

The Oldham Era

More than half of Oldham Grads are College Ready

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By Glypie Grider

More than half of Oldham County's Class of 2010 are considered college- or career-ready, according to data released last week by the Kentucky Department of Education.

In contrast, only 34 percent of high school graduates across the state – 40,528 public high school graduates in 2010 – are considered ready.

Oldham County Schools had 774 high school graduates in 2010.

North Oldham led the district with a readiness percentage of 66; the school ranked sixth overall in the state. South Oldham trailed closely to eighth overall in the state with a readiness percentage of 64. Oldham County High finished 18th overall with a college or career readiness percentage of 48.

Louisville's duPont Manual High led the state with 81 percent of its graduates considered ready for college or a career.

Oldham, as a district, must increase its percentage from 57 to 79 percent by 2014, according to the KDE.

Oldham high schools trailed Beechwood (80 percent), Fort Thomas (72 percent) and Paintsville (60 percent) — three independent districts — for the highest percentage of college or career ready students.

Oldham superintendent Paul Upchurch said area high schools offer ACT prep classes and encourage students to take advanced and dual enrollment college classes.

Recent 2010 graduates from all three high schools scored higher than the average state (19.4) and national (21.0) ACT composite scores. NOHS students averaged 23.5, while SOHS and OCHS averaged 21.8 and 21.7, respectively.

As part of high school reform, all college-bound Oldham students are encouraged to take at least one advanced placement or dual credit course during their high school career.

Advanced placement courses provide high school students with college level work and credit if they successfully pass a nationalized exam in the spring.

Roughly 54 percent of SOHS and 53 percent of OCHS recent graduates earned AP/dual credit.

Only 44 percent of NOHS graduates earned credit, a marked drop from the 63 percent of

2009 NOHS graduates who earned credit.

"We are doing an excellent job overall, but we always have room for improvement," Upchurch said.

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