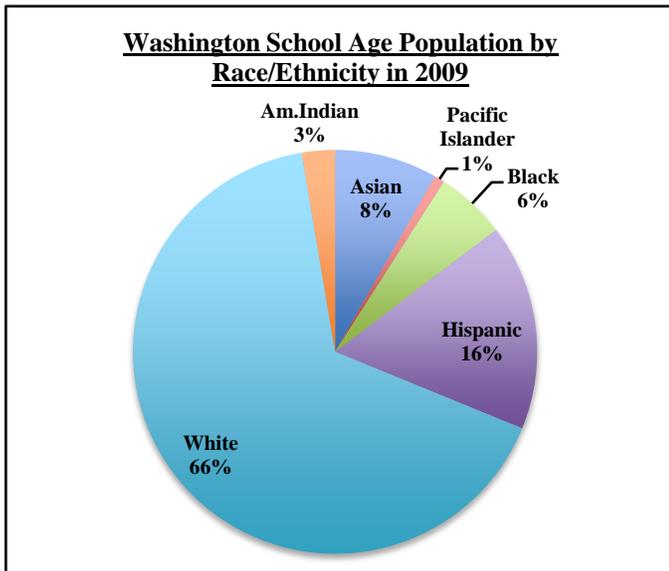


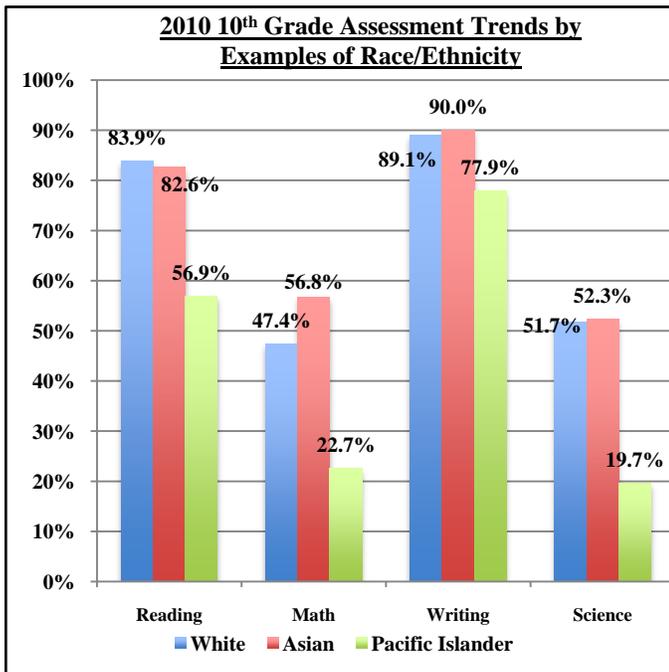
The Achievement Gap for Asian American and Pacific Islander Students

EVIDENCE OF WASHINGTON'S ACHIEVEMENT GAP IN K-12 EDUCATION



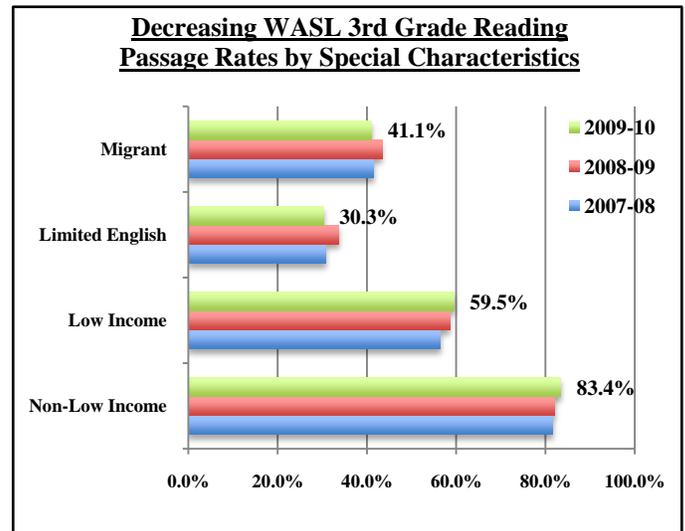
*OSPI Statewide Assessment Data – 2009-10

Although, there are nearly 90,000 Asian American and Pacific Islander students in Washington, their test scores are not on par with their white peers. This is a significant social and economic problem for Washington State because educational achievement is inextricably linked to income, prison rates, and participation in social welfare programs.



