

SPOTLIGHT

Data Guides Early Intervention

Tacoma high schools use data to reach kids. At Foss, Assistant Principal Renee Bailey routinely reviews attendance, behavior, credits, and test scores for 9th and 11th graders. “Red flags are different for different ages: Behaviors and attendance are often the biggest factors in ninth graders’ ability to succeed,” Bailey explains. “In eleventh grade, we look at whether they’re on track to graduate.

“Sometimes we bring in families for their ideas, and we consult with teachers. Most importantly, we ask the student, ‘What do you need to succeed?’”

The data also helps uncover trends in the school population. Bailey explained, “I can ask, ‘What issues are coming up for special ed students? For females? Is there something we should be addressing schoolwide?’” She says when teachers have access to this type of data, they can better collaborate with each other from a whole child perspective.



HIGH SCHOOL NINTH GRADE ACHIEVEMENT

KEY FINDINGS

3 out of 4 On-Track, Gaps Persist

Though 9th graders are up over our baseline of 72% in 2010-11, we’ve seen a marginal 2-point decline since last year’s high of 75%. However, we’ve moved steadily up from the big drop down to 58% experienced in 2013-14 in the last three years. We continue to keep our eyes on the number of 9th graders passing all or all but one class, and we remember not to look at one year’s numbers as a trend, since each year’s numbers represent a different set of 9th grade students.

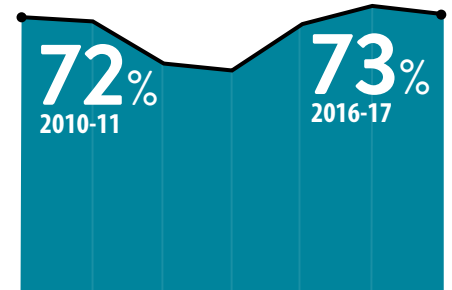
Data-Driven Takeaways

- Gaps have increased for all ethnic groups (*see Demographic Breakout, right*), as well as for students in poverty, since 2015-16. The upward trend in the gap between Black and Pacific Islander students and White students has been growing for the last two and three years respectively.
- The wide gaps we see today are related to the sharp decline that many Students of Color and those living in poverty experienced between 2011 and 2014, coupled with the comparative stability for White, Asian, and Non-Poverty students over that same period.

DATA TRENDS

BASELINE TO CURRENT

Passing all or all but one class



AIMING HIGHER GOAL: Increase the percentage of ninth graders who pass all or all but one of their classes.

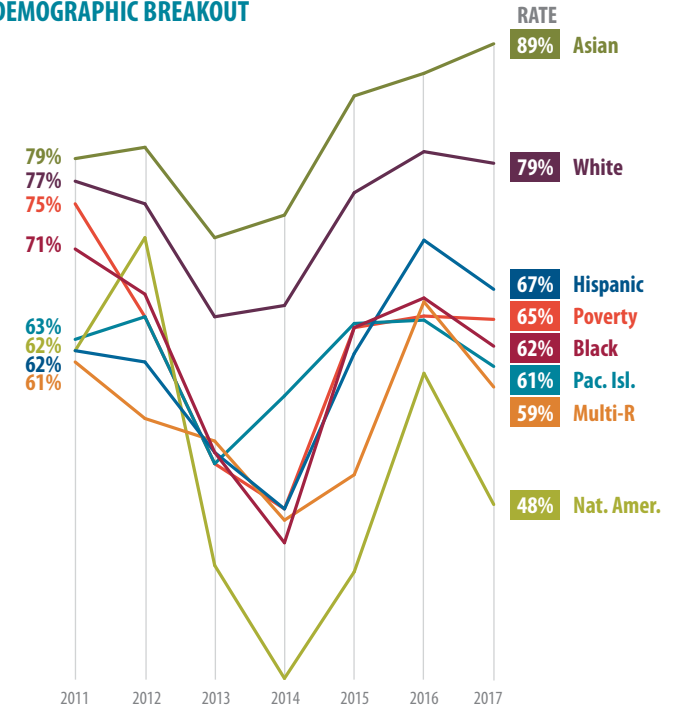
GET INVOLVED!

- **Help** kids get to and stay in school. Chronic absence skyrockets to 45% in high school from 29% in middle school and 18% in elementary.
- **Connect** students to expanded learning programs that encourage school attendance, the importance of good study habits, and staying involved with peers and caring adults.
- **Monitor** student progress in real time. It’s online for all Tacoma students and families through the “Home Access Center” on the TPS website, or download the “eSchoolPLUS Family” app on your mobile device.

GAP CHANGE: Represents the ▲ increase or ▼ decrease in the achievement gap between 1) Students of Color and White students and 2) between students in poverty and those not in poverty, baseline to current.



DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKOUT



Data Source: TPS