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Media release

Hillsboro School District Graduation Rates on the Rise

The return to in-person learning, equitable grading practices, and robust summer offerings credited with strong rebound in on-time graduation rates

January 26, 2023, Hillsboro, OR - After experiencing a "pandemic dip" along with many other districts in 2021, the Hillsboro School District is once again on a trajectory of increasing its on-time graduation rates with the class of 2022. Districtwide, 86.27% of students who first entered high school in the 2018-19 school year graduated in four years. This represents an increase of 3.61 percentage points from 2021, is less than one percentage point away from the District's all-time high of 87.07% in 2020, and is 4.93 percentage points above the state average.

	Total Students	2022 Grads	2022 Grad Rate	2021 Grad Rate	Δ (in pct. pts.)	Other completers*	2022 Completer Rate	5-yr Comp rate (class of 2021)
Century	392	340	86.73%	85.79%	0.94	6	88.27%	90.44%
Glencoe	353	312	88.39%	85.31%	3.08	4	89.52%	90.65%
Hilhi	330	284	86.06%	81.03%	5.03	2	86.67%	83.28%
НОА	62	49	79.03%	76.79%	2.24	1	80.65%	89.66%
Liberty	383	341	89.03%	84.33%	4.70	7	90.86%	90.10%
HSD	1537	1326	86.27%	82.66%	3.61	24	87.83%	88.32%

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

Gains were seen at each HSD high school, with Hilhi experiencing the largest increase of 5.03 percentage points for a graduation rate of 86.06%. Perhaps most encouraging are the increases seen among many of our historically marginalized students. Students identifying as Hispanic/Latino had higher graduation rates at every high school in 2022 versus 2021, as did Former English Learners and Students with Disabilities.

Assistant Superintendent Audrea Neville cites several factors as contributing to the boost in graduates, including the return to full-time in-person instruction in the 2021-22 school year, equitable grading practices, and robust summer school programs.

"Our high school staff worked incredibly hard to support our students in meeting standards," Neville notes. "We were also able to leverage our Oak Street Campus and new Pathways

Center to offer unique programming and alternative pathways to credit attainment for students who may have been struggling."

A significant infusion of money from the state for summer programs was critical for providing students access to coursework to get back on track; more students than ever before were served through summer credit recovery offerings at the high school level.

"And, of course, there is simply no substitute for being able to interact with students in person. The level of engagement and the quality of relationships increases dramatically, allowing for a more effective learning environment," shares Neville.

The District is committed to continually enhancing its efforts to support students along their path to graduation.

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For disaggregated data, comparison to other districts, and historical data, please refer to the document <u>2022 comparative grad rates</u>, and to understand more about the cohort graduation rate calculation, please refer to the document <u>understanding graduation rates</u>.