



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PHILADELPHIA

Office of Evaluation, Research, and Accountability

Research Roundup Webinar Series #13

The Ninth Grade On-Track Metric in SDP: Origins, Trends, and How Staff Use Ninth Grade On-Track Data to Support Students

December 13, 2023

Agenda

- About ERA and the Research Roundup webinar series
- **Part I:** Development of the On-Track Indicator in Chicago and Philadelphia
- **Part II:** Ninth Grade On-Track Tools to Support Schools and Students
- **Part III:** Using Ninth Grade On-Track Data to Inform Decision Making at Sayre High School
- Resources
- Q & A

This webinar is being recorded. The recording and a PDF of the slide deck will be available at: philasd.org/research/roundup

Evaluation, Research, and Accountability

philasd.org/era

The screenshot shows the website's navigation bar with links for Our District, Schools, Families, Students, Employees, Directory, Careers, and Login. The main heading is "Evaluation, Research, and Accountability" with a breadcrumb trail: "YOU ARE HERE > Evaluation, Research, and Accountability > Evaluation, Research, and Accountability". Below this is a menu with News, About, Offices, Goals and Guardrails, Tools, Reports, Data, Professional Development, and Contact.

A carousel of featured articles includes:

- May 6, 2023: School Selection: Enrollment of First-Time 9th Graders at District High Schools, 2019-20 through 2022-23
- May 6, 2023: 2021-22 School Selection in SDP
- May 6, 2023: School Progress Report on Education and Equity (SPREE) for School Year 2021-22
- February 7, 2023: Philadelphia Public School Enrollment, 2022-23
- January 17, 2023: 2021-22 PSSA and Keystone Results for District Students Highlight Areas for Post-Covid Recovery and Growth
- October 27, 2022: Changing the Finish Line: Implications of new graduation requirements in the School District of Philadelphia

A section titled "What can we help you find?" states: "Every year, we collect millions of data points on student achievement, leadership, school climate, and progress. Our offices work with the data to evaluate and report outcomes and develop informational tools." Below this are four buttons: ASSESSMENT INFORMATION, OLIGAM, GOALS AND GUARDRAILS, and REPORT LIBRARY.

A grid of six service categories is shown with images and text:

- STUDENT LEARNING
- PERFORMANCE DATA
- SCHOOL SUPPORTS
- ASSESSMENTS & ACCOUNTABILITY
- SURVEYS
- RESEARCH REVIEW COMMITTEE (RRC)

Office of Research and Evaluation

District Performance Office

Planning and Evidence-Based Supports Office

Office of Assessments

Office of Data Governance

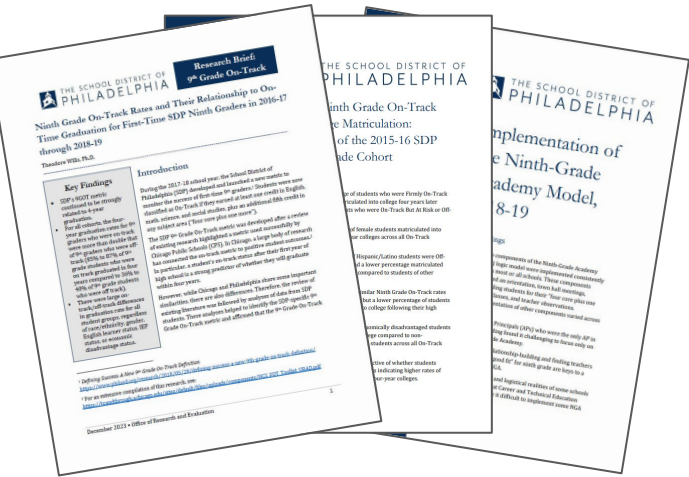
Evaluation, Research, and Accountability

philasd.org/era/assessment/

Office of Assessment

The Office of Assessment maintains the Assessment Calendar and coordinates the administration of a number of assessments including Star, Keystone, PSSA, PASA, and ACCESS.

- 2023-24 Assessment Calendar
- 2023-24 Assessment Overview



philasd.org/research

schoolprofiles.philasd.org

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

SCHOOL PROFILES
Find out how a school or group of schools is performing. Search for a school or renew your search using the filters below. You can also view data for groups of schools (for example, all Charter Schools or all Network 1 schools) by clicking on "School Groupings".

Find a School All Schools School Groupings

Search for a school:

Search

Filter

- ACADEMY AT BALMBO
- ACADEMY FOR THE MIDDLE YEARS (AMMY) AT NORTHWEST
- ACHIEVE ACADEMY
- ACHIEVE ACADEMY EAST
- AD PRIMAL CHARTER SCHOOL
- ADAMIR, ALEXANDER SCHOOL
- ALLEN, DR. ETHEL SCHOOL
- ALLEN, ETHAN SCHOOL
- ALLEN, RICHARD PREPARATORY CHARTER SCHOOL
- ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS CHARTER SCHOOL

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DATA FOR DISTRICT, CHARTER, ALTERNATIVE, AND OTHER/CYBER STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS
Enrollment: 2022-2023 (next update November 2023)
Performance and Climate data: 2021-2022 (next update Spring 2024)
Survey data: 2021-2022 (next update Summer 2023)

TOTAL ENROLLMENT 197,288

TOTAL SCHOOLS 329

2021-22 PSSA & KEYSTONE - ELA PERFORMANCE (ALL GRADES)

34% 1 POINT INCREASE FROM LAST YEAR

The percentage of students who scored Proficient or Advanced on the state standardized English Language Arts exam.

