

Abstract

This action research project describes a teacher's efforts to increase understanding of the impacts of converting from a large comprehensive high school to a small schools format. Data was gathered from students and teachers from the researcher's small school and also from a variety of Oregon Public School System statistics. The research design of this study allowed information to be gathered directly from the participants in the conversion process through surveys. Participants included ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth grade students, as well as all the teachers within the researcher's small school. There was also informal data gathering through conversations with parents of students in the small school. The data will be available to interested parties who can use the information at their discretion. Small schools appear to be good for students who need intense remediation and lots of extra attention, but they do not offer the same menu of advanced courses and electives, extracurricular activities and vocational courses that most students and parents associate with going to high school.

