Update on A-G completion and "No D policy"
September 8, 2021

Ask of the Board

- To receive information and ask questions of staff regarding current A - G completion rates, and how these rates tie into equitable grading practices including the elimination of the D letter grade.

Outline

- What is A - G and why is it important
- A - G Data Dive
- Grading in OUSD
- High School Linked Learning Office (HSLLO) Stakes in the Ground
- No D Policy

What is A - G?

To meet minimum admission requirements for California's CSU and UC system schools, high school graduates must complete 15 year long high school courses with a letter grade of C or better — at least 11 of them prior to your last year of high school.

What is A - G?

At a minimum scholars must complete the following:

English - 4 Years

Math - 3 Years
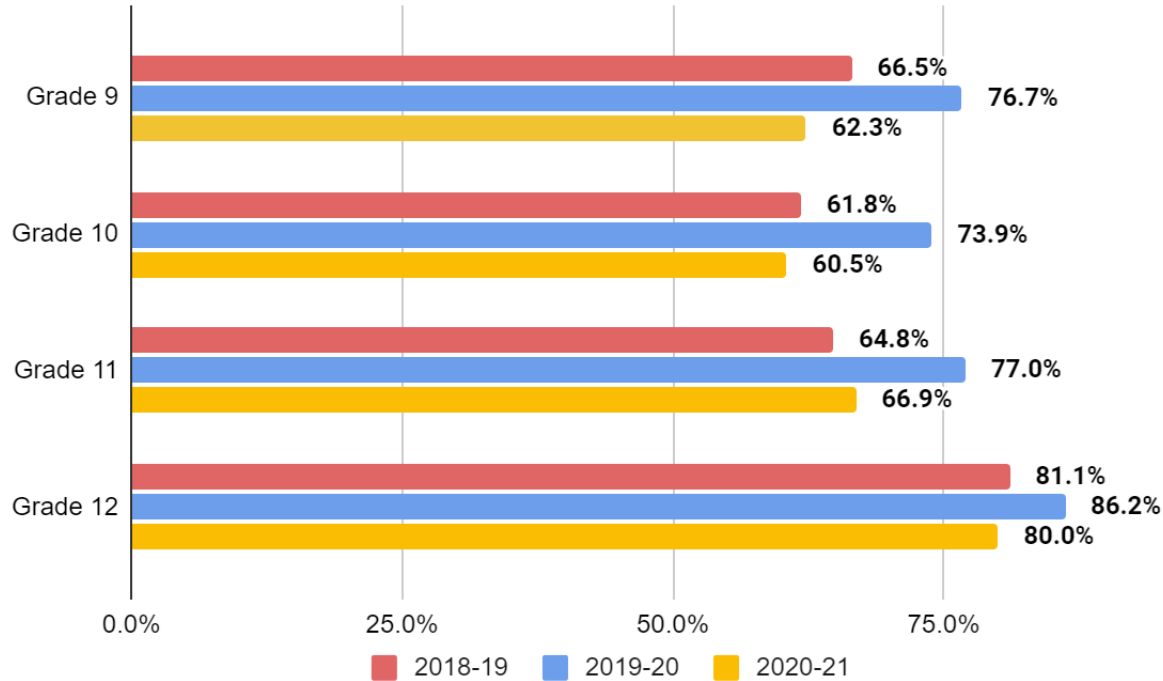
Social Studies - 3 Years

Science - 2 Years

World Language - 2 Years

Visual and Performing Arts - 1 Year

Elective - 1 Year

% of *Students passing all A-G Courses taken in the year*

% of Students passing all A-G Courses taken in the year

Grade	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Grade 9	66.5%	76.7%	62.3%
Grade 10	61.8%	73.9%	60.5%
Grade 11	64.8%	77.0%	66.9%
Grade 12	81.1%	86.2%	80.0%