*OSPI Statewide Assessment Data – 2009-10

As recently cited in popular media and by several academic sources, 3rd Grade literacy rates are being used to estimate future prison rates. Passage rates on the reading portion of the WASL are 15.5% lower for Pacific Islander children than for white children. Washington could increase literacy among some groups most at risk, like Pacific Islanders, and decrease the number of youth at risk by bolstering early learning among vulnerable populations.



*OSPI Statewide Assessment Data – 2009-10

Moreover, AAPI communities are disproportionately represented in other special characteristic groups that are less likely to highly perform on state assessments. In 2008, 302,605 Washington residents reported speaking Asian or Pacific Islander languages and 152,285 of those reported speaking English less than very well. This is especially significant because in 2010, only 30.3% of limited English students passed the 3rd grade Reading portion of the WASL, and the 10th grade passage rate was even worse at only 23.3%.

Additionally, in 2008, 320,823 Washington residents reported Asia or Oceania as their region of birth. Passage of the 3rd grade reading portion of the WASL in migrant populations was only 40.1%, but 10th graders fared better at 51.5%. An improvement, but this still means that only half of migrant students read at an appropriate level when they have almost completed their high school education.

These rates are especially shocking in terms of prison rates as discussed above, because these numbers predict that nearly two-thirds of the limited English and migrant populations could end up imprisoned.

Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs
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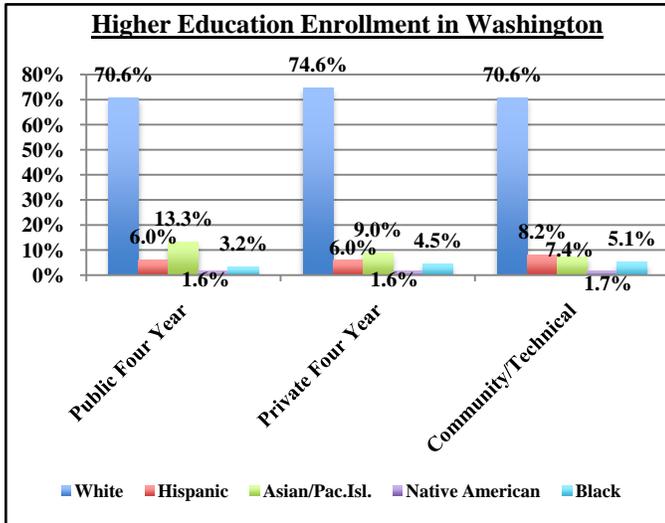
Mission: To improve the well-being of APAs by ensuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas.
 Special Thanks to: Kathryn Kuhlenberg • Legislative Lawyering Project • Seattle University School of Law • Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law & Equality

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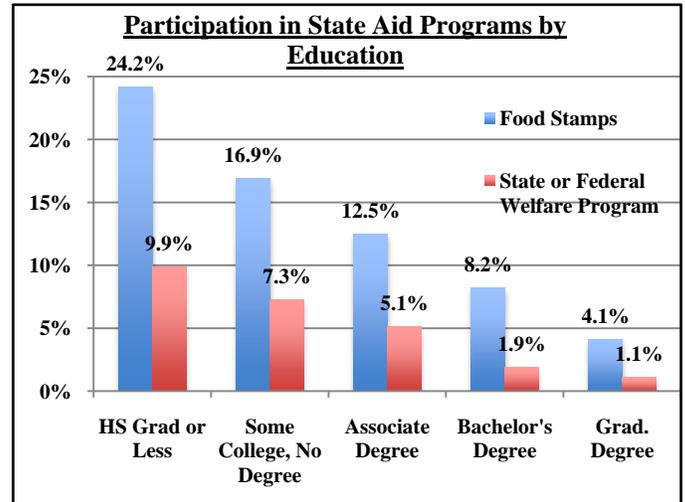
WHAT THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP COSTS WASHINGTON STATE?

