

A Goal Monitoring Conversation: *PPS 12th Grade Cohort Graduation Rate*



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December 4, 2024



Goal – 12th Grade Cohort Graduation Rate

Why?

12th grade cohort graduation rates are a public measure of a school district's ability to fulfill its core mission in a timely manner with accountability. Ensuring positive student outcomes is the goal of our school system, and graduation rates serve as a key indicator of our success.

What?

By the end of the 24-25 school year, 84.4% of 12th Grade Students will graduate. At the end of the 20-21 school year, 81.5% of 12th Grade Students graduated , establishing the baseline for our 5-year goal of achieving an 85.8% graduation rate for 12th Grade Students by 2027.

How?

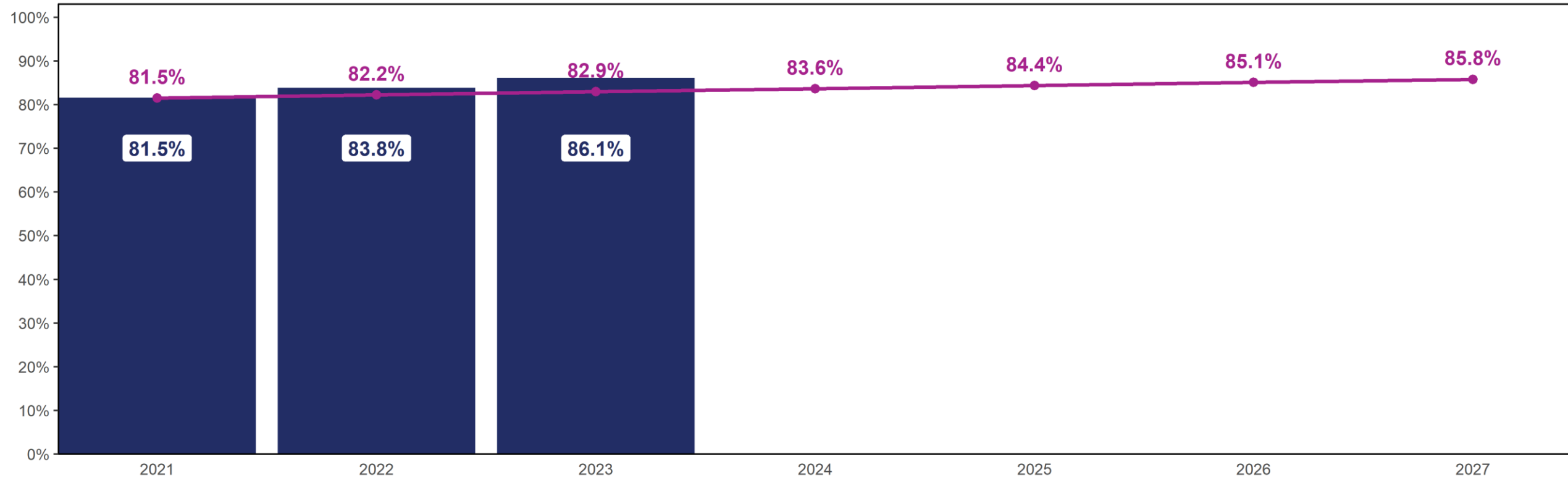
Graduation Tracker, Act 158 Dashboard

Goal – 12th Grade Cohort Graduation Rate (By Year)

Graduation Rate

Goal: By the end of the 2026-27 school year, 85.77% of 12th grade students will graduate. At the end of the 2020-21 school year, 81.50% of 12th grade students graduated.