18-19 to 20-21
Change

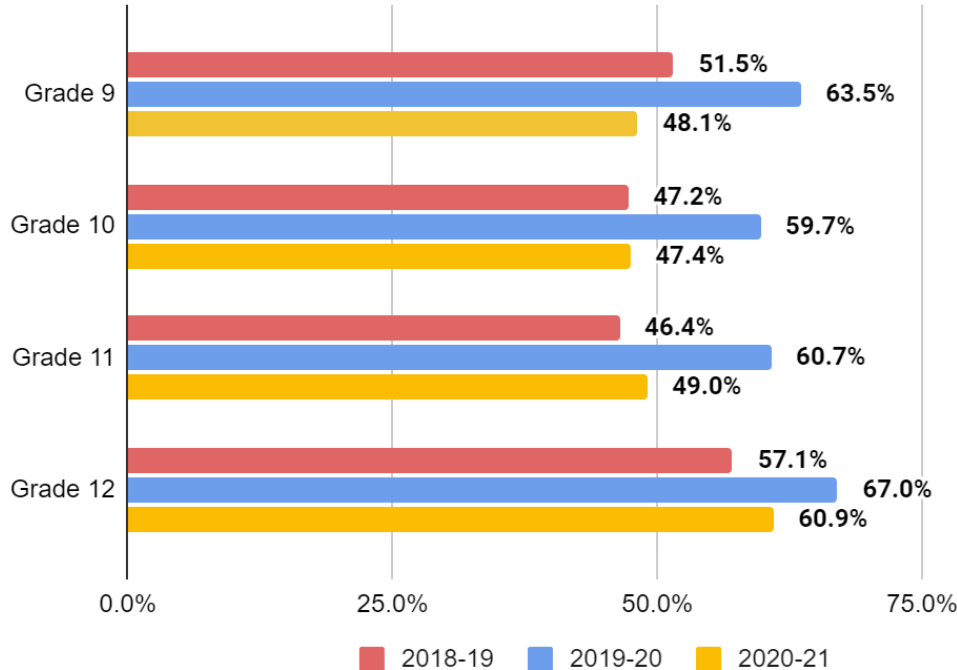| Grade	Change
Grade 9	-4.2
Grade 10	-1.3
Grade 11	+2.1
Grade 12	-1.1

% of *Students receiving A, B or C in all A-G Courses taken in the year*

% of Students receiving A,B or C in all A-G Courses taken in the year

Grade	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Grade 9	51.5%	63.5%	48.1%
Grade 10	47.2%	59.7%	47.4%
Grade 11	46.4%	60.7%	49.0%
Grade 12	57.1%	67.0%	60.9%

Change:
- Grade 9: -3.4
- Grade 10: +0.2
- Grade 11: +2.6
- Grade 12: +3.8

Legend: ■ 2018-19 ■ 2019-20 ■ 2020-21
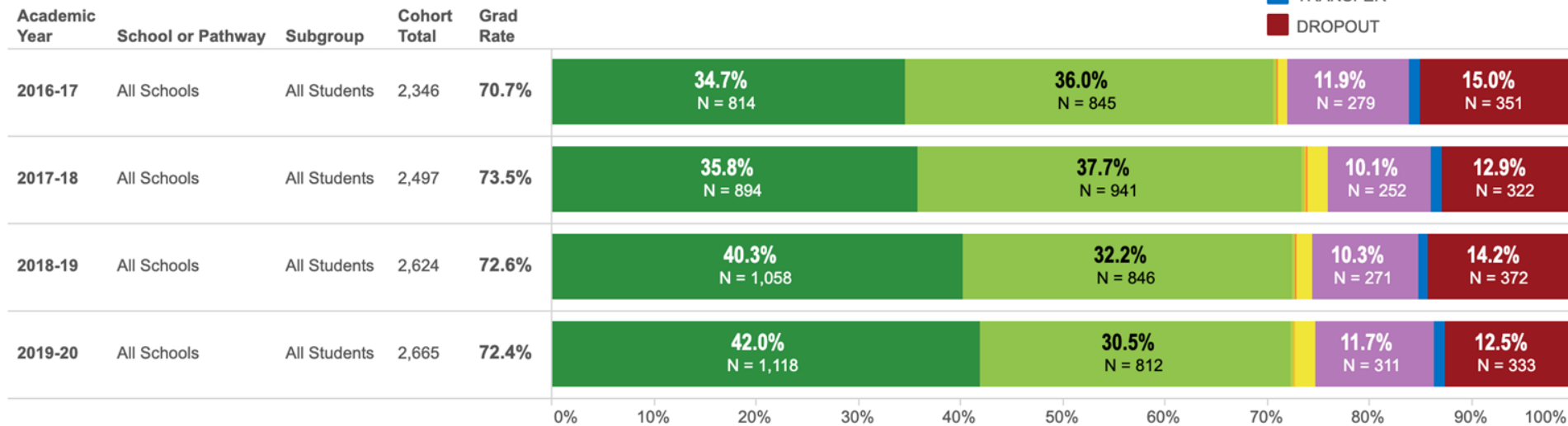
Cohort Graduation and Dropout Rate

Cohort Graduation & Dropout

Legend:
- GRADUATES MET A-G REQS
- GRADS NOT MEETING A-G
- CHSPE COMPLETER
- ADULT GRAD
- GED COMPLETER
- SPEC ED CERT
- STILL ENROLL
- TRANSFER
- DROPOUT