The Governor has recognized that “education is the single most important investment we can make for our children, our state, our economy and our future.” Closing the achievement gap will increase entrepreneurial opportunities and civic participation, and it will lead to a society of more socially responsible citizens engaged in constructive activities.

Failing to close the achievement gap means that Washington will continue to spend on health and social welfare programs. These are costs that can be avoided by closing the gap and preparing all children for a productive and meaningful career.



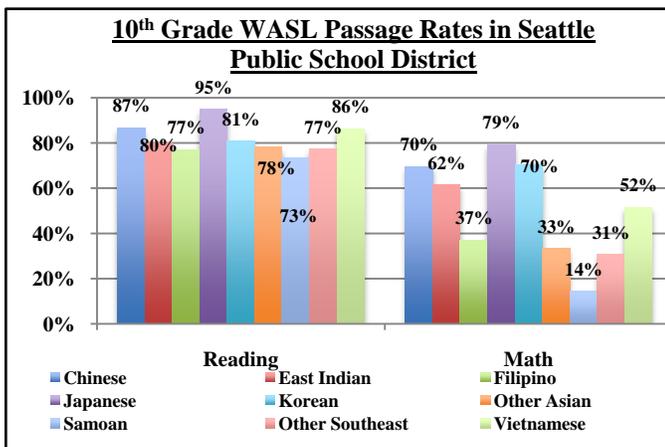
*Washington Higher Education Coordination Board – Fall 2008



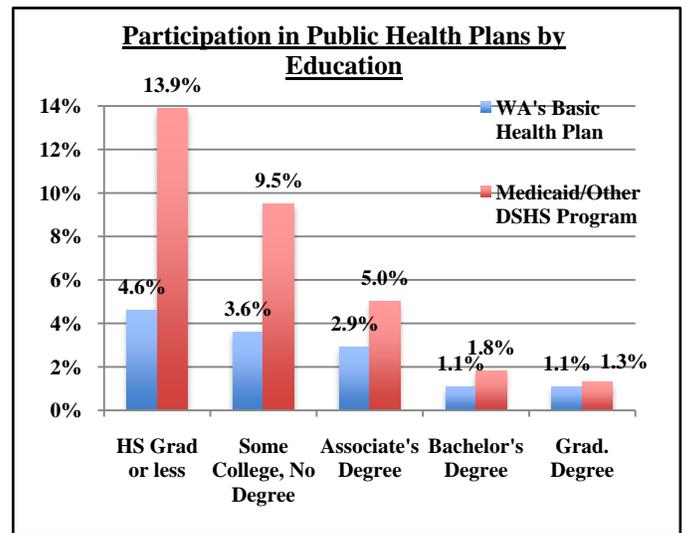
*Washington Higher Education Board - 2009

Major data reporting systems lump all Asian American and Pacific Islander populations together, but this ignores significant differences in educational achievement. There are varying degrees of success among different populations that must be addressed and remedied to ensure that all students are adequately represented in the state's higher education systems.

Lower levels of educational attainment are often linked to higher levels of participation in state aid programs such as food stamps and welfare. Moreover, the percentage of individuals that access state and federal healthcare programs is much higher among less educated citizens. This is unquestionably linked to employment opportunities that provide healthcare and other benefits. If Washington were able to increase employment and decrease spending on welfare programs, it would undoubtedly benefit fiscally through increased tax revenue and individual spending.



*Seattle Public School District – 2009



*Washington Higher Education Board – 2009

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