



PROGRAM AT A GLANCE:

## Summer Scholars Program

### HIGHLIGHTS

Attending Summer Scholars facilitated the graduation of 37 students!

1416 attended summer scholars in 2014 and earned 1946 semester (i.e. .5) credits

Summer scholars serves students across the PPS district including comprehensive, focus, charter and alternative schools.

67% of students served in this program are students of color.



Priority for entry is aligned to the district Achievement Compact focusing on incoming 10th graders who have at least 6 credits and ensuring seniors are on track for graduation.

### WHAT IS THE SUMMER SCHOLARS PROGRAM?

The Summer Scholars program is a program of the Multiple Pathways to Graduation department. It is a tuition-based summer school based at Benson Polytechnic High School that is open to primarily high school students. Students from outside of the Portland Public Schools (PPS) district (and students currently enrolled in private schools) admitted on a “space available” basis.

#### GOALS

The primary goal of the Summer Scholars program is to provide summer classes for high school students who need to recover credit, or improve a grade to get back on track to graduation. To achieve this, first priority for admission is given to current 10th and 12th graders who are credit deficient. The second priority for admission is current 9th and 11th grade students. Roughly 2,800 seats are offered across 95 course sections. The secondary goal of the program is to provide students seeking acceleration with an opportunity to earn credit.

#### REGISTRATION PROCESS

Students who are interested in participating in Summer Scholars must first contact their school counselor. Beginning in May, school counselors can process a pre-registration to the program, and provide the student with a registration form (that must be signed by a parent or guardian) to bring on registration day along with their tuition payment. In 2014, there were four evening sessions from 4:30 to 8 PM on June 11, 12, 16 and 17, during which students could turn in their registration forms.

#### TUITION

Fees for Summer Scholars are based on where a student resides, however in 2014, 1/2 credit courses were \$225.00 for both students living within and outside of the PPS boundaries. Students living within PPS boundaries or who attend a PPS school and who qualify for Free/ Reduced meals may pay a discounted tuition of \$35.00. for a ½ credit class.

#### CURRICULUM

Summer Scholars course offerings are subject to change depending on enrollment, but the schedule generally includes all core courses required to meet PPS graduation requirements including essential skills classes where students complete the work sample requirements for math, reading, and writing. Summer Scholars does offer a number of virtual courses that are a combination of on-line curriculum and direct instruction delivered by a highly qualified teacher. Students work at their own pace, and may be able to exit the course early as a result.

#### TIMING

In 2014, Summer Scholars held two sessions of classes that each lasted three weeks. Session 1 ran from June 23 to July 11 and class was from 8:30 AM to 12:20 PM. Session 2 ran from July 21 to August 8 and class was held from 8:30 AM to 11:45 AM.

For more information on the Summer Scholars Program, please contact the Program Administrator:

Ginger Taylor

Phone: (503) 916-5720

Email: gtaylor1@pps.net



## METHODOLOGY

In compiling this research, the System Planning and Performance department gathered qualitative data from Synergy that detailed the student achievement and demographics. The Senior Administrative Analyst then reviewed the program website to gather general program information and then interviewed the Program Administrator, Ginger Taylor in order to contextualize the data.

## DATA

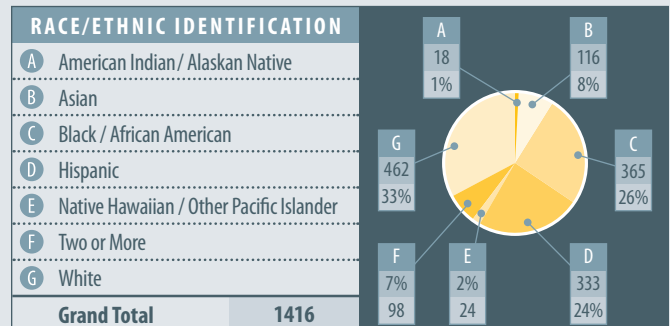
### SUMMER SCHOLARS STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

STUDENT CREDITS BY SUBJECT AREA:		GRADE DISTRIBUTION FOR THE SUMMER	
Mathematics	635	A	724
Language Arts	579	B	624
Science	311	C	434
World Language	152	D	144
Global Studies	135	F	119
US History	95	H (Holds)	103
English Language Development	64	I (incomplete)	1
Government	50	P (Pass)	20
Health Education	46		
Economics	43		
Essential Skills	33		
Physical Education	26		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,169</b>		

### STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

GRADE LEVEL		
8th	1	0%
9th	369	26%
10th	437	31%
11th	490	35%
12th	119	8%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1416</b>	

GENDER		
Female	594	42%
Male	822	58%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1416</b>	



## CONTINUING THE SUCCESS OF SUMMER SCHOLARS

### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Make it easier to enroll through online registration

Why:

- 1 Easier for families who currently wait in line for hours to register. Online registration would facilitate easier payment, organization and staffing assessment.
- 2 Creates increased programmatic planning time that ultimately leads to improving the quality of the program. At present the Administrator of the program doesn't know how many sections of each class will be needed until face-to-face registration begins. Potential teachers are offered "tentative" positions in the meantime and last minute hires are sometimes required to meet the demand.

**Design a Credit Recovery Action Plan.** A considerable amount of time is passing between when students fail a class and when they recover that credit. The goal of a Credit Recovery Action Plan would be to set a plan in motion for each student to recover their credit within a year of the failure.

**Create a long term strategy for providing transportation to students.** At present the student bus pass each student receives is only good September through May.

### CONSIDERATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

**Revise policy and process for student "Holds".** Holds are placed on student accounts when they are unable to pay for their tuition or if they fail to return their textbook at class completion (the established procedure for many high schools). 103 students from Summer 2014 completed a class and haven't received credit for it.

**Counselor input and feedback.** Do counselors have a clear understanding of the guidelines for admission to Summer Scholars for students needing credit recovery as well as those seeking out acceleration? Do counselors need to have more data accessibility available to them in order to prioritize students in need of credit recovery?

**What would be the impact of increased use of the standards based grade book in Synergy?** Currently the standards based Synergy Grade Book is used by a small group of teachers. If all teachers utilized the Synergy Grade Book, Summer Scholars could accommodate students needing to complete sections of the curriculum they need without requiring them to re-take the entire class (e.g. skills based recovery). This data could also be useful in hiring and preparation for each summer.

**Is there room to grow this program?** Both space and capacity would be important considerations in this research. What are the other options? Are there school based options for credit recovery? If so, what do they look like?