

STATE OF IOWA

**POSTSECONDARY
READINESS REPORTS**

SUMMARY 2025

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This document represents a summary of statewide findings from the Iowa Postsecondary Readiness Reports (PRR). The PRR provides Iowans information on postsecondary enrollment patterns and postsecondary retention and award rates for every public high school in Iowa. The PRR connects data from the Iowa Department of Education, the Iowa Board of Regents, Iowa Workforce Development and the National Student Clearinghouse. Reports by school are available at:

(<https://reports.educateiowa.gov/postsecondaryreadiness>).

In 2025, the PRR was expanded to include registered apprenticeship enrollment and completion and noncredit enrollment data back to the graduating class of 2018. As a result, the rates for all graduating classes in this report differ from prior years. See the [Technical Guide](#) for more information on the changes in this year's PRR.

KEY FINDINGS

- 57.8% of class of 2024 Iowa public high school graduates enrolled in postsecondary education or training in the fall immediately following high school graduation. This is a decrease of 1.3 percentage points from the class of 2023's enrollment rate of 59.1%.
- 47.9% of class of 2018 Iowa public high school graduates earned a postsecondary degree or award within six years of high school graduation.

POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT

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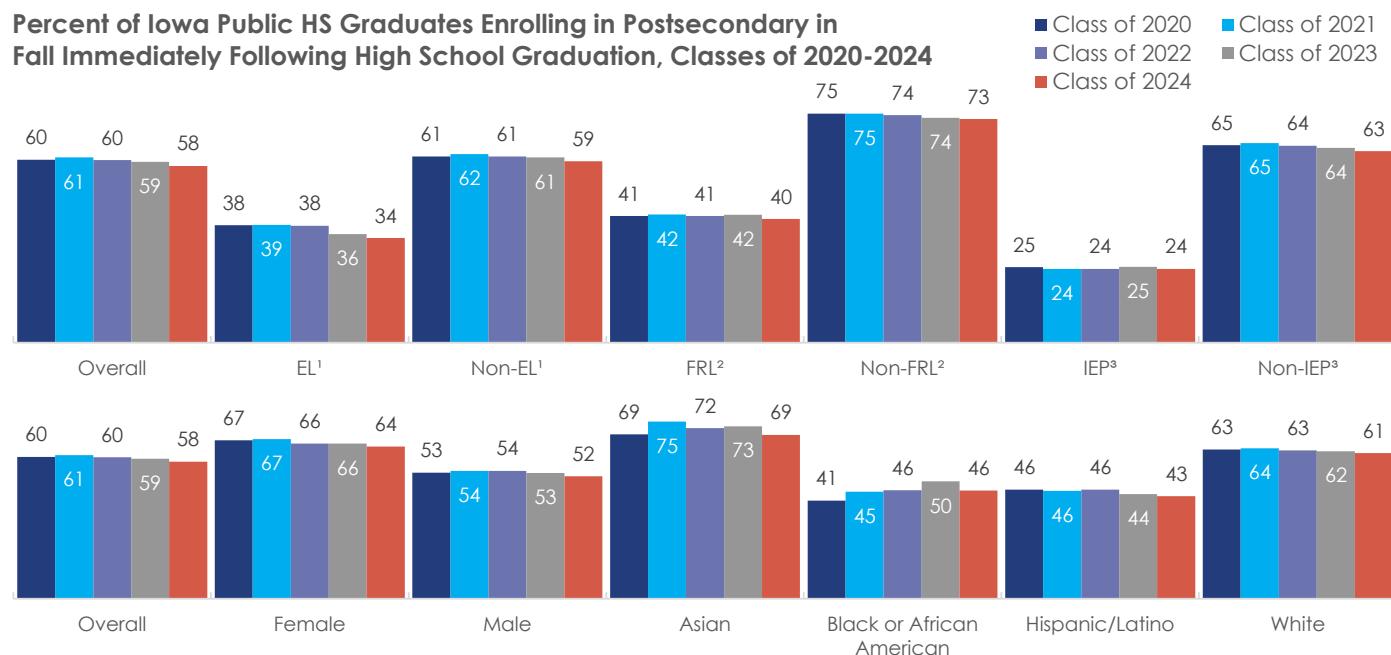
Gaps exist in enrollment rates for students from specific student groups and students who face

economic challenges. However, one student group has higher postsecondary or training enrollment rates in the class of 2024 than in the class of 2020: Black or African American students. 45.6% of Black or African American students in the class of 2024 enrolled in the fall immediately following high school graduation, an increase of 4.2 percentage points compared

with Black or African American students in the class of 2020.

