

DIG DEEPER

Reaching Dropouts and Non-Graduates after 5 Years

Re-engagement efforts for TPS students who do not graduate in four years have come a long way. The 5-year extended graduation rate has reached a record-high 89%, but there are still many students not making it all the way through. Here's the opportunity before us: to build a system that tracks and reaches students who drop out or haven't graduated within five years.

Re-engagement was recently the focus of a regional convening of the National League of Cities in Tacoma. Attendees agreed the issue begs the community's attention: If we can track these students, we have more chance to help them graduate high school and transition to college or technical school. Without coordinated efforts, they are largely on their own.

Students who do not graduate in four years can still complete their remaining credit requirements in a fifth year and many do. Those who haven't graduated in five years or who are close to dropping out may take advantage of various re-engagement efforts offered by TPS and several other community partners, including the Fresh Start Program at Tacoma Community College, where students can earn their diploma and/or an associate's degree. Other re-engagement efforts are offered by Willie Stewart Academy, Bates Technical College, Goodwill's REACH Center, and many others.

The challenge is to share data and effective strategies across the community so we can understand better where students end up if they fall outside of the 5-year window.



HIGH SCHOOL

5-YEAR EXTENDED GRADUATION

Class of 2016 Up 30 Points to 89%

We've Topped Our 2020 Community Goal!

When Graduate Tacoma began its work, our community set a bold goal to increase, by 50%, the 5-year extended graduation rate by the Class 2020 – from a low of 58% to 87%. We've reached our goal! The Class of 2016 not only hit the goal, but surpassed it with a record-high 89% – a 52% increase. This is the sixth consecutive year of gains and the second year we've exceeded the state. Our increase here, since 2010, is two and three times the growth of similarly sized school districts and more than four times greater than the gains made by the state as a whole.

Equally as important to our community's original goal around equity: The gaps between White students and Students of Color have closed dramatically across every demographic, with all races graduating at rates above 75%, and most above 85%.

Data-Driven Takeaways

- For the first time, the graduation gap between Black and White students has been erased, with Black students (92%) graduating 3% higher than White students (89%).
- The gap has narrowed to 3% for Hispanic students and 4% for Pacific Islander students and it has been cut in half for Native American students.
- Though the gap has decreased for students in poverty, socio-economic status continues to be a barrier.
- The gap between students in poverty and those not in poverty has increased over baseline, but is trending back down since 2013.
- The gap between Multi-racial and White students has been cut by 75%.

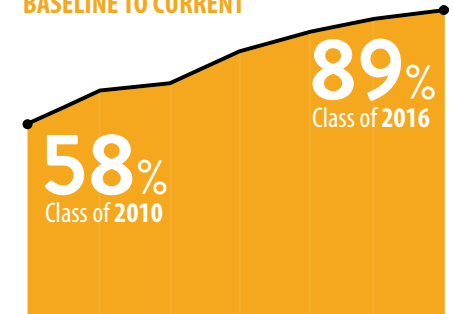
GAP CHANGE: Represents the ▲ increase or ▼ decrease in the achievement gap between 1) Students of Color and White students and 2) between students in poverty and those not in poverty, baseline to current.



[†] Gap closed.

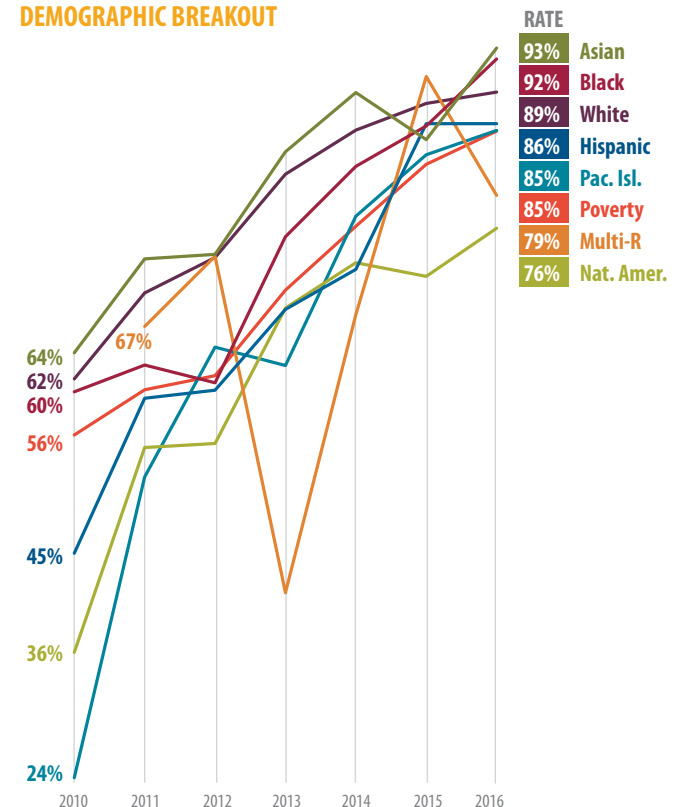
DATA TRENDS

BASELINE TO CURRENT



AIMING HIGHER GOAL: Increase the 5-year extended high school graduation rate by 50% – to 87% by the Class of 2020.

DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKOUT



Data Source: Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)