



The Washington State  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

# Graduation Requirement Emergency Waiver Program

March 9, 2022



# Conversation Today

- The purpose of the waiver program is to **“prevent students from being unduly impacted by unforeseen disruptions to coursework and assessments that are beyond the student's control.”**
- Non-Asian students of color and other systemically marginalized students experienced pre-pandemic disparate educational opportunities and now, additional pandemic-related negative impacts.
- The purpose of the program goal was largely met, as systemically marginalized and underserved students accessed the Graduation Requirement Emergency Waiver (GREW) program at rates higher than the groups’ representation in the graduation cohort.

# Purpose of the Waiver

- The report describes the many ways that the COVID-pandemic deepened divides in educational opportunity across our nation's classrooms.
- For many students, especially those from systemically marginalized and underserved groups, the educational opportunity and achievement gaps that existed before the pandemic are widening.
- These disparities can be a cause for great concern, especially when they interfere with a student's opportunity to learn, grow, and contribute to our nation's future.
- The purpose of the waiver program is to **“prevent students from being unduly impacted by unforeseen disruptions to coursework and assessments that are beyond the student's control.”**



**Education in a Pandemic:**  
The Disparate Impacts of COVID-19 on  
America's Students



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# Disparate Graduation Outcomes Over 10 Years

- Graduation gaps mostly decreased a little over the 10 most recent years.
- **Sense of Urgency:** Using the 10-year gap reduction rate shown here, it will take nearly 100 years to eliminate the Native American or Alaskan – Asian graduation gap.

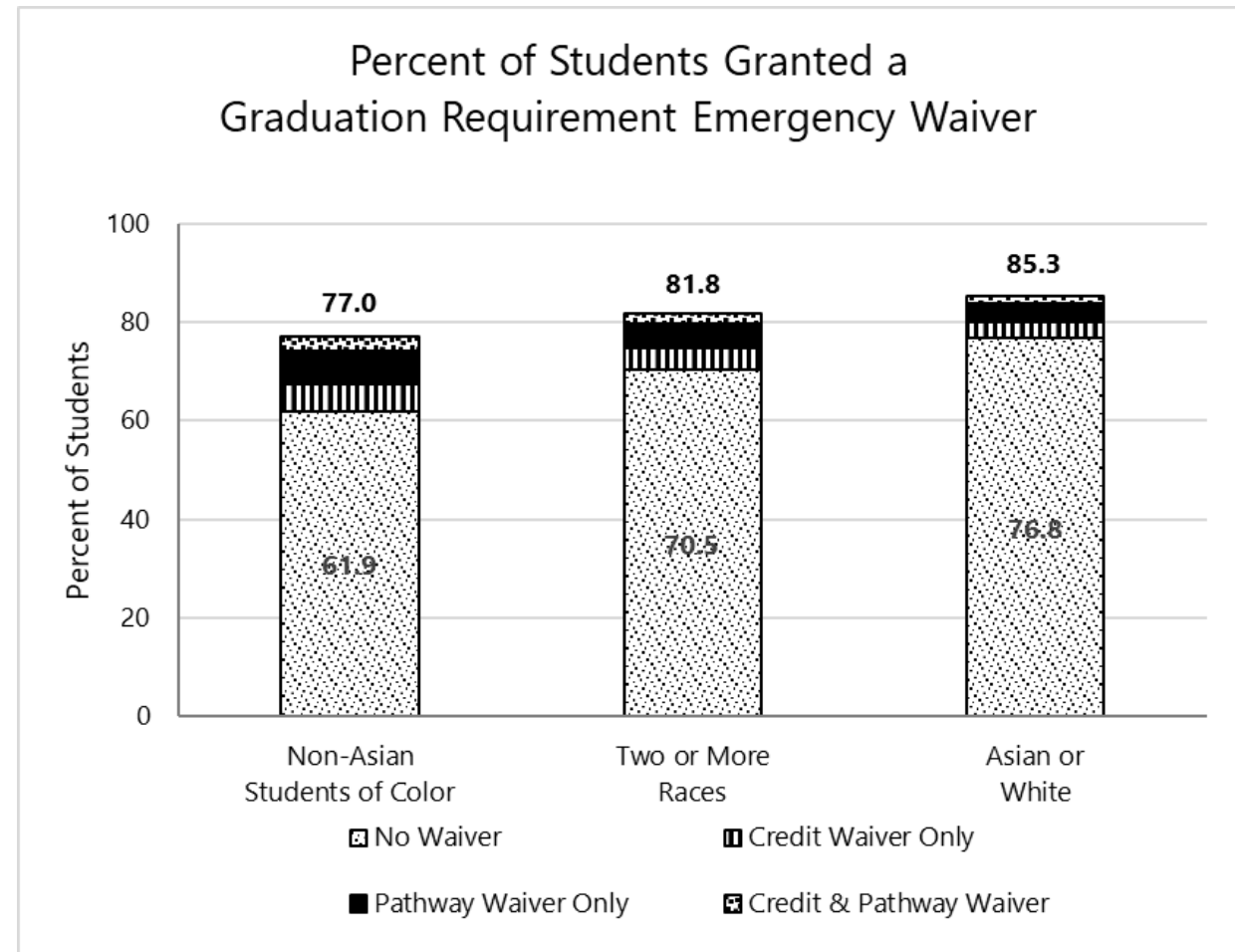
Asian is the reference group because we seek to see all student groups striving to match the performance of the highest performing group, which on this measure is the Asian student group.

