

# BEYOND THE HEADLINES

At a Glance: Jobs, Workers & the Economy

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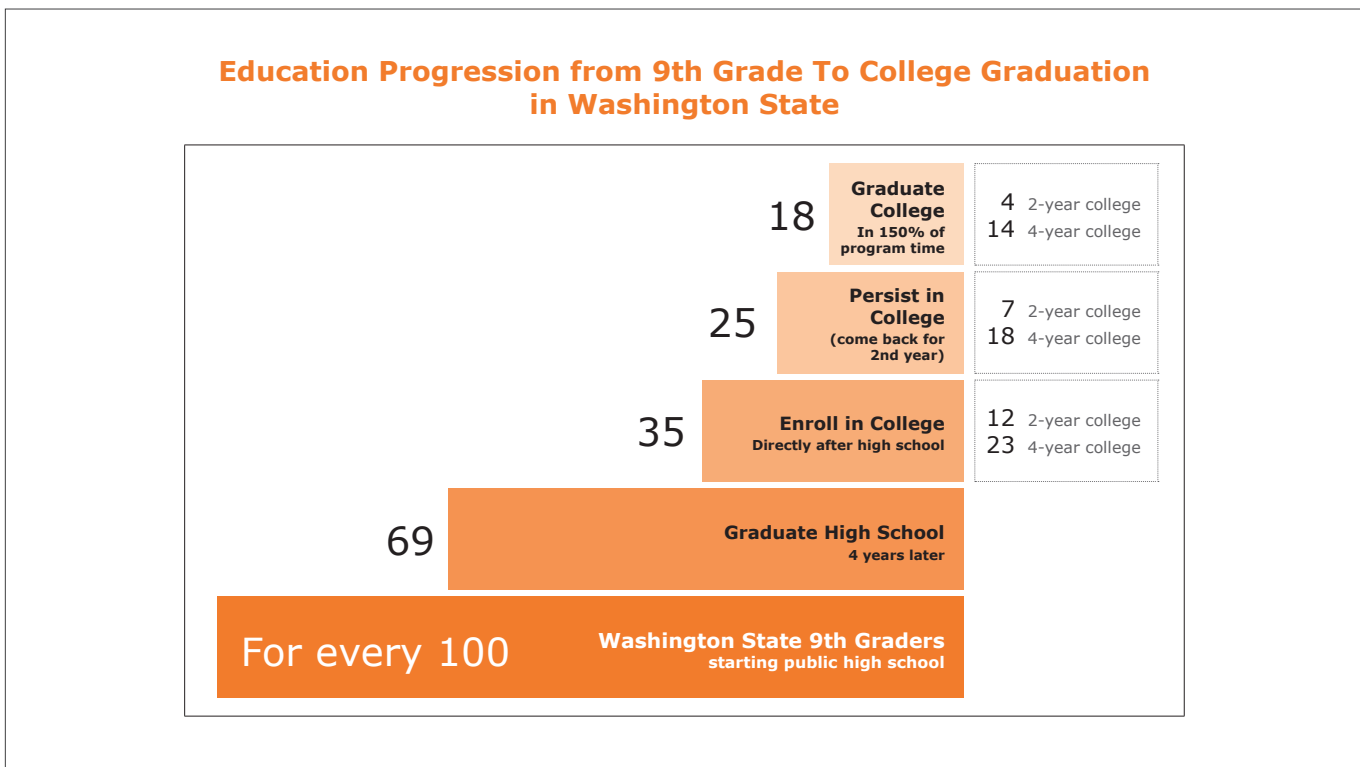
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FOCUS: WASHINGTON STATE

## Washington's Education Pipeline: A Picture of Why We Must Do Better

Those following recent state and local policy developments and trends in philanthropy have witnessed a heightened focus on a goal to significantly increase education attainment levels of Washington residents, in particular youth and people of color. From Governor Gregoire to Seattle Mayor McGinn, to The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the recently-launched Community Center for Education Results, multiple stakeholders are working on finding solutions to a statewide problem: the surprisingly small percentage of young people in our state who go on to graduate from college.

The following graphic demonstrates the scope of our challenge in Washington State, using 2008 data compiled by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems.



At **18.1 percent**, Washington ranks **30th among all states** (and below the U.S. average of 20.5 percent) in the percentage of 9th graders who:

- Graduate from high school on time;
- Enroll directly in college;
- Return for their second year of college; and
- Graduate college within 150 percent of college program time (i.e. three years for an AA degree, 6 years for a BA degree).

Our state fares better in comparison to other states in terms of overall college attainment. Washington **ranks 14th** in the number of adult residents (ages 26–64) holding a two-year AA degree or higher, at **42 percent**.

Why does Washington have a relatively well-educated population when such a low number of 9th graders are going on to obtain college credentials? One important reason: we are importing college graduates. In 2007, for example, the state had a net in-migration of nearly 70,000 adults, of whom roughly 40,000 (**57 percent**) had an AA or higher degree.

Source for data: National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (2008 data). See <http://www.nchems.org>

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**BEYOND THE HEADLINES:** Policy & Labor Market Updates for Those Working to Help Low-Income and Low-Skill Individuals Advance through Education, Training & Living-Wage Jobs

### **About Seattle Jobs Initiative**

Seattle Jobs Initiative creates opportunities for students, workers and business to succeed by helping education and job training programs meet the demands of a new economy. We find and apply solutions for people to gain the skills they need for good jobs that create prosperity for all in today's marketplace.

***Supported by the City of Seattle Office of Economic Development***

### **Contact Information**

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