



Context

- Demographics: approx 210 FTE students, half school aged and half adult, with most school aged students from NWSS
- Evidence: registration to activation and activation to completion rates per course measured per year
- Context: online school with some required and encouraged meetings
- Why this goal?: Completion is a challenge for all online schools, growing naturally from the fact that completion is open-ended and that students often take an online course as an 'extra' either over and above regular studies or in addition to family and work responsibilities and may not be prioritized and also from the fact that interaction with staff is of itself a motivator for completion and is diminished in an online course. Anecdotally and broadly speaking, our completion rate has been about midrange for virtual schools of our kind.

What we hope to achieve:

- To increase the rate at which students who achieve activation in our courses complete them within a year.

Competency Development

- This touches on all of the competencies in the new curriculum, through enhancement of the courses themselves, though particularly with our younger students aspects of the competencies related to self-determination and self-regulation may be addressed directly in conversation with our online instructors.

Strategies

- Specific actions that will lead to goal attainment
 - focus in past years has been on regularizing reminders to students, finding choke-points (places where students stop progressing) with in particular courses, optimizing courses to make them more convenient and comprehensible
 - focus this year is on sharing information with other online schools and engaging them in exchanges regarding courses and regarding how they increase completion rates; also on whatever research shows regarding online schools and ways of increasing completion.
 - Further, through our Innovation Grants, we hope to develop new online tools and structures that will aid instruction both within our courses and beyond
 - In the 2017-18 school year, NWSS moved away from Web TESS to MyEdBC, which made it difficult for the NWSS counsellors to track which of their students were taking online courses with our programs and for our staff to communicate the students' progress to the parents and counsellors. This weakened the three-pronged team approach (teacher/counsellor/parent) used to assist students in completing their online courses. By the end of this year we and they will both be on MyEd, and in the meantime we have made a regular habit of sending progress summaries to NWSS counsellors.



Success Indicators

- What does it look like?
 - completion rates within courses continue to climb (aggregate number not meaningful as rates vary dramatically from course to course and by demographic of student)
 - rates at which courses are completed increase

Communication

- Communication of the goal itself remains to be established, beyond regular discussion within staff, discussions with NWSS counsellors, and a our statement of purpose on our website.
- We do believe that both parents and adult students will understand our goal, as the goal itself is simple and direct, however complicated the changes we might make in pursuit of it might be.

Vision to Goal Setting

We have established a strong tradition of physical presence and interaction as a part of our existing online courses.
We see ourselves as becoming a district resource for blended learning of all kinds as well as a provider of stand-alone courses.

Planning and Implementation

We have begun information exchanges with other sites and colleagues in other districts, and experience around strategies, course design, and technological tools for student interaction that might improve completion rates are a regular topic at our staff meetings and planning days.

Assess/Monitor/Adapt

Our current measure is course completion within the year.

Communicating Progress

This has so far been internal to the staff. How to communicate our goal more widely beyond the statement on our website is an area for exploration.
We are currently implementing the transfer of our database and gradebook to MyEdBC which will allow the NWSS counsellors to more easily track which of their students are enrolled in our online courses. We believe this will improve the three-pronged approach (teacher/counsellor/parent) and assist students in successfully completing their online courses this year.



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PLANNING TEMPLATE