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Media release

Hillsboro School District 2021 Graduation Rates

Pandemic impacts reflected in 4.41 percentage point dip in on-time graduation rates

January 20, 2022, Hillsboro, OR - Following five consecutive years of increasing graduation rates, the Hillsboro School District saw a significant decline for the Class of 2021. Among students who first entered high school in the 2017-18 school year, 82.66 percent graduated in four years - a 4.41 percentage point decrease from 2020. Of particular concern is the disproportionate drop among historically underserved populations.

	Total Students	2021 Grads	2021 Grad Rate	2020 Grad Rate	Δ (in pct. pts.)	Other completers*	2021 Completer Rate	5-yr Comp rate (class of 2020)
Century	387	332	85.79%	87.92%	-2.13	2	86.30%	94.44%
Glencoe	388	331	85.31%	89.72%	-4.41	9	87.63%	93.56%
Hilhi	311	252	81.03%	83.33%	-2.30	2	81.67%	88.79%
HOA	56	43	76.79%	81.82%	-5.03	4	83.93%	95.45%
Liberty	383	323	84.33%	91.08%	-6.75	16	88.51%	93.46%
HSD	1551	1282	82.66%	87.07%	-4.41	41	85.30%	92.35%

**Other completers category includes students earning an Adult HS Diploma, Extended Diploma, or GED.*

HSD routinely tracks its graduation performance against eleven other large or nearby districts as well as the state as a whole. Seven of those districts, and the state - or 75 percent of comparators - also saw declines in their 2021 graduation rates. Contrast that to 2020 where the inverse was true and just four districts - or 25 percent of comparators - saw decreased rates versus 2019. This shows that the effects of the ongoing pandemic are being felt across the state and that they are compounded for traditionally marginalized communities.

One bright spot is the District's five-year completer rate, which tracks students who either graduate or earn a GED, adult high school diploma, or extended diploma within five years of their first entry into high school. HSD's five-year completer rate for the Class of 2020 is 92.35 percent, which ranks fourth-highest among its twelve comparators. This shows the tenacity and determination of HSD students - and those who support them - to do what it takes to complete high school and move on to the next phase of their lives. In addition, HSD continues to outpace the State's graduation rate - this year by 2.03 percentage points.

There are many interventions either currently underway or in the works for the coming months to help reverse the downward trend in graduation rates, and the work is urgent. Data shows that the decline could be exacerbated over the next three years at least, due to the number of current high school students who are “off track” - meaning they have not earned the minimum number of credits in the right subject areas to put them on a path to graduate within four years. Those interventions include expansion of the access/advisory period to four days per week; three student/staff support days added to the 2021-22 calendar; teachers, school-based teams, graduation coaches, and counselors connecting with students and families to assess needs and provide supports; evening and summer school opportunities; and the opening of the new Pathways Center in Semester 2 (Feb. 1, 2022).

“The District values graduation and a path forward for each student,” remarks Assistant Superintendent Dayle Spitzer, “and believes that with continued effort from teachers, support staff, administrators, families, and community partners working together we can engage students to reach the finish line.”

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For disaggregated data, comparison to other districts, and historical data, please refer to the document [2021 comparative grad rates](#), and to understand more about the cohort graduation rate calculation, please refer to the document [understanding graduation rates](#).