

About Washington Township Adult Education's

Graduate on Time Program

The Graduate on Time (GOT) program offers an opportunity for North Central High School seniors with low credits to graduate with their class. Students earn a diploma by preparing for and passing the HiSET High School Equivalency (HSE) exam, while also earning vocational certificates at the JEL Career Center and participating in typical North Central High School classes and student activities. GOT students must start their fourth year of high school with 50% or fewer credits needed to graduate. GOT is a partnership between North Central High School and MSD Washington Township Adult Education.

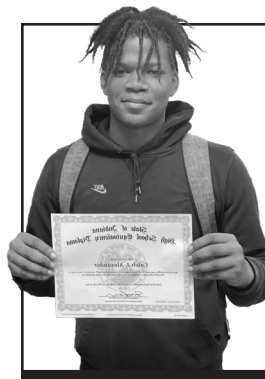


Meet our Students: Graduate on Time



Aracely

"In this program, I could focus more than being in a typical classroom. Being with Ms. McCormick was helpful, because she was always ready to help me."



Caleb

Without the GOT program, Caleb says "There's no telling where I would be. I know I wouldn't have graduated. I was so many steps behind – I'm finally a step ahead!"

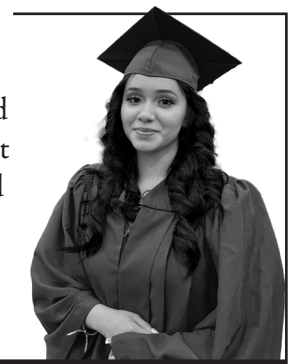
Dalaysha

Looking back, Dalaysha realizes that she felt she needed to "accomplish something big... This made me more confident... I have this diploma that says I really did something!"



Cassandra

"If GOT wasn't here, I would have stayed in school, but not graduated. And then I would have had to come to Adult Ed anyway. I might not have done that for a while."



www.indyadulthood.com

Graduate on Time

Student Success Story

ARACELY TECUANHUEHUE OSORIO



Aracely Tecuanhuehue Osorio is a polite and respectful young woman who prefers learning in a quiet environment, and found it hard to concentrate in classes with boisterous classmates. Partly because of this, she remained in virtual learning for three semesters during covid regulations, and only passed three classes during that time.

Aracely started her fourth year of high school with 14 credits. She enrolled in an alternative education program, but was discouraged by how far she had fallen behind. She explained “I went to my school counselor, Mr. Shelby, because I was ready to drop out. He convinced me to give the Graduate on Time program a try. In this program, I could focus more than being in a typical classroom. Being with my GOT teacher was helpful, be-

cause she was always ready to help me learn. The practice tests were really helpful, because I could figure out what I needed to learn and then really work to learn that.”

Since graduating, Aracely has continued working at a local restaurant. She plans to apply for a Vet Tech Apprenticeship program after her 18th birthday. She says: “I want to let people know not to give up, keep trying. If you have a bad day or you’re feeling stressed, it’s ok, there will be days like that. I was having a lot of those days before I came to GOT. Now I can just focus on going to work, helping my family, and making plans for the future.”



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Graduate on Time

Student Success Story

C H Y N A W I L L I A M S

Chyna survived ongoing housing instability, the death of her mother, and various foster homes during her four years of high school. With all of those issues, she says “School was not my thing. I didn’t like being around a lot of people, and I was so behind, I didn’t see a reason to do all of the work.” She stopped attending school or cut classes when she did attend. Chyna started her senior year with 14 credits. She says “Honestly, I did not think I could graduate this year.”

Chyna learned about the Graduate on Time program from her counselor, who thought the program could give Chyna a hopeful fresh start. She began studying and taking her practice tests, and soon found herself encouraging and tutoring her classmates. She says that in GOT “It was easier to concentrate, and it felt like the classes went by faster. Being able to focus on just a few things made this program easier for me.” She remained very focused until she felt that she was ready, after studying for four months. In December, she began taking her official tests and passed four out of five tests on the first try. In January, she passed her final HiSET test and earned her High School Equivalency diploma.



