

## STRONG TRANSITIONS

“Stewart hosts four different programs or events to help transition our incoming fifth grade students and families to middle school:

- **Middle School Visits**

Fifth grade students from our four largest feeder elementary schools come in for a “day in the life” experience. They are paired with a sixth or seventh grade student and shadow them in two of their classes.

- **Future Panther Night**

This is our spring open house. Parents and guardians are able to come in to meet with teachers and take tours of the school.

- **Panther JumpStart**

This is a half-day transition camp. Students come in to Stewart for two days in August and participate in different activities that will help them feel more comfortable starting middle school. They do ice breaker games, practice working with their lockers, learn how to take notes, and meet our staff.

- **Back to School Night**

This is an open house for parents or guardians and students to meet with their advisory teachers for a “get to know you” circle. They learn about expectations, events for the year, and get a draft of their schedule before transitioning to logistical things, such as purchasing uniforms and information on school clubs.

Unlike the transition from middle to high school, our incoming sixth grade students are coming from a school they may have attended for six or seven years. Students have to build relationships with six different teachers with new expectations. Our transition events give students time to process the big leap from elementary to middle school.”



Ravi Jaskar and Lauren Nobles are counselors at Stewart Middle School. Not pictured is Stewart Principal Kim Messersmith.

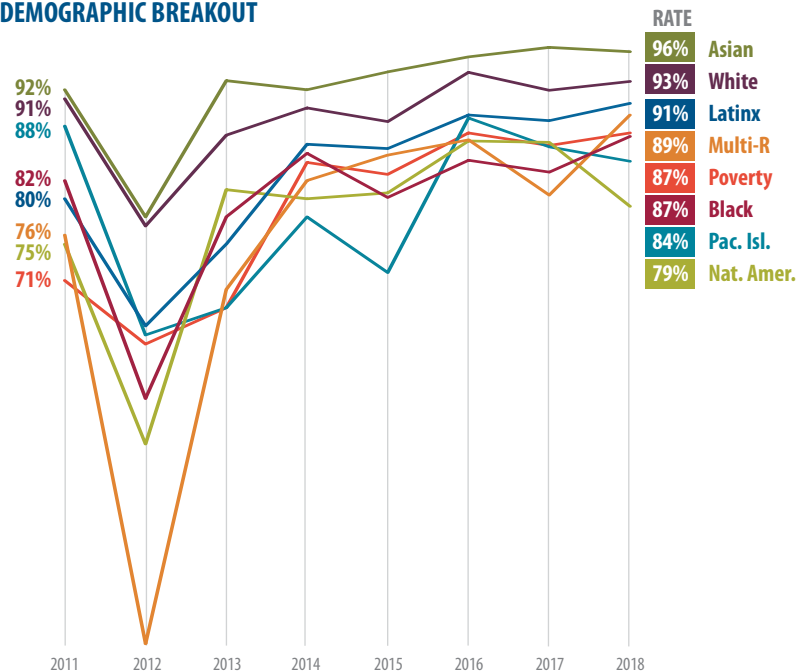
# MIDDLE SCHOOL SIXTH GRADE ACHIEVEMENT

Victories abound for Tacoma sixth graders! Sixth grade achievement in Tacoma has shown some of the greatest success of all indicators across the cradle-to-career continuum. Nearly every middle school has reached over 90 percent of students passing all or all but one class.

Paramount to this steady climb has been closing gaps for students historically at the margins of student success. The overall gap between White and non-Asian students of color passing all or all but one class is now at 3 percent. This is the lowest it has been since tracking started and a 19 point improvement from the gap in 2012. The poverty gap is likewise down to 7 percent, one of the smallest gaps between students in poverty and those not in poverty of all our indicators.

While results have dramatically improved for Latinx and Multi-Racial students in sixth grade, there are still significant achievement gaps for Native American and Pacific Islander students. Interventions in schools and community-based organizations have helped close gaps dramatically thus far. Continued support is necessary to build on this success and fully realize our goals in this indicator, which helps set the bar for later middle school and high school performance.

## DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKOUT

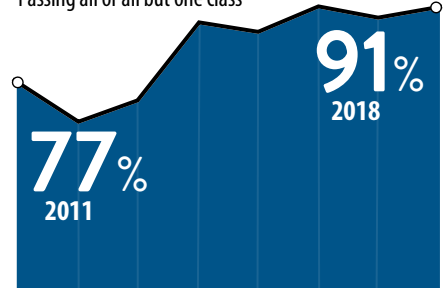


Data Source: TPS raw files

## DATA TRENDS

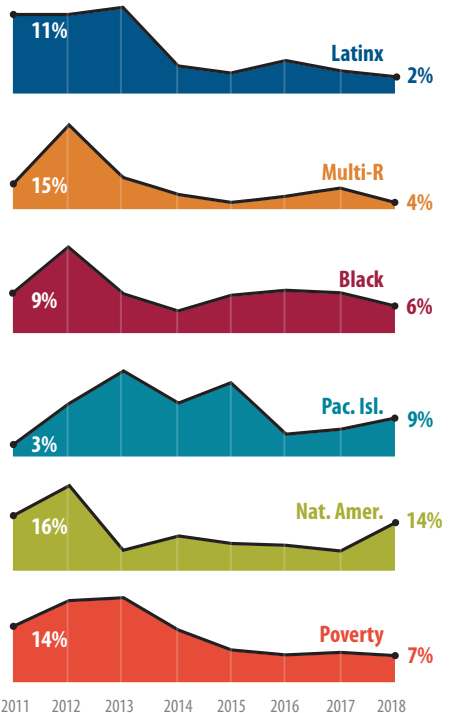
### BASELINE TO CURRENT

Passing all or all but one class



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

**MULTI-YEAR GAPS** Represents the increase or decrease in the achievement gap between students of color and White students and between students in poverty and those not in poverty, baseline to current.



Note: Asian students historically always perform above White students.