



Post- Secondary Education Data Overview

MAY 2021

ROC the Future

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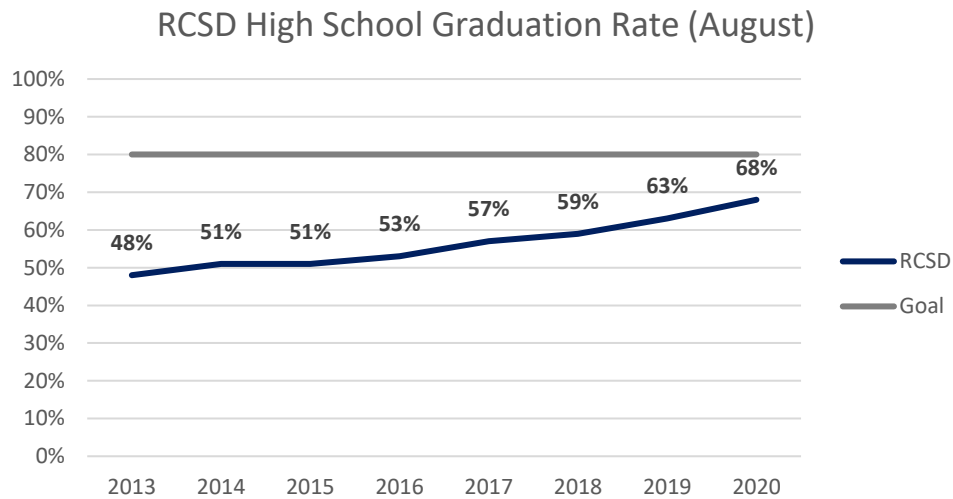
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Table of Contents

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| The Context..... | 2 |
| FAFSA Applications..... | 5 |
| College Enrollment..... | 6 |
| College Persistence..... | 8 |
| College Graduation..... | 9 |

The Context

Post-secondary enrollment and completion among Rochester youth and young adults has been low for many years as a consequence, in part, of low high school graduation rates. However, those high school graduate rates are steadily increasing. This changing landscape calls for renewed focus on ensuring young adults in Rochester have access to higher education.



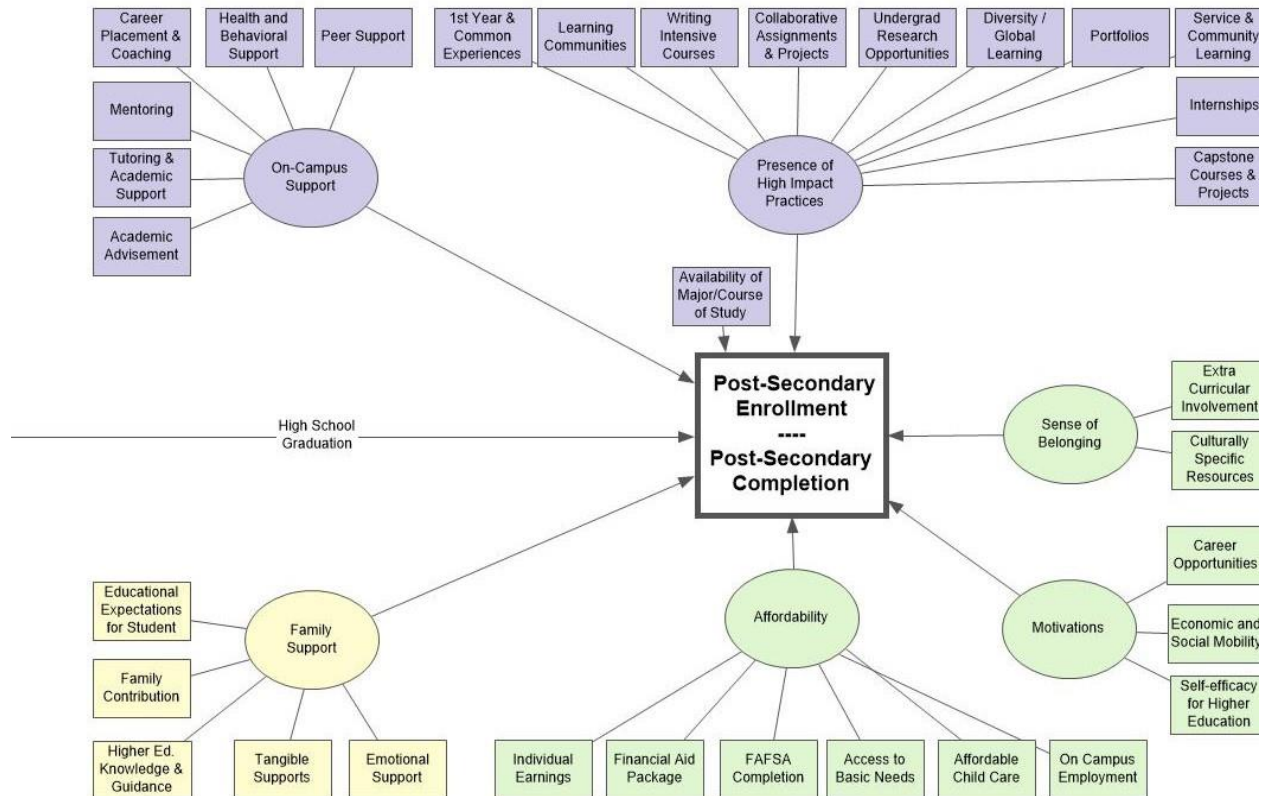
These district-wide rates mask the wide variability in graduation from one school to another. The fact is that some RCSD schools perform as well or even better than suburban schools. Consequently, the likelihood of students enrolling in post-secondary education varies greatly.

