



# TACOMA

WHOLE CHILD INITIATIVE

## 2014-15 ANNUAL TWCI EVALUATION EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

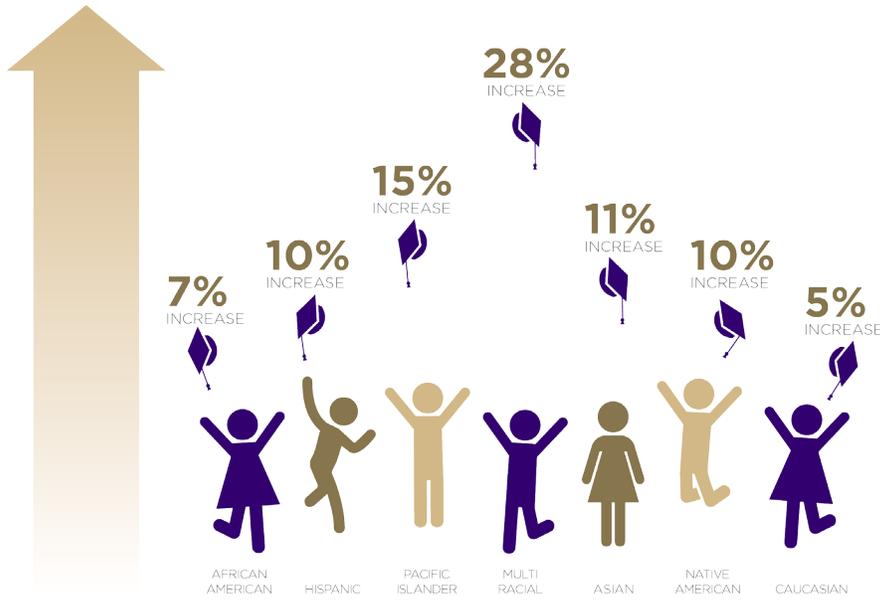
The Tacoma Whole Child Initiative (TWCI) is a partnership between **Tacoma Public Schools** and the **University of Washington Tacoma's Center for Strong Schools**. The initiative focuses on the whole child. Whole children are academically successful and have positive mental well-being and social health. They achieve higher graduation rates, contribute to the community and lead happy, productive lives.

As the Tacoma Whole Child Initiative enters year four of a **decade-long** endeavor, outcomes such as increased graduation rate, improved academic scores, decreases in unexcused absences and alternatives to suspension and expulsion are occurring in Tacoma Public Schools.

Every high school in Tacoma increased their graduation rates, and saw an increase across each ethnic demographic.

By the end of the 2014-15 school year, each school in Tacoma will have started the TWCI implementation process.

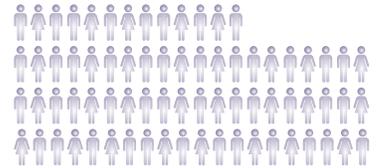
### GRADUATION RATES ACROSS STUDENT RACE



### UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

MT. TAHOMA HIGH SCHOOL

**7,295**



2012-13

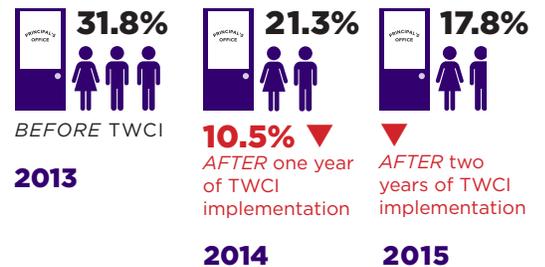
**4,081** **44.1% ▼**



2013-14

### SUSPENSION EXPULSION

TRUMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL



*"The partnership with the University of Washington Tacoma is essential to the success of the program."*

- Dr. Josh G. Garcia, Deputy Superintendent, Tacoma Public Schools



## 2014-15 ANNUAL TWCI EVALUATION EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

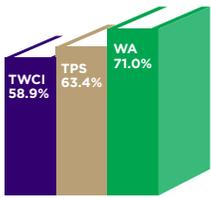
Together, with the schools and the Tacoma community, TWCI creates unprecedented support for the whole child by targeting academic, social and emotional stability.

Long after the 10-year plan has concluded, schools will be able to maintain laser-like focus on the whole child.

Teachers will be able to more efficiently maintain high engagement and academic achievement.

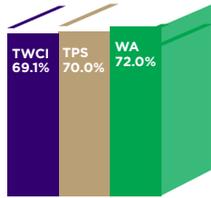
### COMPARING TACOMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

TO SCHOOLS IMPLEMENTING TWCI WITH 5TH GRADE STUDENTS



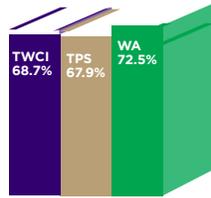
**READING  
MEAN PASSING RATE  
2011-12**

The mean passing rate of TWCI cohort 1 schools *before* training was **4.4%▼** less than the mean of TPS and **12%▼** below the mean of Washington state schools.



**READING  
MEAN PASSING RATE  
2012-13**

*AFTER* the first year of TWCI implementation there was a **10.2%▲** increase in TWCI cohort 1 schools from the previous year shrinking the gap **0.9%▼** between TPS and **3.6%▼** with Washington state schools.



**READING  
MEAN PASSING RATE  
2013-14**

After two years of TWCI training, cohort 1 schools mean passing rate was higher than the mean of TPS and the difference with the state mean was **3.8%▼**.

THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP WAS CLOSED BY **8.3%▼** COMPARED TO TWO YEARS AGO (12%)

### THE IMPACT OF TWCI PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ON BELIEFS ABOUT BEHAVIOR



**3.9%** of the teachers believed this statement to be true *BEFORE* TWCI professional development

**61.8%** believed they could prevent problem behavior through proactive practices *AFTER* TWCI professional development

### PERCEPTION OF SAFETY

2013-2015



Increase in  
**STUDENT'S  
PERCEPTION**  
of safety by

**8%▲**

Increase in  
**PARENT'S  
PERCEPTION**  
of safety by

**9%▲**

Increase in  
**TEACHER'S  
PERCEPTION**  
of safety by

**9%▲**



*"I feel happier on the job since we started woking with UWT. I love how my colleagues and I are learning to use data to put better practices and systems in place, so we improve outcomes for kids."*

- Guidance Counselor, Tacoma Public Schools



**CENTER FOR  
STRONG  
SCHOOLS**

#### Our Mission

Sustainable change in schools and communities so every child is a whole child—engaged, successful, resilient and ready for life.

**253-692-4864**

1900 Commerce St., Box 358435  
Tacoma, WA 98402-3100  
csstac@uw.edu



[tacoma.uw.edu/strongschools](http://tacoma.uw.edu/strongschools)