

STATE OF IOWA

**POSTSECONDARY
READINESS REPORTS**

SUMMARY 2024

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This document represents a summary of statewide findings from the Iowa Postsecondary Readiness Reports (PRR). The PRR provides lowans 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 PRR connects data from the Iowa Department of Education, the Iowa Board of Regents, Iowa Workforce Development and the National Student Clearinghouse. Reports by school are available at: (<https://reports.educateiowa.gov/postsecondaryreadiness>).

The PRR provides data on 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

- 57.7 percent of Class of 2023 Iowa public high school graduates enrolled in postsecondary education in the fall immediately following high school graduation. This is a small decrease of 0.6 percentage points from the Class of 2022's enrollment rate of 58.3 percent.
- 47.1 percent of Class of 2017 Iowa public high school graduates earned a postsecondary degree/award within six years of high school graduation.

POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT

57.7 percent of Class of 2023 Iowa public high school graduates enrolled in postsecondary education in the fall immediately following high school graduation. This is a decrease of 0.6 percentage points from the Class of 2022's enrollment rate of 58.3 percent.

Gaps exist in enrollment rates for students from specific student groups and students who face

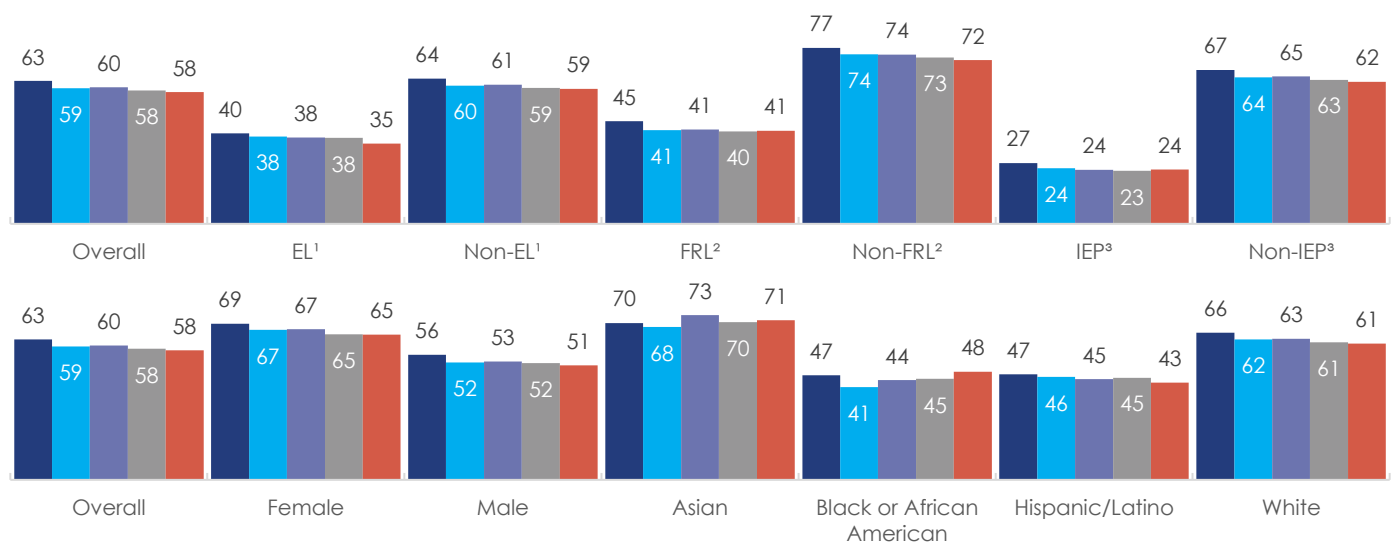
economic challenges. These student groups also had the most disrupted access to in-person instruction and experienced larger enrollment declines than their peers during the COVID-19 pandemic. While all student groups saw enrollment rate declines during the pandemic, two student groups have higher Class of 2023 enrollment rates than pre-pandemic (Class of

2019): Asian and Black or African American students.

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.