Graduation Gaps	2012	2015	2018	2021	10 Year Change (pp)	Change per Year (pp)
Male-Female Gap	7.0	6.9	6.2	6.0	-0.9	-0.09
Native Amer./Alaskan-Asian Gap	27.7	31.4	29.6	25.1	-2.6	-0.26
Black-Asian Gap	17.3	19.0	15.6	14.4	-2.9	-0.29
Hispanic-Asian Gap	17.8	18.2	14.8	14.5	-3.2	-0.32
Hawaiian/Pac. Isl.-Asian Gap	19.9	20.8	16.0	16.8	-3.1	-0.31
White-Asian Gap	4.1	6.8	7.1	7.9	3.9	0.39
Two of More-Asian Gap	6.3	9.8	9.3	10.3	4.0	0.40
English Learner (EL)-Not EL Gap	24.7	23.7	18.1	15.0	-9.7	-0.97
Low-Income (FRL)-Not FRL Gap	20.7	20.8	17.9	17.2	-3.5	-0.35
Special Ed. (SWD)-Not SWD Gap	21.9	22.9	21.8	21.4	-0.5	-0.05

Change is shown as percentage points (pp). A negative value means the gap decreased. A positive value means the gap increased.

# Waiver Usage and Non-Asian Students of Color

- Non-Asian students of color consistently post graduation rates far below the rates for other student groups.
- 15 percent of students of color were granted a waiver of graduation requirements.
- 11 percent of students identifying with two or more races were granted a waiver of graduation requirements.
- 8.5 percent of students identifying as Asian or White were granted a waiver of graduation requirements.



