

IET: Inclusion of unExplored Targets

How reaching others can lead to more success

Abstract

While a successful KPA (Kentucky Paraeducator Assessment) WPL was implemented, the initial implementation date was too far into the fiscal year to accurately attribute growth to it, at least in terms of MSG attainment. Instead, most of the growth KEDC saw this year would be attributed to expanded efforts to reach previously unreached student populations. Starting the discussion with a focus on IET/WPL quickened connections with community partners and employers.

Introduction

In the middle of the 2023 fiscal year, it was announced that every adult education program would be required to implement at least one IET or WPL. Rather than reinvent the wheel, it was decided to design a WPL modeled after the SKYCTC KPA (Kentucky Paraeducator Assessment) IET. This particular model was chosen based on the way it serves the needs of the community for greater access to greater educational resources—something that is true in all counties. This is a particularly salient consideration for a program as wide and varied as KEDC Adult Education.

References & Acknowledgements

Data comes from Monthly Rankings, produced by OAE PAPC.

Product Description & Motivation

- The first step in deciding on which IET or WPL to implement is to determine the needs of the community concurrent with the services the program are able to provide. KEDC is a widespread program that affects a lot of communities. However, one need constant in all communities is that of education.
- When communicating with employers and community partners to discuss their need for potential IETs or WPLs, several connections were established, leading to MSG-boosting partnerships.
- Starting the conversation with a focus on IET/WPL decreased the time needed to make such a connection.

Baseline & Goal

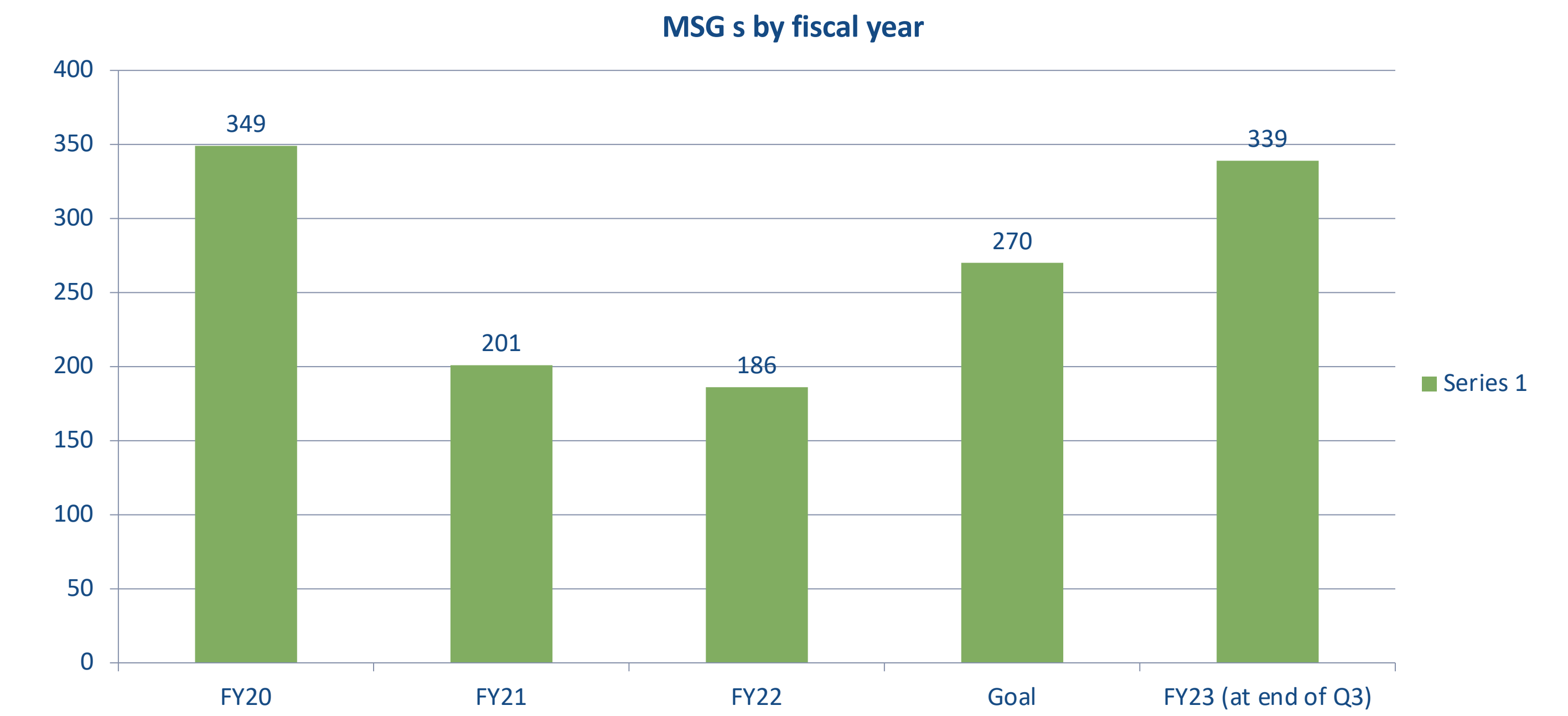
Due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the drops in overall MSG attainment seen in recent years, the decision to calculate the baseline by averaging the MSGs gained in the past three years.

- The average number of MSGs gained for the FY20 (349), FY21 (201), and FY22 (186) is 245.
- Our primary goal for MSG attainment would be to right the ship and go 10% above the baseline, or 270 for the whole of FY23.
- Additional goals would include returning or surpassing the pre-pandemic amount, or hitting 349 MSGs in FY23.

Results

Due to the delays in IET approval and subsequently implementation, it feels untoward to credit the reaching and surpassing of the goal to the IET. Rather, it is our belief that the majority of credit for the jump in MSGs came from concerted efforts to bolster outreach to populations, namely ESL populations, that had not been appropriately focused on in the past.

Chart 1. MSG attainment over the years



Discussion

The goal for FY23 was not only met, but surpassed. In fact, we hope that this starts an upward trend rather than the downward trend the program faced for the past three years. If one were to unprorate the MSG rate to the end of the FY, then KEDC would achieve a total of 452 MSGs, more than double the goal.

Conclusions

It should not be understated how many unexpected benefits came from this product. While the aim was to comply to IET/WPL requirements and gain MSGs in the expected manner concomitant with that approach, going forth into the community highlighted needs and resources previously unknown. The ESL communities in KEDC's footprints are now better served as a result of the exploration phase of this product, and now KEDC has more employer partners for IET/WPL in FY24.