Percent of Iowa Public HS Graduates Enrolling in Postsecondary in Fall Immediately Following High School Graduation, Classes of 2019-2023

■ Class of 2019 ■ Class of 2020
 ■ Class of 2021 ■ Class of 2022
 ■ Class of 2023



¹ English learner

² Low socio-economic status is determined by eligibility for free or reduced price meals (FRL)

³ Disability status is determined by the presence of an individualized education program (IEP)

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).

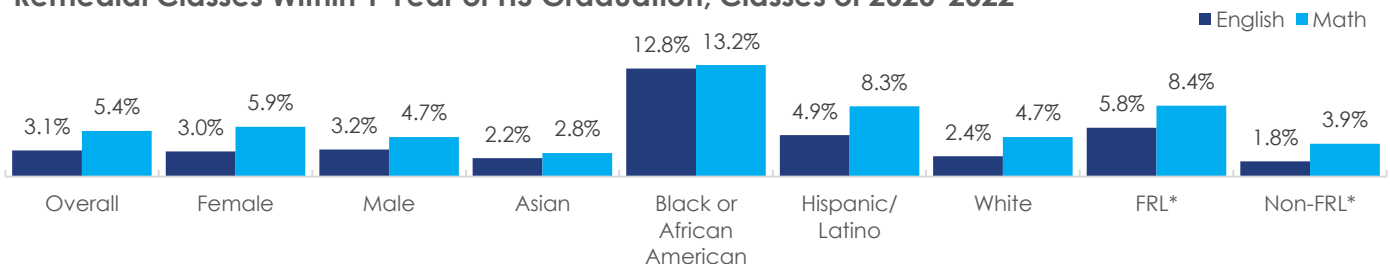
These courses cover below-college-level content in the particular subject area in which students are deemed unprepared for college-level work. Whether remedial education is required and, if so, the process for placing students into such courses varies by college. For example, at Iowa’s public universities, 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 2020-2022



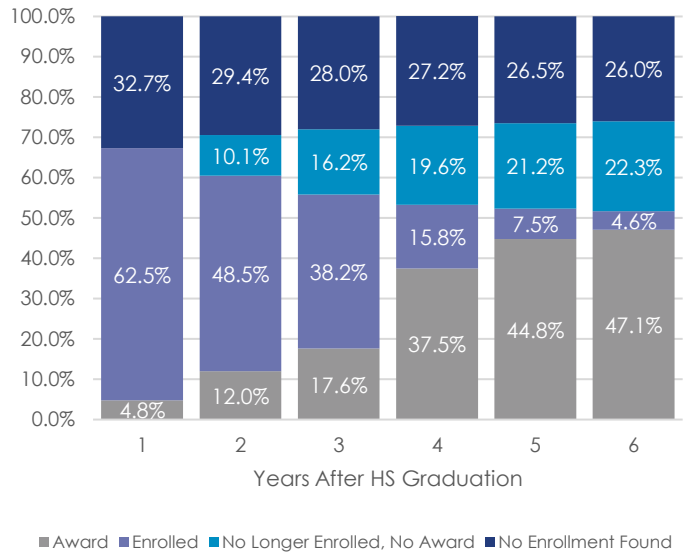
* Low socio-economic status is determined by eligibility for free or reduced price meals (FRL).

POSTSECONDARY RETENTION AND AWARDS

The PRR also provides postsecondary enrollment and award trends beyond the first year after high school graduation. The figure to the right shows 47.1 percent of Class of 2017 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