■ Graduation Rate ● Graduation Target

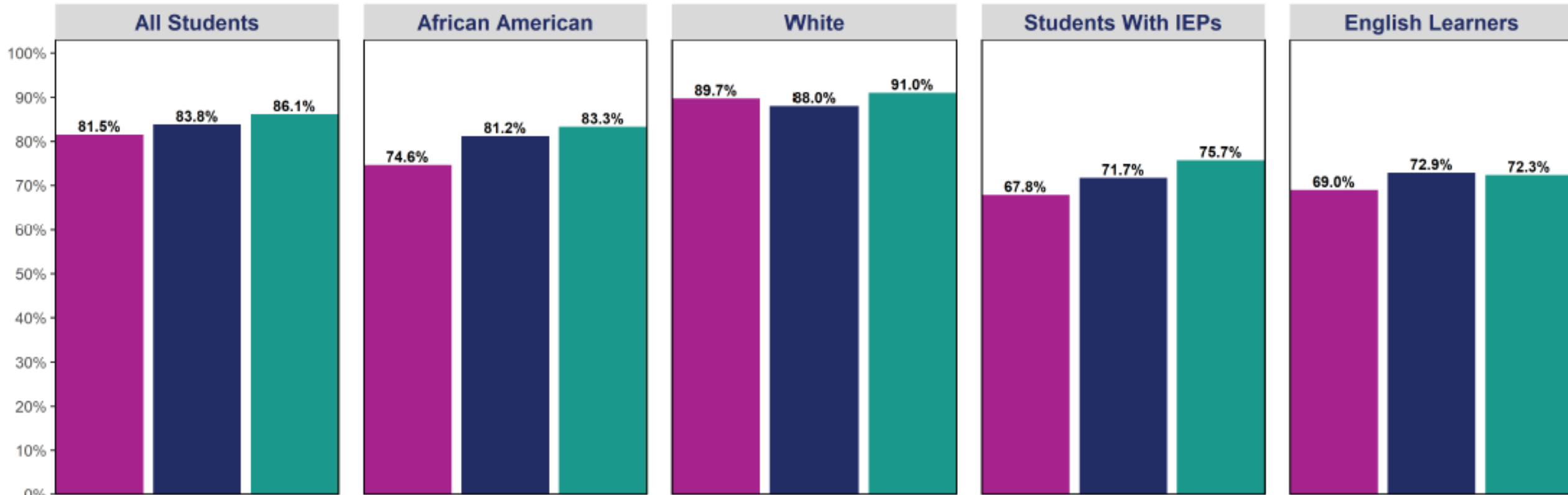


Data Source: PIMS Graduation Cohort Files

Goal 2– 12th Grade Cohort Graduation Rate (By Subgroup)

Graduation Rates: By Subgroups
All Students, African American, White, IEP, and ELL Students

2021 2022 2023



Data Source: PIMS Graduation Cohort Files

Supporting Graduation Progress

Promise Coaches

Promise Coaches are now helping students in four high schools based on graduation data and needed supports (Carrick, Milliones, Perry, and Westinghouse) to stay on track to graduate.

Financial Investment in School Counselors

The District has invested in hiring more school counselors to get closer to the recommended student-to-counselor ratio of 250:1, suggested by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA). Right now, the District's average is 350 students for every counselor, but many of our high schools already meet the goal of 250 students per counselor.

Graduation Tracker (Graduation Monitoring Tool #1)

Graduation Tracker Implementation at PPS High Schools

All PPS high schools now utilize Grad Tracker to support student success. Counselors and principals are expected to use this feature for every student in grades 9–12.

Benefits of Using Graduation Tracker:

- Quick Assessment: Counselors can instantly determine where students stand academically.
- Class Planning: Identifies which courses a student still needs.
- Enhanced Transparency: Facilitates clear, individualized conversations between students and counselors.
- Collaborative Monitoring: Enables access to student progress by all relevant staff, not just counselors.
- Support for Transfers: Ensures transfer students can easily track their progress across PPS schools.