2021-22 PSSA & KEYSTONE - MATH PERFORMANCE (ALL GRADES)

2021-22 FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION

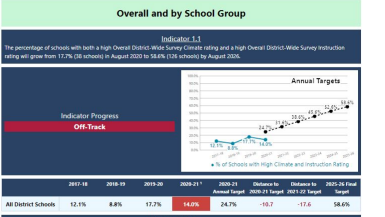
philasd.org/opendata

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

Board of Education | Progress Monitoring

- OVERVIEW
- GOALS & GUARDRAILS
- GUARDRAIL 1: CLIMATE & INSTRUCTION
- GUARDRAIL 1: COMPLETE INSTRUCTION AND HEALTH
- GUARDRAIL 2: ENGAGING, WELL-ROUNDED EXPERIENCES
- GUARDRAIL 3: PARTNERING WITH PARENTS & FAMILY
- GUARDRAIL 4: EQUITY
- GUARDRAIL 1.3: MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Sections
District and by School Group
By Survey Subsets and Reasonators
By School and Student Groups
Districtwide
Guardrail 1 Links
Mental Health Support
Heat?



Distance Culture
Climate Target
All/None Target

Climate Target Score Color Legend

Instruction Target Score Color Legend

DISTRICT WIDE SURVEY
Climate and Instruction Target Scores: All District Schools

School Group (Based on School Performance)	2018-19		2019-20		2020-21							
	Climate	Instruction	Climate	Instruction	Climate	Instruction						
On Track - Group A (High Instruction, High Climate)	7.6	8.2	19	8.6%	7.6	8.1	38	19.7%	7.6	8.1	81	14.5%
Near Track - Group B (One High Instruction or High Climate)	7.2	7.8	45	20.9%	7.1	7.8	46	21.4%	7.1	7.7	41	28.4%
Near Track - Group C (Near Instruction, Near Climate)	6.5	7.5	83	38.6%	6.4	7.4	84	39.1%	6.7	7.5	84	39.5%
Off Track - Group D (Low Instruction and/or Low Climate)	5.7	7.0	68	31.6%	5.7	7.0	38	19.7%	5.7	7.3	14	6.5%

philasd.org/era/goals-and-guardrails

Open Data

The School District of Philadelphia (SDP), in partnership with Open Data Philly, publishes longitudinal data sets spanning various operational school and student performance areas. The public release of this data supports our goals to promote greater transparency and community engagement. Before accessing this data, please review the Terms and Conditions.

School- and Network-level enrollment data and performance on key indicators are also available on our interactive, user-friendly School Profiles website. In addition to district provided data, please visit the state report card, Ready Indiv, for additional metrics.

- To date, SDP has released data sets for:
- School Information**
 - Master School List, Longitudinal Master School List, School and District Enrollment & Demographics, Pre-School Information, School Catchment Areas, School Catchment Retention Details and Counts, District Wide Surveys, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, School Reopening Information, School Selection, and Household Food Insecurity.
 - School Performance**
 - School Progress Reports on Education and Equity, District Scorecard, Alternative Education Progress Reports, PSSA & Keystone Exam Data, School and District Graduation Rates, School and District 95% Attendance, Average Daily Attendance, School and District Out-of-School Suspensions, Serious Incidents Counts and Details, and NSC Student Tracker Reports
 - District Employees and Finance**
 - Expenditure Information, Employee Information, Teacher Attendance, Teacher Demographic Information and School Budgets and Full Time Employment (FTE)

Data Sets














- School Information**
Information on school attributes
- School Performance**
Quality performance and climate through the school year
- District Employees and Finance**
Expenditures, Employee, Budget, and FTE Data
- Advancing Education Safety**
Information on hybrid learning and COVID-19 testing
- Terms and Conditions**
Please read!
- Quick Data**

What is a Research Roundup?

- Regular webinar series with a focus on topics aligned to the [Goals & Guardrails](#) and [Accelerate Philly](#)
- Videos and slide decks available from previous sessions
- Sign up to be notified when webinars are scheduled and when recordings are available:

philasd.org/research/roundup

Research Roundup Topics

Mar 2022 	Literacy Performance in Grades K-3	Feb 2023 	Philadelphia Police School Diversion Program
April 2022 	Math Performance in Grades 3-8	April 2023 	Student Attendance
May 2022 	9th Grade “On Track” Rates and High School Graduation	May 2023 	Impact of Facility Investments in LA
June 2022 	Food Insecurity in the School District of Philadelphia	July 2023 	SPREE
July 2022 	English Learners and Students in Special Education	Sept 2023 	Trends, Transitions, and Supports for English Learners
Oct 2022 	PERC: Keystone Graduation Pathways	Dec 2023 	The 9th Grade On-Track Metric
Dec 2022 	District-Wide Surveys		

