Meeting the Moment
Plan to Sustain Gains in High School Graduation Rates
Pre-COVID-19, high school graduation rates were continuing to improve.

- **85.3%**
  All-time High Graduation Rate in 2018

- **3.8 M**
  More Students Have Graduated Over 20 Years
This improvement was driven by large gains among minority & low-income students.

- National average rate of increase: 6.3 percentage points
- Black students: 79% (+12 percentage points since 2011)
- Hispanic students: 81% (+10 percentage points)
- Low-income students: +9.5 percentage points
- Students with disabilities: +8.1 percentage points

Figure 3 • Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate (ACGR) for Black, Hispanic/Latino, and White Students from 2010–11 to 2017–18

Even with some progress, however, some groups had very low grad rates pre-COVID-19.

- 67.5% Homeless Students’ Rate
- 68.3% English Learners’ Rate
- 67.1% Students w/ Disabilities’ Rate
Students who drove grad rate gains and those with very rates tend to be most impacted by COVID-19 and structural racism.

• Greater percentages of Black and Latino students learning remotely
• Low-income students often working to support family or helping siblings learn
• Students with disabilities often not getting full services
• Connectivity/device challenges impact low-income and minority students more
• Low-income and first-generation students count on in-school supports from counselors and non-profits
What do the data say about raising high school graduation and college readiness rates during and after COVID-19?
90% **must** be achieved with equity across subgroups:

- Black: ~64,012 more graduates
- Hispanic: ~83,419 more graduates
- Students with Disabilities: ~103,112 more graduates

174,152

More on-time graduates needed to reach 90 percent (Pre-COVID-19 baseline)
Each state is a different story.
The magnitude of the challenge varies by state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>15 States need &lt;1,000 additional graduates</th>
<th>5 States need &gt;10,000 additional graduates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Dakota, New Hampshire, Wisconsin, Arkansas, Vermont, Nebraska, Delaware, Montana, Maine, Missouri, South Dakota, Wyoming, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Hawaii</td>
<td>Ohio, Georgia, Michigan, New York, California</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The characteristics of low-graduation-rate high schools are changing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th># of Schools</th>
<th>% of All Non-Graduates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>1146 (55%)</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternative</td>
<td>763 (37%)</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter</td>
<td>642 (31%)</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual</td>
<td>214 (10%)</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Low-graduation-rate high schools in 2018

2,062
Much of the challenge is concentrated in a small subset of school districts.

50% of students who did not graduate in four years are found in just:
- All Students: ~434 school districts
- Black Students: ~150 school districts
- Hispanic Students: ~173 school districts
- Black & Hispanic Students combined: ~258 school districts
Therefore the shortest path to 90%...

50% Reduction of Non-graduates

IN

22 States

425 School Districts

887 High Schools

= 90% Graduation Rate
Meeting the Moment Plan, Pt. 1

- **National response to COVID-19** that includes an integrated approach to social, emotional, and academic development

- **Customized State Plans**: get to a 90% HS grad rate, college- and career-ready, for all students, based on pre-COVID-19 data & COVID-19 impact

- **Spread On-Track/Early Warning Systems** to monitor progress of all students with predictive indicators and multi-tiered support systems
Meeting the Moment Plan, Pt. 2

- **Strategic deployment** of additional person power via National Tutoring Corps to close relationship and support gaps (e.g. School Success Coaches)

- **Structures and funds** to support enhanced teacher, school leader collaboration, professional learning, continuous improvement, high school redesign, & community partners/family involvement

- **Alignment of high school graduation requirements** with admissions criteria of state university system—including flagships and workforce prep