**The students most negatively impacted by the COVID pandemic accessed waivers at the highest rates.**

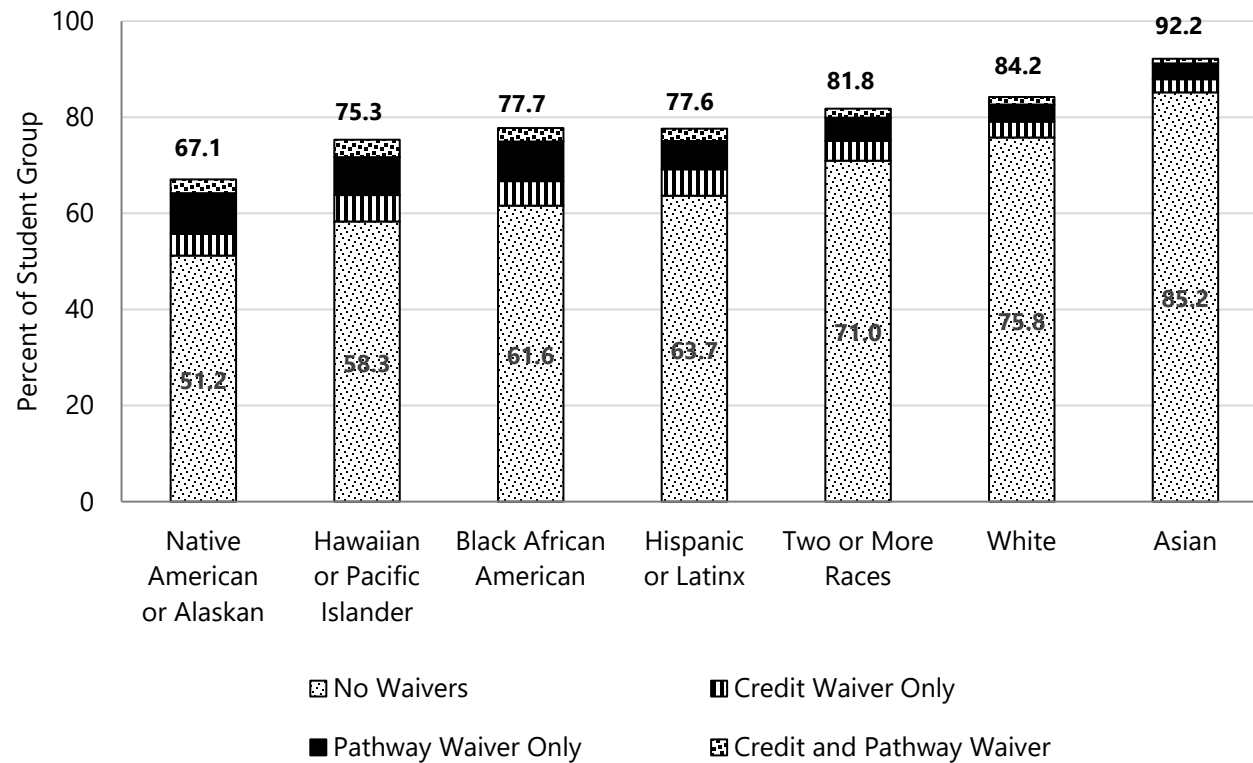


# Waiver Usage by Race and Ethnicity

- 14 to 17 percent of non-Asian students of color were granted a waiver of graduation requirements.
- 7 to 8 percent of students identifying as Asian or White were granted a waiver of graduation requirements.

