

**It's time to expand the Ninth Grade Success Team program and increase graduation rates:**

- This **cost-effective \$8 million biennial grant program** will fund implementation and training costs for *Ninth Grade Success Teams* in eighty high schools.
- It would **scale up proven strategies** that are already keeping students on-track to graduation.



“Even with COVID cutting the year short, we had success. We made an **impact**. Imagine what we could do with a full normal year and practice under our belts?”

- WA educator who participated in the 2019-20 OSPI Pilot

**NINTH GRADE IS THE “MAKE OR BREAK YEAR” FOR GRADUATION**

Being “on-track” in ninth grade (passing all classes) is a stronger predictor of on-time graduation than a student’s background or test scores. With a **focus on equity** at their core, *Ninth Grade Success Teams* are proving to effectively close gaps and reach students in need.

Students are **4X** more likely to graduate if they’re **on track** by the end of 9th grade.

**GRANT PROGRAM WILL EXPAND SUCCESSFUL 2019-21 OSPI PILOT**

A 2019 budget proviso created an OSPI pilot program in five districts alongside a partnership with the Center for High School Success. Each district established *Ninth Grade Success Teams* made up of teachers, administrators, counselors, and support staff trained to efficiently use early warning data such as attendance, behavior, and grades to **identify struggling students early** and intervene to get them on-track.

**TIMELY STRATEGIES PROVED EFFECTIVE DURING COVID-19 CRISIS**

COVID-19 disrupted the 2019-20 school year but 4 of 5 districts in the Ninth Grade Success Team pilot saw increases in their on-track rates by the end of first semester. Educators relied on the *Ninth Grade Success Team strategy* as they supported students through the pandemic.

