



# Dropout Prevention, Intervention and Reengagement

## Summary

Washington's graduation rates have increased during the past 10 years. The on-time graduation rate reached 76.6 percent for the class of 2010–11, with the extended rate at 81.0 percent. Although the rates continue to improve, this still means 14,054 students in the class of 2010–11 dropped out before they finished high school. Given the costs to society when students don't graduate, there is a clear need for a coordinated and targeted prevention, intervention and reengagement system that keeps students enrolled and on track to complete high school.

[Second Substitute  
House Bill 1573](#)  
(2007)

## Background

In 2005, the Washington Legislature directed the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to find out why students drop out and to identify practices and programs that are successful at addressing those issues. In the 2007–09 biennium, the Legislature passed Second Substitute House Bill (SSHB) 1573, which established the Building Bridges Workgroup. The workgroup was charged with making annual recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor on best practices in dropout prevention, intervention and retrieval programs.

In 2010, the Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 1418, which created a comprehensive reengagement program for 16–21 year olds. In 2011, the Legislature passed Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill (ESSHB) 1599, the Pay for Actual Student Success (PASS) Act, which expanded the dropout prevention and intervention retrieval (DPIR) model formed as part of Building Bridges, and established the Graduation: A Team Effort (GATE) initiative.

GATE is a collaboration between state, regional and local entities and has taken the place of the Building Bridges Workgroup. Like the Building Bridges Workgroup, the new GATE Advisory Committee is comprised of many partners from K–12 education, social and health services, the courts, workforce agencies and youth-serving community organizations.

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The work of the GATE Advisory Committee is founded on:

1. Using quality data to inform decision making.
2. Integrating DPIR efforts with district and school-wide reforms, such as student support systems, as well as district and school improvement planning.
3. Building integrated school, family, community and agency partnerships.

### **Status Update**

1. Since December 2011, the GATE Advisory Committee has met quarterly focusing on four milestone measures: kindergarten readiness, success in school, community and civic engagement and post-graduation success. Workgroups including Data, Policy and Funding, Technical Assistance and Partnerships continue to work on systemic development projects.
2. The PASS Act (ESSHB 1599), enacted in July 2011, provides support for four proven programs: Building Bridges, Jobs for America's Graduates, Opportunity Internship Program and College Success Foundation Student Support Services.
3. Under OSPI supervision, direct service to students has continued through the three Building Bridges grantees: Granite Falls School District, Educational Service District 113 and Vancouver School District. Each of these grantees is partnering with schools, families and communities to build a system that identifies middle and high school students at risk of dropping out of school and provide timely interventions and supports.
4. In August 2012, Regional Data Teams finished training regional data coaches and completed the Data Toolkit. The Data Toolkit contains protocols, templates and informational resources.
5. As part of a technical assistance grant through Clemson University, five districts are implementing a Dropout Early Warning Intervention System (DEWIS) using the National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities (NDPC-SD) Framework. The NDPC-SD Framework uses a systemic approach to track students who are at risk of dropping out, evaluates interventions for effectiveness and analyzes trends for all students.
6. Greg Darnieder, a senior advisor from the U.S. Department of Education, visited Washington to learn about our dropout prevention, intervention and reengagement efforts, including GATE. Several districts presented their collective impact endeavors to Mr. Darnieder. Key themes of the presentations included state, regional and local programs working collectively with a common vision and collecting data that will measure impact.

### **For More Information**

For more information regarding OSPI's dropout prevention, intervention and reengagement efforts, please see [www.k12.wa.us/GATE](http://www.k12.wa.us/GATE) or contact Dixie Grunenfelder, Dropout Specialist, at (360) 725-6045 or [Dixie.Grunenfelder@k12.wa.us](mailto:Dixie.Grunenfelder@k12.wa.us).