



# 2017-19 Educational Attainment - Update

## Washington's Goals For 2023:

## But in 2013:



of adults\* will have a high school diploma or equivalent.



of adults had a high school diploma or equivalent.



of adults will need a postsecondary credential or degree.

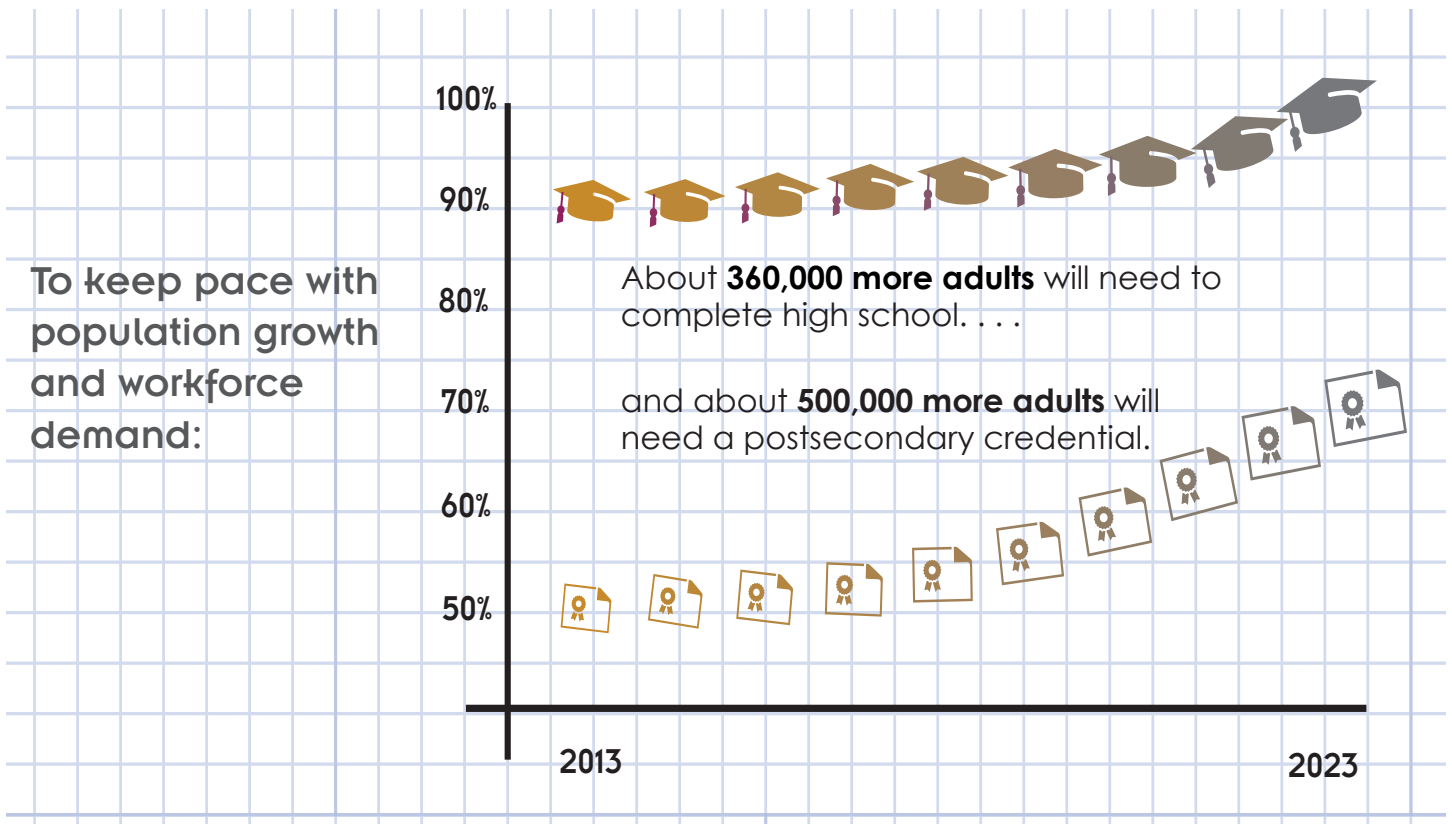


of adults had a postsecondary credential or degree.

