



CASE STUDIES

Century High School

Problem: A lack of 9th-grade-specific resources and programs aimed at helping students succeed from their very first days in high school.

Solution: Breakthrough Success Community's Change Package was used to help Century High School's educators tap the resources of the community and other schools when tackling these important components. The Community provides a platform for sharing ideas between schools to adapt and use for all students.

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*“I was actually surprised at the lack of competition that occurs when thinking out ideas and how **people in the cohort have been so receptive and willing to help in the brainstorming process. This time truly is precious!**”*

— Susana Herrera,
Title III Resource Teacher,
Century High School

Oakland Technical High School

Problem: Despite existing work underway to support 9th graders, a lack of time and coordination made it difficult for staff to align their efforts.

Solution: Oakland Tech has been on the path to supporting their 9th-graders since 2012 and ultimately revamped the 9th-grade structure. With the help and support of the Breakthrough Success Community, they have restructured the way they organize staff, students and resources to better focus on support for students.

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*“A benefit so far is creating a professional sense of community where we can share ideas with others. I just emailed the CORE coach and told her how **I can feel a sense of community with folks** and that we are really starting to share organically with each other in an attempt to get better at serving our 9th-grade students.”*

— Martel Price,
9th-grade Assistant Principal,
Oakland Technical High School

Browning High School

Problem: A lack of data and a disconnect between what the school was providing incoming 9th graders and what students needed as they entered high school.

Solution: The Breakthrough Success Community encourages participating teams to take a deep dive into the freshman experience. Using resources from the community, the Browning team conducted empathy interviews to better understand how their students had experienced the transition into high school. These efforts leveraged the transformative power of student voice and helped the school to provide a more supportive transition experience for the incoming class.

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*“They [the students] were free to talk about what they experienced. We used that to develop our 2023 class freshman orientation. We also took tidbits from other programs underway in BTSC in Fresno and Oakland, and **we developed one-day freshman orientation, we want to take baby steps.**”*

— Felicia Anderson,
Principal,
Browning High School