**Part I:
Development of the
On-Track Indicator
in Chicago and
Philadelphia**



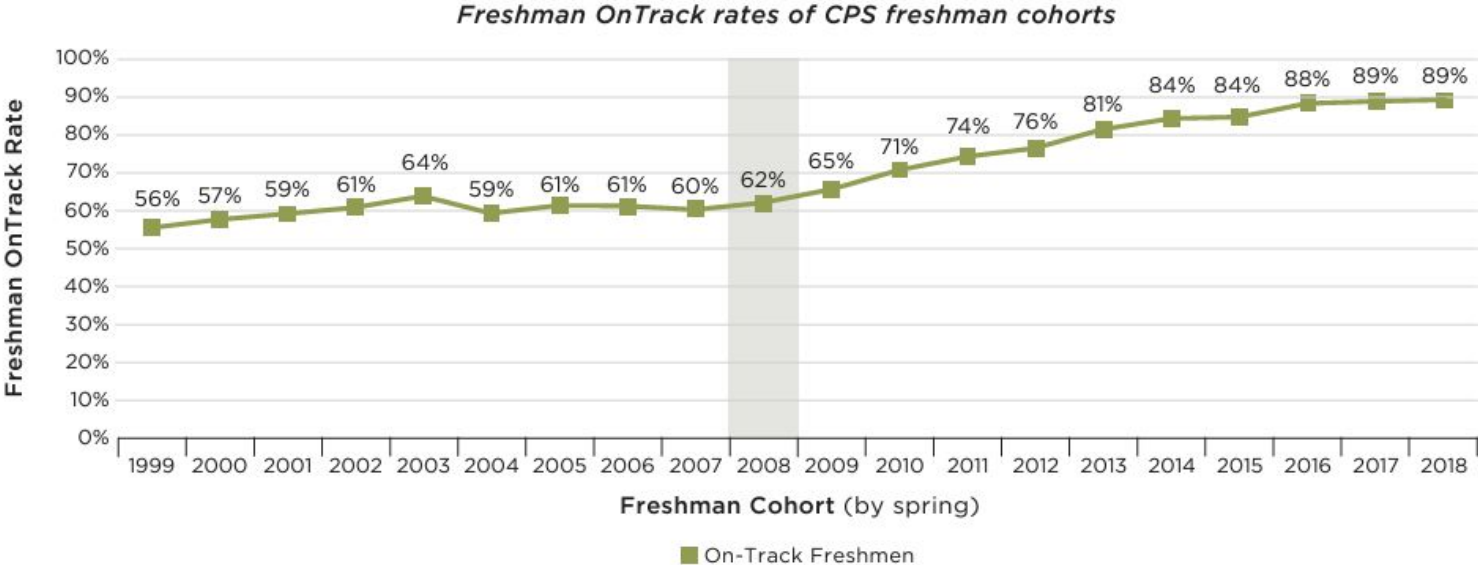
Simple indicators are often the best

9 th Grade Indicator	Correct Prediction of Graduates
Background: Eighth grade test scores, race, ethnicity, economic status, gender, mobility prior to high school, over-age for grade	65%
Freshman On-Track <i>Sufficient credits; no more than 1 semester F</i>	80%
All of the above: on-track + background	81%

Freshman On-Track has steadily improved over time in Chicago

FIGURE B.1

After CPS Schools Began Receiving Regular Freshman OnTrack Data in 2008, the Growth in the Freshman OnTrack Rate Accelerated

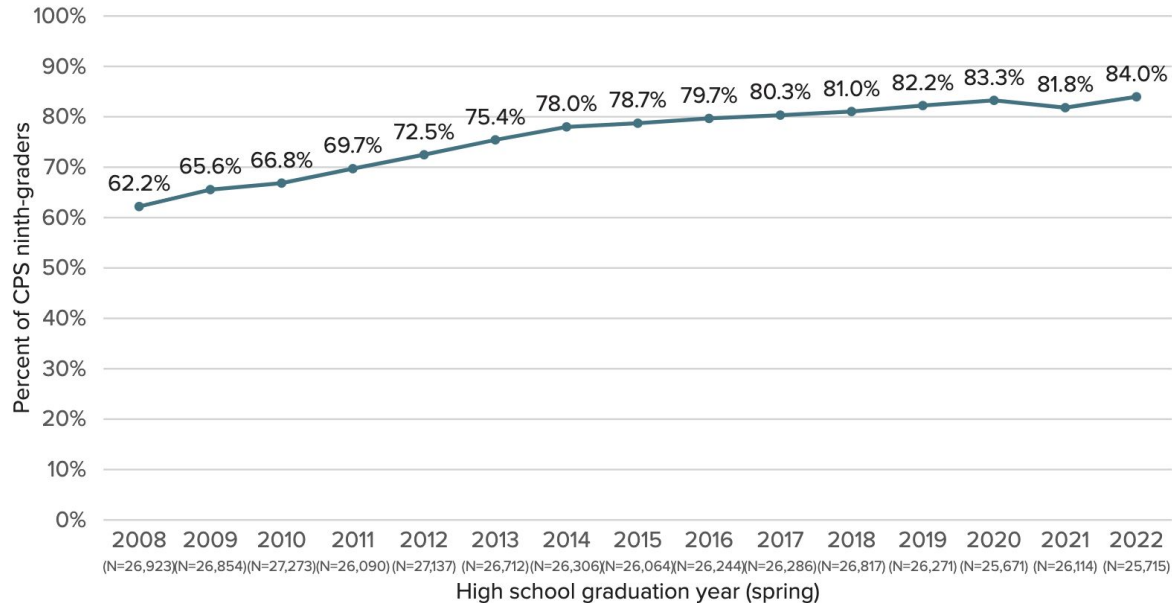


Note: Freshman cohorts are labelled based on the spring of students' first-time freshman year at CPS. Charter students are excluded from this analysis. For more information, see Appendix A.

