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Parents who have students attending Wichita Public Schools discovered that many questions regarding preparing their children for college can be answered by the TRIO Talent Search program hosted by Wichita State. The program has served middle school and high school students in Wichita since 1977. The program identified, selected and assisted 1,165 low-income and potential first-generation college students in 2015-16 at 22 schools in USD 259.

Schools targeted for the 2015-16 grant year included middle schools - Allison, Brooks, Coleman, Curtis, Jardine, Marshall, Mayberry, Pleasant Valley, Robinson, Stucky, Truesdell, Wilbur; and high schools - East, Heights, Metro Boulevard, Metro Meridian, North, Northeast Magnet, Northwest, South, Southeast, and West. Staff provided information to students on college admissions, financial literacy, and ACT/SAT test preparation. In addition, campus visits to colleges and universities were held throughout the school year.

The Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) provided postsecondary preparation for 50 middle school students. Instruction was provided in math, computer technology, language arts, financial literacy, science, and theatre arts. Campus visits and career speakers motivated students to consider future aspirations. SEP culminated with an academic awards ceremony.

1,165 students were served

98% of seniors graduated from high school

81% of high school graduates enrolled in postsecondary for fall 2016

360 students participated in campus visits during the year

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wichita.edu/talentsearch