



PARAMOUNT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

The High School Promise: Creating the Future in PUSD

Board of Education Study Session
February 27, 2016

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Purpose of the Presentation

- Highlight recent research on preparing students for college and career—success after high school graduation.
- Review the history and progress of middle and high school education in PUSD.
- Outline the process for beginning the discussion on a vision for the future.

What do we know?

With the growing complexity of the world and the increasing demands of the 21st Century workforce, there is little question that all students should graduate from high school fully prepared for college AND careers.

--Achieve

What is College and Career Readiness?

- ❑ Currently there is a state and national conversation on the need to assure students have college and career success after high school graduation. PUSD has made real progress for many students; however, we are committed to preparing all students to succeed.
- ❑ College and career readiness means that a high school graduate hasthe English and math knowledge and skills needed to...succeed in post secondary job training and/or education necessary for their chosen career.
- ❑ In 2014, 27% of students enrolled in the California State University System need to take a remedial course in math; 30% in English.
- ❑ As many as 80% of students who enroll in the state's community colleges are required to take a remedial course.

How are we preparing students for this future?

- ❑ Ten years ago the iphone was introduced. Think about how this technology has changed everyday lives. We need to prepare students to be successful in the next ten years.
- ❑ More jobs require extensive use of technology. 28% of jobs in agriculture currently require technology skills.
- ❑ What does the near future hold? At UC San Diego's engineering school there is a wearable brain monitor you strap to your head that enables users to "type" their commands using only their brains. Some researchers say these devices could become as popular as smartphones within the next decade.

--LA Times, February 9, 2016

What have we done to date?

In an effort to better prepare students for high school, in 2009-10, PUSD reconfigured from K-8 schools to elementary and middle schools.

Time	Number	Structure
Prior to 2009	13 1	K-8 schools K-3 school and 4-8 school
Currently	10 4 1	Elementary schools (K-5) Middle Schools (6-8) K-3 school and 4-8 school

What progress have we made in grades 6-8?

- After reconfiguration, middle schools made outstanding gains in academic achievement, resulting in students being better prepared to be successful in high school.
- Alondra, Jackson and Zamboni Middle Schools were recognized with a state and national award and were named as *Middle Schools to Watch*.

School	API, 2008 (before reconfiguration)	API, 2013 (after reconfiguration)
Alondra	704	823
Jackson	668	781
Zamboni	714	823

What is the history of grades 9-12 in PUSD?

- 1994 -Ninth grade campus, PHS West, created. PHS maintains grades 10-12.
- 2007 - Buena Vista High School moves to its current location, serving grades 11-12 students who need to recover credits to graduate.
- 2009 - Lakewood Elementary School, adjacent to Buena Vista HS is closed.

What is PUSD's current 9-12 structure?

School	Grades	Enrollment
PHS West Campus	9	1220
Paramount High School	10-12	3500
Buena Vista High School	10-12	186

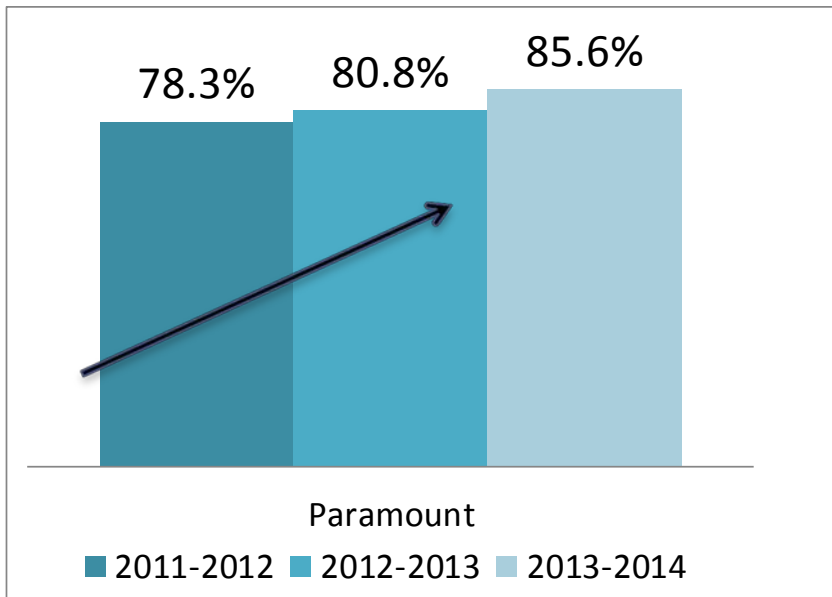
What improvement are we seeing?