As Freshman On-Track has improved, so has high school graduation

FIGURE 3

Four-year high school graduation rates of CPS ninth-grade cohorts over time

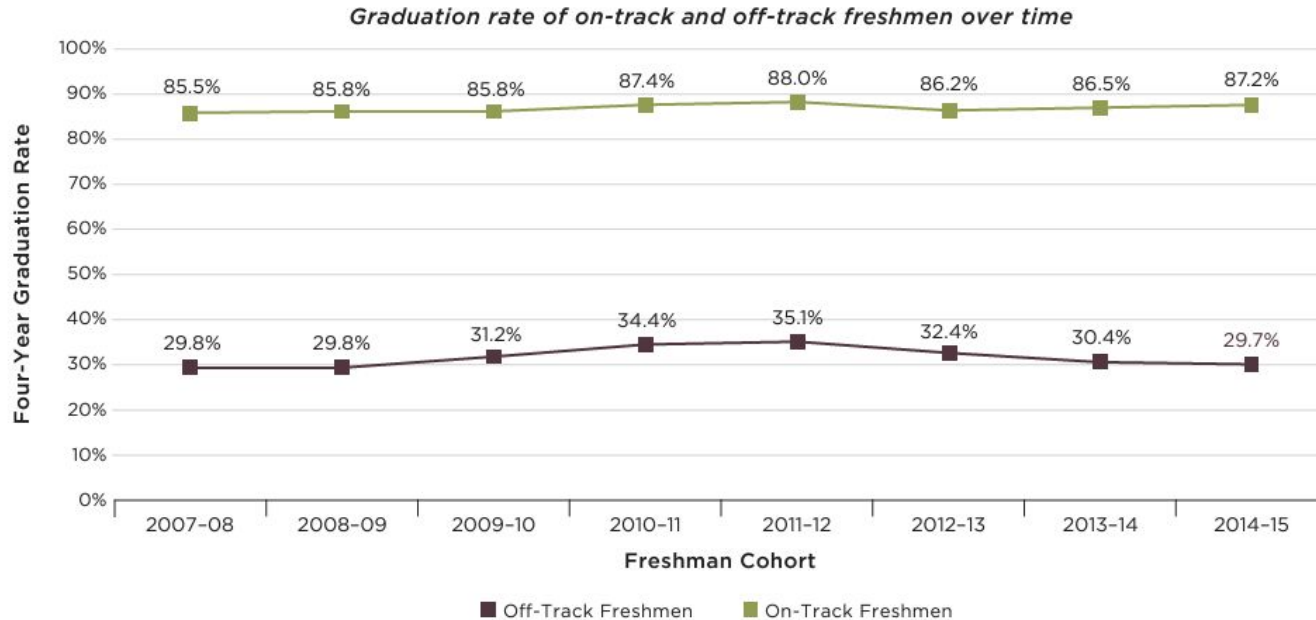


Note: All CPS high school students, including charter and Options school students, were included in this analysis. Students were counted as high school graduates if they completed high school within four years of their first-time ninth-grade year of high school.—the 2022 high school graduation year rate, for example, represents students who began high school in the fall of 2018. Ns represent the total number of ninth-graders in each cohort. Students who transferred to a non-CPS school during high school were excluded from this analysis.

As Freshman On-Track has improved, the relationship with graduation has held steady over time

FIGURE 1

The Predictiveness of Freshman OnTrack Has Held Over Time



Note: Charter school students are excluded from this analysis. Graduation status is based on whether a student graduated from CPS within four years of starting high school. For more information, see Appendix A.

Tailoring a metric for Philadelphia

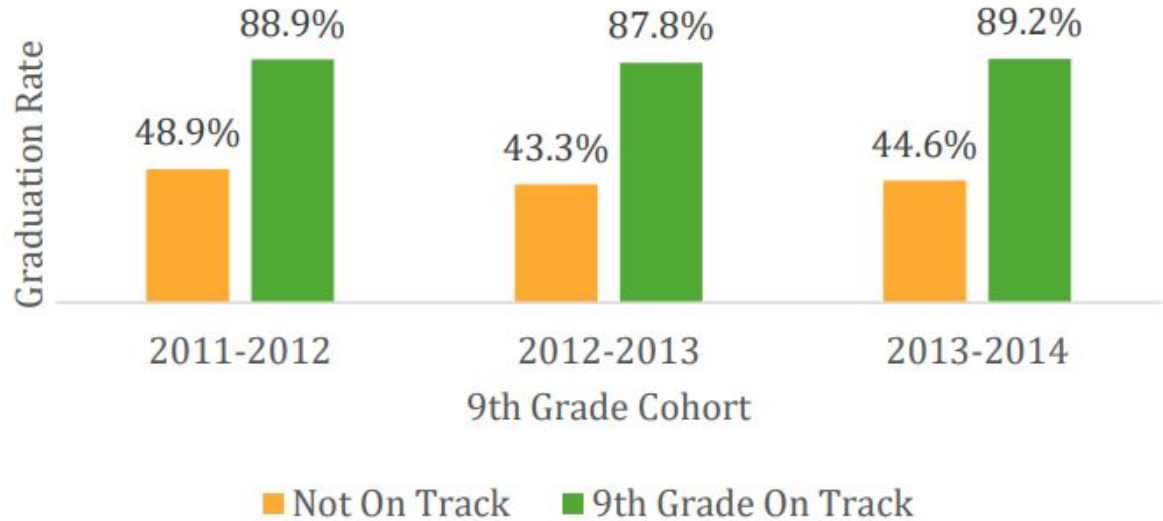
- Analyzed data from three cohorts of SDP first-time 9th graders
- Performed regression analyses to determine what data points from 9th grade were most predictive of four-year graduation
- Identified a way to evaluate [a successful 9th grade year](#) that was highly predictive of four-year graduation, and also straightforward to communicate and to track

4 Core + 1 More = 9th Grade On-Track

A first-time 9th grader in SDP is considered On-Track if they earn at least one credit in each of four core areas (English, math, science and social studies), plus one additional credit from any source.

Foundational 9th Grade Research Data (2018)

On-Track students are much more likely than Off-Track students to graduate in four years.



