

Student Re-engagement Grant Cohort 2 (2019-2020 to 2021-2022) Results

Colorado's Student Re-engagement Grant (SRG) provides educational services and supports to local education providers to maintain student engagement and facilitate student re-engagement at the secondary level. The grant, authorized by state statute C.R.S. 22-14-109, is managed by the Office of Student Engagement and Dropout Prevention (SEDP).

Grantees

Grantees in cohort 2 received funding for three school years (2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22)

- There were 11 districts that received funding serving 21 schools
- \$6.6 million was awarded to districts to implement programming – a program rate of \$819 per student served across all programs.

The outcomes listed below highlight evaluation results for the three-year period between July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022. See the [School District Map](#), which highlights all the districts served by the grant. Cohort 2 Grantee program descriptions can be found [here](#).

More than 7,100 Colorado Students Served Across Three Years

Grantees served more than 5,300 unique students who were re-engaged out-of-school youth or 6th to 12th grade students at risk for dropping out of school due to factors such as course failure, low attendance, and insufficient credit accrual. Of the students served, 386 (about seven percent) were re-engaged youth (e.g., had been coded in a previous year as dropouts, detention center transfers, or other types of extended absence from the Colorado education system). Some students were served for more than one year. Demographic information was available for 95 – 99 percent of students served each of the 3 years of the grant. In each category indicated below, students served had higher representation than the Colorado student population. This includes:

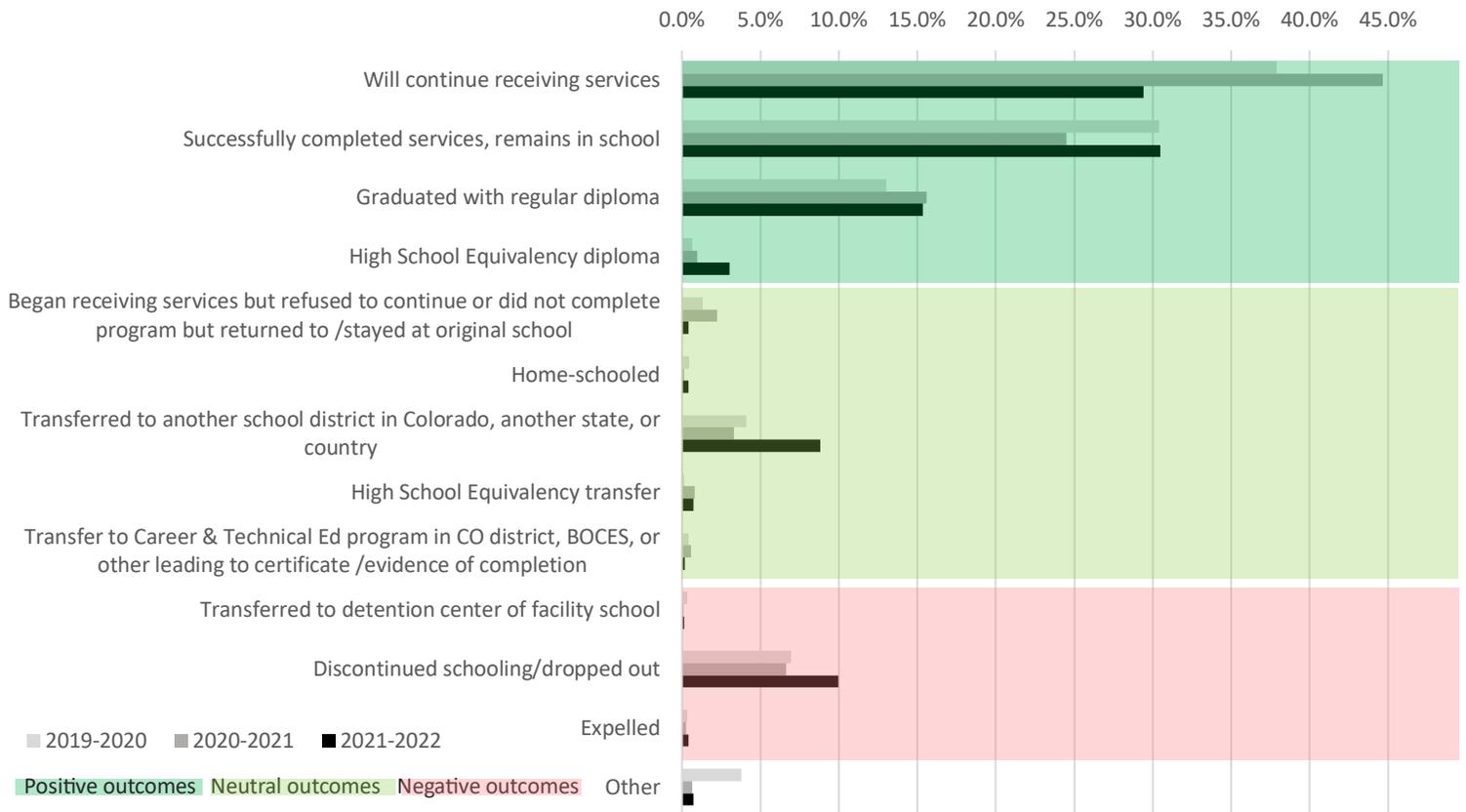
- 54.3 percent were male, and 47.3 percent identified as Hispanic. In contrast, the state student population in same period was 34.2 percent Hispanic.
- Most students served were in 9th through 12th grade (91.5 percent of students).
- About half of students served qualified for free/reduced lunch (49.1 percent of students; compared to 39.4 percent of the state student population).
- 16.5 percent were English learners; the state in the same period was 12.9 percent English learners,
- Approximately 12.7 percent had a special education designation (unreported in 2019-2020; compared to 11.9 percent in the state student population), and
- 9.3 percent were homeless, whereas only 1.4 percent of the state student population was homeless in the same period.

