In-Depth Analysis of High School Graduation Rates Reveals Progress Is Real, But Slowing

The national high school graduation rate reached an all-time high of 84.6 percent in 2017, driven by gains for Latino, African American, and students from low-income families. This progress over the last decade and a half means that more than 3.5 million additional students have graduated on-time instead of dropping out. Despite these gains, progress has slowed, signaling the need for a concerted and coordinated response at the national, state, community, and school levels to meet the needs of every young person and close remaining gaps.

The convening partners of the GradNation campaign—America’s Promise Alliance, Civic, The Everyone Graduates Center, and All4Ed—hosted two panel discussions on efforts to improve the high school graduation rate, as well as challenges facing homeless students.

#OurChallengeOurHope Reflections: High School Graduation Challenges

We’re collecting short videos of individuals sharing their challenges and hopes sixty-five years after Brown vs. Board of Education was decided. Hear from John King, 10th U.S. Secretary of Education and president and CEO of The Education Trust; Robert Balfanz, director of the Everyone Graduates Center at Johns Hopkins University; Elaine Williams, young adult leader at SchoolHouse Connection; and others on our June theme of high school graduation rates.

Want to add your reflections to our list? Tweet them to use using #OurChallengeOurHope and be sure to tag
All4Ed President Deb Delisle Comments on New Bill to Improve Federal Student Aid

The Go to High School, Go to College Act, introduced by U.S. Representatives Marcia L. Fudge (D-OH) and Elise Stefanik (R-NY) and U.S. Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Mark Warner (D-VA), aims to improve secondary and postsecondary outcomes for students and while also maximizing the efficiency of federal student aid. In response, Deb Delisle, president and CEO of the Alliance for Excellent Education (All4Ed), made the following comment.

"In today's economy, postsecondary education is not a luxury, it's a requirement. Too often, however, students' pathways through college are thwarted by mounting debt. Thus, a significant challenge is how to increase access to college while decreasing student debt? While it doesn't require a silver bullet, it will take a smart policy."

Four Ideas for an Effective Leadership Retreat This Summer

With the last bell of the year, school and district leaders from coast to coast begin thinking ahead and planning for what is to come. Although each district's way of going about it is unique, all leadership teams come together to reflect on the past year and begin to envision the next. Here are four ideas to help your leadership retreat be effective this summer.

Deeper Learning Digest: Valuing Culture Matters for Learning

How can you develop a culturally responsive classroom environment and shape the lives of diverse learners?

Today’s digest highlights a strategy for culturally responsive pedagogy, a whole-child approach in Baltimore, a massive deeper learning conference in Kentucky, project-based learning in North Carolina, and more!

In Case You Missed It
Falling Through the Cracks: Students Without High School Diplomas

Continuing the conversation on the legacy and impact of the landmark Brown vs. Board of Education case, this webinar shines a spotlight on the work still remaining and offer solutions to schools, districts, states, and federal policymakers on how they can advocate for students who are furthest from opportunity.

Watch Now

Leveraging Data and the Cloud While Protecting Student Data Privacy

As districts continue to move toward the effective use of technology in the classroom, school leaders grapple with economies of scale; as well as how to maximize use of the cloud, data governance, and instructional opportunities, while minimizing risk. In this webinar, panelists will discuss how school districts have used data and the cloud to innovate and optimize learning, while also providing data privacy for all.

Watch Now

Equity IS Education

Many school communities are attempting to address equity and opportunity gaps in isolation. This webinar highlights the need to change our mindset and practices on these two issues and focuses on effective approaches that will help merge the topics of equity and gaps in teaching and learning.

Watch Now
New Podcast Episode: Believing All Students Can Learn

When you step into your classroom each day, do you believe that all your students can succeed? On this episode of Critical Window, Dr. Yvette Jackson, adjunct professor at Teacher's College at Columbia University and senior scholar at the National Urban Alliance for Effective Education, shares her concept of the “pedagogy of confidence,” and how can educators use this style of pedagogy to support adolescent learning.

Listen Now

Miss a Webinar?
All4Ed records all of its webinars and makes the video available "on demand"

Looking for meeting space? Want to broadcast your own webinar?
Visit all4ed.org/studio/ to learn how you can rent All4Ed's conference space or studio to host your organization's next event.

All4Ed is Your Resource on K-12 Federal Education Laws

To keep you up to date on the latest happenings and implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V), All4Ed has created a series of bite-sized materials – both print and video – that provide concise but comprehensive analyses of several key areas within ESSA and Perkins V.

Access ESSA Materials
Access Perkins V Materials

New Faces at the Alliance

Jemiah Williams
Policy and Advocacy Intern

Ms. Williams was born and raised in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex and is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Legal Communications at Howard University. While in the District of Columbia, Jemiah has mentored elementary school students, interned with the Howard University Student Senate Association and co-hosted a radio show on WHBC 96.3 HD3.

Ms. Williams has a breadth of experience advocating for underrepresented groups and education reform.
Prior to joining All4ed, Ms. Williams was the Texas State Juvenile Justice Chairman for the NAACP and created a career education program for incarcerated youth. In the summer of 2018, Ms. Williams interned at the office of Congressman Marc Veasey where she spearheaded a plan for preparing local high school students for secondary education.

Jenna Douglas
Policy and Advocacy Intern

Ms. Douglas hails from a suburb in New Jersey where she attended high school and spent two years at her local community college. She is a first-generation college student and a recent graduate of Georgetown University, where she received a bachelor of arts degree in psychology and completed a significant amount of course work in the field of justice and peace studies.

Ms. Douglas credits her time at Georgetown for deepening her passion for education and justice. As a tutor for the After School Kids Program through Georgetown’s Center for Social Justice, Ms. Douglas engaged with students who were involved in the District of Columbia court system and witnessed first-hand the challenges that marginalized communities face in accessing high-quality education. Her experience as a mentor led her to continue cultivating her research interests as an assistant on the Georgetown Community Research Group’s juvenile justice project. Similarly, Ms. Douglas worked with a team of other Georgetown students to support Advocates for Justice and Education, Inc. on locating successful postsecondary transition programs across the nation for students with disabilities with the goal of improving current transition programs in the District of Columbia.

Recommended

Houston ISD has a big, bold vision for helping students outside the classroom. Will it work?

Homeless Students’ Struggles Come Into Sharper Focus Under ESSA

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More than 2,000 of America’s public high schools are graduating two-thirds or fewer of their students, and most of the students in these schools are African American, Latino, and low-income. #OurChallengeOurHope @All4Ed

2,300 lowest-performing high schools have an average graduation rate of 40%

#OurChallengeOurHope

Natalie Osborne Smith, EdD @smithned

If this isn’t a call to action, i’m not sure what is. All children deserve the best opportunities to be college and career ready. The deserve the chance to graduate. #OurChallengeOurHope #AllMeansAll

When a high school diploma is no longer the end point, but the jumping-off point to the additional education and training needed to secure a good-paying job, the nation’s 2,300 lowest-performing high schools have an average graduation rate of 40%.

#OurChallengeOurHope #All4Ed
Informative infographic from @All4Ed on why social and emotional learning matters.
all4ed.org/wp-content/upl...