

Twin Rivers Unified School District

July 16, 2008

State announcement on drop out rates for California students- what do the numbers tell us?

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Dear Twin Rivers friends,

We write to you this evening with some troubling news that will be highlighted by our local media and we wanted you to hear it first from us.

The California Department of Education today released a report on dropout and graduation rates for the 2006-07 school year that for the first time was compiled using individual student-level data. The Statewide Student Identifier (SSID) provides each student a unique identification number and allows for much more accurate information.

The 2006-07 average drop out rate reported for the Grant District is 36.2 percent. While that rate is alarming, the percentages for many of our students of color are even more disturbing. We are very concerned about these numbers because it means there are a lot of young people in our communities that are not prepared for college, careers, or life.

While the news is distressing, we are grateful that the State has put a more accurate tracking system in place. We now have credible data about the challenges we face as a new district. This gives us a baseline to work from and a clear priority. As educators, parents, and community members, we must rise to the occasion and change these numbers.

At Twin Rivers, we are in a unique moment of redesigning our educational system. After extensive research and review of the data, we knew that drop out rates were a significant problem, just not on the magnitude that today's report from CDE indicates. We have spent a great deal of time researching the best academic strategies in our schools and beyond to address this issue.

While we're only 16 days old (remember our 'birthday' was July 1st), we've already made plans and/or launched a number of focused efforts, including:

- Increased involvement with the AVID program
- Collaborating with CTA on a new drop out prevention program (one of 6 districts in the State to pilot the program)
- Better alignment of curriculum, programs, and resources to ensure our students have more effective transitions
- Increased instructional coaching -at least one instructional coach at every school site
- Increased family and community engagement efforts starting this past spring
- Plan to create more parent centers and increase usage of existing centers
- Increased Professional Development
- Investment in summer school remediation and enrichment programs

While we wanted to be sure you had this information, we also hope to convey the confidence that our Board of Trustees and leadership team have in our staff, students, and community. We will attack this challenge with dedication, commitment, and a relentless focus on inspiring each student to extraordinary achievement every day. Thank you for all you do for our students.

Quick Links

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