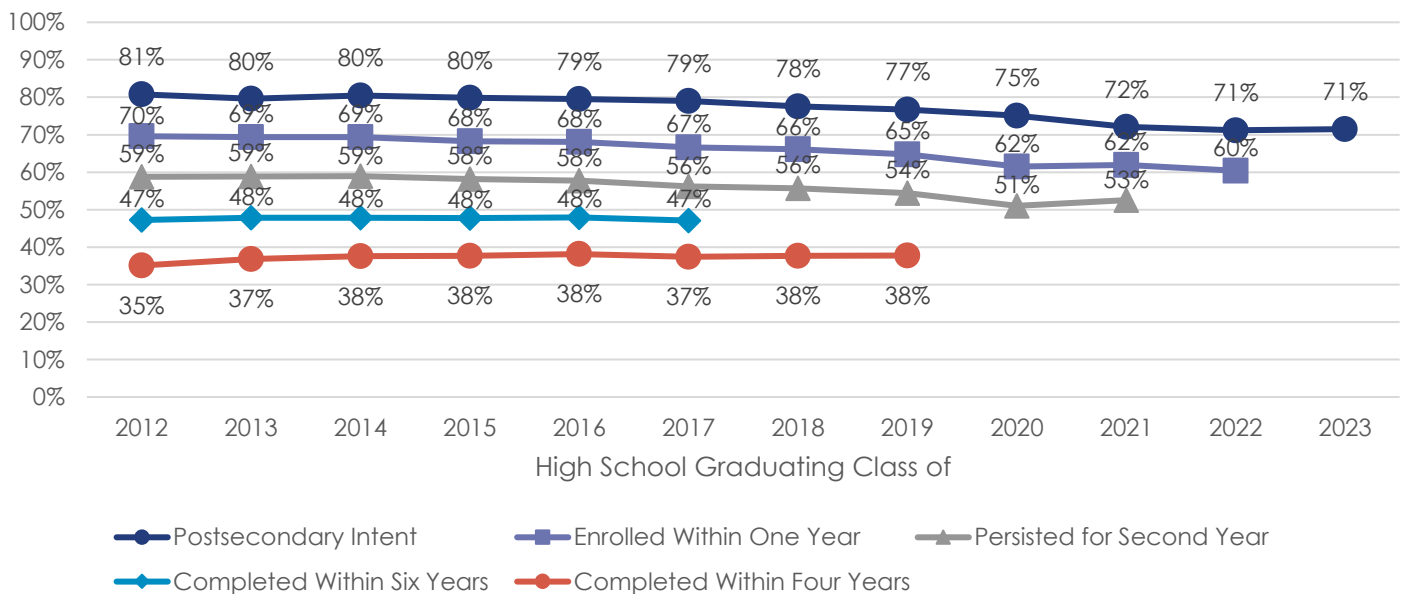
Status by Year After High School Graduation, Class of 2017



PREP TRENDLINES

The PRR, in the form of the PREP Trendlines chart shown below, provides trend data back to the Class of 2012 for select indicators: the percent of graduates whose plans at graduation included enrolling in postsecondary education or training, the percent of graduates who enrolled in postsecondary education within one year following their high school graduation, the percent of graduates who enrolled in postsecondary education within one year AND either enrolled for a second year or earned a degree or award during the first year, and the percent of graduates who completed a postsecondary degree or award within four and six years following their high school graduation. The denominator for each indicator in the chart is all high school graduates.

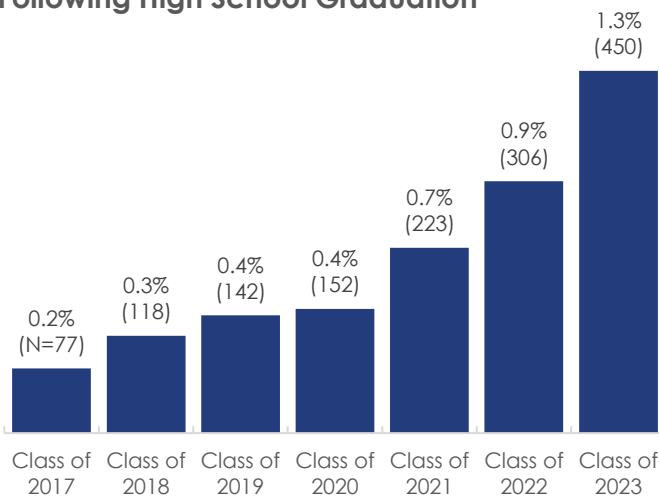
Postsecondary Indicators by Graduating Class



REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP

Data on Iowa high school graduates who participate in a registered apprenticeship following high school graduation are in the process of being incorporated into the PRR through data provided by Iowa Workforce Development and the U.S. Department of Labor. While school-level data and integration with the existing enrollment and award rates reported on the PRR will not be available until a future release, the below charts and table show state-level registered apprenticeship participation of Iowa public high school graduates. Participation in registered apprenticeship has increased, particularly over the last three graduating classes with 1.3 percent of Class of 2023 Iowa public high school graduates participating in a registered apprenticeship in the fall immediately following high school graduation. The three most common programs for Class of 2023 graduates were electrician, teacher aide and nurse assistant. Note that this data does not include all students who participated in or completed a registered apprenticeship program while in high school. Other data resources related to registered apprenticeship and work-based learning are available on the [Iowa Student Outcomes website](#).

