

## Building an Equitable Education System - Student Success Act (HB 3427)

The Student Success Act will help build a more equitable education system by making targeted investments to close opportunity gaps and requiring school districts to prioritize equity in their plans for all new investments.

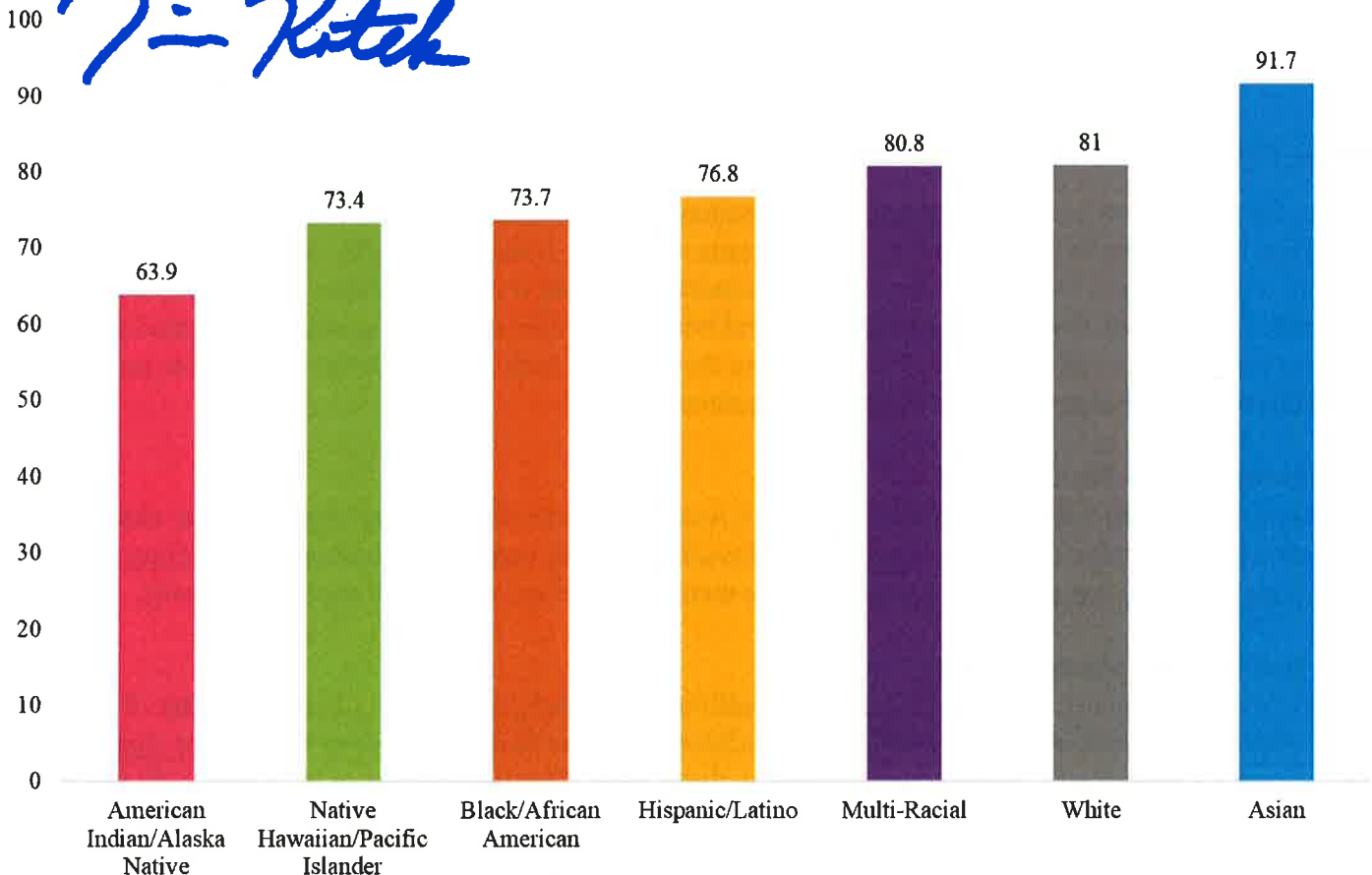
### Opportunity Gaps Persist for Underserved Students in Oregon