**The students most negatively impacted by the COVID pandemic accessed waivers at the highest rates.**

Percent of Students Granted a Graduation Requirement Emergency Waiver

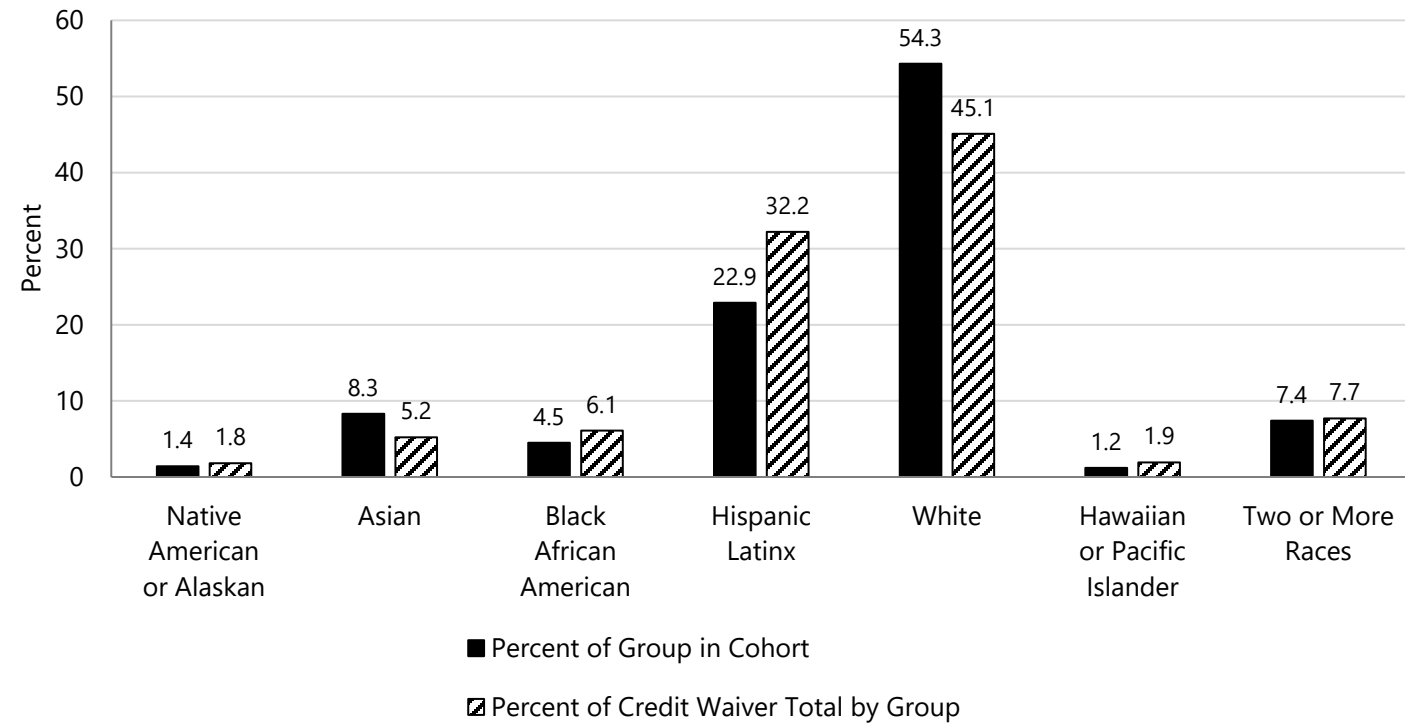




# Credit Waiver Usage by Race/Ethnicity

Non-Asian students of color were granted credit waivers at rates higher than the groups' representation in the final adjusted graduation cohort.

2021 Adjusted Graduation Cohort  
Credit Waiver Usage by Race/Ethnicity



# Number and Percent of Credit Waiver Usage by Race/Ethnicity and by Content Area



Student Group	ELA Credit Waiver Grantees	Math Credit Waiver Grantees	Science Credit Waiver Grantees	SS/History Credit Waiver Grantees	PE/Health Credit Waiver Grantees	Arts Credit Waiver Grantees	Other Credit Waiver Grantees	Students in Adjusted Cohort
<b>All Students</b>	<b>2,016</b>	<b>892</b>	<b>858</b>	<b>2,168</b>	<b>771</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>1,154</b>	<b>84,828</b>
<b>Native Amer. or Alaskan</b>	39 (1.9%)	15 (1.7%)	26 (3.0%)	31 (1.4%)	14 (1.8%)	15 (2.9%)	22 (1.9%)	1,224 (1.4%)
<b>Asian</b>	111 (5.5%)	34 (3.8%)	44 (5.1%)	92 (4.2%)	45 (5.8%)	26 (5.0%)	50 (4.3%)	7,011 (8.3%)
