

# School of Life Statistical Report 2016-2017

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## Overview

The School of Life Foundation report for the 2016-2017 school year consists of data reported to the Foundation from school administrators from 9 schools in the state of Utah. In addition to the school data, students who participated in the School of Life program took surveys both before and after their participation. The students came from 7 different high schools, one intermediate school and one junior high school.

In all, 280 students completed the opening survey, and 206 completed the closing survey. From these two groups, 190 students were able to be linked to both their opening and closing surveys. School administrators reported GPA, attendance, and grade advancement or graduation data on 168 of these students. The primary reason for the difference in the number reported on by administrators is due to an issue of some surveys not having the necessary information to be linked to school data. This issue was fixed early in the process of data gathering during the past school year.

## Focus

The School of Life program specifically focuses on helping students who are not on pace to advance their grade or graduate on time with their graduating class. Classes are designed to incorporate a mixture of these at-risk students along with a few student leaders or high performing students, and other students who may be drifting toward failure in some classes or have some behavioral issues. Designing classes this way helps the off-track students to connect not only with the School of Life trainers, but also some of their peers who are performing well in school.

This report will focus on the results of this at-risk group of students, as well as reporting the results of all students who took the School of Life course.

## Graduation / Grade Advancement

During the 2016-2017 school year there were 58 students who were off-track for graduation or grade advancement who completed the School of Life. Four of these students moved during the school year, and so their end-of-school-year results are unknown. Of the remaining 54 students

for whom we have known results, 50 (92.6% of the known results) either graduated with their class, or advanced to the next grade level on time, while 3 (5.6%) dropped out of school completely, and 1 (1.9%) remained in school, but did not advance to the next grade level.

**Table 1 – End of Year Results – Not on pace to graduate / advance grade level. Percentages calculated on all 58 at-risk students, including those with an unknown result.**

<b>Result</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Graduated	30	51.7%
Advanced Grade	20	34.5%
Did Not Advance Grade	1	1.7%
Dropped Out	3	5.2%
Moved / Transferred	4	6.9%

**Table 2 – End of Year Results – All Students**

<b>Result</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Graduated	55	32.7%
Advanced Grade	102	60.7%
Did Not Advance Grade	2	1.2%
Dropped Out	3	1.8%
Moved / Transferred	6	3.6%

## **GPA**

At the close of the school year, each school provided data on the academic performance of the students who completed the School of Life program. The schools reported the GPA of students prior to taking the School of Life course and their GPA after completing the course. GPA Data were reported for 168 students, including 57 of the 58 at-risk students. Of this at-risk group, 33 students (57.9%) increased their GPA while 22 students had a decrease (38.6%), and 2 students (3.5%) had no change. Examining these 57 students further, their group average GPA rose from 1.810 before taking the School of Life to 1.971 after taking the School of Life, and increase of 8.9% for the cumulative group.

Comparing those results to the rest of the students taking the School of Life, the targeted group saw a higher percentage of students increase their GPA (57.9% compared to 49.5% for the other students), and a lower percentage have a decrease to their GPA (38.6% compared to 42.3%). It should be noted, however, that both the targeted group of at-risk students and the full group of students both made gains in their GPA.

Table 3 – GPA Changes

Group	Increase	Decrease	No Change	Average GPA Before	Average GPA After	Percent Change
Off-Track for Advancement	33	22	2	1.810	1.971	8.9%
On-Track for Advancement	55	47	9	2.922	2.956	1.2%
Overall	88	69	11	2.545	2.622	3.0%

## Character

The main focus of the opening and closing surveys is to help determine the impact of the School of Life course on the character of students who participate. Questions are designed to see how the 10 A's impact attitudes and actions of each student across 12 different areas. In most cases there are 4 categorical choices presented which are ranked from the lowest quality answer to the highest. In the case of Goals, only two choices are given, and the questions regarding graduation and furthering education have three choices presented.

