

STATE OF IOWA

**POSTSECONDARY
READINESS REPORTS**

SUMMARY 2023

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This document represents a summary of statewide findings from the Iowa Postsecondary Readiness Reports. The PRRs provide Iowans information on postsecondary enrollment patterns, remedial course-taking rates, and postsecondary retention and award rates that can be connected to every public high school in Iowa. The Postsecondary Readiness Reports connect data from the Iowa Department of Education, the Iowa Board of Regents, Iowa College Aid and the National Student Clearinghouse. Reports by school are available at the following website: (<https://educateiowa.gov/postsecondaryreadiness>).

The PRRs provide a statewide portrait of Iowa high school graduate readiness for postsecondary education in a variety of areas including arts, sciences, engineering, or workforce-bound career and technical education programs. The reports provide local results to help guide Iowa school improvement.

KEY FINDINGS

- 58.2 percent of Class of 2022 Iowa public high school graduates enrolled in postsecondary education in the fall immediately following high school graduation. This is a decrease of 1.6 percentage points from the Class of 2021's enrollment rate of 59.8 percent.
- 47.9 percent of Class of 2016 Iowa public high school graduates earned a postsecondary degree/award within six years of high school graduation.

2023 DATA NOTES

Iowa's community colleges updated a small number of student records from the high school graduating Classes of 2012 through 2021 to reflect their Iowa community college enrollment and/or awards. This change resulted in an increase of around one percentage point in postsecondary enrollment overall for the Classes of 2018 through 2021 and a less than one percentage point increase for the Classes of 2012 through 2017.

A non-binary gender option was added to the state data collection for the Class of 2022, although many districts did not immediately add that category to their student information systems. The number of students who were reported as non-binary was too small to analyze in this Summary, but is presented in the PRR.

POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT

58.2 percent of Class of 2022 Iowa public high school graduates enrolled in postsecondary education in the fall immediately following high school graduation. This is a decrease of 1.6 percentage points from the Class of 2021's enrollment rate of 59.8 percent.

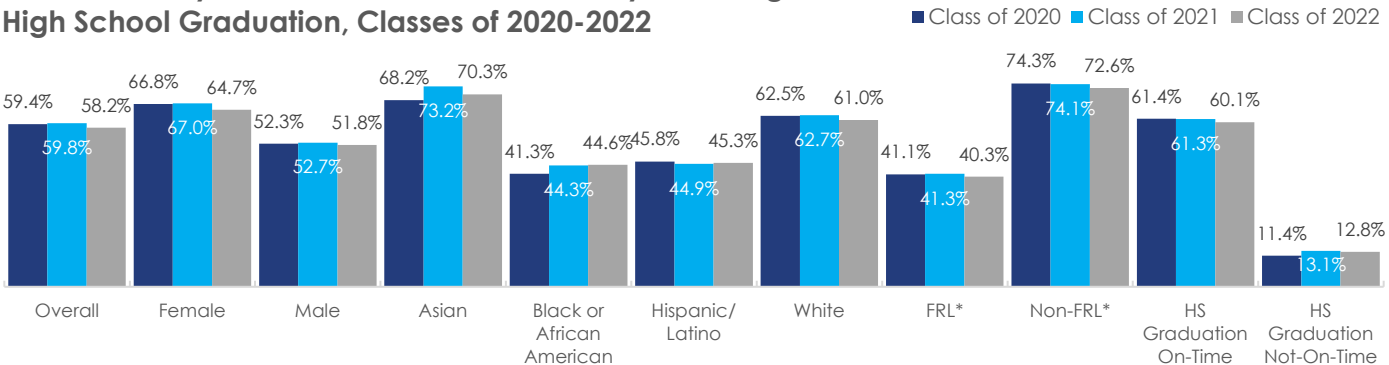
Gaps exist in enrollment rates for students from diverse backgrounds and students who

face economic challenges. These student groups also experienced larger enrollment declines than their peers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Students who are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch (FRL), students whose first language is not English, students in special education, and Black and Hispanic students enroll in postsecondary institutions at a

lower rate than the state average.

There is also a large gap in enrollment rates between students who graduate from high school on-time and those who do not. While it defaults to showing data for all students, the PRR allows the filtering of outcomes by on-time high school graduation status across all reports.

