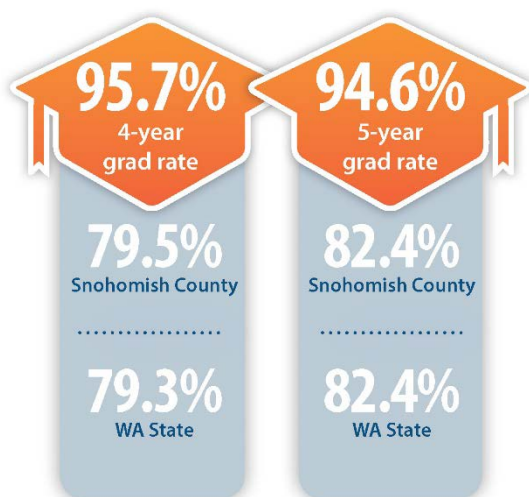




**News release**  
**Nov. 15, 2018**

## **District graduation rates jump higher**

*Highest ever on-time graduation rate reaches 95.7 percent*



Everett, WA – Seating at district graduation ceremonies is getting cozier as more students and their families gather to celebrate the educational milestone. Everett Public Schools' graduation rates have been steadily climbing over the past decade and have reached a record high.

**Flashback to June 2003** when Everett's graduation rate was only 53 percent. The percentage of students who qualified for free and reduced lunches, the state's measure for poverty rate, was only 26.6 percent. Transitional bilingual students made up 5.6 percent of the district's student population.

**Today**, the district's poverty rate is 36.7 percent and the number of English learners has more than doubled, yet the four-year, or "on-time" graduation rate, is 95.7 percent – the highest rate on record for the district. The five-year graduation rate is 94.6 percent.

### **How did it happen?**

"It was accomplished strategically, and in some cases, student by student," shared Dr. Jeanne Willard, College and Career Readiness and On-Time Graduation Director at Everett Public Schools. After the district recognized in 2005 that it needed to do something more to help students cross the stage, it began implementing more strategies, including forming an on-time graduation task force.

The on-time graduation task force began efforts to reach out to students, sometimes one by one, to re-engage them in school and provide support to individual students. Some staff would track down students on social media to reconnect with them and invite them to finish their high school credits. "That's when the focus on *all* students shifted to *each* student," noted Willard.

Today, staff members still work with students individually to re-engage them in school, sometimes through meet-ups at local coffee shops. For those students who are still enrolled, but struggling, they can receive support in academics during Saturday school and other supplemental sessions taught by their teachers. Some students decide to follow an alternate educational program to graduation such as online high school.

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Students who graduate from Everett Public Schools may benefit from many other interventions and support programs by the time they receive a diploma, including:

- Free-for-students summer school opportunities
- Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) (grades 7-12)
- College Bound Scholarship (grades 7-8)
- Support from success coordinators and counselors
- Free-for-11th-graders SAT given during the school day
- Free-for-10th-graders PSAT given during the school day
- Credit retrieval and competency-based high school credit options
- Job-embedded instructional coaching
- FAFSA completion support

<b>Four-year</b> graduation rate	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
	84.4%	89.3%	90.2%	90.9%	92.9%	95.7%
<b>Five-year</b> graduation rate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	88.5%	91.2%	94.5%	94.7%	95.2%	94.6%

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**For more information:**

**[Kathy Reeves](#), Director of Communications, 425-385-4040**