

# Eliminating the Graduation Gap in 5 Years

September 27, 2021

Dr. Latanya Daniels, Asst. Superintendent

Dr. Steven Unowsky, Superintendent

## Richfield Public Schools:

4 elementary schools, 1 middle, 1 traditional high school (RHS) + 1 alternative high school (RCEP)

4,190 total students

Student demographics: 41% Latinx, 30% White, 14% Black, 9% Multiracial, 5% Asian, 1% Indigenous

Qualifying for free/reduced meals: 58%; Multilingual learners: 24%

## Process:

- Transitioned to 7-period day (and changed school start time to 8:30)
- Removed barriers to advanced courses and expanded support courses
- Provided professional development to teachers (both on curriculum and on equity)
- Moved PLC time to during the school day
- Added instructional coaches and worked toward a culture of coaching for all
- Created individualized credit recovery plans for students and implemented during the school year
- Expanded credit recovery options at alternative high school, including a blended learning model and credit by assessment opportunities
- Amplified student voice through Reimagine Richfield and acted on the needs of students
- Obtained community support through referendum for renovation of all school buildings
- Increased staff diversity (hiring and retention practices)
- Improved curriculum alignment and created common grading practices
- Redesigned counseling process
- Increased student supports, including refocusing school board policies on equity

## Outcomes:

- We decreased fail rates by 25% in 1 year.
- We nearly tripled student enrollment in advanced courses in 4 years and increased enrollment of BIPOC students from 30% to over 60% of enrollment in advanced courses.
- Renovation of all district buildings is nearly complete.
- In 2020, our district graduation rate surpassed the statewide rate.
- In 2020, there was no gap between the graduation rate of our BIPOC student population and our white student population, closing a gap that had been 33% 8 years earlier and 19% the previous year.



**RICHFIELD**  
**PUBLIC SCHOOLS**