

West Clermont High School Wins 2022 Pacesetter School Award

School honored for improving its career pathways and preparing students for success

July 19, 2022 — West Clermont High School in Cincinnati, Ohio, is the winner of a 2022 Gene Bottoms Pacesetter School Award from the Southern Regional Education Board. The school will be honored on July 19, 2022, at SREB's Making Schools Work Conference in Grapevine, Texas.

Pacesetter School Awards recognize schools that are implementing one of SREB's Making Schools Work school improvement frameworks and are achieving success in meeting bold goals related to graduation rates, readiness for college and careers, and credential attainment.

West Clermont High School implements [High Schools That Work](#), SREB's school improvement design for high schools. In 2017, two high schools in the West Clermont Local School District were combined to form West Clermont High School, one of the largest high schools in Ohio. The new WCHS established goals for increasing expectations and graduation rates, improving school culture and helping students identify and pursue a pathway leading to college and career options in high-demand fields.

One challenge leadership recognized was that some students were following pathways that did not focus on the development of the workforce-ready skills employers need. WCHS quickly increased its focus on engaging instruction and systems of support, which helped students gain the credits needed to apply to the local vocational/technical school where they could acquire critical work-ready skills. Since then, the number of students accepted has increased each year, and students keep their sights on what the school calls the "three Es" – Employ, Enroll or Enlist.

WCHS staff developed a culture playbook that helps students cultivate the values, behaviors, outcomes and accountability they need to be prepared for life after high school. WCHS also emphasizes opportunities for students to complete internships and create flexible schedules.

WCHS has found success in many areas. Graduation rates have increased each year, with 93% of students graduating in four years in 2020. Test scores have moved from below state averages across the board to 100% above state averages.

SREB's [Making Schools Work Conference](#) is held annually and provides educators with opportunities to participate in professional development, network with colleagues from across the country and build school and district leadership capacity.

The Southern Regional Education Board works with states and educators to improve education at every level, from early childhood through postsecondary education. Learn more about SREB at sreb.org. SREB media contact: Alan.Richard@SREB.org, (404) 879-5528.