Characteristics/Programs of Oregon High Schools Studied

Ties to the Community

Curriculum links to community resources

Mentoring programs involve community members

Internship programs, job shadowing, financial support

Community service

Reaching out to parents and cultural groups within the student body, e.g., Latino parents

Student Centered

Culture of care School is home for students. People help each other

Trust building

Smaller schools and smaller class sizes

Every student acknowledge for achievement in some way

Incentive program for at risk youth

Peer mediation, cross age peer tutoring, Natural Helpers

Full inclusion for students with learning disabilities

Building Community within the school

Break down grade levels barriers, social groups (cliques)

Flexibility

Offering credits in alternative ways

Multiple pathways to graduation

Alternative programs

Philosophy of Reform Shared by Admin/Faculty

Including teachers in planning and leadership and professional development

Creative financing and grant writing by faculty

Eliminated tracking and put in support system for those who need additional instruction

Shared leadership; not top down micro managing administration

Supportive district level administration

High Standards/ Innovative Curriculum

High expectations, senior projects, career planning

Common sense/practical life skills

Incorporate higher level learning (International School; interdisciplinary in Tech School)

Renewed focus on the arts

Integrated Learning

CONCERNS

Research methodology

Sample Size

Seemed to work best in small schools and small communities or large schools that break up into smaller communities

How to scale up to larger communities

How to replicate in difficult economic times