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Media Release

Hillsboro School District Posts Impressive Graduation, Dropout Rates

January 29, 2015, Hillsboro, OR – Earlier today, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) released graduation rates for the 2013-14 school year. Hillsboro School District’s rate tops 80%* for the first time since the current cohort calculation went into effect for the 2009-10 school year.

The gains are impressive, especially considering that the graduating class of 2014 had endured several years of dramatically reduced budgets due to the economic downturn that began in 2008, which resulted in higher class sizes and a loss of school days.

4-year Cohort Graduation Rates

(Students who received a regular diploma within four years of starting high school)

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14*
Century High School	83.2%	84.5%	84.9%	86.2%	87.9%
Glencoe High School	82.7%	80.6%	77.1%	85.3%	84.6%
Hillsboro High School	75.3%	79.0%	71.6%	72.4%	76.2%
Liberty High School	75.2%	82.7%	79.7%	83.5%	86.2%
Hillsboro School District	76.5%	78.2%	75.5%	79.8%	80.7%

Other data suggests the District is moving in the right direction as well.

Each year, the State of Oregon calculates a comparison index for school districts that are large enough to which comparisons can be drawn (179 out of Oregon’s 196 districts). The comparison takes into account the rates of students who are mobile, economically disadvantaged, English learners, and racially/ethnically underserved. It would be reasonable to expect that a district with a very high impact level would have lower achievement rates, yet Hillsboro—one of the most highly impacted districts in the state (154th out of 179)—continually outperforms its rank. Out of the six largest districts in the state, Hillsboro has the highest graduation rate for 2014*, and the second-best drop-out rate of 2.15%, topped only by North Clackamas, which has an impact ratio five times lower than Hillsboro.

Assistant Superintendent Steve Larson points to the District’s continued focus on the three key elements of the Instruction strategy as the main reasons for the strong performance: standards-based teaching and learning; the Bilingual Program Model; and professional learning communities (PLCs). The District’s Care Teams and graduation coaches have also had a measurable impact. “Graduation is a celebration of thirteen years of investment in students and are a recognition for all they have learned and accomplished,” Mr. Larson explains. “The District’s continued high graduation rates are a testament to the talent we have in our classrooms.”

Superintendent Mike Scott adds: “Increasing graduation rates has been a priority of our School Board and each of our schools. We’re very proud of our students and staff for their hard work and look forward to continued success in the future.”

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*The calculation for 2013-14 graduation rates includes students who earned modified diplomas.

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