999 and 2002. Career goals, post secondary education and creating 4-year high school plans were the major topics of discussion.

SB813 Conferences



ACADEMIC AND CAREER DOMAINS

Cal Grant GPA Verifications



GPA Verifications:

The number of Grade Point Average verifications for student financial aid has increased as a result of counselors delivering the Free Application for Federal Student Aid forms to every senior in their classroom.

Counselors meet twice with their assigned students each year to review transcripts as they relate to graduation, UC/CSU admissions and career plans.

ACADEMIC, CAREER, PERSONAL/SOCIAL DOMAINS

Counselors work with the Extended Learning and Summer School Programs to increase the types of courses offered to better meet student needs. The result has been an increase in the number of students utilizing these options as well as an increase in the number of credits they earned toward graduation.

Survey/Assessment Results

Due to the large number of students needing placement in alternative and/or special education programs, the guidance staff includes a full-time guidance tech devoted to providing timely response in the management and monitoring of their progress. The guidance tech provides:

- Individual Education Plans for students with special needs, including assistance to IEP case managers on program and graduation requirements;
- Appropriate alternative program placements;
- Basic skills re-assessments for students who have failed the basic skills tests.

A counselor regularly collaborates with the Healthy Start staff on a wide variety of students' physical and mental health assessments and screening issues. This collaboration has increased student access to a wider variety of community health services.

The Regional Occupation Program/Career Counselor meets with all students via English and Social Studies classes to do Career and Vocational Assessment using the ROP class interest survey, Career

career Assessment, vocational implications of personality, Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery and Eureka, the California Career Information System. Counselors do the follow-up as they meet with their assigned students individually to set vocational/occupational goals and select appropriate courses to support them.

Parent Involvement

Watsonville High School and the local community *are* in a unique situation wherein the WHS alumni compose 35% of our staff and many more are active members of local businesses and our school community.

- The SPARC document is reviewed and critiqued by the two governing councils (School Site Council and English Language Advisory Council).
- Parents who work in the community participate in the Passport to Work program where they hire students and provide incentives and awards.
- Parents who work in the business community participate in the electronic distribution and sharing of resumes that students have written. This process is facilitated by the Regional Occupation Program/ Career Counselor with the Chamber of Commerce.
- Parents participate annually in the judging of ROP Portfolios that students have assembled.
- Rotarian and other parents host students at their businesses during Job Shadowing in the Spring. Students visit work sites and are introduced to their professions.
- Watsonville High School parents support their children by providing transportation and career exploration opportunities during various career/college open house events throughout the area. They also drive their children regularly to off campus ROP classes.
- Parent volunteers help with the distribution of schedules at the beginning of each school year.

Community Partnerships

Watsonville's guidance program coordinates and collaborates with over 36 agencies in the community to provide services and opportunities for our students in the following domains:

ACADEMIC: Univ. of California at Santa Cruz, Cal State Univ. at Monterey Bay, Cabrillo College, Advancement Via Individual Determination, Students Achieving A-G Expectations via the Academic Improvement & Achievement Act funds, College Assistance Migrant Program, Upward Bound, Talent Search, Student Outreach And Recruitment, Early Academic Outreach Program, Cabrillo Advancement Program, Puente, What's Next? (Cabrillo guidance class), Math Engineering and Science Achievement, Extended Learning, Adult and Migrant Education programs.

CAREER: Granite Rock, Granite Construction, Santa Cruz Seaside Co., Santa Cruz Business Council, Chamber Of Commerce, Workforce Investment Board, Career Works, County Office of Education, ROP, Tech Prep, Monterey Bay Regional Partnership/School-To-Career, Workability, Enterprise Community, City of Watsonville, Armed Services.

PERSONAL /SOCIAL: Healthy Start, Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance, Teen Age Mothers, Child Welfare & Attendance, School Attendance Review Board, Youth Services, Phoenix Services, Barrios Unidos, Defensa De Mujeres, Santa Cruz County Human Resources Agency.

Our work with these partners varies from pairing students with individuals for shadowing and mentoring to group sessions of tutoring, workshops, classes, field trips, college tours and varied enrichment excursions. Other partnerships include referrals, monitoring and sharing resources which extends the services of our comprehensive guidance and counseling program.

Watsonville's local businesses and industry also maintain a high profile of partnership in the high school. Being a relatively stable community, local alumni have a tradition of "paying it back" while encouraging other business associates to participate. We partner with the Chamber of Commerce and Santa Cruz Business Council for the Passport To Work program. These partners have over 700 active members, Rotary over 100. The Career Center helped develop the Granite Construction partnership for MESA as well as the funding for the Interactive Math Project at Watsonville High School.