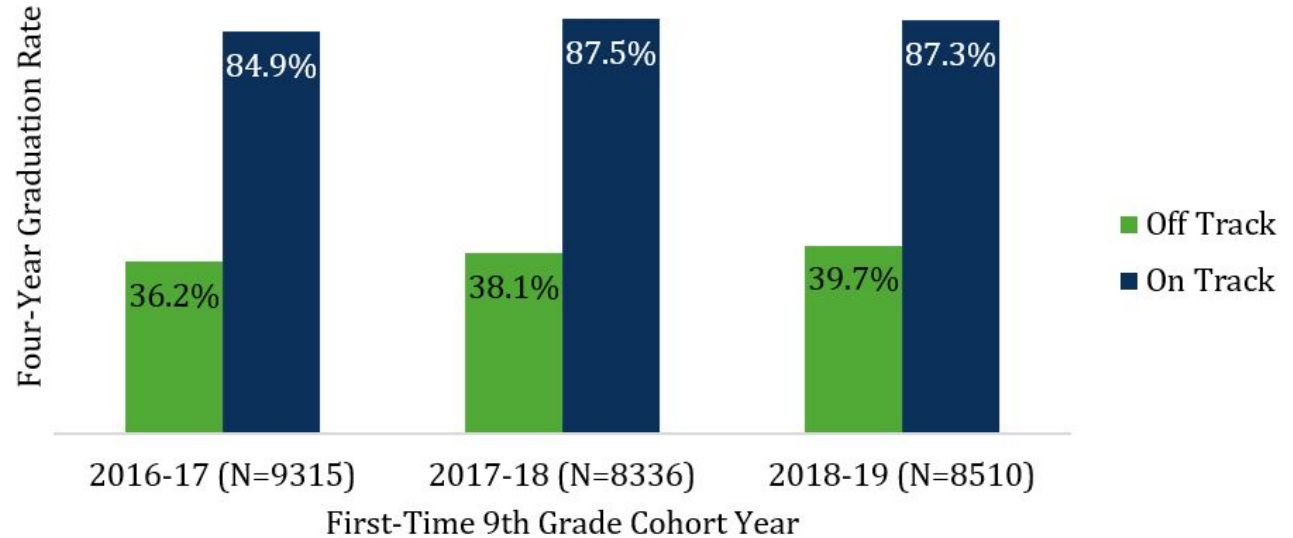
Does “Four Core Plus One More” still work?

- The original research depended on cohorts that had not been actively tracked using this definition.
- Possible unintended consequences should be considered: Maybe students are now being graded, enrolled or supported in ways that boost the 9GOT rate, but do not prepare those students for continued success in grades 10-12.
- If so, we would expect the tight relationship between 9GOT and four-year graduation to erode.

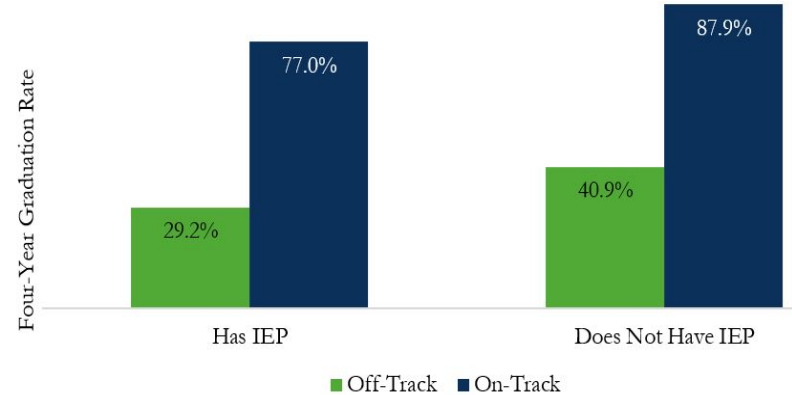
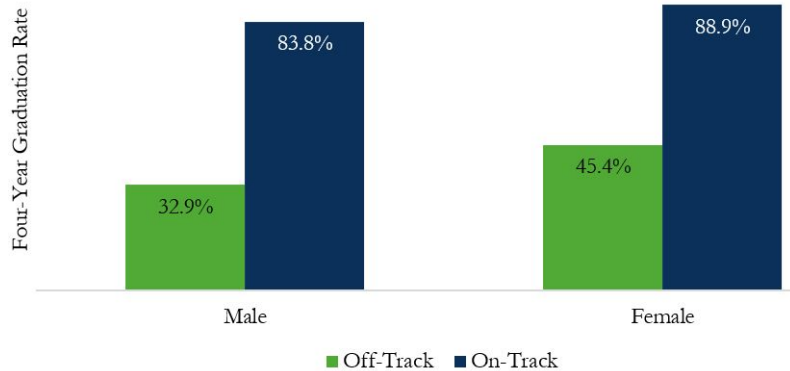
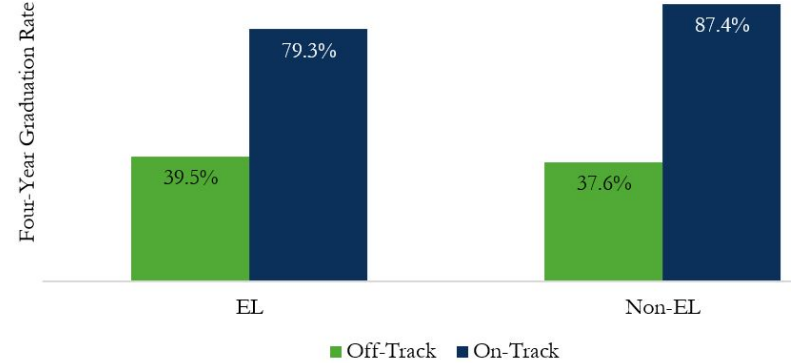
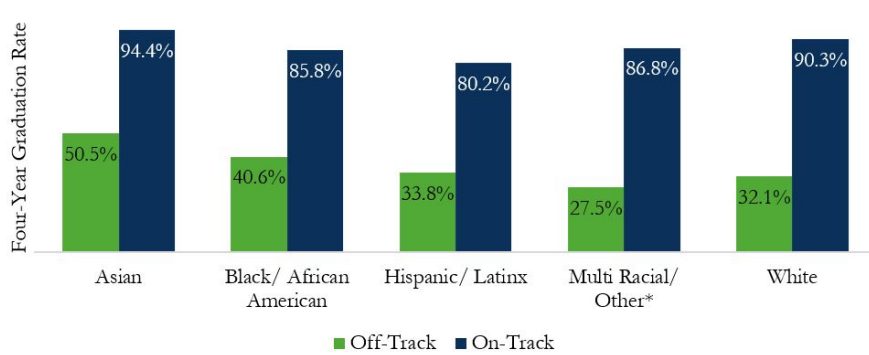


SDP's Ninth Grade On-Track Metric continues to predict four-year graduation

On-Track students graduate at about double the rate of Off-Track students.



