

## **East St. Louis Community – College and Career Readiness Activities** **Redefining the High School to College Transition in Illinois**

### **Foundational Supports**

For any student, an important part of planning the path to success is finding out more about different industries, career paths, and postsecondary opportunities available. District 189 has implemented several programs and policies to prepare our students for success beyond their secondary education.

#### **A. College and Career Focused-Cohorts**

- Four distinct cohorts academically designed to meet individual students' needs based on their college and career goals. Cohort 1 - high achieving students with GPAs ranging from 3.5 and above and ACT scores of 20 and above; Cohort 4 - students experiencing academic challenges with GPAs ranging from 1.9 and below and ACT scores of 14 and below.
- Processes monitored and logged by cohort managers.
- Postsecondary placement data compiled by Career Cruising.

#### **B. Pre-college Requirements**

Each student must complete 5 college applications; 2 community service projects; FAFSA; 3 scholarship applications; and personal statement by the end of junior year.

#### **C. Scholarship/Application Days - specific days set aside for teachers and cohort managers to assist students in completing college and scholarship applications.**

### **Catch-up Models**

Studies indicate that the greatest indicator of student success in college is not standardized test scores but high school GPA, and to be college and career ready, students must be exposed to an academically challenging curriculum that provides breadth and depth in core subject areas. In order to provide students with a well-rounded education that addresses these issues, District 189 has partnered with Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC) and the American Institutes of Research (AIR) on a number of initiatives to help our students be successful.

- A. High school and community college co-designed courses for English language arts and math (with SWIC).
- B. School Improvement Grant college and career readiness aligned curriculum created to provide students with authentic learning experiences (with AIR).
- C. ACT COMPASS Test used to evaluate students' skills levels and connect students with resources needed to achieve academic success.
- D. Embedded assessments to determine placement in developmental courses delivered as part of the high school curriculum.
- E. ACT Preparation Course given as a skills level indicator and to prepare students for postsecondary education by providing test taking strategies, best practices, and college preparation tools.
- F. Common Unit Assessments - embedded curriculum-aligned common core short cycle and unit based assessments are part of all ELA and math high school courses.
- G. Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) assessment given to 9th and 10th grade ELA, math, and science students; 9th-12th grade ELA use NWEA lexile scores used to model the Balanced Literacy Framework.
- H. Credit Recovery
- I. Aventa & Fuel Credit Recovery Programs have been used to increase graduation rates.

- J. Freshman on Track gives freshman a “fresh start” as they enter their sophomore year.
- K. Corequisite remediation program with SWIC allows students to be enrolled in a degree earning class while co-enrolled in an academic support class.

District 189 and SWIC are exploring options to provide remediation support to senior students who are deficient in core classes such as English, math, social studies and/or science.

The District was a 2014 recipient of the federally funded GEAR UP grant. This program will be implemented at the high school level in fall 2015 and will include

- a summer school academy with a rigorous pre-college curriculum
- in-school supplemental instruction and after-school tutoring
- AVID elective for every 9th grade student

### **Speed-up Models**

The District has partnered with SWIC and Kaskaskia College to provide students an opportunity to earn college credit through Dual Credit and/or Dual Enrollment.

- Dual credit allows students to earn high school and college credit simultaneously.
- Students currently choose from nine courses that are offered in the program.

#### Dual Credit Courses Offered

- |                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Keyboarding and Formatting | • Information Processing I |
| • Construction Trades I      | • Construction Trades II   |
| • Welding Technology I       | • Welding Technology II    |
| • Nursing Assistant          | • English                  |
| • College Algebra            |                            |

SWIC partners with local high schools, including Belleville East, Belleville West, Mascoutah, and O’Fallon to provide a dual enrollment Running Start program. Beginning in summer 2015, District 189 will partner with SWIC to implement Running Start, a program designed for qualifying high school juniors to attend SWIC for their final two years of high school. Upon completion of the program, participating students will earn a high school diploma as well as a two-year associate’s degree from SWIC. Through the partnership, 52 sophomores with a GPA of 3.5 or higher are being tested for placement in Running Start. We estimate that 10 students will be admitted into this first program cohort.

District 189 is proud to partner with SWIC on a new pilot for Running Start 1.0 in summer 2015. This program will allow current juniors to attend SWIC during their senior year. Upon completion, participating students will earn a high school diploma as well as one-full year of college credit.

Both Running Start and Running Start 1.0 will be offered free of charge to participating students. District 189 will cover tuition, books and food. SWIC will cover transportation expenses for the students to attend at their SWIC - Belleville branch.

It is the vision of East St. Louis Sr. High School that every student will be given the opportunity for success in an Advanced Placement® class and its corresponding exam. Currently, we offer 8 AP courses at East Saint Louis High School and 7 pre-AP courses. The high school plans to add two additional AP courses in the 2015-2016 school year, AP Human Geography (9<sup>th</sup> grade) and AP

## Chemistry.

### AP Program Goals

1. Increase the number of AP<sup>®</sup> subject offerings.
2. Increase the number of students taking AP<sup>®</sup> Courses.
3. Increase the number of students taking AP<sup>®</sup> Exams.
4. Increase AP<sup>®</sup> Exam scores.
5. Increase school community awareness of AP<sup>®</sup>

All 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade students will complete an Individualized Learning Plan (ILP) which will provide postsecondary guidance and planning for each student. The ILPs are generated when students complete the career assessments on Career Cruising, a career development software program that helps students prepare for success in life. ILPs allow students to create customized plans that are unique to their individual secondary and postsecondary goals. Career Cruising sets milestones, activities for students to complete on a timeline, and students, parents, and counselors are able track students' progress based on these milestones. ILPs allow students to play an active role in planning their secondary, postsecondary, and career goals.

Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville's East St. Louis Center hosts three TRIO Upward Bound programs serving 100 students from East St. Louis Senior High School. The program focuses on academic interventions, college counseling, career exploration, financial literacy, and non-cognitive skill development year-round to prepare students to successfully complete post-secondary education.