

# On-Track Program



## *Improved monitoring of student data informs effective supports to keep students on track for graduation*

### BACKGROUND

Across Saint Paul and Minneapolis, graduation rates have trended upwards over the past four years, especially for students of color. Even as graduation rates have increased, large gaps remain between white students and students of color.

In both Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) and Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS), teams of teachers and support staff working with 9th grade students meet regularly to review student data, identify students who are at risk of not finishing the year on track, and plan interventions to support identified students and monitor their progress. Generation Next has been a key partner in providing technical and financial support to both districts.

### SPOTLIGHT

#### MPS ON-TRACK EVALUATION

With Generation Next support, MPS completed comprehensive program evaluations of the collective impact of its On-Track program. To be considered “on track” in MPS, a 9th grader must earn  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the credits needed to graduate and pass all quarters of all core courses (English, math, social studies, and science). Grades of F, I (incomplete), and NC (no credit) were all considered not passing.

*“On-Track teams are a critical space for us to make a difference regarding our academic gap.”*

*- Central Office staff member (MPS report)*

### OUR MISSION:

To harness the community’s knowledge, expertise, and action to ensure that every child can thrive.

We envision a future in which every child has the academic, social, and emotional skills to thrive in a globally-fluent world.

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A Partnership for Student Success  
from Early Childhood to Early Career

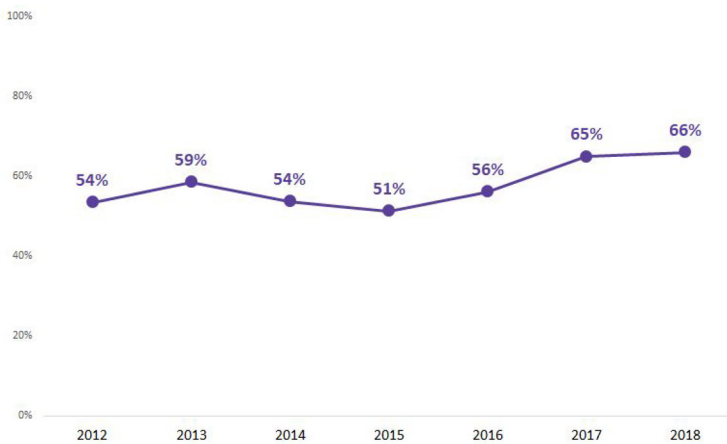
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Of the 9th graders in MPS who were actively enrolled at the end of the 2017 - 2018 school year, 66% finished the year on track. This is just a one percentage point increase over the previous year, reflecting a flattening of the trend since there was a large increase from 2015-16 to 2016-17.

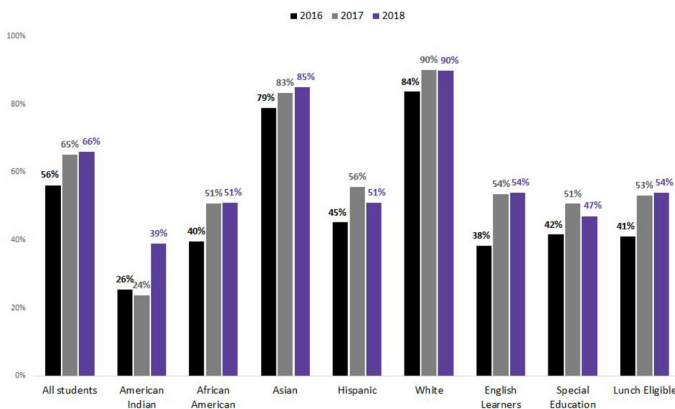
In the MPS spring 2018 staff survey, 78% of respondents (not just those working with 9th graders) agreed or strongly agreed that they used the On-Track data to identify supports for students. Rates were highest among middle school staff.

## PERCENT OF 9TH GRADE STUDENTS WHO FINISHED THE YEAR ON TRACK, BY YEAR MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS, 2011-12 TO 2017-18



Overall, most student groups either maintained or further increased their on-track rates from 2016-17 to 2017-18. The On-Track rate declined for Hispanic students and for students who receive special education services. The largest increase was for American Indian students (15 percentage points).

## PERCENT OF 9TH GRADE STUDENTS WHO FINISHED THE YEAR ON TRACK, BY STUDENT GROUP MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS, 2015-16 TO 2017-18



I used the On-Track Data Portal to identify students that needed additional support.