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Graduate on Time

Student Success Story

C E A I R A B O Y D

During high school, Ceaira Boyd lived with 4 different family members, due to family conflicts and access to different educational programs. She fell behind in credits, and then struggled with online learning during the beginning of the pandemic. Ceaira started her 4th year of high school with 16 credits.



She says “I didn’t have the motivation to stay on my school work during Covid, and no one in my family stayed on me to finish my work. I was trying to work at my job more, and I focused less on school. Then I tried another program, and it worked out for a while, but it wasn’t going to get me where I wanted to go in time.” She heard about Graduate On Time from a friend who was enrolled in the program and called her counselor to see how she could get involved.

Ceaira came to class each day, focused and determined. She encouraged her classmates, often helping to explain complex topics in terms that her classmates could understand easily.

If she had not graduated with the GOT program, Ceaira says “I would’ve looked into other programs that would’ve taken longer. It would have been hard to keep attending as time went on. Honestly, I don’t think I would have finished school.”

Now that she has earned her diploma, Ceaira plans to apply for a better-paying job and get her own apartment. She is preparing for the Paraprofessional exam, and would love to work as an Instructional Assistant at a local elementary school. “Before long”, she plans to enroll at Ivy Tech to study Psychology, Social Work, or Early Childhood Education, with the eventual goal of “working in a career where (she) can help other people.”



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Graduate on Time

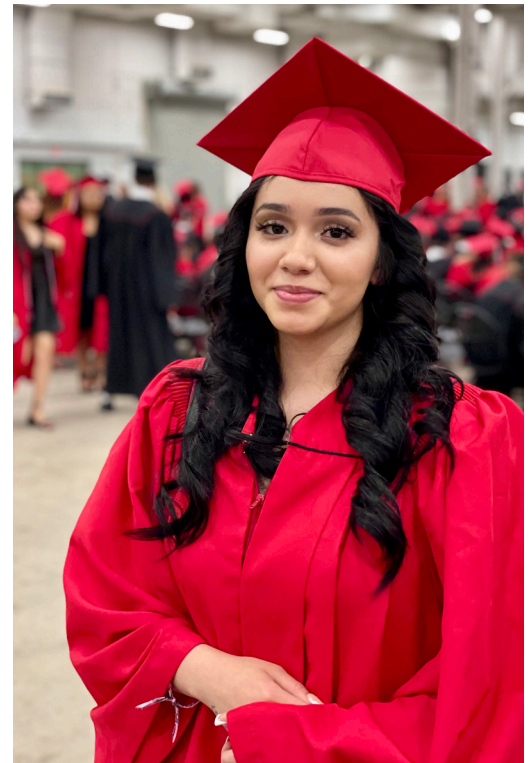
Student Success Story

CASANDRA VALLARDES QUEZADA

Casandra Valladares Quezada's attendance issues were keeping her from earning the credits she needed to graduate on time. Through the GOT program, Casandra earned her diploma in February 2022 and walked with her peers on Graduation Day in May.

However, Casandra clarifies that it wasn't easy. She began the GOT program in August 2021 and didn't pass a test until November. She says passing that first test was "such an accomplishment!" and it motivated her to continue attending and studying. She started asking more questions and studying more outside of class, and eventually passed all 5 HiSET tests. Casandra explains she learned that "Failing is okay. Just keep trying." That level of self-confidence is new to her.

Casandra realizes that GOT has put her on a positive path for her future. "If GOT wasn't here, I would have stayed in school, but not graduated. And then I would have had to come to Adult Ed anyway. I might not have done that for a while." Cassandra recently moved to another city with her family. She plans to start cosmetology school in the Fall.



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Adult Education

Graduate on Time

Student Success Story

D A L A Y S H A R I C H A R D S

Dalaysha started high school as a freshman who loved playing rugby. Keeping her grades up so that she could continue to play was difficult. Being unfocused and easily distracted in class was Dalaysha's usual behavior. She ended up losing her position on the rugby team because of her grades.

