



OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARS

DEVELOPING PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS



OVERVIEW:

About: Opportunity Scholars has a collaborative process that engages parents, students, business and community leaders as well as teachers and school administrators to best equip students with the supplemental support and resources they need to be successful.

Mission: Every student achieves vocational, technical, or professional training that leads to a great job.

Values: Through perseverance, serving others and having a strong commitment to family and community, students will successfully achieve their career goal.

Goals:

- 1. Impact to our Community:** To achieve a measurable reduction in the level of unfilled good job openings in the community.
- 2. Impact our Students:** To significantly increase the percentage of students participating in education programs leading to high demand, well paid jobs.
- 3. Be a model for others:** To document and widely communicate the OS change strategy effectiveness through a credible evaluation process.

TARGET POPULATION: WHO DO WE SERVE?

Opportunity Scholars addresses the growing demand for a skilled workforce in the local business community by providing educational support to students who are socioeconomically disadvantaged.

WE SEEK TO SERVE LOW-INCOME STUDENTS THAT ARE:

High Performing Academically: 5%

***AVERAGE Performing: 80%**

High-Need/Challenge: 15%

**Note: Primary focus on students from low-income families in the AVERAGE (B/C) academic segment.*



WHY DO OVER 40% OF
HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS NEVER
OBTAIN ADDITIONAL
EDUCATION AND A
GOOD JOB AFTER
GRADUATION?

1. STUDENTS DO NOT BUILD ESSENTIAL ACADEMIC SKILLS SUCH AS READING COMPREHENSION, WRITING AND MATH WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL.
2. STUDENTS DO NOT TAKE PREREQUISITE CLASSES REQUIRED FOR CAREER TRAINING.
3. STUDENTS FACE LACK OF FAMILY SUPPORT FOR CAREER GOALS.
4. STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES LACK TRUST IN THEIR ACADEMIC ADVISORS AND COUNSELORS.
5. STUDENTS LACK THE ABILITY TO ADVOCATE FOR THEIR EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND TO MEET PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.
6. STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES LACK THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO PAY FOR THEIR EDUCATION.



WHAT DOES OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARS DO DIFFERENTLY FROM THE OTHERS?

1. WE PRIMARILY FOCUS ON AVERAGE PERFORMING STUDENTS.
2. WE START IN MIDDLE SCHOOL OR EARLY HIGH SCHOOL, SO STUDENTS CAN BENEFIT FROM HIGH SCHOOL RESOURCES.
3. WE HAVE ETHNICALLY & CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE STAFF WHO BUILD TRUST QUICKLY.
4. WE ENGAGE THE FAMILY AT EACH STEP OF THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.
5. WE PROVIDE A SUSTAINABLE FINANCING STRATEGY THAT CAN SCALE TO IMPACT A TRANSFORMATIONAL PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS IN A SCHOOL.



HOW CAN OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARS SYNERGIZE WITH OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS?

Want to be an **extender**, not a replacement for the student's support and guidance team at their local school.

Want to be a **trusted partner** who is working closely our school staff who can access resources to support the students who can benefit.

Want to be a **link to the student's family**, by making home visits and connecting directly at night and on weekends with student's families and community support personnel.



HOW CAN OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARS BEST ASSIST OUR STUDENTS?

We can build a large pipeline of students into the vocational and technical degree programs.

We can help students who are struggling academically complete their studies and translate their career objectives into a pathway.

We can help become advocates for students who need supplemental financial and academic support.

