



January 2019

Introduction

This report is in response to the General Appropriations Act, S.B. 1, Article III – 7, Rider 6 from the Eighty-fifth Legislature. Rider 6 stipulates that for students who completed the district’s program during the 2016 – 2017 biennium, the Windham School District (WSD) shall report to the Eighty-sixth Legislature on the following: recidivism rates, employment rates, and attainment of GEDs, high school diplomas, professional certification, and adult education literacy levels.

Recidivism Rates

A recidivism report on participating students of the 2016-2017 biennium was not possible because a minimum of three years post-release is required to measure recidivism. However, to be responsive to the Legislature, the WSD contracted for a report to evaluate the recidivism rate for the School Year (SY) 2013 through SY 2014 release cohorts. The results as identified in the *WSD Biennial Evaluation and Report* by the Institute for Measurement, Analysis and Policy at Texas Tech University are as follows:

Compared to those who had not completed WSD programming, those who had completed:

- WSD Cognitive Intervention Program (CIP) during the current incarceration were 10.6% less likely to recidivate;
- WSD Vocational (referred to as CTE) programs during the current incarceration were 18.7% less likely to recidivate;
- WSD Academics during the current incarceration were 3.0% less likely to recidivate;
- WSD Changing Habits and Achieving New Goals to Empower Success (CHANGES) during the current incarceration were 9.0% less likely to recidivate;
- Multiple WSD programs (two or more) averaged to be 19.0% less likely to recidivate;

Note: Propensity Score Matching (PSM) for group comparisons was utilized and the values are expressed as percent difference for recidivism and employment rates.

It should also be noted that Academic completion may/may not reflect an immediate positive impact regarding recidivism when viewed in isolation. However, the Academic program serves as a literacy foundation for the other programs by providing offenders with literacy tools to better experience optimal benefit of additional WSD programs. Academic skills often provide a baseline (i.e., High School Equivalency Certificate (HSEC)) that makes one eligible for employment.

Employment Rates

An employment rate report on participating students of the 2016-2017 biennium was not possible because a minimum of three years must lapse to allow for the capture of post-release earning data. However, to be responsive to the Legislature, the WSD contracted for a report to evaluate the employment rate for the SY 2013 through SY 2014 release cohorts. The results as identified in the *WSD Biennial Evaluation and Report* are as follows:

WSD offenders compared to those who did not have any WSD programming (PSM):

- WSD Cognitive Intervention Program (CIP) during the current incarceration were 8.2% more likely to obtain employment;
- WSD Vocational (referred to as CTE) programs during the current incarceration were 9.0% more likely to obtain employment;
- WSD Academics during the current incarceration were 4.2% more likely to obtain employment;
- WSD Changing Habits and Achieving New Goals to Empower Success (CHANGES) during the current incarceration were 5.6% more likely to obtain employment;
- Multiple WSD programs (two or more) averaged to be 6.9% more likely to obtain employment;

Attainment of GED (HSEC)

According to the *WSD Annual Performance Report 2015 - 2016*, the number of HSECs awarded during SY 16 was 5,158.

According to the *WSD Annual Performance Report 2016 - 2017*, the number of HSECs awarded during SY 17 was 4,921.

High School Diplomas

According to the *WSD Annual Performance Report 2015 - 2016*, the number of high school diplomas awarded during SY 16 was 75.

According to the *WSD Annual Performance Report 2016 - 2017*, the number of high school diplomas awarded during SY 17 was 86.

Professional Certifications

According to the *WSD Annual Performance Report 2015 - 2016*, 12,237 Vocational Certificates were issued, and an additional 18,532 Industry Certificates were awarded.

According to the *WSD Annual Performance Report 2016 - 2017*, 20,157 Vocational Certificates were issued, and an additional 27,713 Industry Certificates were awarded.

Adult Education Literacy Levels

According to the *WSD Annual Performance Report 2015 – 2016*, the literacy completions were as follows:

Completion of Literacy Levels 2015-2016			
Beginning Level	Number of Students With Post Tests	Number of Students Completing the Level	Percent Completing Level
Level I (0.0 to 3.9)	1,942	924	47.6%
Level II (4.0 to 5.9)	4,645	2,260	48.7%
Level III (6.0 and above)	10,201	3,309	32.4%
Total	16,788	6,493	38.7%

According to the *WSD Annual Performance Report 2016 – 2017*, the literacy completions were as follows:

Completion of NRS* Educational Functioning Levels 2016-2017				
Beginning Educational Functioning Level	Grades within Functioning Level	Number of Students Beginning Level	Number of Students Completing the Level	Percent Completing Level*
Level 1 (0.0 to 1.9)	K & 1st	159	127	80%
Level 2 (2.0 to 3.9)	2nd & 3rd	2,031	1,061	52%
Level 3 (4.0 to 5.9)	4th & 5th	5,000	2,555	51%
Level 4 (6.0 to 8.9)	6th, 7th & 8th	7,390	3,141	43%
Level 5 (9.0 to 10.9)	9th & 10th	2,762	1,722	62%
Level 6 (11.0 to 12.9)	11th & 12th	2,394	2,078	87%
Total		19,736	10,684	54%

*NRS - National Reporting System

The following reports can be viewed in their entirety at www.wsdtx.org.

- *WSD Biennial Evaluation and Report*
- *WSD Annual Performance Report 2015 – 2016*
- *WSD Annual Performance Report 2016 – 2017*