



# APPENDIX: GRADNATION ACCELERATION INITIATIVE STATE AND COMMUNITY SUMMARIES



**GradNation**  
AMERICA'S PROMISE ALLIANCE®

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In February 2017, America’s Promise Alliance announced partnerships with three communities and two states to improve graduation rates for specific groups of young people. The sites were selected because they demonstrated a strong understanding of their data and young people’s lived experience, the collective will and track record to collaboratively serve young people, and a clear vision of how to support youth in reaching the graduation milestone. Over the last two years, each site has participated in a learning process that surfaced the themes highlighted in this series of issue briefs. This appendix includes descriptions of each site as well as data tables that depict changes in their graduation rate data over the past several years.

## BOYLE HEIGHTS ENGLISH LEARNER ACCELERATION PROJECT

### Promesa Boyle Heights, Los Angeles, California

Proyecto Pastoral is a community-based organization in Los Angeles, California and the backbone agency for Promesa Boyle Heights, a collaborative serving the city’s Boyle Heights neighborhood. Promesa aims to improve conditions at the individual, school, and systems levels by building a movement of partner organizations, students, and families collaborating to close the opportunity gap and strengthen supports for students from cradle through college and career. The English Learner (EL) program was launched to support EL students and their families in two traditional high schools and one continuing education high school in light of particularly low completion rates for newcomer and long-term English learners. The program is focused on helping the students reach EL proficiency, develop life skills, and achieve their personal goals through a near-peer mentoring program.

The GradNation Promesa programming has helped schools build capacity while strengthening partnerships with other community organizations. To support students, Promesa has overseen three main initiatives to increase the EL graduation rate, focusing on: parent and family engagement, peer mentoring and tutoring for students who are off track to meet graduation requirements, and school relationship and capacity building.

Promesa serves English learners, students from low-income households, and Hispanic-Latino students. About 80% of the district’s student population are from low-income households, 74% are Hispanic-Latino, and about 20% are English learners.

Data Point	2011	2017	2018
School Graduation Rate	33.3%	78.4%	71.9%
District Graduation Rate	64.8%	76.1%	76.7%
State Graduation Rate	77.1%	86.7%	87.3%
Graduation Rate among Students from Low-income Households (school-level)	35.3%	78.5%	73.0%
Graduation Rate among English Learners (school-level)	19.8%	53.2%	44.9%
Graduation Rate among Hispanic and Latino Students (school-level)	33.3%	79.0%	72.3%

## PROJECT GRADUATE 2.0: UNLOCKING THE POWER AND POTENTIAL OF GEORGIA'S FOSTER YOUTH

### Georgia Division of Family and Children Services and Multi-Agency Alliance for Children

Project Graduate is a collaborative effort between the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) and the Multi-Agency Alliance for Children (MAAC) to improve graduation rates for young people in foster care. MAAC brings together leaders and staff at local and state agencies to achieve a common goal: supporting youth in foster care. MAAC assigns every young person an education coordinator who assists with the academic, financial, and emotional support necessary to navigate through the high school years. DFCS is the state agency that oversees youth in care and connects them with MAAC supports.

Project Graduate 2.0 has been a cross-sector effort to improve outcomes through a variety of direct services and indirect policy and practice changes; MAAC oversees several youth-led leadership initiatives and works with DFCS to bring those youth leaders to statewide advisory council meetings, peer-to-peer exchanges, and youth town halls.

MAAC serves youth in foster care across the state of Georgia. MAAC's educational support programming reaches between 500 and 700 students annually across the state. Youth in foster care receiving MAAC services have been referred via state agency partners.

Data Point	2011	2017	2018
State Graduation Rate	80.9%	80.6%	81.6%
Graduation Rate among Students in Foster Care (State)		11.0%	11.0%
Graduation Rate among Students in Foster Care (MAAC participants)			80.0%

The missing data in this column were not able to be collected.