<b>Black African Amer.</b>	123 (6.1%)	62 (7.0%)	63 (7.3%)	125 (5.8%)	41 (5.3%)	34 (6.5%)	67 (5.8%)	3,818 (4.5%)
<b>Hispanic or Latinx</b>	708 <b>(35.1%)</b>	317 <b>(35.5%)</b>	290 <b>(33.8%)</b>	738 <b>(34.0%)</b>	238 <b>(30.9%)</b>	179 <b>(34.1%)</b>	312 <b>(27.0%)</b>	19,420 <b>(22.9%)</b>
<b>White</b>	837 (41.5%)	377 (42.3%)	352 (41.0%)	963 (44.4%)	358 (46.4%)	223 (42.5%)	604 (52.3%)	46,020 (54.3%)
<b>Hawaiian Or Pacific Isl.</b>	39 (1.9%)	27 (3.0%)	17 (2.0%)	42 (1.9%)	11 (1.4%)	12 (2.3%)	12 (1.0%)	1,017 (1.2%)
<b>Two or More Races</b>	159 (7.9%)	59 (6.6%)	65 (7.6%)	177 (8.2%)	64 (8.3%)	35 (6.7%)	87 (7.5%)	6,315 (7.4%)
<b>Low-Income</b>	1,411 (70.0%)	649 (72.8%)	623 (72.6%)	1,538 (70.9%)	522 (67.7%)	391 (74.5%)	768 (66.6%)	42,382 (50.0%)
<b>Students with a Disability</b>	241 (12.0%)	107 (12.0%)	179 (20.9%)	347 (16.0%)	131 (17.0%)	119 (22.7%)	187 (16.2%)	11,059 (13.0%)
<b>English Learners</b>	230 (11.4%)	165 (18.5%)	140 (16.3%)	300 (13.8%)	88 (11.4%)	83 (15.8%)	130 (11.3%)	7,731 (9.1%)
<b>Section 504</b>	194 (9.6%)	102 (11.4%)	85 (9.9%)	201 (9.3%)	89 (11.5%)	46 (8.8%)	138 (12.0%)	7,347 (8.7%)
<b>Migrant</b>	78 (3.9%)	33 (3.7%)	33 (3.8%)	90 (4.2%)	19 (2.5%)	15 (2.9%)	32 (2.8%)	2,193 (2.6%)

