

# Ninth Grade Success

*A Stronger Predictor of High School Graduation than Race, Ethnicity, Level of Poverty, or Test Scores*



## Why are we focusing on ninth grade success?

Ninth graders who end the year on track are four times more likely to graduate than their off-track peers.\* Ninth grade success is a top indicator of future graduation and right now Washington's ninth graders are 70% on track for graduation.

## What's the Ninth Grade Success Program?

- Grant program supports 40 school teams with funds for staff time to participate in team meetings every two weeks
- Stand for Children coaching on asset-based protocols for data informed decision making to offer timely supports
- Quarterly collaborative meetings for school teams to share best practices & set goals
- Site visits to demonstration site schools

**70%**  
OF NINTH GRADERS  
EARNED CREDITS IN  
ALL CREDITS  
ATTEMPTED IN 2021-  
2022

## What's the impact so far?

Excerpts from our evaluation team:

*2022 State Average OSPI Report Card*

- Relative to a comparison group of neighboring high schools not involved in the Ninth Grade Success Program, researchers found that the Ninth Grade Success Program increased on-track rates by between 4 and 7 percentage points.
- Effects are equally large for students who are classified as low-income, multi-language learners, and students with disabilities. Program impacts are also consistent across racial & ethnic groups, particularly Hispanic & Latinx students.
- Based on these findings, a high school with average ninth grade on track rates of 76% that implements Ninth Grade Success Program would be expected to increase their on-track rate by at least four percentage points, up to 80%, within a three-year period.
- **Compared to other educational interventions, these impacts are large and educationally meaningful.**



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## Grantee Experience

“This grant resulted in the best passage rate for our freshman that our school has seen in a long time. It also helped our students that were impacted by COVID and distance learning to relearn what it means to be a student. One of our parents came to board meeting and asked that we continue the same work as her student moves up to tenth grade. She said that the intentional focus on grades, attendance, and SEL resulted in her student being successful and feeling like he belonged on campus.”

“This grant has had a HUGE impact at our high school. When I first applied for the grant and implemented the team two years ago, the ninth grade on track rate was historically in the 40s-60s% range and after just one year it increased to upper 70s%, the highest it's ever been! The biggest impact aside from an increased on track rate is simply awareness among staff and families around the vitalness of ninth grade year!”

## Comparing to Similar Schools

