

# Strategic Plan

## Information and Advocacy Report



TO: Board of Education

FROM: Brian Johnson, Director of Student Services  
Sarah Straka, Director of Instruction

DATE: July 20, 2020

RE: Information and Advocacy Report - Learning and Growth

### **OVERVIEW**

Board Goal II: Well-Being - We will provide support systems for our students and staff.

Objective D: Make connections in support of the whole child.

- Indicator 2: Life ready indicators.

### **Indicator 2: Life Ready Indicators**

#### **Percent of Students Receiving Silver Cord**

Seniors who have completed 140 hours of volunteer service during their high school career are awarded the honor of wearing a silver cord at the graduation ceremony. It is required that students complete and submit to the High School's Counseling Office at least 70 accumulated hours prior to September 1 of their senior year. Students should accumulate a total of 140 hours throughout their four years of high school; therefore, students may begin to accumulate hours following completion of their eighth grade. More information on the requirements and logistics of the program can be found at the Mount Horeb High School [Silver Cord Service Program](#) webpage. Given students' ability to earn the hours over a four year period, we do not anticipate, at this time, making changes due to the pandemic; however, we will continue to monitor this.

Table 1 provides the total number and percentage of seniors who receive a silver cord upon graduation. On average, approximately one-fourth of seniors fulfill the hour requirement.

**Table 1: Students Earning Silver Cord Status**

	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20
Total # of Seniors Receiving Silver Cord	39	29	67	46	43
Percent of Seniors Receiving Silver Cord	21%	18%	31%	25%	23%

The above numbers do not take into account the number of students who may begin the program and accumulate hours, but then not reach the 140-hour threshold. For example, 29 seniors in the Class of 2020 had started accumulating hours but did not reach the 140-hour requirement before graduation. If these students would have completed their hours, about 39% of seniors would have received a silver cord. This percentage falls in line with the Wisconsin high school student volunteer rate which is 39.9%; interestingly, Wisconsin ranks in the top five states for high school student volunteer rates.

### **Academic and Career Planning Goal Setting Conferences**

As a part of the sophomore year experience, the Student Services department scheduled planning conferences with sophomore students and their parents/guardians. The goal of these conferences was twofold: 1) to help guide students, on an individual basis, to achieve their maximum success in high school and beyond, and 2) to provide guardians with the resources they need to help their child in their high school and postsecondary planning.

The high school team is currently evaluating the timing of these conferences within students' four-year experience to best meet students' postsecondary needs. Discussions are underway to move these conferences to Junior Year (as recently discussed with the Education Committee). Additionally, the high school team will continue to discuss ways to increase family participation. While all students and their parents/guardians are provided conference information and extended an invitation, on average, about 55% of conferences are completed. This may be due to conferences being offered during the school day. With people's increased use and comfort with video conferencing, additional opportunities for day or evening virtual meetings may help to increase family participation.

### **Graduation Rates**

As Table 2 denotes, the graduation rate of Mount Horeb High School seniors is consistently above the state average, however, there is room for improvement. Mount Horeb Area School District is always looking at ways to improve their graduation rates as indicated by many components in this report. During the 2018-2019 school year, there were two students that did not complete their graduation requirements; one of the two students completed the requirements over the summer. In addition, three students receiving special education services continued on in the 18-21 Year Old Transitions

Program. During the 2019-2020 school year, there were four students that did not complete their graduation requirements; three of the students are students with an IEP and will transition into the 18-21 Year Old Program. Of the three, two are enrolled in [Operation Fresh Start](#).

**Table 2: Mount Horeb High School's Graduation Rate**

	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Total # of MHHS Seniors	163	218	181	196
Percent of MHHS Graduate Seniors	95%	95%	97%	96%
Percent of Graduate Seniors in WI	88.6%	89.6%	90.0%	TBD

**Attendance Rates**

Regular attendance is an important factor in school success. The activities and learning that occur during a class period are not easily made up since the experiences cannot be duplicated. Therefore, it is important that absences be kept to a minimum. State Law requires that a student must attend school until the end of the semester in which s/he reaches the age of 18. Student attendance rates for all grade levels remain consistently at 95% with a slight decline during senior year. This is above the Wisconsin State average--93.9% in 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.

**Table 3: School Attendance Rates**

	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Grade K	95.6%	95.6%	94.7%	95%	93.8%
Grade 1	95.2%	95.3%	94.9%	95.5%	93.7%
Grade 2	95.2%	95.6%	95.6%	95.3%	94.4%
Grade 3	96.3%	95.8%	95.8%	95.8%	94.7%
Grade 4	95.5%	95.4%	95.3%	95.6%	94.9%
Grade 5	96.1%	95.4%	95.3%	95.1%	94.6%
Grade 6	93.2%	95.6%	96%	96%	95.8%
Grade 7	93.4%	94.3%	96%	95.9%	95.3%
Grade 8	92.4%	94.5%	94.9%	95.8%	95.1%
Grade 9	96.2%	94.6%	95.5%	94.7%	95.9%

Grade 10	95.6%	96%	94%	93.6%	94.8%
Grade 11	95.6%	95.1%	93.2%	93%	93.7%
Grade 12	88.6%	92.2%	90.7%	91.1%	92.1%

**In Moving Forward...**

As stated in last year’s report, we are committed to offering the Board of Education more detailed disaggregated data within these Information and Advocacy reports. While this is possible in many reports, it is not as possible within this report. We value and need to honor student confidentiality, and therefore, cannot disaggregate the majority of this data as our cell size is too low. Internally we know who these students are that did not graduate or may not be attending school regularly and are working very closely with those students and families.