- ❑ PUSD has a successful history of focusing efforts and engaging all participants to improve outcomes for students.
- ❑ As a result, we are sending students to high school better prepared to graduate. In the last five years, achievement measures show improvement.

Graduation Rates, 2012-2014

7%

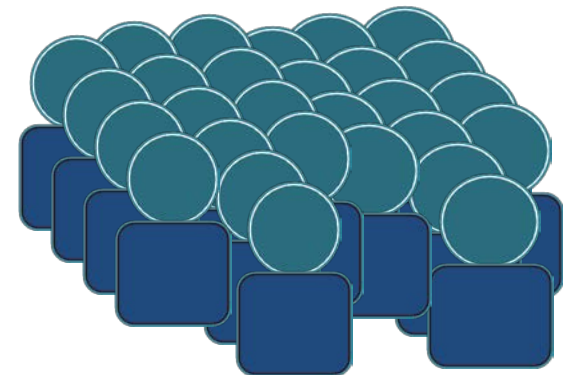
Increase in 4-Year Cohort
Graduation Rate



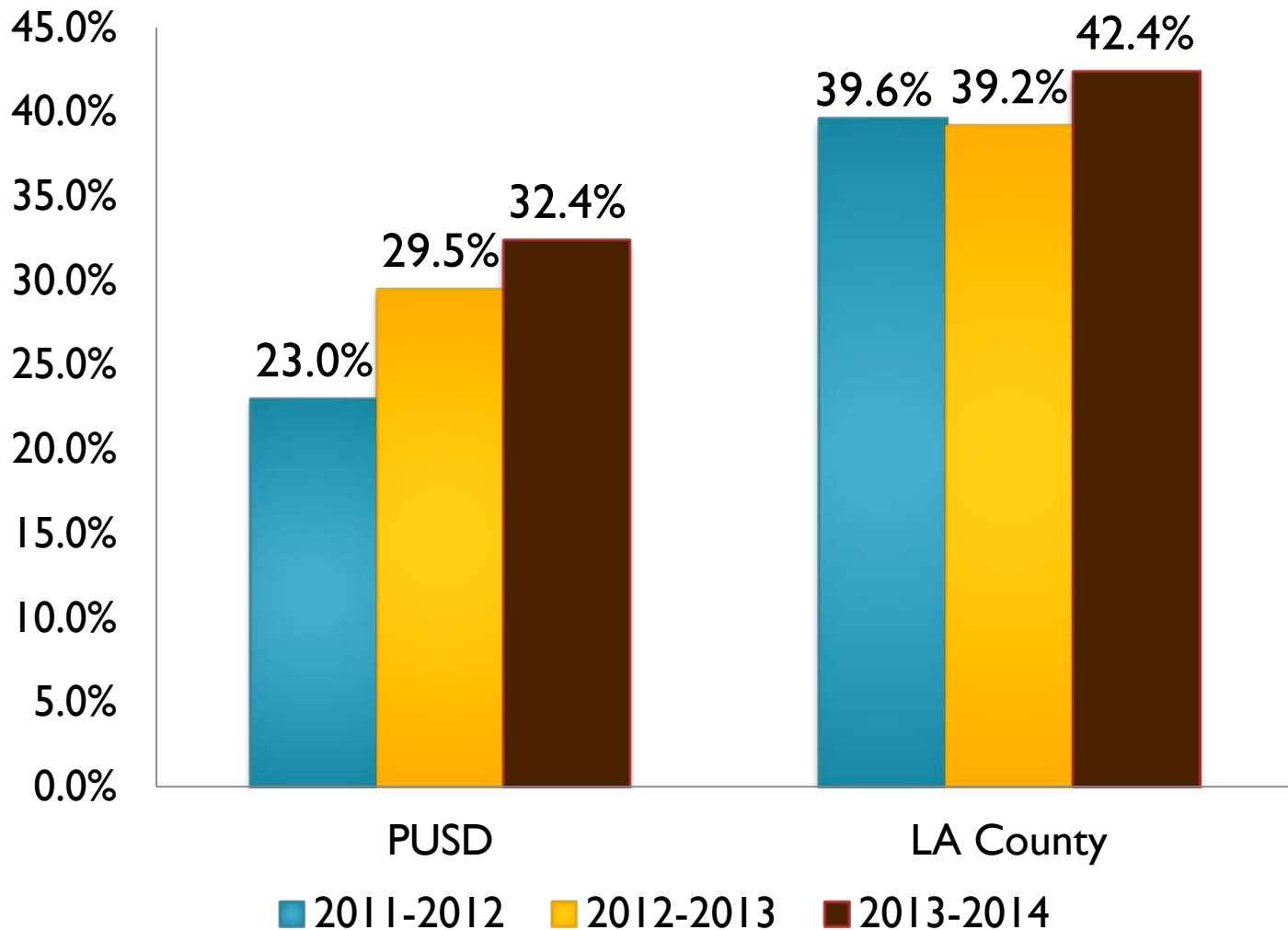
From the California Department of Education, 2/3/2016

