NEWS RELEASE
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Seattle Public Schools Graduation Rates Continue to Rise
11 Percent Increase Over Five Years

SEATTLE – The latest data from Seattle Public Schools (SPS) shows that the graduation rate in SPS high schools has risen to 82-percent. This 2017-2018 rate is a three-percent increase over the graduation rate from 2016-2017.

SPS high schools’ performance has improved dramatically over the past several years, with an 11-percent graduation rate increase since 2013. The graduation rate for students of color showed even greater improvement over the past five years, with an increase of 15-percent.

Statewide, the latest data (2016-2017) shows the state of Washington with a 79.3-percent graduation rate, according to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. Seattle Public Schools is the state’s largest school district.

Among the reasons for SPS graduation rate gains:

- District-wide training and focus on racial equity
- Positive relationships between students and adults at school
- Rigorous student-centered learning
- Focus on post-high school goals

While the overall graduation rate is up, SPS continues to focus on eliminating opportunity gaps that still exist for historically underserved students of color.

As part of the overall strategy to address these gaps, the district is identifying those schools that are making significant progress and replicating their best practices for application district-wide.

For more information about the increase in graduation rates, please see “Our Progress: Seattle Public Schools Sees Increase in 2017-18 Graduation Rates” on the SPS website.

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