Key Insights from Graduation Tracker Data:

- Credits Required
- Credits Earned
- Credits Remaining

On-Track to Graduation (By School)

School	Number of 12th Grade Students (including those at SAC right now)	Number of 12th Grade Students On Track to Graduate (Based on Credits Alone - Not Act 158)	Number of 12th Grade Student NOT on Track to Graduate (Based on Credits Alone - Not Act 158)	# of 12th Grade Students Currently Enrolled at SAC
Pittsburgh Allderdice	361	324	37	6
Pittsburgh Brashear	207	175	32	5
Pittsburgh CAPA	117	110	7	1
Pittsburgh Carrick	111	89	22	8
Pittsburgh Clayton	1	1	0	0
Pittsburgh Perry	97	83	14	12
Pittsburgh Obama	82	73	9	4
Pittsburgh OCA	4	3	1	0
Pittsburgh Online Academy	18	16	2	0
Pittsburgh SAC (2024)	54	35	28	54
Pittsburgh SAC (2025)	13	5	8	13
Pittsburgh Sci-Tech	98	95	3	0
Pittsburgh Milliones	65	34	31	3
Pittsburgh Westinghouse	68	44	24	9

83.8% of seniors are on track to graduate as of 11.18.2024

Act 158 - Pathways to Graduation (Monitoring Tool #2)

Students have the option to demonstrate **postsecondary preparedness** through one of four additional pathways that more fully illustrate college, career, and community readiness.

Keystone Exams continue as the statewide assessment Pennsylvania uses to comply with accountability requirements set forth in the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). However, there are options for students who can demonstrate proficiency in another way.

Five pathways exist for meeting state high school graduation requirements:

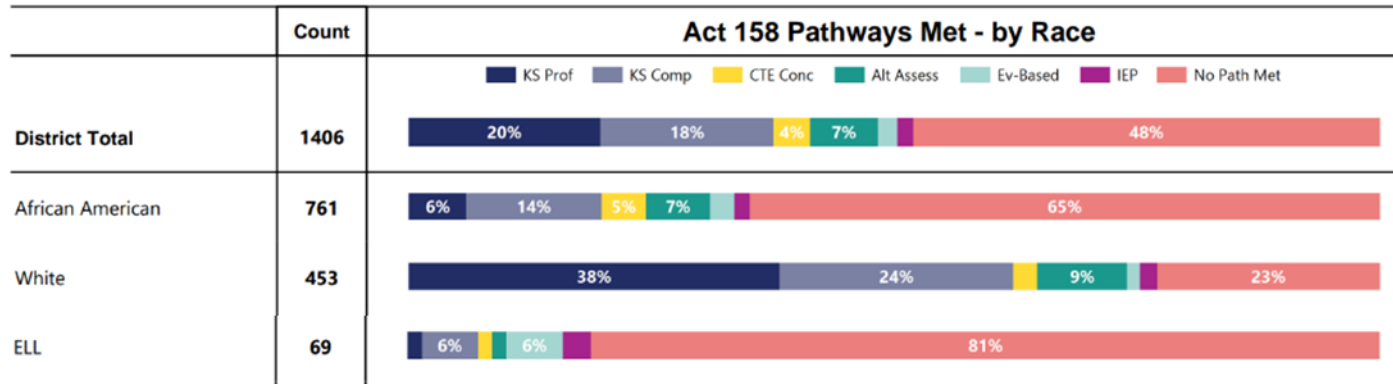
- Keystone Proficiency**
- Keystone Composite**
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) Concentrator**
- Alternative Assessment**
- Evidence-Based**

More information regarding Act 158 can be found at education.pa.gov.

Pittsburgh Public Schools administration, school counselors, transition counselors, teachers, and other staff **work closely with all students** to review and help students decide which pathway is best for them to meet this statewide high school graduation requirement. Additionally, Act 158 status letters are sent to families quarterly.