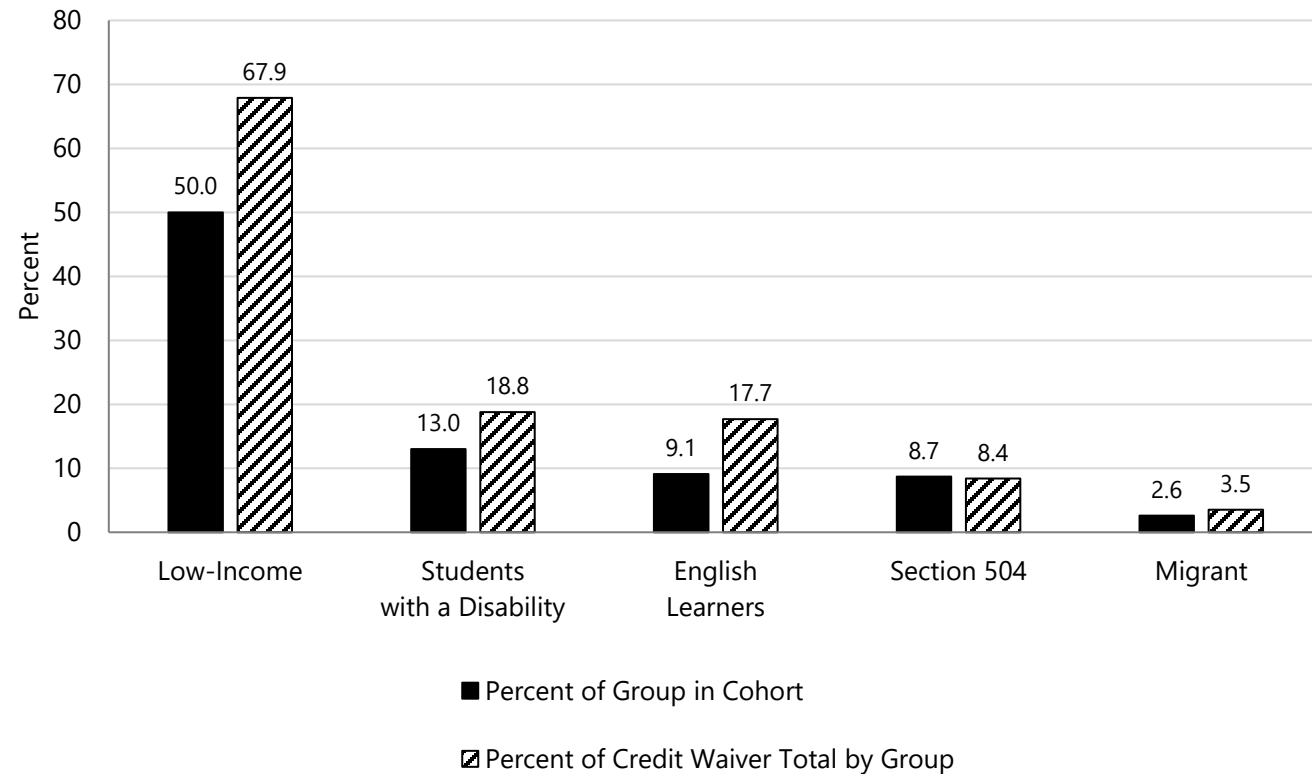




# Pathway Waiver Usage by Race/Ethnicity

These traditionally underserved student groups were granted pathway waivers at rates higher than the groups' representation in the final adjusted graduation cohort.

2021 Adjusted Graduation Cohort  
Graduation Pathway Waiver Usage by Program Status





# Higher Waiver Usage by Non-Asian Student or Color

Student Group	Number and (Percent) of Credit Waiver-Only Grantees	Number and (Percent) of Pathway Waiver-Only Grantees	Number and (Percent) of Credit and Pathway Waiver Grantees	Percent of Student Group in Cohort
<b>Native American or Alaskan</b>	57 (1.6%)	116 (2.9%)	36 (2.2%)	1.4%
<b>Asian</b>	196 (5.7%)	231 (5.8%)	68 (4.2%)	8.3%
<b>Black African American</b>	201 (5.8%)	323 (8.0%)	107 (6.7%)	4.5%
<b>Hispanic or Latinx</b>	1,124 (32.5%)	1,204 (30.0%)	504 (31.3%)	22.9%
<b>Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</b>	56 (1.6%)	83 (2.1%)	38 (2.4%)	1.2%
<b>White</b>	1,553 (44.9%)	1,735 (43.2%)	734 (45.6%)	54.2%
<b>Two or More Races</b>	271 (7.8%)	321 (8.0%)	120 (7.5%)	7.4%
<b>All Students*</b>	3,458	4,013	1,607	9,079



# Higher Waiver Usage by Non-Asian Student or Color

12.5 percent of the graduates were granted a waiver

Student Group	Number and (Percent) of Credit Waiver-Only Grantees	Number and (Percent) of Pathway Waiver-Only Grantees	Number and (Percent) of Credit and Pathway Waiver Grantees	Percent of Student Group Of Graduates
<b>Native American or Alaskan</b>	55 (1.6%)	104 (2.7%)	35 (2.2%)	1.2%
<b>Asian</b>	192 (5.8%)	230 (6.0%)	67 (4.2%)	9.2%
<b>Black African American</b>	195 (5.8%)	315 (8.2%)	106 (6.7%)	4.2%
<b>Hispanic or Latinx</b>	1,1063 (31.9%)	1,146 (30.0%)	496 (31.4%)	21.5%
<b>Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</b>	56 (1.7%)	80 (2.1%)	37 (2.3%)	1.1%
<b>White</b>	1,512 (45.4%)	1,645 (43.0%)	718 (45.5%)	55.4%
<b>Two or More Races</b>	261 (7.8%)	304 (7.9%)	120 (7.6%)	7.4%
<b>All Graduates*</b>	<b>3,334</b>	<b>3,824</b>	<b>1,579</b>	<b>12.5%</b> <b>8,737</b>

# Questions or Discussion

**High School Graduation Requirements  
Emergency Waiver Program:  
Graduation Class of 2021**



Report to the Legislature | December 2021



Authorizing Legislation: RCW 28A.230.320  
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- SBE staff delivered the final version of the report to the Education Committees of the Legislature on February 4.
- The final report is posted on the SBE website at:  
[sbe.wa.gov/materials/legislative-reports](https://sbe.wa.gov/materials/legislative-reports)
- SBE staff is doing a deeper dive on the equitable usage of the emergency waiver program.

# Contact Information

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