

A MEANINGFUL TRANSFORMATION TO STRENGTHEN THE FUTURE

Whole children, those who are academically successful with positive mental well-being and social health, achieve higher graduation rates, contribute to the community and lead happy, productive lives. We believe in the power of the Whole Child.

Tacoma's school children face unique circumstances and have needs which, if left unaddressed, could set them up for unnecessary challenges throughout their lives. By transforming the classroom to focus on the whole child, we

are strengthening the present and investing in the future of our community. It takes a village to raise a Whole Child and in turn, they raise the village.

When students know what to expect, what is expected of them, and have confidence that they will be treated with respect, they perform better. Period. The Tacoma Whole Child Initiative exists to refocus the classroom so children emerge well-rounded, academically and socially successful and developmentally strong.

2/3  of Tacoma students are in low-income families

4th Tacoma's rank in the state for rate of suspensions and expulsions

50%

of kindergartners come to school without the vital skills they need for academic success

THE PATH TO SUSTAINABLE CHANGE

The Tacoma Whole Child Initiative is a partnership between the University of Washington Tacoma and the Tacoma Public School District. TWCI employs an evidence-based approach to achieve organizational change within the district through readiness training, organizational integration, teacher instruction and metrics tracking.

The goal is to allow teachers to focus on instruction as opposed to taking time to deal with misbehavior. Most importantly, together with schools and the community at large, we can target the Whole Child by addressing,

connecting and harmonizing academic, social and emotional stability.

The program is built for sustainability. Long after the 10-year plan has concluded, schools will continue to use the techniques and processes independently. By braiding and organizing priorities, district and school leaders and teachers will be able to more efficiently manage the high volume of initiatives within their charge, thereby increasing engagement and improving academic achievement.

IMPLEMENTATION STAGES



Graduation rates are up since 2010 **+23%**

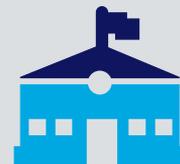
TWCI Goal: **85%** Graduation rate by **2020**

 After **one year of implementation**, suspensions and expulsions have been reduced by **49%** in elementary schools

After **one (1) year of implementation**, elementary schools increased climate by **40%***



* Measured by using the School-Wide Evaluation Tool (SET), a measure of climate, discipline practices and fidelity of implementation.



As a result of TWCI, time spent in school has **increased by 67%**

Our children should feel safe, respected and encouraged to stay in school. The unique needs of each individual child must be understood and supported, resulting in more graduates who are well-rounded and on track to live a productive and happy life.

By creating culturally responsive rapid access to a system of multi-tiered supports, we establish host environments with the ability to identify students in need early and address the whole child. As a result of this work, our children have the best chance of positively contributing to the community and to one another.

Connect with us:    



A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN TACOMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA

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A WHOLE CHILD RAISES THE VILLAGE

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CENTER FOR STRONG SCHOOLS

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**TACOMA WHOLE CHILD
INITIATIVE INVESTORS**



TACOMA
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TACOMA'S FUTURE, TODAY.