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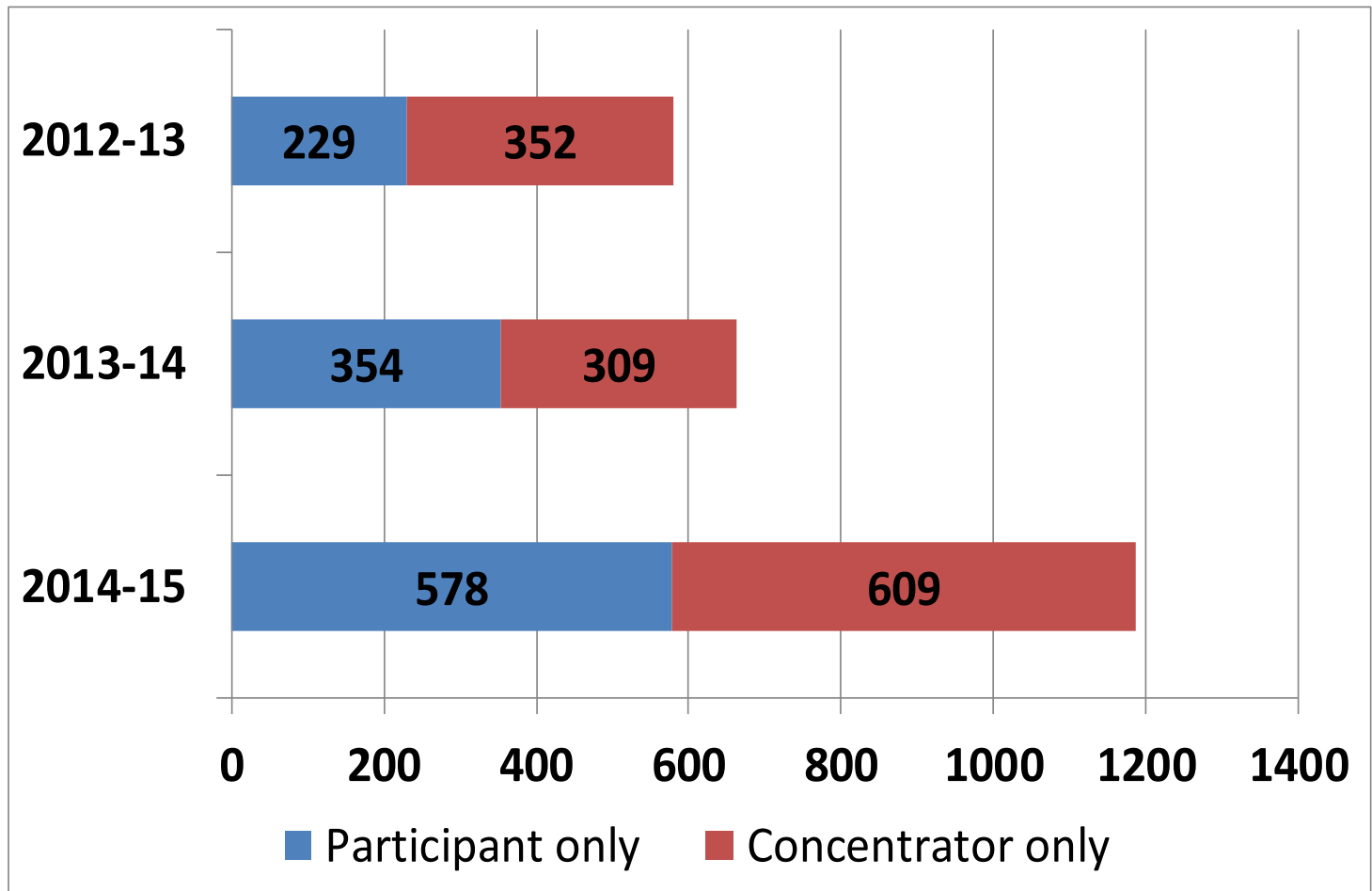
Additional Students
Graduated
Than 3 years ago