| School | Enrollment | 2019 | 2020 | Change |
|----------------------------------|------------|------|------|------------|
| School of the Arts | 174 | 96% | 95% | ↓1 point |
| World of Inquiry | 97 | 91% | 94% | ↑3 points |
| Rochester Early College | 88 | 91% | 93% | ↑2 points |
| School Without Walls | 63 | 82% | 87% | ↑5 points |
| James Monroe | 147 | 61% | 81% | ↑20 points |
| East Upper | 169 | 70% | 78% | ↑8 points |
| Northeast College Prep | 119 | 67% | 72% | ↑5 points |
| Joseph C Wilson | 212 | 68% | 71% | ↑3 points |
| Leadership Academy for Young Men | 102 | 61% | 63% | ↑2 points |
| Edison | 450 | 52% | 52% | --- |

During this time, local colleges and universities have stepped up their commitments to ensuring access to higher education by removing financial barriers. This has included scholarships specifically for Rochester city graduates, including:

- **Rochester Institute of Technology** offers the Destler/Johnson Rochester City Scholars program to graduates of RCSD and approved charter schools whose total family income is \$66,000 or less. The scholarship covers full tuition at RIT for full-time undergraduate study.
- **St. John Fisher College** offers a Fisher Urban Scholar Award of \$40,000 over the course of four years for City of Rochester high school students who enroll at Fisher as a first-year student. The scholarship may be combined with other scholarships, including Fisher's First Generation Scholar award.
- **University of Rochester** offers the Rochester Promise award of at least \$100,000 for RCSD and Rochester charter school graduates who enroll full-time at UR, whether as a first-year or transfer student.

Of course, affordability of higher education is not the only factor that impacts post-secondary enrollment and completion. The Systems Integration Project is working across a diverse network of providers and community members to put people at the center of an interconnected system of education, health, and human services in Monroe County. The goal is to improve the health and economic well-being of individuals and families in Monroe County, especially those who are vulnerable and/or impacted by poverty. In considering post-secondary education outcomes, they have identified the following factors as of particular importance:



Additionally, factors such as availability of affordable childcare, transportation, and housing stability can impact post-secondary enrollment and completion.

The following overview provides a snapshot of recent data on post-secondary education among RCSD graduates.