Our Major Achievements

The **Carlston Family Foundation Award** was given to Grace Patino, Watsonville High School math teacher and Math Engineering & Science Achievement coordinator. There are five of these awards given nationally each year and it comes from a student nomination. Our program helped establish and fund MESA at the school and encourages students to be involved in extra-curricular activities such as MESA.

The **Alumni Report Card** on Pajaro Valley Unified School District High Schools' former students gave very favorable grades for PVUSD support services, such as college and career counseling. The average grade for all support services combined was B+.

The **school board reinstated certificated guidance counselors** who are implementing the National Standards for School Counseling Programs.

Counselors worked with Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance to develop a school Crisis Team flow chart that is replicated by the school district for all schools.

Our Focus for Improvement

Student/family surveys indicate that 98% of our incoming 9th graders are unaware of the **ACADEMIC** requirements for high school graduation and college admissions; 89% lack **CAREER** awareness and readiness; while 90% have **PERSONAL/SOCIAL** readiness issues in preparation for their high school experience. Only 16% of our parents participate in one or more school activities. The math and reading level test scores for incoming 9th grade students indicate that 61% are not prepared for high school math, and 80% read below 7th grade level. Based on this data, our low SAT 9 scores and an analysis of transcripts and grades, we have identified the following three areas upon which to focus our improvement:

Counselors will play an active role in providing a more comprehensive **Tutorial and Summer School program**. Outcomes of these improved programs will include:

- Raised Grade Point Averages
 - Increased number of students who pass California High School Exit Exam
 - Increased graduation rates and number of students completing the A-G course pattern
 - Increased number of options for at-risk English Language Learners
- Parent Education/Involvement** – To increase parent involvement, counselors will increase opportunities for parent education. A series of workshops will be held during the year where we:
- Begin by sending out a needs and interest assessment/survey to parents
 - Utilize results of surveys to provide a workshop series for parents
 - Employ a newsletter, web site and phone caller to maintain communication
 - Use workshops as a vehicle to increase further discussion about other ways parents can be involved in supporting the school and their children
 - Use pre and post surveys and evaluations to assess effectiveness of our presentations and workshops

Middle School Articulation – Counselors will develop a plan with middle school counselors, students & staff to improve student preparation for high school:

- Make a Power Point presentation to middle school staff about the articulation plans and calendar for the year.
- Middle school counselors will participate in high school counselor meetings.
- Both middle school and high school counselors will work together to develop curriculum for classroom presentations.
- Outside resources like the middle school Early Academic Outreach Program, Students Achieving A-G Expectations via Academic Improvement & Achievement Act funds and College Bound will be included.
- Watsonville High School Graduation Requirement Posters will be provided to middle school classrooms.
- Pre and post tests will be administered as part of the presentations.

Keeping You Informed

Watsonville High School communicates with students and parents in various ways.

* **ROP Flyers** – ROP/Career Path brochure, Flier and class lists are sent to 800 sophomores.

* **Red Alert Letter** – Every parent of a senior who is missing a graduation requirement will receive a red alert letter. Three similar letters are mailed home throughout the year.

* **Student/Parent conference/SB813** – 900 parents of freshman students were contacted for a student, parent, counselor conference

* **News letter** – mailed to all 3200 parents/guardians once a quarter

* **Phone Machine** – 400 calls per day inform parents about student's attendance, Saturday school, parent meetings and after school programs

* **Classroom presentations** – 180 classroom guidance presentations per year

* **Attendance Review Committee** – 180 Attendance Review meetings were scheduled where student, parent, counselor, attendance specialist and campus police were present to promote improved attendance and achievement.

* **Student Conferences** – Twice a year we have individual student conferences with all 3200 students to review graduation requirements, students' goals and make plans to meet them

* **Student Bulletin** – reminders of deadlines, test dates, scholarships, and other information, three times a week

* **Open House/Back to School/Financial Aid/ College Nights** – all 3200 parents/guardians and students were invited

* **Grade Level Handbooks** – reminder of graduation and A-G requirements, deadlines, test dates, calendar of events. All 3200 students receive a handbook.

* **8th grade Articulation/Site Visitation/Parent Night** – We visit all four middle schools to register the 8th graders and review the high school program.

* **Katz News** – a student operated, campus-wide television news program aired daily.

* **Individual Education Plan /Student Study Team / Language Review Team** – provides forums to inform students and parents of all the available services.

* **The school website** – (www.whs.pvUSD.net) maintains information for the staff, students and public.