Findings extend to all student groups

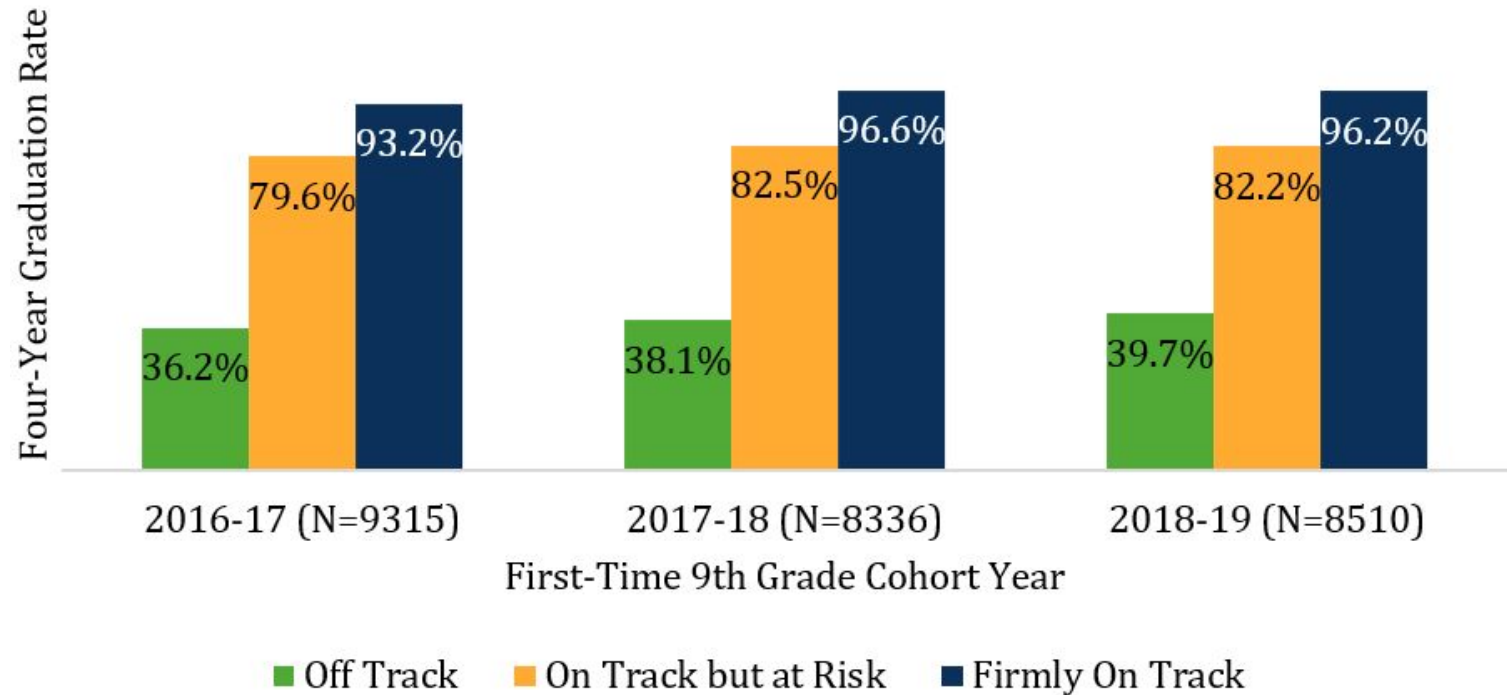


Firmly On-Track versus On-Track but at Risk

- If a student meets the 9GOT definition AND has grades of A or B in all 5 key courses, then they are ***Firmly On-Track***.
- If a student meets the 9GOT definition with at least one grade of C or D (in any of the 5 key courses), then they are ***On-Track but at Risk***.



Students with any On-Track status graduate on time much more frequently than students finishing 9th grade Off-Track



**Part II:
Ninth Grade
On-Track Tools to
Support Schools
and Students**



Building a Strong Foundation for Success

- Over the years, our dedicated efforts have sparked a significant focus within the District on the transition from 8th to 9th grade.
- Collaborative efforts from countless partners have aided in the success of our schools and students.
- There is recognition that crucial supports and tools are required for 9th grade students to leave 9th grade on track.



Ninth-Grade Academy Model

Each Academy is led by a dedicated Assistant Principal (AP) for 9th grade who plays a pivotal role in steering the implementation of this impactful initiative. Additional key elements include:

- **Team of dedicated 9th grade teachers**

- Dedicated space for 9th grade students

- **Common Planning Time for 9th grade teachers (instructional strategies, interventions)**

- Culture-building activities (freshman orientation, commitment ceremony, town halls)

- **Intentional scheduling of “4 core + 1 more”**

Tools to Support 9GOT

Go to most frequently used resources:

Quick Links



Home

- Section 1: 9th Grade On-Track Overview & Getting Started
- Section 2: Using Data Tools to Support the Work
- Section 3: Improvement Interventions
- Intervention Library
- Resource Index
- Contact

9TH GRADE ON-TRACK KNOWLEDGE GUIDE



Check out the new 9th Grade On-Track 101 training session!