FAFSA Applications

Consistent with national trends, in 2021 there has been a drastic reduction in the number of high school seniors in RCSD who have completed the Free Application for Student Aid that is required for Pell Grants, federal work-study programs, and most need-based aid at virtually all community and four-year colleges. Every school's completion rate is lower than at this time last year.¹ This raises concerns about what post-secondary enrollment will be like in the 2021-2022 academic year, especially at Monroe Community College where a high proportion of city graduates enroll.

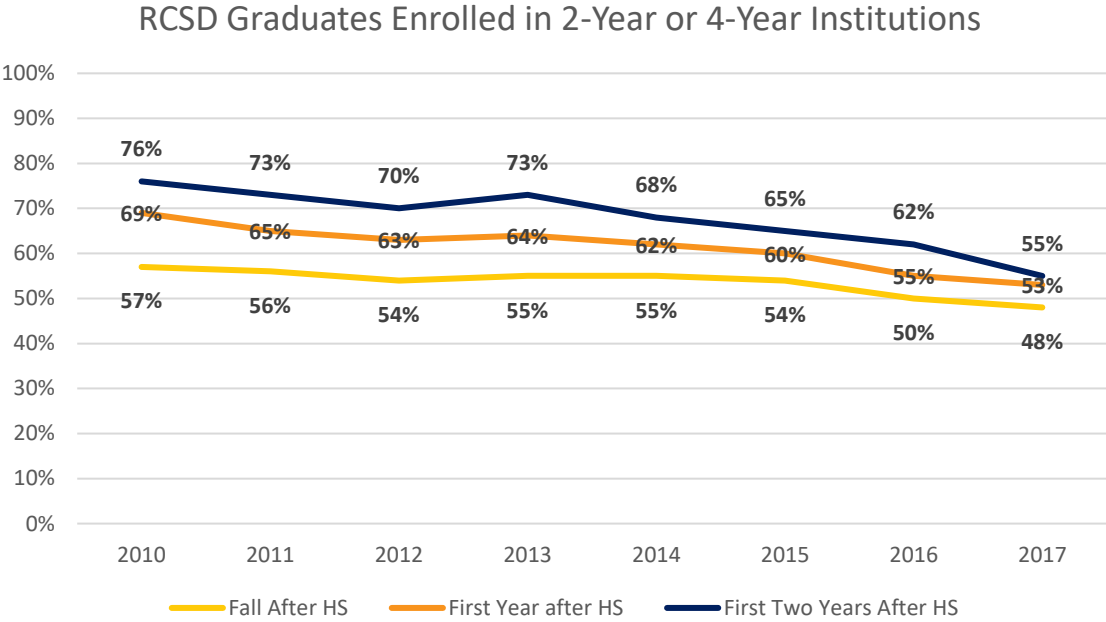
| | FAFSA Completion Rate as of April 23 | Compared with This Date in 2020 |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| New York State | 54% | -4% |
| RCSD | | |
| School of the Arts | 42% | No change |
| School Without Walls | 39% | +86% |
| World of Inquiry | 29% | -32% |
| East | 27% | -11% |
| Wilson | 26% | -37% |
| Northeast | 18% | -19% |
| Leadership Academy | 16% | -31% |
| IAT | 14% | -37% |
| Rochester Early College | 16% | -55% |
| Edison | 10% | -28% |
| Monroe | 10% | -46% |
| Charter Schools | | |
| True North | 72% | +176% |
| Rochester Academy | 30% | -19% |
| University Prep | 26% | -22% |
| Vertus | 8% | No change |

¹ New York FAFSA Tracker at <https://newyork.fafsatracker.com/>

Post-Secondary Enrollment

The most recent data on post-secondary enrollment that ROC the Future has is from 2017.² Although this tracking needs updating, the data are still useful for understanding the historical trends over time. As the figure below indicates:

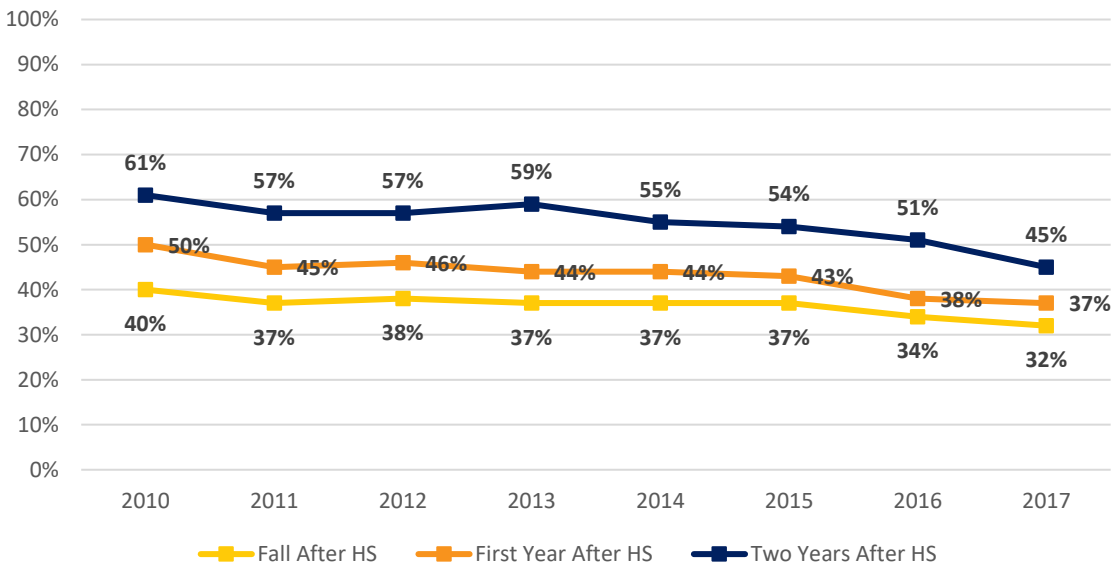
- Enrollment rates increase with time following graduation, with notably more high school graduates enrolling in the first two years after high school than in the fall after high school
- Enrollment rates have been consistently decreasing over time. It will be important to access data from 2018 – 2020 to understand whether this trend has continued and how it may change post-pandemic disruptions



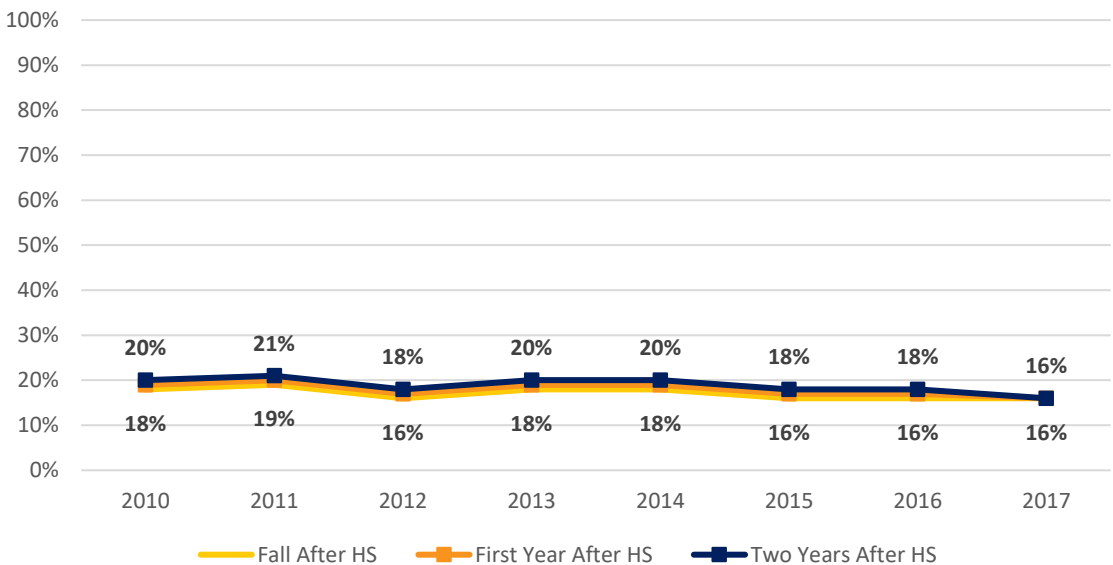
² National Student Clearing House Student Tracker for High Schools Aggregate Report for Rochester City School District

