

West Generation Academy

Subsequently, GSN chose Colorado to launch a second school using its unique educational model where per-pupil revenue was closer to most states. West Generation Academy (now [West Early College](#)) opened in Fall 2012 in Denver as the first turnaround replacement school in the state with an Innovation Plan. The Plan received Union support and was approved by the DPS School Board with a 7-0 vote. GSN was deeply involved in approval, launch, and model implementation during the preparation year and first two years with student outcomes demonstrating promising improvement with 68% of students passing their first college course by their junior year. The 2019-2020 school data show 89.4% minority student population with 91% of students qualifying for Free and Reduced Lunch.

Bright Spots During the Turnaround Process:

2012-2013

- Reading & Math: Quarterly assessments demonstrated that students grew on average two grade levels in math and nearly one in literacy.
- 50% reduction in students five or more years behind in math and reading.
- TCAP State Testing: Recognized as a high growth high school in 9th grade Reading and Writing.
 - Teachers from across the country came to be part of a new experience in education that gave them mid-years breaks while students experienced in-depth college/career exposure.

2013-2014

- Students demonstrated 1.5 years growth in ELA with students reading almost 8,000 books as part of an Accelerated Reader Program.
- Ranked 2nd in student engagement within Denver Public Schools
 - Ranked 4th highest in the district on ACCESS scores demonstrating improvement for English language learners.
- Star Data: 6th grade math at/above moved from 35% to 43%, reading from 13% to 29%.
- Star Data: 7th grade math at/above moved from 10% to 50%, reading from 18% to 47%.
- Star Data: 9th grade math at/above moved from 23% to 44% and reading from 10% to 47%.
- Star Data: 10th grade math at/above moved from 21% to 63% and reading from 17% to 28%.

2014-2015

- 61% of WGA students averaged 85% on Accelerated Reader quizzes with a participation rate of 84%, exceeding the 76% district average.
- Anticipated graduation rate of 75-81%. Previous graduation rate at West High School 46%. Current DPS district average graduation rate 61%.
- 68% of students (all first generation) successfully completed their first college course.
- Behavior incidents and law enforcement referrals dropped dramatically throughout GSN's tenure at the school even as enrollment and attendance increased. The 2011-2012 school year (baseline prior to turnaround work) indicated a 32% suspension rate and a 13% law enforcement referral based on 400

students enrolled. Suspension rates dropped to 4% and the law referral rate dropped to 2%, with an increased enrollment from 400 to 700 students.

Due to the high cost of starting schools, maintaining fidelity and decreasing demand for new/replacement schools, the GSN Board made a strategic decision in 2014 to uncouple the innovative aspects of the GSN school Model and focus on coming alongside schools to apply the innovative principles of the Model to accelerate improvement and solve schools' most pressing problems of practice in the areas of Leadership & Improvement, Health & Wellness, Redesign & Innovation and College & Career to meet the needs of the whole student.