

# Southwest Education Center

## *Open Doors Program Profile*

### Basics

This Open Doors site is a partnership between Highline Public Schools and Southwest Youth and Family Services. The Southwest Education Center has existed for over 20 years, first operating under a contract with OSPI, then with the Seattle Public Schools, and most recently as an Open Doors program within Highline starting in Fall of 2014 (Southwest Education Center continues to partner with both the Seattle and Highline school districts).

### Program Capacity

This program currently enrolls 53 students, 34 in credit retrieval, and 19 in GED courses. The program is over-capacity and has a waitlist. SWYFS intentionally tries to keep its teacher-student ratio low, so there are no growth plans at this time. Students primarily hear about this program through word of mouth referrals from students, school counselors, and principals.

Staff: 1 Program Administrator, 1 Case Manager, 3 Instructional Staff. Southwest Youth and Family Services provides in-kind support in the form of additional case managers.

### Intake Process

Students complete enrollment paperwork and then meet with a staff to discuss program expectations to see if the student is a good fit. Usually within a week students are able to start coursework.

### Education Services

Credential Pathways: High School Diploma and GED

Southwest's diploma pathway targets any 16-21 year old while the Teen Parent GED Program specifically helps teens who are parents or pregnant. However, instruction happens concurrently for the HS Diploma and GED pathways, and students can switch pathways depending on what best suits their needs/goals.

Instructors facilitate whole group, small group, and individualized instruction. They differentiate depending on student pathway and other needs, including IEPs.

### Case Management

This program provides a 1:30-40 case management ratio. Students enrolled at Southwest also have access to all the mental health and family support programs that Southwest offers, including support groups and behavior modification. Staff work to provide wraparound services, connecting with and developing personal relationships with students. Referring agencies include Treehouse and the Orion Center (for housing needs), as well as NAVOS, THS, and Consejo for additional counseling.

### College and Career Readiness

Southwest is building a partnership with SEA to provide postsecondary bridging and navigation supports. The program also provides summer jobs through WorkSource and King County.

### Challenges and Future Goals

Challenges for this program include student life barriers, state documentation requirements and staff turnover (with subsequent loss of student trust). Goals include increasing overall capacity, bolstering partnerships, and improving supports for students with special education needs/IEPs.

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*Open Doors Program Profiles, developed by Ilona Trofimovich for the Road Map Project*