### EVERY STUDENT MATTERS: ACCELERATING GRADUATION RATES AND DECREASING DROPOUT RATES Greeley-Evans School District 6, Greeley, Colorado

Greeley-Evans School District 6 oversees six high school campuses, including the Greeley Alternative Program (GAP), which provides an alternative school environment for students who face barriers to graduation in a traditional school model. The district identifies students who are off-track to graduate (based on credit accumulation), need more intensive supports, or are facing social or emotional challenges in their traditional schools and enrolls them at the dedicated alternative campus, which offers a competency-based curriculum, wraparound services, real-world internships, and college credit courses.

GAP has expanded college and career advising through paid internships, work-based learning opportunities, and concurrent enrollment. GAP also focuses on providing wraparound services that address non-academic factors so young people can focus on learning.

GAP serves predominantly Hispanic-Latino and students from low-income households. Six percent of the district population attends GAP.

Data Point	School or Program	2011*	2017	2018
School Graduation Rate	Greeley Central High School	74.4%	86.0%	82.0%
	Greeley West High School	74.3%	78.2%	80.6%
	Northridge High School	73.2%	84.0%	81.5%
	Jefferson High School		66.8%	73.3%
	Greeley Alternative Program		34.7%	39.8%
District Graduation Rate		71.8%	79.0%	81.5%
State Graduation Rate		73.9%	78.7%	78.9%

\*The schools with no data in this column did not exist in 2011.

### JOBS FOR MICHIGAN'S GRADUATES

#### Youth Solutions Inc.

Jobs for Michigan's Graduates (JMG) is a state affiliate of Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG), whose objective is to equip young adults with the skills they need to succeed in the workplace and in life. JMG supports low-income students and students of color at predominantly low-graduation rate high schools through an in-school classroom instructional model and an out-of-school re-engagement model. JMG seeks to increase

young people’s sense of purpose and belonging by connecting their high school and youth experiences to their postsecondary and career goals. JMG has implemented trauma-informed care as its staff saw a need in the community to be responsive to the life experiences of its students.

Through this trauma-informed lens, JMG’s specialists teach and act as mentors. They are guided by a competency-based curriculum that emphasizes work-ready skills, career exposure and training, and a year of follow-up services after high school graduation.

Data Point	School or Program	2011*	2017	2018
<b>JMG Participants’ Graduation Rate (school-level)</b>	Benton Harbor High School		100%	100%
	Cody High School		97%	97%
	Flint Southwestern Classical Academy		92%	100%
<b>School Graduation Rate</b>	Benton Harbor High School	76.92%	78.92%	75.64%
	Cody High School		80.00%	74.51%
	Flint Southwestern Classical Academy	94.78%	83.33%	84.85%
<b>District Graduation Rate</b>	Benton Harbor Area Schools	68.12%	65.96%	64.73%
	Detroit Public Schools	59.74%	78.22%	78.22%
	Flint Community Schools	51.44%	66.96%	66.77%
<b>State Graduation Rate</b>		74.33%	80.18%	80.64%

\*In 2011, JMG had not yet expanded to these schools.

## MISSION: GRADUATE

### United Way of Central New Mexico

Mission: Graduate is a collective impact effort that focuses on cradle to career outcomes for youth facing barriers to graduation in the Albuquerque area of New Mexico. To reach the goal of adding 60,000 new graduates to postsecondary programs, the initiative identified three key strategies to get more youth to high school graduation: increase school attendance and engagement, improve college and career readiness, and provide teacher support.

Mission: Graduate’s focus for the Acceleration Initiative has been Rio Grande High School, and the initiative improved school capacity to expand the use of early warning systems, provided college and career exploration opportunities, and connected off-track students with peers and mentors to improve attendance.

Mission: Graduate serves students in a predominantly Hispanic-Latino high school. About 66% of the district’s student population are Hispanic-Latino.

Data Point	2011*	2017	2018
<b>School Graduation Rate</b>	52.1%	61.0%	61.0%
<b>District Graduation Rate</b>	63.4%	67.9%	69.6%
<b>State Graduation Rate</b>	63.0%	71.1%	73.9%
<b>Graduation Rate among Hispanic Students (school-level)</b>		60.6%	61.6%
<b>Graduation Rate among Hispanic Students (district-level)</b>		65.8%	67.9%
<b>Graduation Rate among Hispanic Students (state-level)</b>		70.5%	73.1%

\*The missing data in this column were not able to be collected in 2011.