Northwest Educational Council for Student Success (NECSS)

Nationally Recognized as a Premier Organization in the Arena of Secondary-Postsecondary Collaboration for College and Career Readiness
OUR PARTNERSHIP

NECSS is a secondary and postsecondary regional educational collaborative focused on student success via career planning and opportunities, teacher qualifications and professional development, and enriching collaboration between all district partners and the local communities. NECSS has been recognized by leaders at institutions such as the White House, Joyce Foundation and the Coleman Foundation.

NECSS partners include EFE 070, Harper College, and school districts 211, 214, and 220. Each of these entities plays a vital role in assuring students are college and career ready at the secondary and postsecondary education levels. Consortium members structure learning environments so that students have the opportunity to succeed educationally and acquire the knowledge and skills for their career pathway choice. NECSS serves 23 communities throughout Chicago’s northwest suburbs including 1 community college, 12 high schools, 19 middle schools, 74 elementary and 10 alternative/special education schools.

OUR VISION

To ensure that every high school and college graduate is prepared for 21st century careers and postsecondary readiness and success.

“"The operating mantra must be ‘We will figure it out’ —rather than ‘It can’t be done.’”"

– Dr. Kenneth L. Ender, President
William Rainey Harper College

OUR GOALS

• Increase percentage of students who begin college-ready
• Ensure curriculum alignment
• Create pathways that lead to postsecondary credentials and employment
• Leverage resources

OUR FOCUS

• Create a culture of innovation, accountability and transparency.
• Develop programs with educational partners that inspire postsecondary education and career readiness as a life goal.
• Increase completion and achievement of all students with a focus on underperforming student groups.
• Engage in partnerships to develop programs in existing and emerging career areas that enable students to succeed in a global economy.
OUR RESULTS

MORE STUDENTS ARE SUCCESSFUL IN COLLEGE LEVEL MATH AND ENGLISH

ENGLISH  +3.6%
(72.4% to 76%)

MATH    +7.4%
(66.7% to 74.1%)

(2017 High School Graduates)

MORE PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

55 Dual Credit Courses Ran FY18
64 Dual Credit Courses Available for FY19

MORE COLLEGE AND CAREER READY STUDENTS

CAREER READY  +16.7%
(71.6% to 88.3%)

COLLEGE READY  +5%
(60.5% to 65.5%)

COLLEGE AND CAREER READY  61%

LARGEST PERCENTAGES OF EARLY COLLEGE COURSEWORK IN ILLINOIS

% NECSS High School Students Enrolled in Harper College Dual Credit Coursework
% of Illinois Region Enrolled in Dual Credit Coursework

% NECSS High School Students Enrolled in AP Coursework
% of Illinois High School Students Enrolled in AP Credit Coursework

% NECSS High School Students in Any College Coursework
% of Illinois High School Students Enrolled in Any College Coursework

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<td>Dual Credit Coursework</td>
<td>22%</td>
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Source: Northern Illinois Regional P-20 Network, June 2017

OUR PROMISE

Harper Promise Scholarship: Tuition Earned
Under the Harper College Promise Scholarship Program, every eligible public high school student in Harper's District can earn up to two years of tuition at Harper College if they maintain solid grades, have good attendance, don’t repeat classes, graduate on time and provide service to their community.

As of January 2019, $17.6 million has been raised to support the scholarship.

CLASS OF 2019
Seniors Continuing in Promise Program*

• 1,391 (20%) of total class continuing on
• 7th Semester Graduates continuing 2
• 6th Semester Graduates continuing 1

*Data for subsequent classes available upon request

Freshmen applications for Harper Promise have grown from 65% (4,607) of the freshmen class of 2019 to 93% (6,367) of the freshmen class of 2022.
Northwest Educational Council for Student Success (NECSS)

Dr. Kenya F. Ayers, NECSS Vice President and Board Chair
Dr. Ayers serves as chief executive officer of the innovative regional educational ecosystem. Ayers was most recently an academic dean at Harper College. She previously served as a Dean of Students and Associate Provost at institutions in Michigan and Washington DC. Ayers has managed multi-million dollar budgetary resources and has led multiple institutional initiatives responsible for sustainable transformation. She holds degrees from the University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University and the University of Houston. She expanded her leadership effectiveness through programs with Harvard University, the National Council on Instructional Administrators, the American Association of Community Colleges as well as completing an ACE Fellowship.

Dr. Daniel E. Cates, Superintendent, High School District 211, NECSS Board Member
Prior to being Superintendent, Dr. Cates was the District’s Associate Superintendent for Administrative Services, a position he held since 2011. He joined District 211 as a Psychologist at William Fremd High School. In 1998, he moved to the administration center as Assistant to the Director of Special Education, and was promoted to Director of Special Education in 2001. Cates graduated with his bachelor’s degree from the University of Notre Dame. He received his doctorate from Indiana University. In 2008, he was honored with a Those Who Excel Award for his position as Director of Special Education in District 211.

Dr. Kenneth L. Ender, President, William Rainey Harper College, NECSS Board Member
Dr. Ender is President of William Rainey Harper College, a large community college located outside of Chicago, Illinois. Through partnerships and alliances, Ender has positioned Harper as a leading 21st-century community college by increasing graduation, transfer and certificate completion rates, aligning Harper’s curriculum with high schools, training students for new economy jobs and implementing new accountability and transparency standards. Harper College has experienced record graduation rates and a dramatic increase in the number of students who come to Harper college-ready. The College has also formed new alliances with businesses to fill the shortage of skilled workers in key industries. Before coming to Harper College, Ender served as President of Cumberland County College. Ender holds a Ph.D. from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Dr. Brian L. Harris, Superintendent, Barrington Community Unit School District 220, NECSS Board Member
Dr. Harris’ responsibilities encompass more than 9,000 students and 1,500 staff in 12 schools spanning 72-square miles, and 12 distinct communities, making this one of the 25 largest unit (K-12) districts in Illinois. Newsweek, the Washington Post and U.S. News & World Report consistently rank Barrington High School among the top secondary schools in the United States. Prior to this position, Harris was an administrator with several respected, large suburban school districts in the Chicago area. He began his career as a classroom teacher, coach and assistant principal. Harris holds a doctoral degree in education leadership from Northern Illinois University.

Dr. David R. Schuler, Superintendent, High School District 214, NECSS Board Member
Superintendent of the second-largest high school district in Illinois, Dr. Schuler, is passionate about preparing students to be college, career and life ready. As 2015-16 president of the School Superintendents Association, Schuler launched Redefining Ready!, a national campaign that introduces research-based metrics to demonstrate postsecondary readiness. Schuler is an expert on a variety of issues including student achievement, achievement gaps, barriers to student success, superintendent transitions and innovative instructional technology. He developed a career pathways program resulting in personalized learning experiences through early college credit, internships and career credentials, and the passage of critical education legislation. Schuler earned his doctoral degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

NECSS: YOUR RESOURCE

For consultation, collaboration or replication, we invite you to contact us.
Northwest Educational Council for Student Success (NECSS)
PH 847.718.6800
necsspartnership.com