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Monitoring Report

Report Date: February 24, 2026

Policy Type: Ends

Strategic Plan Goal 5: Preparation for Post-Secondary Success - Every student will successfully navigate the critical transitions in their personalized learning trajectory and will graduate from high school prepared for success in college, career, and post-secondary experiences.

Outcome d: Increased percentage of high school graduates experiencing post-high school growth/success 1-2 years after graduation.

Interpretation

Goal 5 Outcome D intentionally use broad language, so the measure includes the wide range of paths students take after high school. While we aim to reflect all post-secondary options—including work-based learning and military service—state data systems currently limit our ability to comprehensively track those routes. In the future, we will report on additional opportunities beyond post-secondary as the data becomes available.

However, we do have strong, reliable data on graduates who enroll in post-secondary institutions. Therefore, this monitoring report focuses on those students. For the purposes of this outcome, "post-high school growth/success 1–2 years after graduation" is defined as the percentage of graduates who enroll in college and persist into their second year. This is also known as Freshman-to-Sophomore Persistence.

This indicator is significant because:

- More students leave college during the first year than at any other point.
- Low-income and first-generation students are disproportionately affected.
- Persistence rates provide meaningful feedback on how well our high schools prepare students for post-secondary success.

North Thurston Public Schools uses the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC), whose StudentTracker service provides data on graduate enrollment and outcomes across a wide range of institutions, including 2- and 4-year, public and private, in state and out-of-state colleges, as well as technical and vocational programs.

Rationale and Data

According to the most recent NSC data available (Class of 2018):

- 84% of NTPS graduates who attended college persisted into their second year across all institutions.
- Persistence was higher for 4-year institutions (90%).
- Persistence at 2-year institutions was lower (72%), though this figure has improved since

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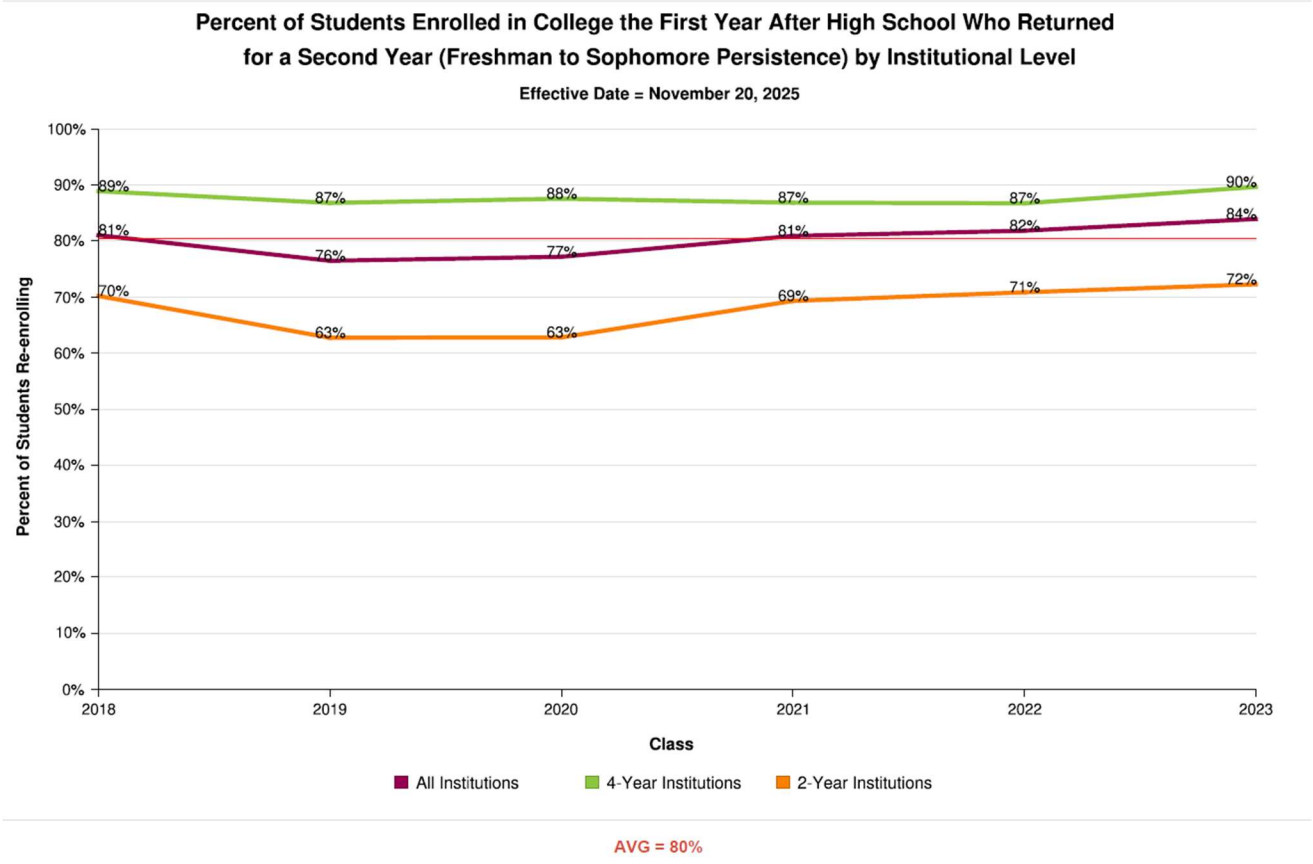
a dip in 2019 and 2020.

These data reflect district-wide results. School-level reports are also provided to high school administrators for ongoing monitoring and action planning.



Analysis and Conclusions

The SMART Goal from February 2021 was to Increase Freshman to Sophomore persistence by 5% over three years for 2-year institutions.

The rate of persistence in 2-year institutions has increased from 63% for the class of 2020 to 72% with the class of 2023 showing a 9% gain, demonstrating **full compliance.**

Our recommendation for next steps is to increase Freshman to Sophomore persistence from 72% to 75% by the class of 2026 for 2-year institutions.