Oregon's K-12 schools have been chronically underfunded for 30 years and have especially underserved low-income students, students of color, English Language Learners, and students with disabilities. Students who have been underserved face higher barriers to success, which has historically resulted in gaps in student outcomes. High school graduation and completion rates are one measure of these opportunity gaps. This chart shows the opportunity gaps in the five-year graduation rate by race and ethnicity for the Oregon class of 2016-2017. These students started high school in the 2013-2014 school year and 77 percent graduated within 4 years and 80 percent graduated within 5 years. By addressing the disproportionate barriers some students face for reasons outside of their control, all students will have the opportunity to achieve their potential.

There are significant opportunity gaps visible in graduation rates by race and ethnicity. About 64 percent of American Indian and Alaskan Native students graduated within five years, compared to 81 percent of white students. Graduation rates ranged from 73 to 80 percent for other underserved communities, including: Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students (73.4 percent), Black/African American Students (73.7 percent), Hispanic/Latino students (76.8 percent), and Multi-Racial students (80.8 percent). Asian students had the highest graduation rate of 91.7 percent, but there are many Asian communities within this larger definition who experience barriers to student success.

From the desk of Tina Kotek  
*Tina Kotek*

Oregon High School Graduation Rate  
by Race/Ethnicity  
(2013-14 starting class)



Data Source: Oregon Department of Education, five-year cohort graduation rate trends, 2017-2018.

*CEO 5/1/19*

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## **Student Success Act (House Bill 3427): Closing Opportunity Gaps for Historically Underserved Students**

### **Targeted Investments to Close Opportunity Gaps:**

**Statewide Equity Initiatives:** The Student Success Act makes targeted investments in three major statewide education plans to close opportunity gaps for students of color, including:

- Expanding investment in the **African American/Black Student Success Plan** from \$6 million to \$12 million of on-going funds each biennium.
- Implementing the **American Indian or Alaskan Native Student Success Plan** by investing \$6.5 million of on-going funds each biennium.
- Investing \$1 million in the first year to create the **Latino Student Success Plan** with future opportunities for additional grant investments to implement the plan.
- Creating the **Early Childhood Equity Fund** to invest \$20 million per biennium in culturally-specific early childhood education.

**Universal Access to School Meals:** The Student Success Act will ensure that students who would otherwise go hungry have access to the nutrition they need to be ready to learn by investing almost \$84 million per biennium for school breakfast and lunch programs dedicated to low-income students.

**High Cost Disability Account:** The Student Success Act will expand investments for students with disabilities by dedicating \$40 million per biennium to ensure that children with disabilities have the services they need to succeed in the classroom.

### **Prioritizing Equity in District Plans and School Accountability:**

The Student Success Act will invest \$1 billion each biennium into a Student Investment Account that will **target new resources to students living in poverty and students who have been historically underserved**. School districts may use funds from the Student Investment Account to provide mental and behavioral health supports to students, reduce class sizes, expand summer learning and before and after school programs, and expand classes that keep students engaged like art, music and PE. To receive these funds, each school district and eligible public charter school must have specific plans and be focused on outcomes.

#### **Equitable Investments – District Plans**

Before receiving any funds from the Student Investment Account, school districts and eligible public charter schools must develop a four-year plan that shows how all new investments will improve student outcomes, close opportunity gaps for historically underserved students, and meet the mental and behavioral health needs of students.

#### **Equitable Investments – Accountability**

Schools will have performance targets to increase graduation rates, third grade reading levels, the rate of ninth grade students on track to graduate, and student attendance. Schools will also have performance targets for closing opportunity gaps for historically underserved students in these areas. The Department of Education will evaluate a school's progress towards their performance targets and provide enhanced oversight and coaching to schools that don't meet their targets. All schools will be regularly audited to ensure that strategic investments are going into the classroom and investment money is being spent to reduce opportunity gaps and improve outcomes.