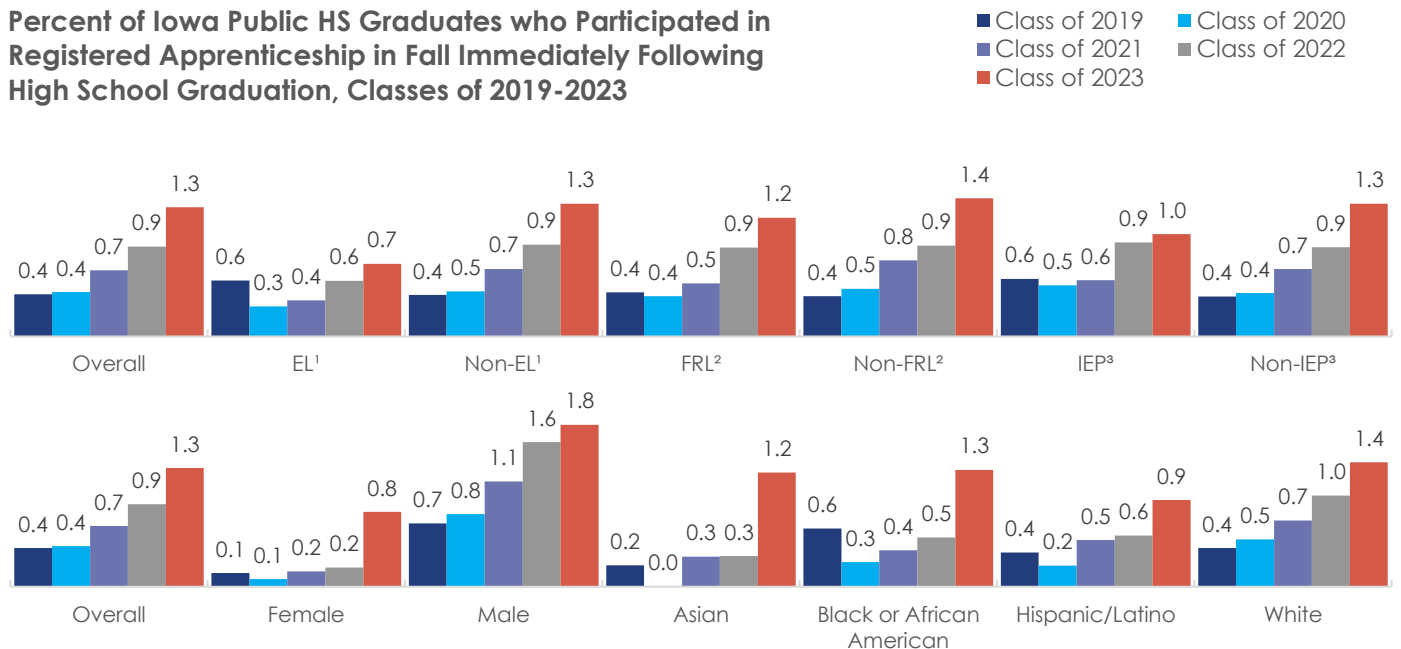
Iowa Public HS Graduates Who Participated in a Registered Apprenticeship in Fall Immediately Following High School Graduation



Most Common Registered Apprenticeship Programs of Iowa Public HS Graduates who Participated in a Registered Apprenticeship in Fall Immediately Following High School Graduation: Class of 2023

Program Title	Number of HS Graduates
Electrician	82
Teacher Aide I	66
Nurse Assistant	59
Plumber	43
Welding	43
Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning	23
Carpenter	18
Construction Craft Laborer	17
Operating Engineer	12
Application Developer	10

Percent of Iowa Public HS Graduates who Participated in Registered Apprenticeship in Fall Immediately Following High School Graduation, Classes of 2019-2023



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