Eight out of 10 Students Experienced Positive Outcomes

Students served by the grant largely experienced positive outcomes:

- Grantees reported that an average of 84.8 percent of students served by the grant experienced positive outcomes in the year they were served. See Chart 1 for a breakdown of grantee reported student outcomes in each year of the grant.

Chart 1: Grantee Reported Student Outcomes in Each Year of the Grant

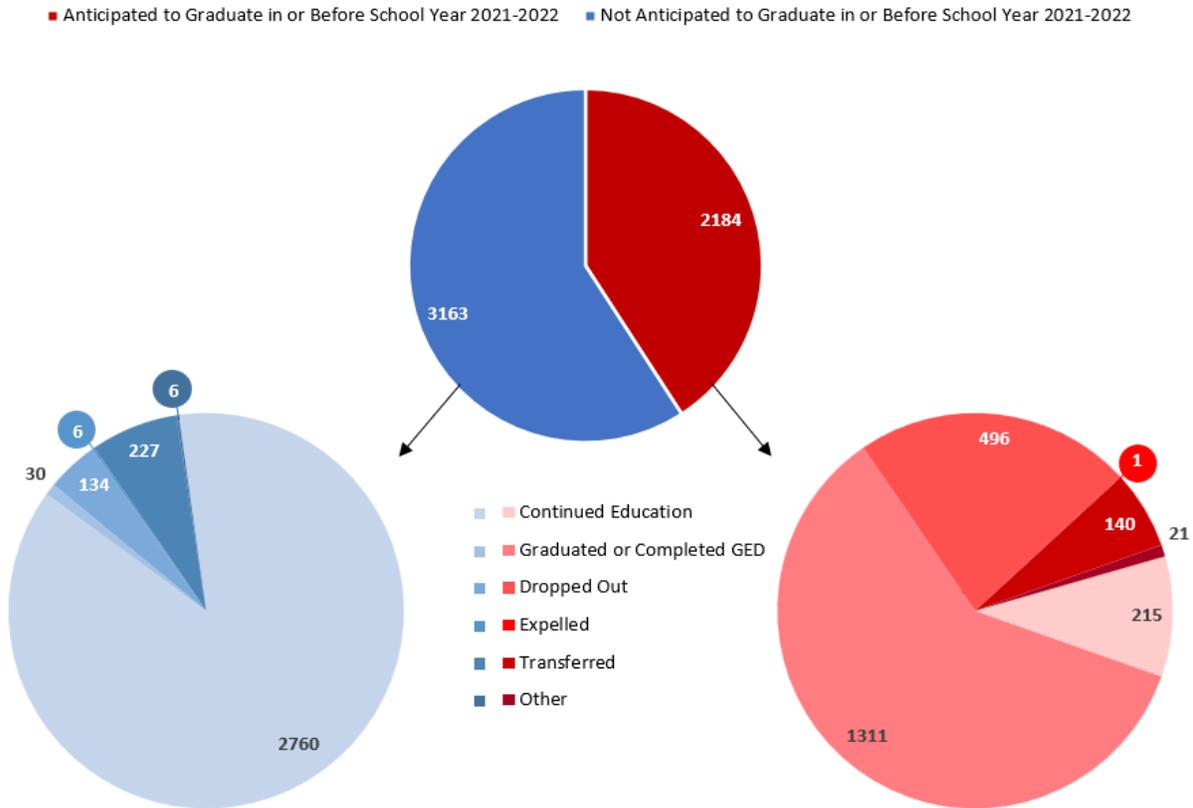


Note: “Other” responses included transfers, medical leave, and exiting the program due to mental health concerns.

- The percentage of students served who dropped out of school decreased by 0.4 percentage points in the first year of the grant (from 7.0 percent in 2019-2020 to 6.6 percent in 2020-2021). Mirroring state trends, the cohort dropout rate rose in 2021-2022, the final year of the grant, to 10.0%.
- Of the 5347 unique students served over the course of the grant, 40.8 percent were anticipated to graduate while being served by the grant. Of those, 61.4 percent graduate or complete their high school degree (see Chart 2). The economic benefits to these students and the state can be captured by an increase in projected lifetime earnings and annual state and local tax revenue, which is estimated at \$230,000 per high school graduate¹.
- See Chart 2 for a detailed analysis of where the high-risk, previously or potentially disengaged students served in Cohort 2 were as of the end of school year 2021-2022 according to CDE records.

¹ Alliance for Excellent Education. (2017) *The Graduation Effect: Every Student Potential to Impact a Community*. Retrieved from <http://impact.all4ed.org/Infographics/State/CO-GradEffect-Infographic-FINAL.PDF>.

Chart 2: Educational Outcomes (as of 2021-2022) for Students Served in Cohort 2 of the Student Re-engagement Grant



Note: "Other" includes leaving school due to illness or injury, death, and reaching the maximum age for services.

Grantee outcomes followed similar patterns to statewide trends

In the 2021-22 school year, statewide trends saw declines in attendance rates and increases in the dropout rate; grantees saw similar increases even with individual student progress.

- Funded schools reported a 5.2 percentage point decrease in attendance from 2019-2020 to 2021-2022. In contrast, the State rate fell by 2.6 percentage points (from 92.8 percent to 90.2 percent).
- Funded schools also reported an increase in the dropout rate, which had been declining (from 4.3 percent in 2019-2020 to 3.9 percent in 2020-2021), to 4.9 percent in 2021-2022. The state also saw a rise in the dropout rate, from 1.8 percent in 2019-2020 (and 2020-2021) to 2.2 percent in 2021-2022.
- Grantees increased the percentage of out-of-school youth they served from 6 percent in 2019-2020 to 12 percent of students served in 2020-2021 and 2021-2022.