Select Year	View by School/Pathway	Select School/Pathway(s)	View by Group	Select Group(s)
(Multiple values)	District	All Schools	All Students	All Students

Academic Year	School or Pathway	Subgroup	Cohort Total	Grad Rate	Graduates Met A-G	Grads Not Meeting A-G	Still Enroll	Dropout
2016-17	All Schools	All Students	2,346	70.7%	34.7% N = 814	36.0% N = 845	11.9% N = 279	15.0% N = 351
2017-18	All Schools	All Students	2,497	73.5%	35.8% N = 894	37.7% N = 941	10.1% N = 252	12.9% N = 322
2018-19	All Schools	All Students	2,624	72.6%	40.3% N = 1,058	32.2% N = 846	10.3% N = 271	14.2% N = 372
2019-20	All Schools	All Students	2,665	72.4%	42.0% N = 1,118	30.5% N = 812	11.7% N = 311	12.5% N = 333

Current Grading Policy

AR 5121
Students

Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement

Grades for Achievement

Grades for achievement for secondary students shall be reported for each marking period as follows:

A	(90-100%)	Outstanding Achievement	4.0 grade points
B	(80-89%)	Above Average Achievement	3.0 grade points
C	(70-79%)	Average Achievement	2.0 grade points
D	(60-69%)	Below Average Achievement	1.0 grade points
F	(0-59%)	Little or No Achievement	0 grade points
I		Incomplete	0 grade points

Current Grading Policy

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board Policy

BP 5121

The teacher of each course shall determine the student's grade. The grade assigned by the teacher shall not be changed by the Board or the Superintendent except as provided by law, Board policy and administrative regulation. (Education Code 49066)

No D Policy

OEA BA

Article 9 - ACADEMIC FREEDOM

9.1 General

9.1.3

Teachers shall have the responsibility for determining grades for students in the Oakland Unified School District in accordance with the standards for grading as established by District policy. Such grades shall not be changed except as permitted in Section 49066 of the Education Code.

Teachers shall evaluate a student's work in relation to standards which apply to all students at his/her grade level. Teachers shall inform students and parents/guardians how student achievement will be evaluated in the classroom.

HSLLO 21-22: Stakes in the Ground

If we:

- Know what **anti-Blackness** looks like and are able to identify the practices, procedures, and structures in our schools that are consistent with our understanding of anti-Blackness, and are able to identify and implement culturally relevant alternatives.
- Create the conditions that motivate all scholars to **attend school every day**
- Develop and implement a 21st century grading policy **(Dump the D)**
- Integrate **literacy instruction** across the curriculum in grades 9 - 12

Then we will:

- Increase the number of 9th grade students earning a **C or better in A-G** courses
- Increase **graduation rates**
- Increase the number of scholars **graduating A-G ready**
- Increase the number of scholars transitioning to technical, **2-year and 4-year colleges, apprenticeships, career and earning certifications**

By:

- **Implementing the 4 pillars of Linked Learning with fidelity**

Strategy to Increase Graduation/A - G

Strategy

- 21st Century grading inquiry
- Master Schedule assessment and support
- Transcript evaluation and education
- Require all scholars to take and pass A-G classes to graduate
- Credit Recovery
- Quarterly transcript communication with families
- Increase Dual Enrollment participation
- Comprehensive supports

Outcome

- New grading policy that doesn't include the D category
- All scholars are programmed to meet A - G
- All stakeholders know what A - G is and how to read a transcript
- A - G aligned scholar schedules
- Failed classes are retaken ASAP
- Informed advocates
- More competitive scholars
- Our scholars reach their full potential

No D Policy

One example of a No D Policy:

- Eliminating the D category
- Lowering the C- threshold to 65%
- Notable exceptions:
  - Students with significance attendance problems
  - Students that were failing at the time we went to SIP and didn't participate beyond that point
- All teachers expressed confidence that the policy was helpful overall
- A - 90 - 100
- B - 80 - 89
- C - 65 - 79
- I/F - 64 - 0 (Incompletes should be changed within 6 weeks)

No D Policy

Another example of a No D Policy:

A: 90 - 100
B: 80 - 89
C: 70 - 79

ABC School does not assign D's in order to align with the UC/CSU A-G course requirement grading policies.

Incompletes are assigned in place of an "F" if there is a possibility to improve the grade to passing. Incompletes should be changed within 6 weeks.

Student's grades may be "bumped up" at a teacher's discretion (examples: improvement over the semester, rounding, curving, etc). But you may not assign a grade lower than what a student earned numerically.

Ask of the Board

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