**Both high school and postsecondary attainment levels increased only one percentage point between 2011 and 2013.**

\*Throughout this document, the term *adults* refers to those ages 25–44, unless noted otherwise.

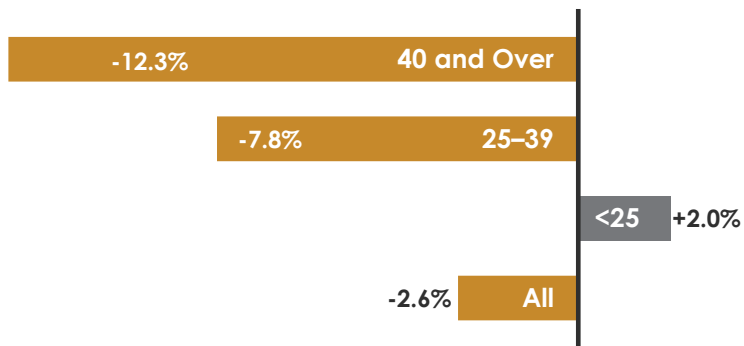
## Overall attainment gains are inadequate to meet the state's goals by 2023.



## Success depends upon serving populations we have not adequately reached within our education system.

Roughly 700,000 Washington adults ages 17–54 have earned some college credit, but haven't completed a degree.

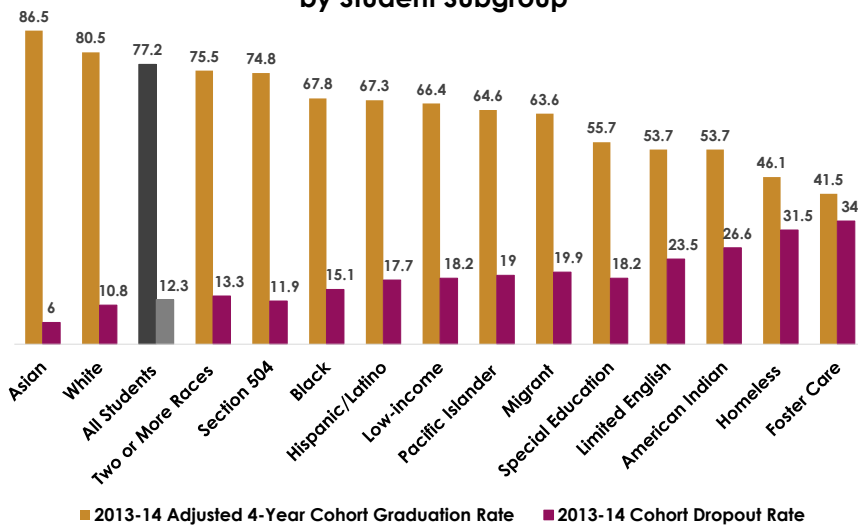
**Percent Change in Enrollment by Age Group From 2011 to fall 2013**



- Two out of three of these adults have a year or more of college credit, but don't have a degree.
- Earnings remain stagnant until workers earn their associate degree.
- Enrollments of students ages 25 years and older declined by almost 14,000 during the reporting period.

The fastest growing student populations are historically underserved in K-12 and underrepresented in higher education.

**2013-14 Four-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation and Dropout Rates by Student Subgroup**



- Although Hispanic/Latinos are about 13% of Washington's adult population, they are almost 50% of the adult population that hasn't completed high school.
- African Americans are 4% of Washington's adult population, but they account for only 2.8% of adults with an associate degree or higher.

### Affordability remains an issue:

Despite the Governor and the Legislature lowering tuition at public institutions in 2015-16, students are covering 58 percent of the cost at public four-year institutions, far above the pre-recession share of 38 percent. And financial need remains high, as financial applications have increased 50 percent since the great recession. Every year since 2009, approximately one-third of eligible and enrolled students did not receive the State Need Grant due to underfunding. Financial constraints are the key reason that many students don't finish their credential.