The opening and closing surveys were able to be linked to 56 of the 58 students who were in the targeted group of those not being on pace to graduate or advance to the next grade level. 54 of the 56 (96.4%) showed an increase in at least 1 area, with a median of 3 areas, and an average of 3.14 areas with improvement. The maximum areas of improvement reported by a single student was 7 (out of 12 areas), while the maximum number of areas with a decrease was 4, reported by 3 students. 16 students (28.6%) had no areas with a decrease, with a median of 1 area, and an average of 1.46 areas with a decrease. The areas with the most students showing increases were in facing challenges optimistically (25 out of 56), happiness (22), and planning (22). 11 of the 12 categories saw a higher number of increases, from opening survey to closing survey, than decreases, with the only category where that didn't happen was appreciation, where there were an equal number of increases as decreases.

It should also be noted that this is the first year in which the responses for happiness have been categorized, rather than remaining a raw value. Students rated their general happiness on a scale from 0-100. This was split into 5 categories, 0-19, 20-39, 40-59, 60-79, and 80-100, with 80-100 being the best response category.

Table 4 – Favorite ‘A’ among at-risk students

Favorite “A”	Count	Percent
Attitude	19	33.9%
Appreciate	19	33.9%
Action	5	8.9%
Aim	5	8.9%
Adapt	4	7.1%
Avoid	1	1.8%
Associate	1	1.8%
Always	1	1.8%
Align	1	1.8%
Assist	0	0.0%

Table 5 – Percent of Responses in Top Category among at-risk

Area	Percent Before School of Life	Percent After School of Life	Change
Happiness	48.2%	75.0%	26.8%
Gratitude	91.1%	91.1%	0.0%
Service	53.6%	75.0%	21.4%
Friendship	30.4%	35.7%	5.3%
Planning	17.9%	25.0%	7.1%
Goals	87.5%	98.2%	10.7%
Homework	5.4%	10.7%	5.3%
Attendance	39.3%	51.8%	12.5%
Peer Pressure	37.5%	37.5%	0.0%
Face Challenges	19.6%	37.5%	17.9%
On Track Graduation	62.5%	76.8%	14.3%
Further Education	87.5%	94.6%	7.1%

Analysis of the full group of students taking the School of Life showed 90.5% with an increase in at least 1 area, with a median of 2 areas with improvement and an average of 2.71 areas with improvement. 33.7% of students had no areas with a decrease, the median was 1 area with a decrease, and the average was 1.31 areas with a decrease. The areas with the most increases were planning (69 out of 190 students reported an increase), facing challenges optimistically (66), happiness (59), and making friends (55).

Table 6 – Favorite ‘A’ – All students

Favorite “A”	Count	Percent
Attitude	63	33.2%
Appreciate	59	31.1%
Action	17	8.9%
Aim	16	8.4%
Adapt	14	7.4%
Avoid	10	5.3%
Associate	4	2.1%
Always	3	1.6%
Align	3	1.6%
Assist	1	0.5%

Table 7 – Percent of Responses in Top Category – All students

Area	Percent Before School of Life	Percent After School of Life	Change
Happiness	54.7%	72.6%	17.9%
Gratitude	91.1%	90.5%	-0.5%
Service	50.5%	66.3%	15.8%
Friendship	31.6%	37.4%	5.8%
Planning	21.6%	31.6%	10.0%
Goals	87.9%	96.3%	8.4%
Homework	14.2%	18.4%	4.2%
Attendance	53.2%	60.5%	7.4%
Peer Pressure	42.6%	44.2%	1.6%
Face Challenges	25.3%	33.7%	8.4%
On Track Graduation	69.5%	77.9%	8.4%
Further Education	87.4%	93.2%	5.8%

Analysis was also performed based on student responses to demographic groups. 178 of the 190 matched students voluntarily gave demographic information. In some cases, the student response was different in the opening and closing surveys. The closing survey response was used for the demographic breakdowns used in the analysis.