There is also a large gap in enrollment rates between students who graduate from high school on-time and those who do not. While it defaults to showing data for all students, the PRR allows the filtering of outcomes by on-time high school graduation status across all reports.

Percent of Iowa Public HS Graduates Enrolling in Postsecondary in Fall Immediately Following High School Graduation, Classes of 2020-2024



¹ English learner

² Low socio-economic status is determined by eligibility for free or reduced price meals (FRL)

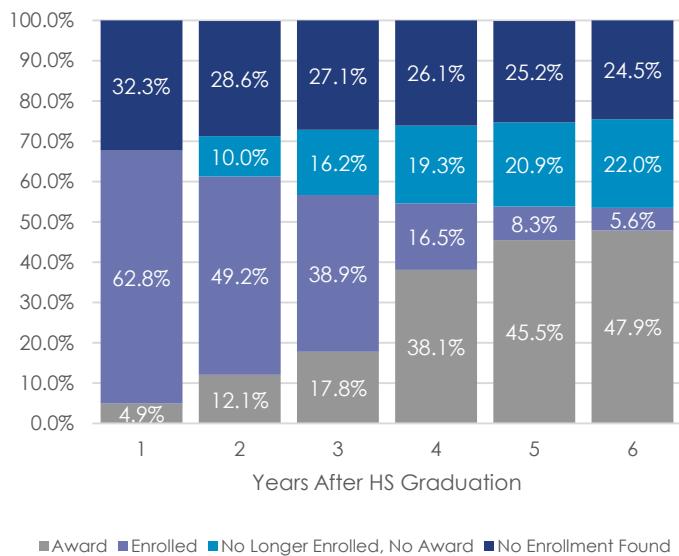
³ Disability status is determined by the presence of an individualized education program (IEP)

POSTSECONDARY RETENTION AND AWARDS

The PRR also provides postsecondary enrollment and award trends beyond the first year after high school graduation. The figure to the right shows 47.9% of class of 2018 Iowa public high school graduates earned a postsecondary degree or award within six years of high school graduation. For each year after high school graduation, every student is grouped into one of the categories defined below:

- **No Enrollment Found:** Students who did not enroll in postsecondary education or training or receive any postsecondary award in the given year or previous years
- **No Longer Enrolled, No Award:** Students who enrolled in a previous year, but not in the given year and have received no degree/award
- **Enrolled:** Students who enrolled in the given year
- **Award:** Students who received any postsecondary degree/award (i.e., degree, certificate, diploma, registered apprenticeship completion, etc.) in the given year or a previous year

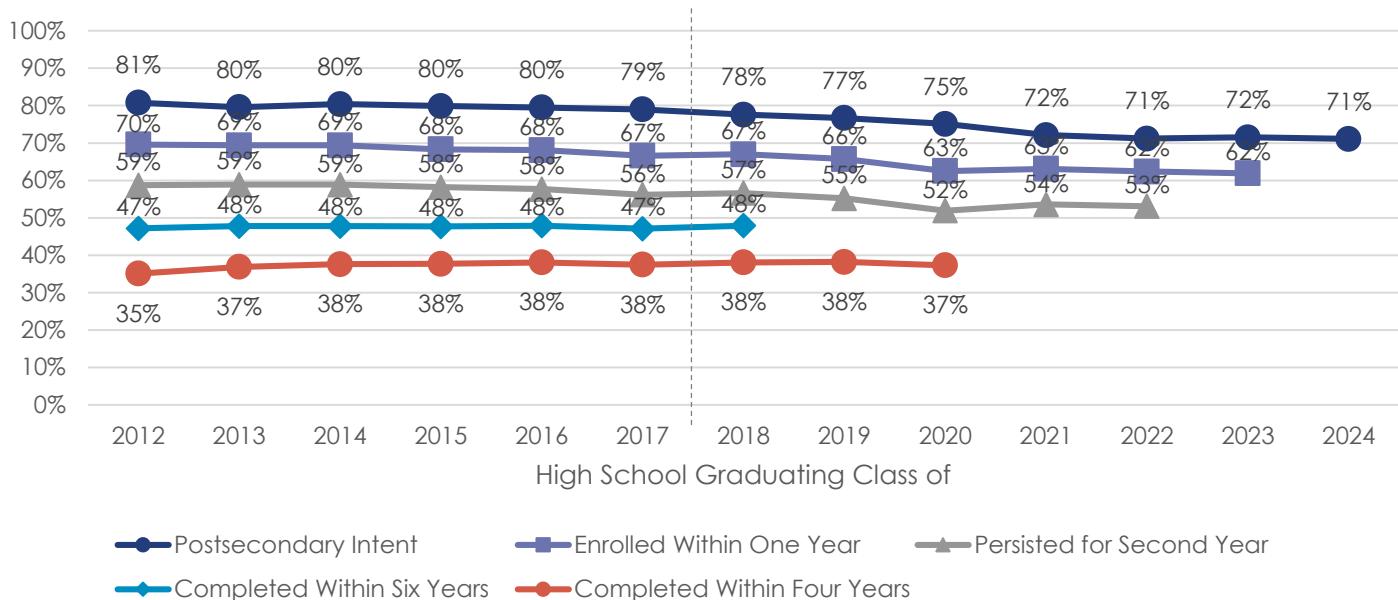
Status by Year After High School Graduation,
Class of 2018