The increase in enrollment over time following graduation is almost completely attributed to enrollment at 2-year institutions. Graduates who enroll at 4-year institutions almost exclusively do so immediately following high school.

RCS D Graduates Enrolled at 2-Year Institutions



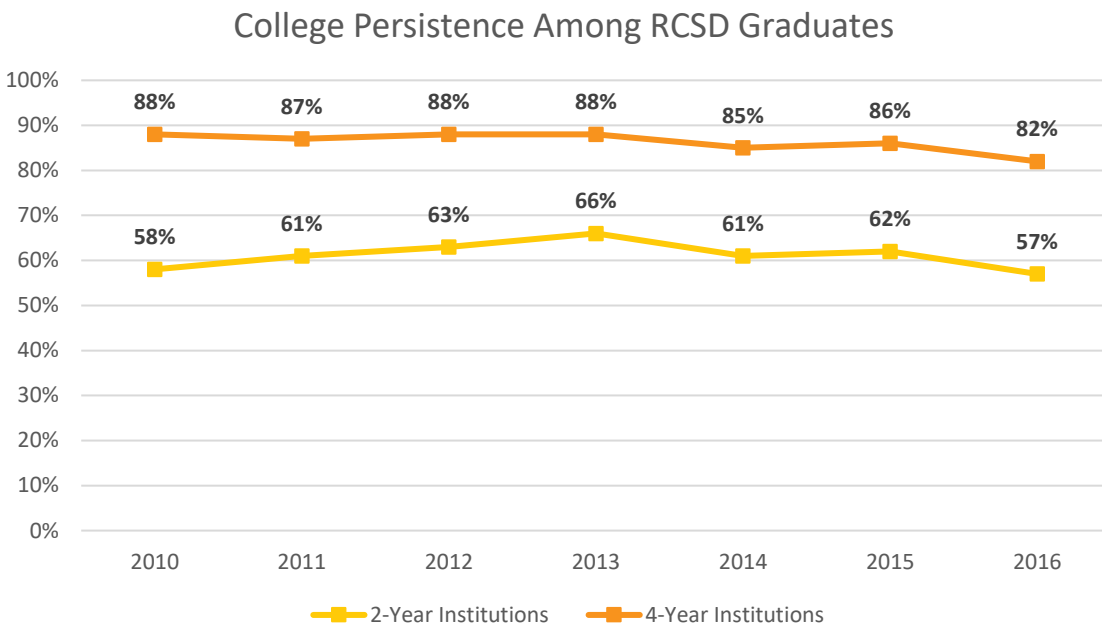
RCS D Graduates Enrolled at 4-Year Institutions



College Persistence

After enrolling in college, the next critical juncture is persisting from the first to second year. The most common time for college students to drop out of higher education is between the first and second years. For RCSD graduates:

- College persistence from the first to second year is highest for that small proportion of graduates who enroll at 4-year institutions; almost all of them stay enrolled for a second year of college
- College persistence is notably lower for RCSD graduates who enroll at 2-year institutions with most years slightly fewer than two-thirds persisting



College Graduation

Finally, there is the question of what proportion of RCSD graduates go on to graduate with a 2-year or 4-year post-secondary degree. The data presented here are for graduation within 6 years of enrollment. As shown below:

- Of all RCSD graduates, only about 20% graduate from a 2-year or a 4-year post-secondary institution
- Graduation rates are slightly higher for students who enroll at 4-year institutions