Introduction

Since summer 2017, the School District of Philadelphia (SDP or “the District”) has worked with a team from the [University of Chicago’s Ta&Through Project](#) and [Philadelphia Academics, Inc. \(PAI\)](#) to learn about, adapt, and deploy a variety of tools, resources, and approaches to

Tools to Support 9GOT



Qlik Course Marks and Credits



[Go to Tool >](#)



Grades Monitoring Tool



[Go to Tool >](#)



Check & Reflect



[Go to Tool >](#)



Student Wellness Tools



[Go to Tool >](#)



8th-9th Transition Report



[Go to Tool >](#)



Grade Impact Report



[Go to Tool >](#)

Grades Monitoring Tool (GMT)

Grades Monitoring Tool (GMT) Spreadsheet - Network Close expanded view

Reset view Hide / show columns Export visible data to Excel

Student Name	Attendance Rate 23-24 (Current Institution Only)	Avg. Q1 Grade (23-24)	Q1 F's (23-24)	Avg. Final Grade (22-23)	Projected Core F's (23-24)	Projected Non-Core F's (23-24)	Projected Final ELA Grade (23-24)
✓ [Student Name]	100%	A	0	B	0	0	
✓ [Student Name]	100%	A	0		0	0	
✓ [Student Name]	63%						
✓ [Student Name]	100%	B	1		1	0	B
✓ [Student Name]	100%	C	0	C	0	0	C
✓ [Student Name]	50%	F	3	F	3	1	
✓ [Student Name]	88%	B	1	B	1	0	B
✓ [Student Name]	88%	A	0	A	0	0	A
✓ [Student Name]	94%	C	1	C	1	2	D
✓ [Student Name]	94%					0	
✓ [Student Name]	100%					0	
✓ [Student Name]	100%	D	2		2	0	F

Actions for Selected Students: Save as a new student set

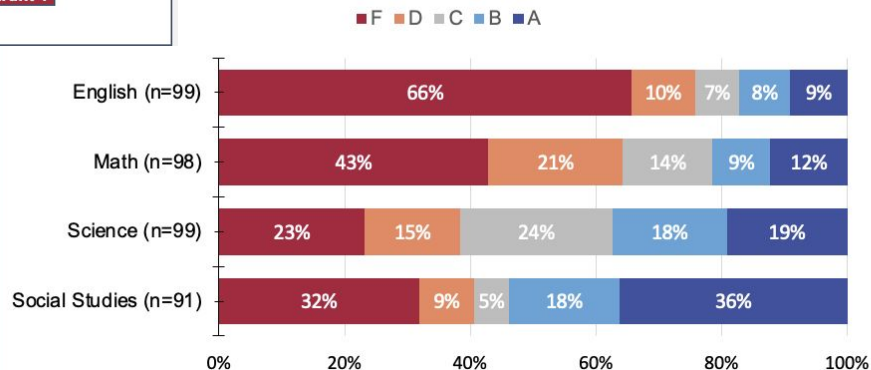
Grades Monitoring Tool (GMT)

CURRENT QUARTER

Quadrants for students with at least 1 F in a core course

		Current Core Fs		
		0	1 - 2	3+
Current Attendance	90% +	37 students	Quadrant 1 29 students	Quadrant 3 8 students
	< 90%		Quadrant 2 19 students	Quadrant 4 18 students

Q2 (23-24) Average Grade by Subject



Check and Reflect (C&R)

Student: 

Grade Level: 

Teacher: 

The numbers below reflect totals through November 27, 2023



Cumulative GPA (Weighted): 4.00

Represents all Completed Courses

Check and Reflect

Projected GPA (Weighted): 3.94

Represents Cumulative GPA + Projected Courses



ATTENDANCE

We want to see you in school every day
Goal: 90% attendance or above

	Term 2 In-Progress	Year-To-Date
Days Enrolled	5	55
Days Present	5	51
Days Absent	0	4
My Attendance Rate	100.0%	92.7%
<i>Days Tardy</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

Reflection...

1) The area(s) listed above that I am proud of is/are:

2) The area(s) listed above that I want to improve is/are:

3) My goal for this area is to

by _____

4) To improve, I will take these steps:



GRADES

A's and B's set you up for success
Goal: A's and B's, with no D's or F's

Current Courses	Term 2 In-Progress	Projected Final
African American History	85	91
Algebra 2	83	87
Chemistry Honors	94	92
English 2	100	97
Health	100	100
Physical Education		100
Seminar Sophomore		100
Spanish 2	100	100

BEHAVIOR

Character is built each and every day
Goal: 0 suspensions

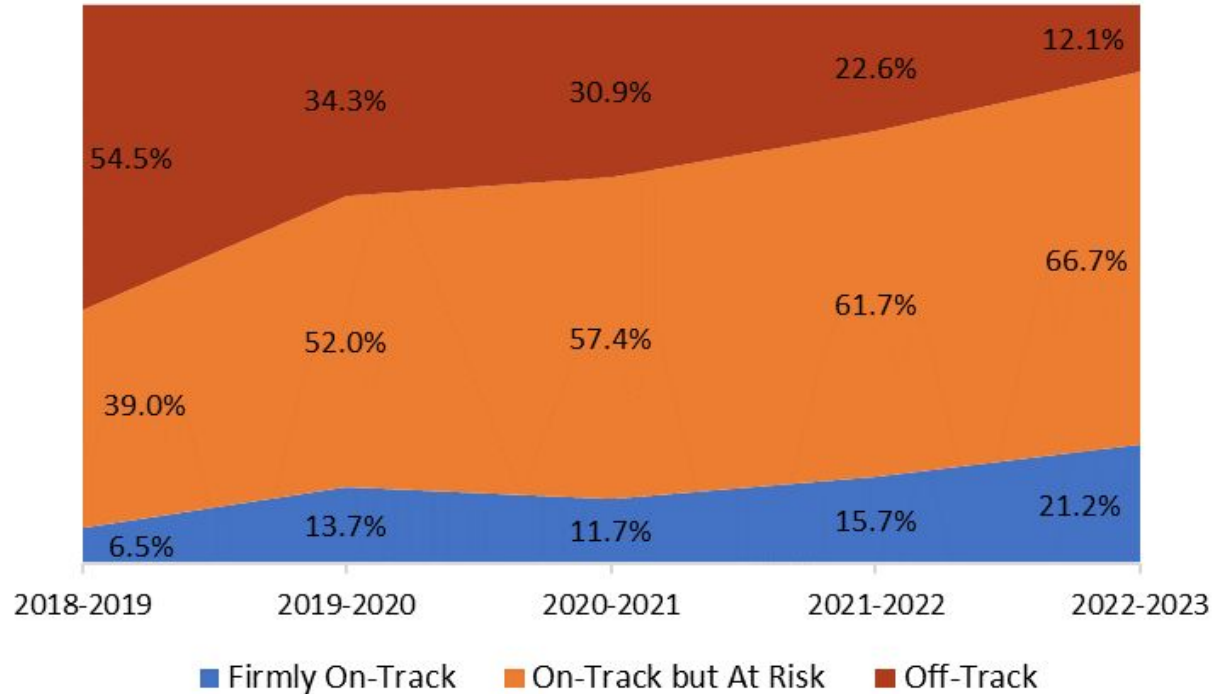
	Term 2 In-Progress	Year-To-Date
Period Cuts	0	1
Out-of-school Suspensions	0	0