Table 5 – Top Category Change by Demographics

Area	Caucasian	Minority	Total Change
Happiness	20.6%	16.0%	17.9%
Gratitude	0.0%	-1.2%	-0.5%
Service	12.4%	18.5%	15.8%
Friendship	10.3%	2.5%	5.8%
Planning	14.4%	4.9%	10.0%
Goals	10.3%	4.9%	8.4%
Homework	5.2%	7.4%	4.2%
Attendance	3.1%	11.1%	7.4%
Peer Pressure	6.2%	-2.5%	1.6%
Face Challenges	8.2%	11.1%	8.4%
On Track Graduation	10.3%	8.6%	8.4%
Further Education	6.2%	4.9%	5.8%

## Full Demographics

Table 6 contains the full demographic breakdown for all surveys taken for the 2016-2017 school year.

Table 6 – Demographics

	Opening Survey Taken	Closing Survey Taken	Percent of Opening	Percent of Respondents
Total	280	206	73.6%	
Female	125	91	72.8%	44.8%
Male	150	112	74.7%	55.2%
African American	10	8	80.0%	4.2%
Caucasian	147	107	72.8%	55.7%
Latino	49	33	67.3%	17.2%
Native American	9	6	66.7%	3.1%
Pacific Islander	11	10	90.9%	5.2%
Other	33	28	84.8%	14.6%
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	5	4	80.0%	1.9%
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	37	28	75.7%	13.6%
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	15	7	46.7%	3.4%
Freshman	9	6	66.7%	2.9%
Sophomore	48	31	64.6%	15.0%
Junior	76	58	76.3%	28.2%
Senior	90	72	80.0%	35.0%

# Cumulative Results

## Graduation

Table 7 – Graduation Rates for Seniors ‘Not On Track’ to Graduate Taking the School of Life Course

School Year	Total	Graduated on Time	Percent
2013-2014	63	52	82.5%
2014-2015	64	60	93.8%
2015-2016	37	30	81.1%
2016-2017	32	30	93.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>87.8%</b>

## Advancement

Table 8 – Advancement Rates for Non-Seniors ‘Not On Track’ to Advance Grade Level Taking the School of Life Course

School Year	Total	Advanced Grade	Percent
2014-2015	56	51	91.1%
2015-2016	55	55	100.0%
2016-2017	22	20	90.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>94.7%</b>

## GPA

Table 9 – GPA Rates for School of Life Participants

School Year	GPA Before	GPA After	Change	Increased	Decreased	No Change
2013-2014	2.31	2.63	13.8%	174	80	11
2014-2015	2.34	2.62	11.9%	276	144	23
2015-2016	2.40	2.59	7.7%	151	90	15
2016-2017	2.55	2.62	3.0%	88	69	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.38</b>	<b>2.62</b>	<b>10.0%</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>60</b>

## **Notes Regarding Individual School Numbers**

Closing Surveys – This is the number of closing surveys taken at the given school. These are counted even in cases where a student did not provide a valid student number.

GPA Data – The number of students for whom administrators reported GPA data and end of year results. In the cases of Northridge and Hillcrest, the fall SOLF classes did not provide student numbers on surveys. Accordingly, we were unable to request GPA data and end of year results for the fall students. Administrators at Hillcrest and Northridge provided those data points for all students where we were able to provide a student ID number.

Matched Surveys – The number of closing surveys able to be matched to the corresponding opening survey.

Academic Performance percentages are calculated based on the number of students with GPA data.

Character Improvement percentages are calculated based on the number of matched surveys.



## Desert Hills High School

Closing Surveys: 29

GPA Data: 29 (100.0%)

Matched Surveys: 29 (100.0%)

### Academic Performance

Graduated / Off-Track (Percent): 16/17 (94.1%)

GPA Change:

Group	Number	Percent
Increased GPA	14	48.3%
Same GPA	3	10.3%
Decreased GPA	12	41.4%

### Character Improvement

Increases	Number	Percent
At Least 1 Category	27	93.1%
At Least 3 Categories	14	48.3%
At Least 5 Categories	4	13.8%

## Dixie High School

Closing Surveys: 29

GPA Data: 29 (100.0%)

Matched Surveys: 29 (100.0%)

### Academic Performance

Graduated / Off-Track (Percent): 5/6 (83.3%)

GPA Change:

Group	Number	Percent
Increased GPA	16	55.2%
Same GPA	2	6.9%
Decreased GPA	11	37.9%

### Character Improvement

Increases	Number	Percent
At Least 1 Category	26	89.7%
At Least 3 Categories	18	62.1%
At Least 5 Categories	10	34.4%

## Hillcrest High School

Closing Surveys: 36

GPA Data: 28 (77.8%)

Matched Surveys: 35 (100.0%)

### Academic Performance

Graduated / Off-Track (Percent): 7/8 (87.5%)

GPA Change:

Group	Number	Percent
Increased GPA	25	89.3%
Same GPA	0	0.0%
Decreased GPA	3	10.7%

### Character Improvement

Increases	Number	Percent
At Least 1 Category	32	91.4%
At Least 3 Categories	19	54.3%
At Least 5 Categories	7	20.0%

## Lava Ridge Intermediate School

Closing Surveys: 18

GPA Data: 15 (83.3%)

Matched Surveys: 18 (100.0%)

### Academic Performance

Graduated / Off-Track (Percent): 0/0

GPA Change:

Group	Number	Percent
Increased GPA	4	26.7%
Same GPA	1	6.7%
Decreased GPA	10	66.7%

### Character Improvement

Increases	Number	Percent
At Least 1 Category	15	83.3%
At Least 3 Categories	5	27.8%
At Least 5 Categories	1	5.6%

## Millcreek High School

Closing Surveys: 2

GPA Data: 2 (100.0%)

Matched Surveys: 2 (100.0%)

### Academic Performance

Graduated / Off-Track (Percent): 2/2 (100.0%)

GPA Change:

Group	Number	Percent
Increased GPA	1	50.0%
Same GPA	0	0.0%
Decreased GPA	1	50.0%

### Character Improvement

Increases	Number	Percent
At Least 1 Category	2	100.0%
At Least 3 Categories	2	100.0%
At Least 5 Categories	1	50.0%

## Northridge High School

Closing Surveys: 44

GPA Data: 29 (65.9%)

Matched Surveys: 43 (97.7%)

### Academic Performance

Graduated / Off-Track (Percent): 20/21 (95.2%)

GPA Change:

Group	Number	Percent
Increased GPA	14	48.3%
Same GPA	1	3.4%
Decreased GPA	14	48.3%

### Character Improvement

Increases	Number	Percent
At Least 1 Category	38	88.4%
At Least 3 Categories	20	46.5%
At Least 5 Categories	6	14.0%

## Parowan High School

Closing Surveys: 16

GPA Data: 15 (93.8%)

Matched Surveys: 12 (75.0%)

### Academic Performance

Graduated / Off-Track (Percent): 0/0

GPA Change:

Group	Number	Percent
Increased GPA	5	33.3%
Same GPA	2	13.3%
Decreased GPA	8	53.3%

### Character Improvement

Increases	Number	Percent
At Least 1 Category	12	100.0%
At Least 3 Categories	4	33.3%
At Least 5 Categories	3	25.0%

## Summit Academy Junior High School

Closing Surveys: 9

GPA Data: 8 (88.9%)

Matched Surveys: 9 (100.0%)

### Academic Performance

Graduated / Off-Track (Percent): 0/0

GPA Change:

Group	Number	Percent
Increased GPA	5	62.5%
Same GPA	1	12.5%
Decreased GPA	2	25.0%

### Character Improvement

Increases	Number	Percent
At Least 1 Category	7	77.8%
At Least 3 Categories	4	44.4%
At Least 5 Categories	0	0.0%



## Summit Academy High School

Closing Surveys: 16

GPA Data: 13 (81.3%)

Matched Surveys: 13 (81.3%)

### Academic Performance

Graduated / Off-Track (Percent): 0/0

GPA Change:

Group	Number	Percent
Increased GPA	4	30.8%
Same GPA	1	7.7%
Decreased GPA	8	61.5%

### Character Improvement

Increases	Number	Percent
At Least 1 Category	13	100.0%
At Least 3 Categories	5	38.5%
At Least 5 Categories	3	23.1%