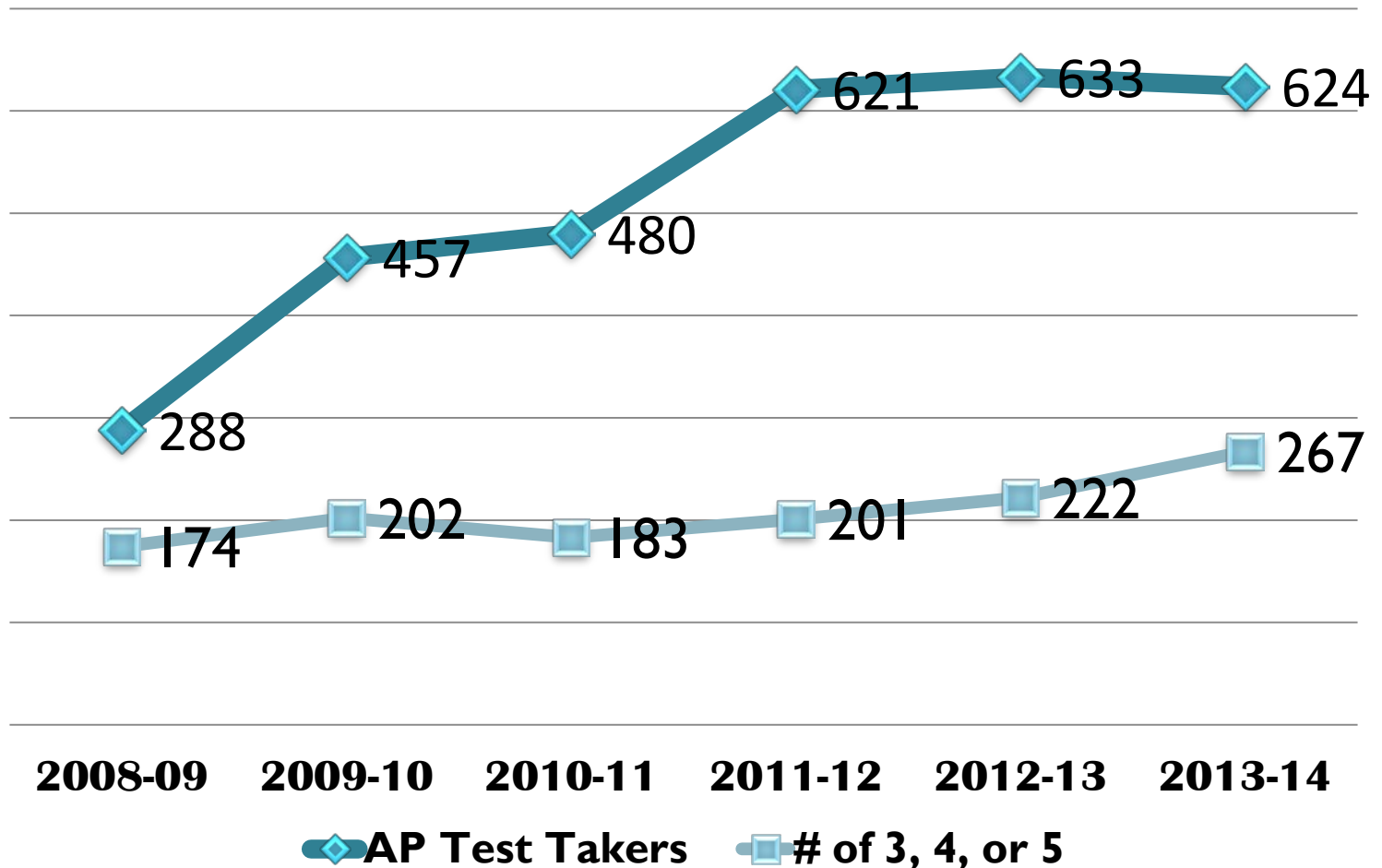
A-G Course Completion Rates



High Student Interest in CTE Classes



AP Exam Takers and Pass Rates, 2009-2014



Why Now?

A national study found that students who experienced the following in high school are much more likely to *feel extremely or very well prepared* for college and the work world attended high schools that excelled at:

- Communicating about the classes/grades needed to graduate from high school.
- Communicating about the classes/grades needed to get into college.
- Encouraging students to take the most advanced courses.
- Communicating the knowledge/skills needed for the future.
- Encouraging students to explore professional/career opportunities.

Took math beyond Algebra II.

Had teachers who were effective at tying learning to real world experiences.

Achieve. College Faculty and Employers Weigh In: Are Students Ready for College?, June, 2015

Why Now?

California will replace the previous accountability system, the Academic Performance Index, with new state accountability metrics. These may include:

- Percent of students who take AP Exams
- Percent of students who pass AP Exams
- Percent of students who complete a CTE Pathway
- Percent of students who complete A-G courses

With the state and national focus on preparing students for college and career, we must be proactive about looking ahead.

What is the goal?

- The goal is to study and identify approaches to increase student success after high school graduation.
- Assess facilities, including Lakewood site, to determine how they can support high school programs

What is the process?

- Engage our education professionals, including teachers, administrators, support staff, to examine the wide range of opportunities to prepare more students for college and career.
- Use a fully collaborative process, including the professionals who will implement the plan.
- Dedicate a full year-- 2016-17--to the process of collaborative study and design to make the most informed recommendations.