PREP TRENDLINES

The PRR, in the form of the PREP Trendlines chart shown below, provides trend data back to the class of 2012* for select indicators: the percent of graduates whose plans at graduation included enrolling in postsecondary education or training, the percent of graduates who enrolled in postsecondary education within one year following their high school graduation, the percent of graduates who enrolled in postsecondary education within one year AND either enrolled for a second year or earned a degree or award during the first year, and the percent of graduates who completed a postsecondary degree or award within four and six years following their high school graduation. The denominator for each indicator in the chart is all high school graduates.

Postsecondary Indicators by Graduating Class

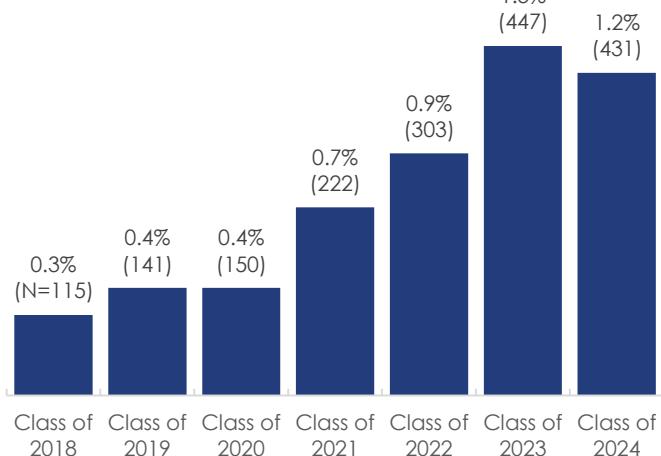


* Registered apprenticeship participation and completion is included in only the class of 2018 and after. Iowa community college noncredit enrollment is included in only the class of 2018 and after (enrollment and persistence only; not completion).

REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP

For the first time in the 2025 PRR, data on Iowa high school graduates who participate in and/or complete a registered apprenticeship following high school graduation have been fully integrated into the existing enrollment and award rates. Apprenticeship data were provided by the Iowa Office of Apprenticeship. The below chart and table show state-level registered apprenticeship participation of Iowa public high school graduates. Participation in registered apprenticeship increased through the class of 2023 with a slight decrease in 2024; 1.2% of class of 2024 Iowa public high school graduates participated in a registered apprenticeship in the fall immediately following high school graduation. The three most common programs for class of 2024 graduates were electrician, nurse assistant and welder. Note that this data does not include all students who participated in or completed a registered apprenticeship program while in high school. Other data resources related to registered apprenticeship and work-based learning are available on the [Iowa Student Outcomes website](#).

Iowa Public HS Graduates Who Participated in a Registered Apprenticeship in Fall Immediately Following High School Graduation



Most Common Registered Apprenticeship Programs of Iowa Public HS Graduates who Participated in a Registered Apprenticeship in Fall Immediately Following High School Graduation: Class of 2024

Program Title	Number of HS Graduates
Electrician	80
Nurse Assistant	70
Welder	60
Teacher Aide I	33
Plumber	32
Air Conditioning Equipment Mechanic	25
Farm Equipment Mechanic II	14
Application Developer	11
Bus Maintenance Technician	11
Carpenter	10

NONCREDIT ENROLLMENT

In 2025, the PRR was expanded to include noncredit enrollment at Iowa community colleges back to the graduating class of 2018. For the purposes of the PRR, only students who enrolled in a career and technical education-related noncredit program with at least 32 contact hours are counted. The chart to the right shows the percent of Iowa high school graduates enrolling in Iowa community college noncredit courses by graduating class within the first year following high school graduation. There was an increase from 1.5% of high school graduates with the class of 2023 to 1.7% of high school graduates with the class of 2024.

Noncredit enrollment data for the fall immediately following high school graduation is not available. Completion of noncredit programs is also not measured within the PRR. For more details on how noncredit enrollment is included in the PRR, see the [Technical Guide](#).

Iowa Public HS Graduates Who Enrolled in Iowa Community College Noncredit in First Year Following High School Graduation

