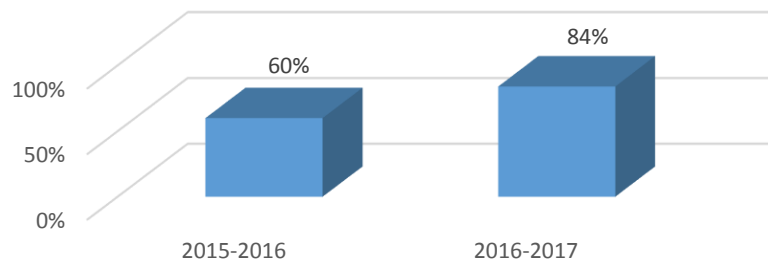


## RESULTS

The 2017-2018 school year will be the first year that WSST graduates a senior class. This will also be the first year the school puts into practice its policy of having seniors design their own curriculum according to their personal interests and aptitudes. Odysseyware will play a central role in this by making available courses, such as Environmental Science, Media Studies and Macro Economics, that allow students to further customize their learning pathways.

As WSST is poised to move forward into its fourth year and first graduating class, Moore is enthusiastic about the change she has seen in learners. "Odysseyware has opened up opportunities for my students and shifted their mindsets about personal responsibility," she says. "We are aiming to be the first high school in Maryvale to receive an A rating from the state, and I believe we are well on our way."

40% Increase in Students  
On-Track to Graduate



## CASE STUDY

### Phoenix, AZ

The Western School of Science and Technology is located in Phoenix, AZ and faces challenges including a high rate of economically disadvantaged students, rigorous graduation requirements and limited, time-consuming credit recovery options.

#### CHARTER SCHOOL:

Western School of Science and Technology (WSST)

#### LOCATION:

Maryvale Neighborhood  
Phoenix, AZ

#### STUDENT PROFILE:

- 450 students
- 98% economically disadvantaged students
- 80% students from non-English speaking families
- 99% Latino students

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WSST has a yearly retention rate of 95%

## CHALLENGES

Nearly half of the student population was not passing one or more classes and the school had limited course offerings and credit recovery options. Additionally, summer school only allowed students to make up half a credit, so recovering grades and credits was a discouraging and time-consuming task. Also, a large percentage of Maryvale's student population are first-generation Americans with families that face a language barrier and no context for academic success and what it takes.

## NEW INITIATIVES

### EXPANDED CURRICULUM

In January of 2016, WSST began using Odysseyware to expand opportunities for students to take courses beyond the core curriculum. "Odysseyware allowed us to supplement our subject offerings with a range of career, technology, computer and health courses," says Moore. "For instance, we were able to offer Forensics as an accredited science course for interested students."

Moore says the school chose Odysseyware for its flexibility and broad range of course choices but also because it made good financial sense for their limited budget. "It's allowed us to effectively offer timely intervention for all of our students with just 10 licenses."

### ACCELERATED AND COST EFFECTIVE CREDIT RECOVERY

Odysseyware is a main component of WSST's Expanded Opportunity program allowing

students to recover credits at a much faster than was previously available. The program includes in-school intervention blocks, a quarterly full re-teach day, and after-school intervention times. Odysseyware has been key in helping students avoid the need to re-take classes and credit recovery has been dramatic. "In the first quarter of 2016, students recovered 50 credits," says Moore, "and by the end of the semester they had recovered a total of 75 credits."

The number of students on track to graduate has greatly increased under this program. **Previously only 60 percent of students were on track to graduate, but that percentage has now increased to 84 percent** and Moore predicts it will be in the 90s by the end of the 2017-2018 school year.

### CATCH UP OR GET AHEAD IN SUMMER SCHOOL

Summer school has now become an additional efficient solution for students who have struggled to master the core curricular subjects of Math and English. Learners can make up basic course requirements and get ahead with advanced courses, such as Calculus and AP Physics.

### BLENDED LEARNING

With its focus on technology, WSST offers students both online and hands-on experiences in the areas of coding, web design, robotics and other electronics fields. In these and other areas, Odysseyware can supplement outdoor and applied learning activities, even the current building of additional classrooms using storage containers.

*"Odysseyware allowed us to supplement our subject offerings with a range of career, technology, computer and health courses."*

**Ms. Tara Moore**  
To & Through  
College Counselor  
WSST



*"Our presence here signals that demographics are not destiny."*

**Mr. Peter Boyle**  
Founding School  
Director  
WSST

*"In the first quarter of 2016, students recovered 50 credits, and by the end of the semester they had recovered a total of 75 credits."*

**Ms. Tara Moore**  
To & Through  
College Counselor  
WSST

