



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Oregon 4-Year Graduation Rate Climbs for Fifth Straight Year**

*Statewide average jumps 2 percentage points over previous year, 6.7 points over four years; all student groups see gains*

(Salem, Ore.) – Graduation [rate data](#) released today show a continued, steady climb of Oregon’s overall four-year cohort graduation rate. The graduation rate for the 2017-18 school year was 78.7 percent, an increase of 2.0 percentage points compared to the previous year and 6.7 percentage points over four years. Every student group saw increases, and, for many historically underserved student groups, graduation rates increased more than the statewide average.

“It’s important to remember that we are talking about students, not statistics,” Oregon Department of Education Director Colt Gill said. “In this case, a two-point increase in graduation means an additional 950 students getting their diplomas within four years of starting high school. Under the leadership of Governor Kate Brown, we have enacted equity-focused supports that have helped students of color, students navigating poverty, and tribal students graduate at a higher rate than before.”

To further improve graduation rates, Governor Brown is proposing a \$2 billion investment in education that dedicates \$794 million to reduce class sizes in early grades and lengthen the school year, \$133 million to fully fund the High School Success (Measure 98) program, \$7.7 million for Native American student programs and a \$6 million increase for the African American/Black Student Success program.

“How our state provides for the needs of our children is a marker of who we are as a community. Every student in Oregon deserves an education that sets them up for success and helps them graduate from high school with a plan for their future,” said Governor Kate Brown. “These graduation rates show our work to close opportunity gaps with targeted investments is making a difference in the lives of students. To build on this progress, I am dedicated to re-investing in our schools to bring them back to a level we can be proud of.”



Highlights of the graduation rate data include:

<b>Student Group</b>	<b>4-Year Graduation Rate For 2017-2018 Class</b>	<b>Increase From Previous Year</b>
All Students	78.7	2.0
Asian	90.6	1.7
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	75.4	6.0
American Indian/ Alaska Native	65.3	6.2
Black/African American	68.0	0.4
Hispanic/Latino	74.6	2.1
Former English Learners	82.5	(New Group)
Homeless Students	54.1	3.4
CTE Participants	88.1	1.8
CTE Concentrators	92.8	1.1

- The asset of bilingualism is highlighted by the fact that students who exited English Learner programs before high school graduate at a rate nearly four percentage points higher than the statewide average. It shows that the hard work our educators do in welcoming and helping students with non-English speaking backgrounds pays off greatly for our state.
- The Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander graduation rate is higher now than the statewide average was just two years ago.
- The Hispanic/Latino graduation rate exceeds what the statewide average was three years ago.
- Students taking CTE courses continue to graduate at a rate far higher than the statewide average.

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