Postsecondary Enrollment in Fall Immediately Following High School Graduation, Classes of 2020-2022



* Low socio-economic status is determined by eligibility for free or reduced price meals (FRL).

REMEDIAL COURSEWORK

The Postsecondary Readiness Reports provide information about the preparedness of Iowa high school students in the key content areas of English and mathematics. Students who are not ready for college-level coursework are often placed into remedial classes (called “developmental courses” at colleges and universities).

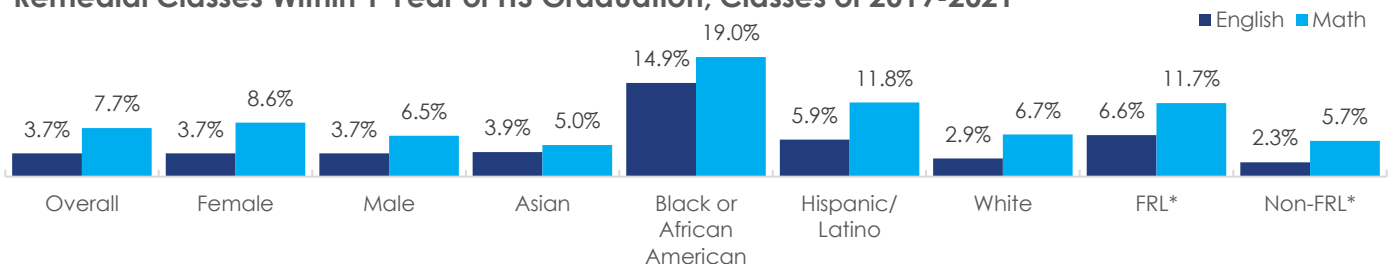
These courses cover below-college-level content in the particular subject area in which students are deemed unprepared for college-level work. Whether remedial education is required and, if so, the process for placing students into such courses varies by college. For example, at Iowa’s public universities, remedial math is required if a placement test indicates a student is not ready for college-level algebra. Many community colleges also use placement tests,

but they may or may not require students to take remedial classes. Regardless of placement test availability or their results, students may enroll in remedial classes at will. Remedial class credits do not count toward a degree and usually must be completed prior to, or in some cases concurrently with, attempting college-level coursework.

The Postsecondary Readiness Reports provide rates at which students enroll in remedial math and/or English courses in the first year after high school graduation. Remedial course-taking data in this report are shown only for students who attended an Iowa public community college or university. Data are not available for students who attend a postsecondary institution outside of Iowa or private in-state higher education institutions.

Note: Each college in Iowa has its own approach to assessing students’ academic needs and providing academic support, and both community colleges and the Regent universities have begun to offer alternatives to the traditional developmental/remedial course approach. These alternatives include supplemental instruction, adding lab components to transfer courses, and/or a paired co-requisite approach where transfer courses and developmental courses are taken together. In addition, some Iowa high schools are offering math or writing transitional coursework for high school seniors to reduce the need for remediation at the community colleges. These schools are creating articulation agreements with community colleges that align high school and college coursework, assess readiness with diagnostic tests, and create interventions through meaningful course taking. Together, these new delivery models could impact remedial course-taking rates in areas where they are in place.

Iowa Public HS Graduates Who Enrolled in an Iowa Public College and Took Remedial Classes Within 1 Year of HS Graduation, Classes of 2019-2021



* Low socio-economic status is determined by eligibility for free or reduced price meals (FRL).

POSTSECONDARY RETENTION AND AWARDS

The PRRs also provide postsecondary enrollment and award trends beyond the first year after high school graduation. The figure to the right shows 47.9 percent of Class of 2016 Iowa public high school graduates earned a postsecondary degree or award within six years of high school graduation. For each year after high school graduation, every student is grouped into one of the categories defined below:

- **No Enrollment Found:** Students who did not enroll in postsecondary education or receive any postsecondary award in the given year or previous years
- **No Longer Enrolled, No Award:** Students who enrolled in a previous year, but not in the given year and have received no degree/award
- **Enrolled:** Students who enrolled in the given year
- **Award:** Students who received any postsecondary degree/award (i.e., degree, certificate, diploma, etc.) in the given year or a previous year

Status by Year After High School Graduation, Class of 2016

