



Name of Project: Elko County School District
Name of Project Director: Owyhee Combined School
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Number of students in FY0: 19

Owyhee Combined School (OCS) GEAR UP Abstract

The Owyhee Combined School is located on the Duck Valley Shoshone-Paiute Indian Reservation, on the Nevada and Idaho border. A total of 19 students are in the current cohort. According to the latest published statistics of the Nevada Accountability Report (2007-2008), 81% of Owyhee school students are eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch Program. Almost 97% of students enrolled are Native American. Owyhee had a graduation rate of 59.1%, as compared to an overall 76.7% district rate. The school wishes to keep their cohort intact with a high completion rate and successful transition to postsecondary education.

As ninth graders, Owyhee GEAR UP students will be exposed to college and career options. The use of interest inventories will be coordinated with job shadowing activities matched to the student's highest indicated pathway results. Students will attend Great Basin College's Choices Day during the spring 2009 semester. This is a special event intended for students to view both academic and technical classes. College visits are also planned for University of Nevada, Reno, College of Southern Idaho, Twin Falls, Idaho and Boise State University located in Boise, Idaho. During each visit, students will participate in tours of both academic and career and technical classes. Students will conduct interviews of current students and faculty at each site.

In the 2008-2009 school year, Owyhee will focus on student achievement. Staff professional development will emphasize training in strategies to increase student engagement and academic attainment. Objectives outlined in the School Improvement Plan will be applied to their GEAR UP Cohort. The GEAR UP Coordinator is responsible for conducting weekly reviews of all student's progress and take appropriate action based on the data, including intervention by tutoring, resource allocations and staff conferences. Further, by initiating a "buddy system" within the group with peer tutoring, it is anticipated that more collaborative skills will be evident, in addition to an increase in Grade Point Averages (GPAs) and proficiency. Students will also participate in a school wide program called Zero's Are Not Permitted (ZAP), therefore, students having zeros on any assignment are required to attend afterschool tutoring for additional assistance.

Owyhee will hold at least two parent gatherings in the 2008-2009 school year. Parents will be informed of GEAR UP goals and objectives for the year and their support will be encouraged. The school also plans to invite Native American motivational speakers to encourage our students to be successful.