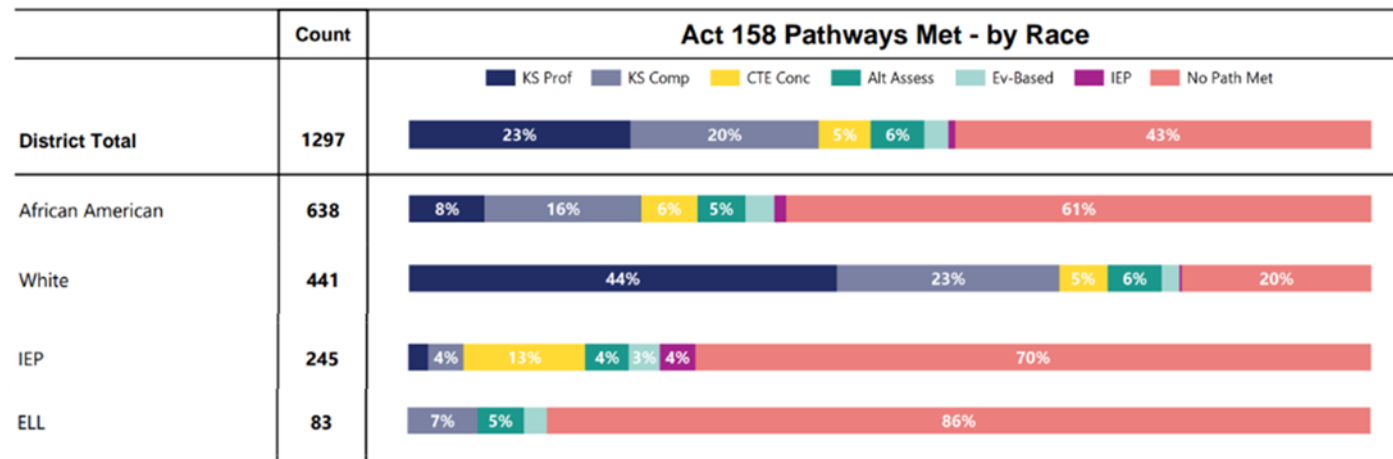
Act 158 Monitoring as of November (By Subgroup) Yearly Comparison