What is the process?

A High School Design Team will be formed. This team will:

- Review recent research.
- Visit high schools with college and career focus.
- Plan how to gather input from stakeholders, including educators, parents, students, business community and college partners.
- Outline recommendations for future options for secondary students in PUSD.

What happens next?

Activity	Timeline
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Convene High School Design Team• Assess facilities, including Lakewood site, to determine how they can support high school programs	Spring, 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Design Team Meetings and Planning	2016-17
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Design Team makes recommendations for 2017-18	January, 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan facilities needs	January-June, 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Begin Implementation	Fall, 2017-18

Design Team Composition

Position	School	Number
Teachers	PHS, PHS West , Buena Vista HS	12
Counselors	Middle School, PHS , PHS West	3
TAP, CSEA		2
Principals	Middle School, PHS , PHS West, Buena Vista HS	4
Classified Staff	Middle School, PHS , PHS West	3
Business	Community	1
Students	PHS, PHS West , Buena Vista HS	3
Parents	PHS, PHS West, Buena Vista HS, Alondra	4
Cerritos College CSULB	College/Higher Ed. Representatives	1-2
District Office	Human Resources, Business, Ed. Services	6
Board Member	Board of Education	1
Total		39-40

Our Commitment

For students to truly graduate ready for college and careers, they need to complete a rigorous, robust and well-rounded curriculum that exposes them to a wide range of academic and technical knowledge and skills to ensure all doors are left open for them when they leave high school.

--Achieve, a national non-profit organization dedicated to improving college and career success.



Discussion