Part III: Using Ninth Grade On-Track Data to Inform Decision Making at Sayre High School



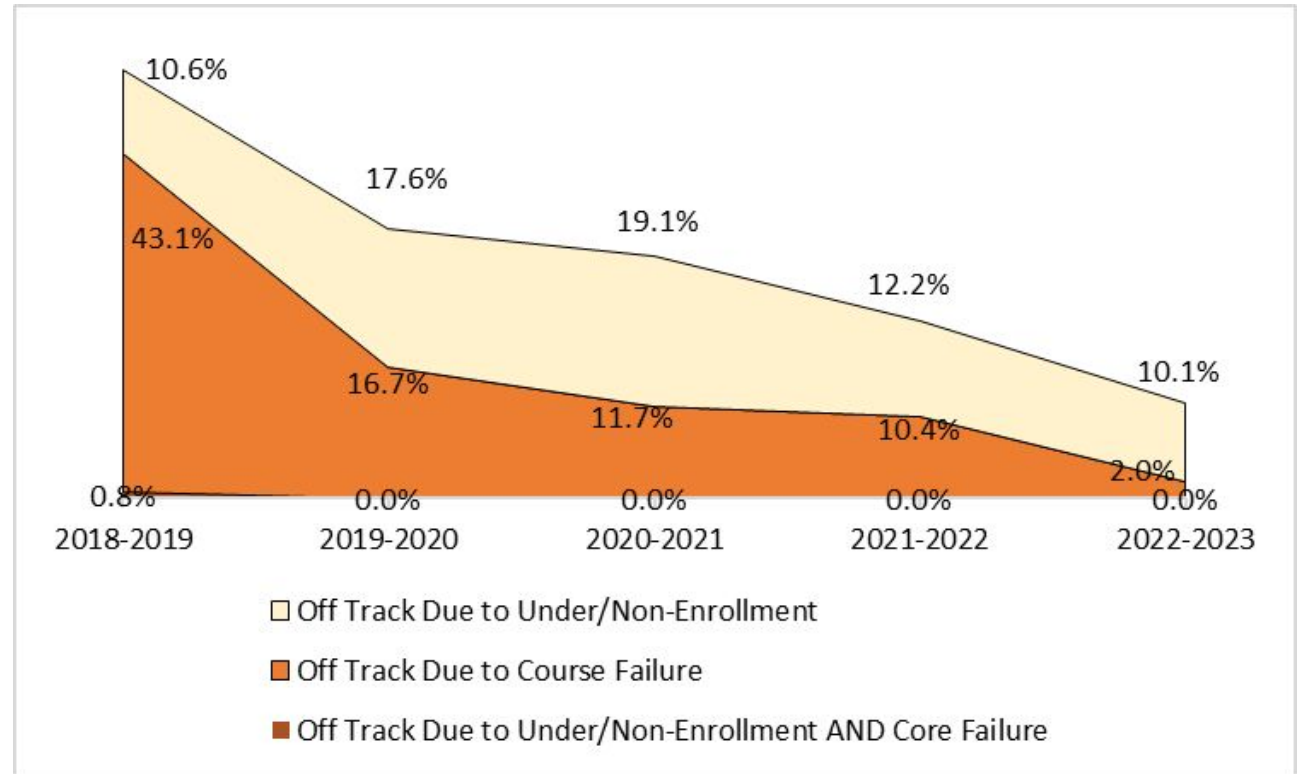
William L. Sayre High School: Recent 9GOT Data

- Firmly On-Track rates (Blue) have steadily increased.
- Overall On-Track rates (Blue plus Orange) have also increased steadily.



William L. Sayre High School: Recent 9GOT Data

The percentage of students failing a “four core plus one more” course has declined dramatically.



Ninth Grade Learnings

- Why do you believe in 9th Grade On-Track as an indicator? Was this always true? What helped you develop confidence in using this data as an organizing tool for your school?
- How have you shared 9th Grade On-Track research and insights in your school and with your teams?
- What challenges have you experienced in supporting 9th Grade On-Track in your school?



Resources

ORE Reports:

- Ninth Grade On-Track Rates and Their Relationship to On-Time Graduation for First-Time SDP Ninth Graders in 2016-17 through 2018-19 (Just published!)
- From Ninth Grade On-Track to College Matriculation: The Path of the 2015-16 SDP Ninth-Grade Cohort
- Implementation of the Ninth Grade Academy in 2018-19
- On-Track but Vulnerable: 9th Grade Warning Signs of 10th Grade Struggles
- Perceptions of Instruction and 9th Grade On-Track Rates

SDP's 9th Grade On-Track Knowledge Guide

To & Through Project:

- Freshman success resources
- Elementary On-Track: Elementary School Students' Grades, Attendance, and Future Outcomes
- The Forgotten Year: Applying Lessons from Freshman Success to Sophomore Year Report
- Hidden Risk: Changes in GPA across the Transition to High School Report