A third engine behind Tacoma students, teachers

This broad-based initiative is the third engine driving an ambitious campaign to create college-going culture in Tacoma Public Schools. Sanftor has been leading the effort within the district. The third engine is the University of Washington Tacoma, UW Chancellor Dean Fritschlin has been working closely with Sanftor to install college expectations in students from kindergarten on up. They may eventually attend UW, but they may not. The point is to aim them toward higher education.

Graduate Tacoma deserves the exclamation mark. This educational initiative - coordinated by the Foundation for Tacoma Students - deserves to succeed. The fundamental idea is to take a crocodile-sized bite out of the problem. The District's discouraging dropout rate, high school failure can be measured in various ways. The District calculates that 42 percent of Tacoma's should be graduating in full short of their third-graders. Two-thirds of Tacoma's students are from low-income homes. The community leaders responsible for the initiative have joined forces to get ready for kindergarten, for example, to push third-grade reading and eighth-grade algebra - needed to achieve graduation. The effort to help children get ready for kindergarten is the focus of the STAR Center. Sixth-graders from Grey Middles' School take part in a graduate presentation Thursday at the STAR Center.

Graduate Tacoma is the array of leaders and organizations behind the effort to get graduates to and through college includes the Boys and Girls Club of the Tacoma Housing Authority and the Children's Museum. The initiative aims to help children get ready for kindergarten, for example, to push third-grade reading and eighth-grade algebra.

Graduate Tacoma leaders want to increase the district's graduation rate by half, to 67 percent by 2020. Another key goal is to help more Tacomans complete college or vocational training. As of 2014, only 31 percent of them were. The effort to get graduates to and through college includes the Boys and Girls Club of the Tacoma Housing Authority and the Children's Museum. The initiative aims to help children get ready for kindergarten, for example, to push third-grade reading and eighth-grade algebra.

Sixth-graders from Grey Middles School take part in a graduate presentation Thursday at the STAR Center.