

CELEBRATING EACH OTHER

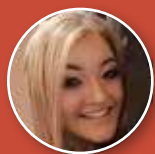
“The theme for Oakland High School’s first prom is Under The Stars.

This is a big deal for the students because it’s the first out-of-school special event where they get to dress up and have a traditional high school experience. We don’t have sports events, homecoming or pep assemblies at Oakland, which has taken away opportunity for students to get to know each other outside of class.

Since Oakland has kids from all over Pierce County, it is hard for them to get to know each other after the school day ends. We want our students to have the same opportunities as other high school students and to feel a sense of pride.

There has been a drastic change in how kids enter the classroom since launching this project. They are more motivated, excited, and organized than previous years because they have an end goal in mind and timelines to make this dream come true. We have a handful of students that have expressed interest in going into the party planning field just from this experience.

At Oakland, it is common for students to sit alone and isolate themselves from their peers during the school day and at lunch. Through this process, the students have grown more familiar with each other and acknowledge each other in passing, whereas before they would not. Students who were maybe a little shy have stepped up to the plate to take leadership roles, talk to business partners, make school-wide announcements, and more. Students wrote and filmed a video in order to raise money for prom-related expenses and even hired an Oakland alum as the DJ.”



Emily Page is the ASB Advisor and Student Council Teacher at Oakland High School.

HIGH SCHOOL

4-YEAR ON-TIME GRADUATION

Tacoma’s four-year graduation rate has reached another record-setting high at 89.3 percent — surpassing our goal of 85 percent by 2020. Every ethnic group has seen 20-30 point increases over the last few years, and overall gaps by race and income remain very low.

Building Resilience

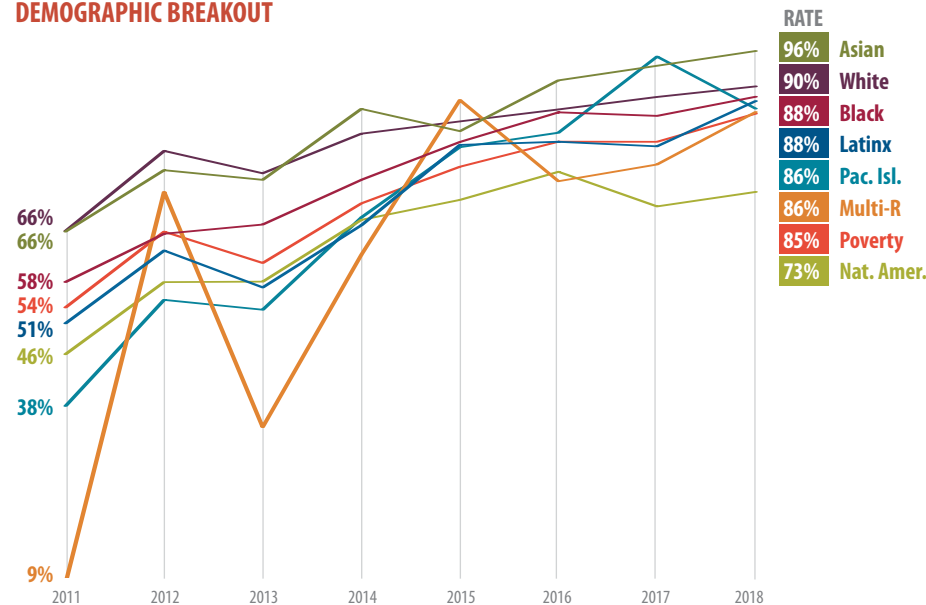
Homeless students and English Learners are graduating at all-time highs, despite increases in both populations. The rate of homeless students graduating on time has grown from 70 to 79 percent over the last year. Likewise, 87 percent of English Learners are graduating on time — nearly double the rate reported in 2010.

The success of these two student groups is a testament to the resilience of young people, as well as the impact of targeted supports.

Interventions, quality learning and increasing access to opportunity are critical throughout the cradle to career continuum. Therefore, a student’s success in one indicator is not a predictor of their overall success through high school graduation. What we have seen with these two populations is that while these students may fall below their peers in areas like third grade reading, they are succeeding today due to support provided later in their trajectory and in high school. It’s never too late.

To build on the success of another record-setting graduation rate and to see those graduates through college or a career, we must continue to lean in around key transition points for students to reach them where and when they need us most.

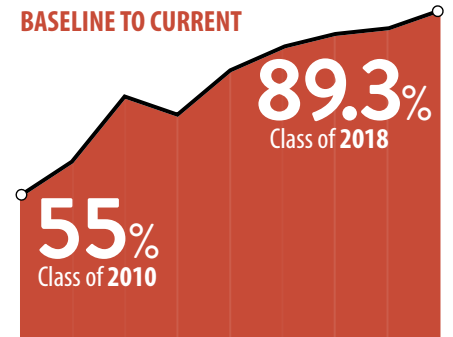
DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKOUT



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

DATA TRENDS

BASELINE TO CURRENT



AIMING HIGHER GOAL: Increase the four-year on-time graduation rate to 85 percent by 2020.

2018 GRADUATION RATES COMPARED