In her sophomore year (2019-20), she built up significant absences and failed courses. Although she was enrolled in credit recovery, she didn't get any credits made up. Then her family experienced the tragedy of her brother's murder in the spring of Dalaysha's sophomore year. The pandemic also took her out of her school routine. Then, Dalaysha's junior year she was overwhelmed with grief and depression. The virtual courses were very hard for her. She became pregnant and felt like her life was out of her control. Dalaysha's mom worked to get her enrolled in Washington Township's alternative school. Frequent nausea made Dalaysha's pregnancy difficult and going to school even harder. She would usually leave class because of the nausea and that made coming to school very hard. Alternative school just fell by the wayside.



After Dalaysha's baby was born, her mother and she were diligent about finding another way for her to earn her high school degree. Mr. Shelby, her guidance counselor, thought that she might be a good candidate for the GOT program. Even though she only had 14 high school credits at the beginning of her 4th year of high school, Mr. Shelby saw that she was determined to get back on track and graduate with her class.

Dalaysha was able to attend school virtually because of the pandemic. The GOT program wasn't easy. She attended study groups with her baby on one arm. Sometimes the baby was fussy and she couldn't stay on the Zoom meeting. Dalaysha credits Ms. McCormick, her GOT teacher, with being patient and supportive. "She always said that it's okay to take a break if you need to. And then I would have to just get up and take care of the baby. Ms. McCormick would send me text messages to encourage me. Sometimes it was so hard, and then I'd get a message from her telling me that she believed in me or that she was proud of me for how hard I had been working. It really made a difference."

Although she was nervous when she started, the practice tests and study guides helped her gain confidence. Immediate feedback was a significant help for Dalaysha.

When she took her practice tests, she knew immediately what her score was and what she needed to do to raise it next time. That allowed her to efficiently use her time now that she was a young single mother. Like most Graduate on Time students, Dalaysha needed to study hard to pass the HiSET tests. Even after studying for 3 months, she only passed two out of five tests on her first attempt. She continued studying, started coming to class with questions from her independent work, and four months later she passed her final HSE test.

Looking back on this journey, Dalaysha realizes that she felt she needed to "accomplish something big. This made me more confident. I can do difficult things. I accomplished this. This was a HUGE relief. And I have this diploma that says I really did something!" Dalaysha's family is relocating to Ft. Worth, TX to start over away from the location of her brother's murder. She plans to find work, continue focusing on being a great mom, and look into her options for further education at a local community college.



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C A L E B A L E X A N D E R

Caleb has grown up with limited family support. When he was 9 years old, his mother moved to California. He had to go live with his dad in Michigan, and that was not a positive environment. By age 13, Caleb was out on his own a lot of the time, as he says “I was off everywhere, doing whatever.” He was kicked out of his house and worked to feed and clothe himself. His sophomore and junior year of high school, he simply did not attend school. At the end of his junior year, he enrolled himself in summer school where he earned three credits toward his high school diploma. His father kicked him out of the house again during the first semester of his senior year and he was homeless once more.



Caleb’s mother moved back to Indiana from California and enrolled Caleb at North Central High School. Clearly, he was far behind his peers in credits. He started his 4th year of high school with 7 credits. His counselor explained that the GOT program was the only way for Caleb to graduate high school on time, and he eagerly accepted the opportunity.

Caleb entered the GOT program with a hunger for learning, but not a lot of confidence in his academic abilities. He says “When I started the GOT program, I had nothing going for myself, with no credits really... The whole program helped me and guided me through this journey, with school and mentally.” He was always eager to participate in class and encourage his classmates. Little by little, with daily lessons and a few epic pre-test pep talks, Caleb prepared for and passed all of his HiSET tests. Caleb is quick to identify his teacher in the program for being “the best teacher I have ever had – the stuff she says and the way she motivates me. It’s all her!” On

the day of the North Central graduation, Caleb said “This is the best feeling - the biggest accomplishment a teenager can make. I’m thankful.”

Without the GOT program, Caleb says “There’s no telling where I would be. I know I wouldn’t have graduated. I was so many steps behind – I’m finally a step ahead! I can move forward doing something positive and be successful.” Caleb wants to work in the audio-visual industry. He has plans for a job learning installation once he turns 18, with the goal of building an independent, stable life for himself. In the meantime, getting his driver’s license and a job in retail where he can work with electronics is his short-term goal.



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