

Southside School District

161 SE Collier Road
Shelton, WA 98584

(360) 426-8437
www.southsideschool.org



Public Release Article from Southside School District~

Post Pandemic Data Shows Southside is Achieving Positive Outcomes

Southside School District is setting high marks in the post-pandemic classroom. According to Southside administrators, perseverance and partnerships have been the key to closing learning gaps in student achievement at Southside.

“Prior to the pandemic, annual student improvement scores were trending down for all Southside student groups,” said Principal Robie Spaulding. “During and after the pandemic, academic scores actually reversed and are now trending upward for our student groups.”

Southside administrators are referring to the state measurement called the Washington School Improvement Framework, or WSIF. WSIF identifies how schools can improve the education of all students. The Framework combines as many as nine indicators (such as graduation rates, attendance, and proficiency on state tests in math and English language arts) into a 1-10 score. The school's score then determines the state's supports for the school to improve.

“From 2015-2020 Southside’s student scores were trending toward the threshold where the school would be identified as needing intensive state interventions,” said Spaulding. “Since 2020, student scores have trended up, despite the educational challenges of the pandemic.”

Southside Superintendent Paul Wieneke explained that federal and state grants helped the small district accelerate improvement during the learning recovery period. “Teachers were able to assess and target student deficits through an extended learning program funded by the American Recovery Act (ARA), also known as the ESSER grants. The grants paid for summer school, afterschool learning, and special math and reading curricula that helped students learn exactly what they needed to learn to close learning gaps.”

“We are certainly grateful for our ESSER grants, said Wieneke. “We are also grateful for our parents who sustained the challenges of the pandemic as our learning partners. They persevered through countless policy changes and frequent communications, just to keep students safe and learning. We are not saying that our students are completely free from the effects of the pandemic, socially and academically. However, we have turned a corner. Teachers have never stopped trying; never stopped caring. Happy and connected students keep us going every day. ” Southside has been an independent public school district for 120 years, with 207 students currently enrolled.

Source: <https://washingtonstatereportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/>