Act 158 Pathways Met as of November 2023

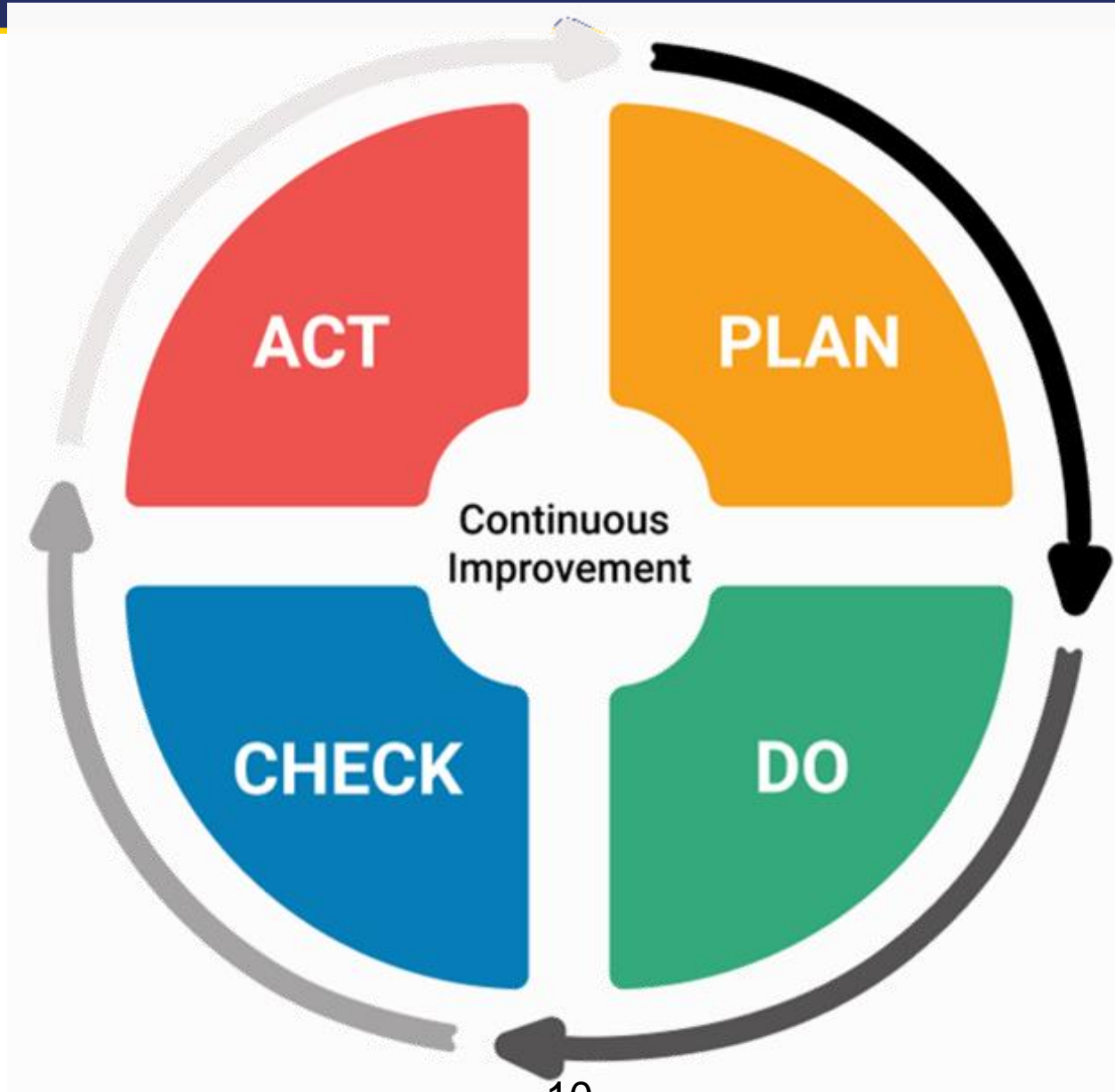


Note: Although only 52% of students met Act 158 requirements for graduation by November 2023, 100% of students ended the 23-24 school year completing Act 158 requirements.

Act 158 Pathways Met as of November 2024



Strategy and Plan



Strategy and Plan - Standardized Communication and Engagement

Objective: Ensure consistent communication about graduation expectations across all high schools.

Action Steps:

- Develop standardized presentations and materials for students, families, and community partners, detailing key topics such as credit requirements (new for 9th graders), Act 158 pathways, and available support services.
- Create district-wide protocols for engaging students and families, including scheduled counselor meetings at critical checkpoints.
- Train school staff on delivering consistent messaging to ensure all high school students, regardless of school or grade, all receive the same critical information.

Outcome: Clear and consistent communication that empowers students, families, and community partners to stay informed and engaged, reducing confusion and increasing preparedness for graduation.

Strategy and Plan- Structured Documentation Process

Objective: Monitor and support student progress with actionable insights and transparency.

Action Steps:

- Implement a district-wide system for counselors to document interactions with students, including:
 - Interventions for students struggling in specific classes.
 - Celebrations of key milestones, such as credit recovery or meeting Act 158 pathway benchmarks.
 - Communication logs for counselor-family updates.
 - Exploration of alternative options, such as career readiness programs or tutoring.
- Utilize data collected in this system to provide regular updates to school leadership and tailor additional supports based on identified needs.
- Incorporate this process into professional learning to ensure all counselors, student services staff, and school leaders are equipped to guide and monitor implementation.

Outcome: A consistent documentation process for more targeted interventions, better tracking of student progress, and increased opportunities to celebrate successes, ensuring students remain on track to graduate.

Strategy and Plan- Graduation Mentorship Program

Objective: To provide immediate, focused support for seniors, particularly African American students, English Language Learners (ELL), and students with IEPs, by fostering mentorship, engaging families, and celebrating progress.

Action Steps:

- Connect each senior, who is not fulfilling graduation requirements, with a mentor, like a teacher, counselor, staff, or school-based community partner, who will check in weekly to offer help, encouragement, and resources.
- Hold monthly workshops to teach students about graduation requirements, credit recovery, and success strategies. Include special sessions for African American students, English Language Learners, and students with IEPs to meet their unique needs.
- Reach out to families with clear information about graduation requirements and available help. Make sure ELL families have access to translated materials and support.
- Recognize student achievements, like passing a class or finishing credit recovery, through small incentives to keep them motivated.

Outcome: By building strong student-mentor relationships, involving families, and celebrating progress, this plan will help more seniors stay on track to graduate, creating a noticeable difference in their confidence and success this year.



LET'S
HAVE
A
Conversation