



January 25th, 2023

Media Contact:

Jason Carr, Communications Director

jason.carr@crookcountyschools.org | 541-416-4209

The CCHS Class of 2022 Tops Region with a 99.39% Graduation Rate

The district's overall graduation rate of 91.95% well exceeds the state average of 81.3%

(Prineville, OR) - It's hard to beat a 98% graduation rate, but that's exactly what Crook County High School accomplished between 2021 and 2022. The CCHS Class of 2022 graduated 99.39% of students, the highest in school history and the top graduation rate in Central Oregon.

"I am incredibly proud as a parent and school board member to know Crook County High School is capable of the enormous achievement of hitting a graduation rate of nearly 100%," School Board Chair Jessica Ritter said. "I give credit to the leadership of Dr. Johnson and our incredible staff, who are in the trenches, making a difference in students' lives every day."

"We're so pleased to see these results because it shows the dedication of our staff and the extra support they give students who need a boost to get across the finish line," Superintendent Dr. Sara Johnson commented. "This district is about raising the bar around student achievement through intentional systems that work, and it's paying off."

CCHS Principal Michelle Jonas says the strategy is straightforward. Administrators and staff constantly monitor performance and know each student by name and need. If a student gets off track and becomes credit deficient, they're assigned a staff member who develops an individualized improvement plan.

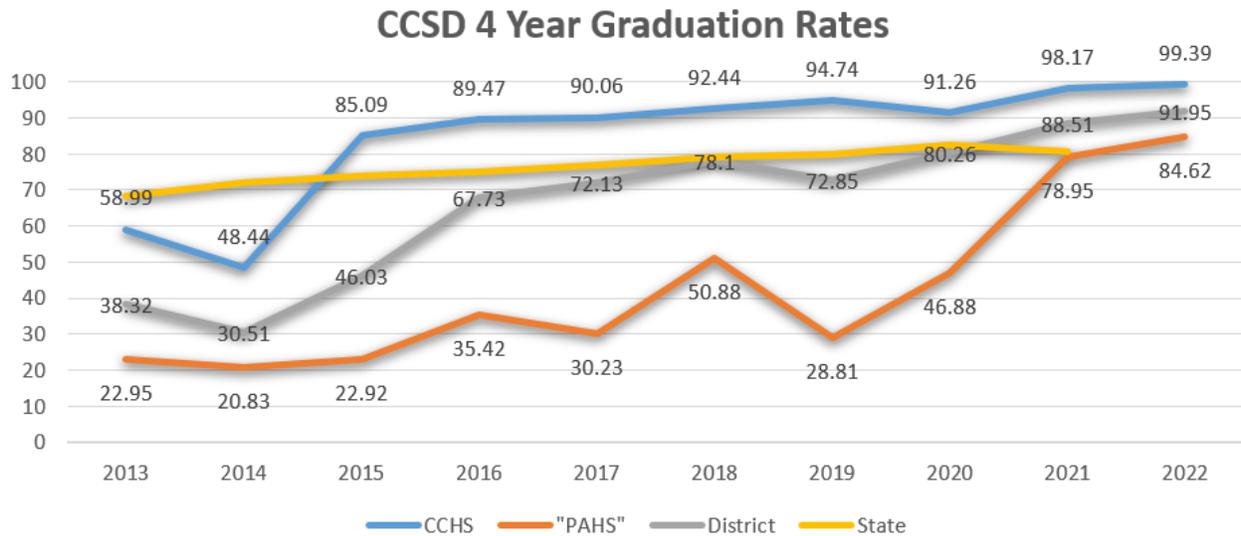
"Every trimester, we review student data and identify who requires additional support. It's about building positive relationships and rallying around students who might also be struggling in life beyond academics. I'm proud of the CCHS team for always going the extra mile to ensure every student has a chance to receive their high school diploma," Principal Michelle Jonas said.

Dr. Johnson points to other reasons leading to the impressive graduation rates, like the popular Summer Blast program that serves about 600 students each summer. It allows opportunities for credit recovery and keeps students engaged in reading, writing, and math beyond the regular school year. The school district also credits new after-school programs that tie students with activities and friend groups, encouraging more involvement in school. Offerings include book

clubs, board games, cooking-making, sewing, drama, martial arts, and many others. The goal is to create meaningful connections and encourage regular attendance since not all students participate in sports, leadership, or traditional clubs like FFA.

There have also been enormous gains at Pioneer Alternative High School since 2019 when the graduation rate was only 28.8%. The Class of 2022 hit an all-time best of 84.62% thanks to one-on-one coaching and caring staff who work tirelessly to ensure all students have a chance to succeed. That elevated the district's overall graduation rate from 88.51% in 2021 to 91.95% in 2022, making it the high district-wide graduation rate over the past decade.

“Attendance is another big push for our district because it’s a major indicator of future graduation rates and academic success. If a student misses 30 minutes of school every day, that amounts to 16 days of learning loss in a year. We know that simply showing up is the key to graduating high school,” Dr. Johnson explained.



About Crook County School District

Crook County School District is a thriving, rural, growing district in Central Oregon, serving more than 3,300 students from all across Crook County. It is an organization with integrity, a model for educational success, and a recognized leader for excellence in helping students dream, learn, and succeed.

###