



Overcoming Barriers to Student Success Through Integrated Supports

Barrier Reductions

High School Graduation in Washington State*

- Over the past decade, the four-year high school graduation rate has increased from 77% to 82%
- In the most recent completed school year (2021–22), nearly 8% of seniors who did not graduate re-enrolled and continued high school
- The remaining 10% of seniors who did not graduate in the 2021–22 school year dropped out

*OSPI Report Card Retrieved 12/8/2023

The Problem

Many high school juniors and seniors who drop out face unique reengagement barriers as they are simultaneously transition into adulthood. Barriers range from lack of transportation and childcare to high-poverty issues like food insecurity and chronic mobility or homelessness.

“Barrier reduction funding allowed us to say, ‘Yes we can help’ instead of ‘I’m not sure we can help’. It changed our narrative and our purpose, which changed our students’ lives.”

- John Luvera, Open Doors Youth Reengagement Principal

The Solution

Invest in barrier reduction strategies and academic reengagement programs for older students who are severely deficient in academic credits and unable to graduate high school with their peer group.

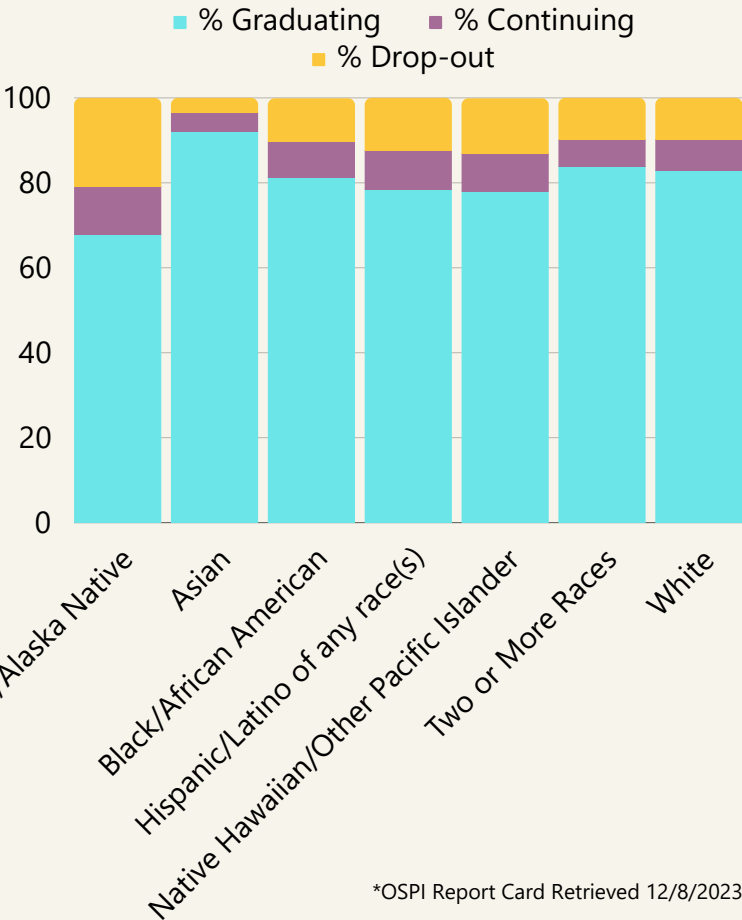
Funding will be allocated on a per-student basis, allowing the state to meet the varied needs of these students.

About This Decision Package

Over the past three years, Washington state’s four-year graduation rate has remained at a record-high of 82%. As the state continues to make strides in increasing graduation rates, gaps remain for some student groups. Data show that barrier reduction funding enables students to concentrate on academics, build social relationships, feel a sense of belonging, maintain mental well-being, remain enrolled, and graduate**. When students can meet their basic needs, their academic persistence improves.

**“Effects of Food Insecurity on College Students’ Mental Health During t” by Kailee Schultz (sdstate.edu).

Class of 2022 Graduation Outcomes by Federal Race Category*



“I gained a lot from school this summer... a job, work clothes and tools. I had time to work on my classes during my lunch break from my new job. Win-win.”

- Open Doors Youth Reengagement Student, Coupeville

Class of 2022 Graduation Outcomes by Student Group**

**OSPI Report Card Retrieved 12/8/2023

