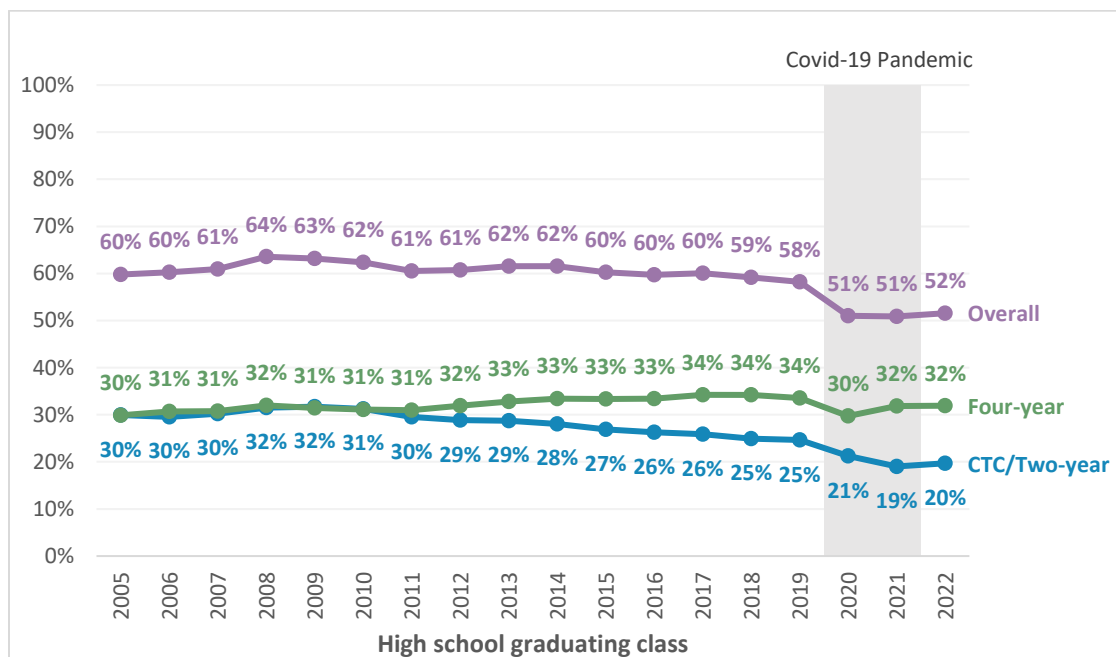


Direct Enrollment Data Digest · High School Graduate Outcomes Dashboard, 2024

Direct Enrollment: Direct enrollment rates reflect the percentage of high school graduates attending a higher education institution within a year of graduating high school. The latest data on the direct enrollment rate for the class of 2022 reveals a **slight increase** of one percentage point compared to the previous year, from 51% to 52% (Figure 1). This slight increase is driven by an increase in direct enrollment at Washington community and technical colleges (CTCs) and other two-year institutions, which increased by one percentage point. There was no overall change in direct enrollment at four-year institutions.

Figure 1: Direct enrollment increased slightly for the class of 2022 as compared to the class of 2021 due to an increase at CTCs and other two-year institutions

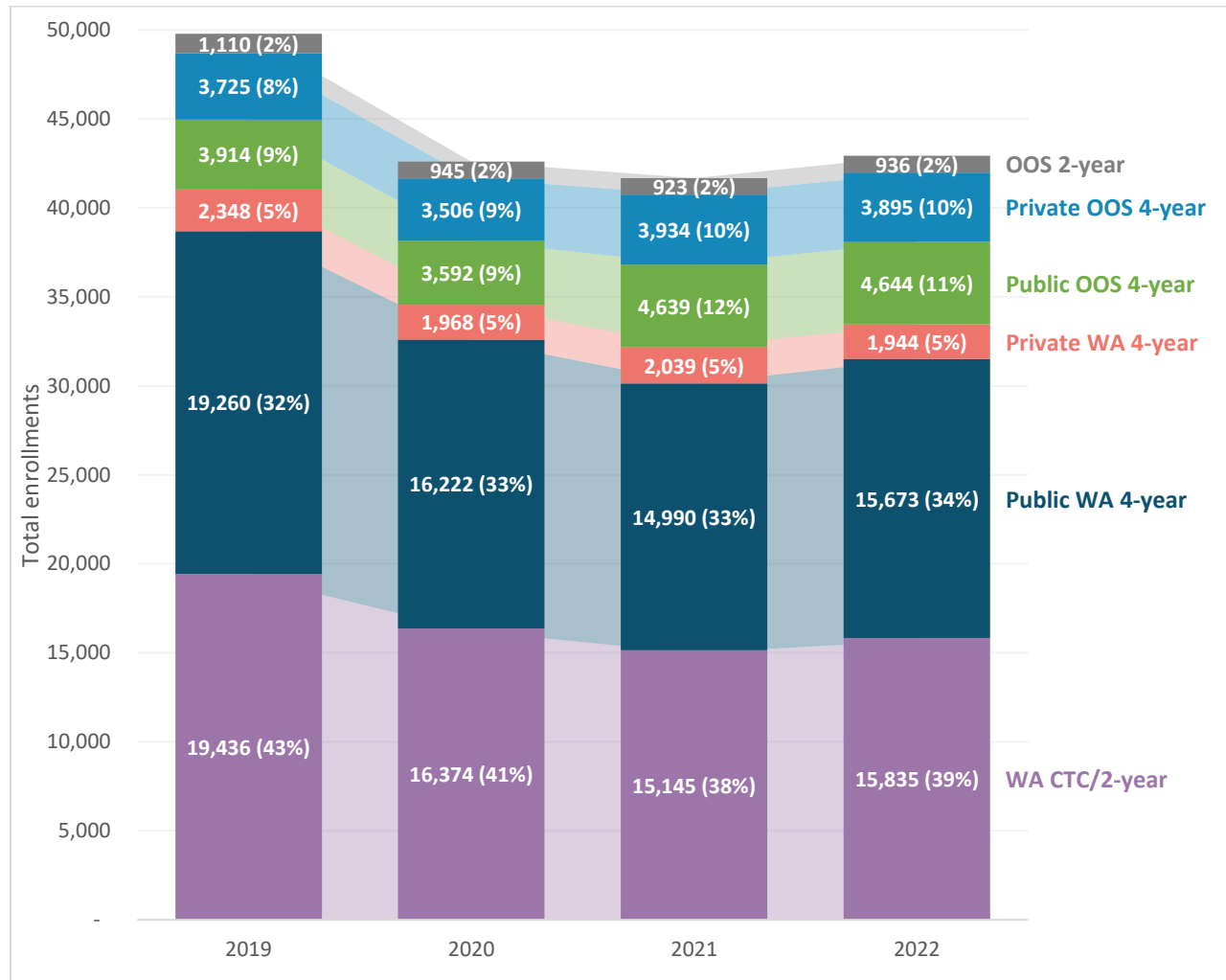


Source: ERDC High School Graduate Outcomes Dashboard

Unduplicated student counts. Students who attend both a CTC/Two-year and four-year institution are categorized as a four-year college enrollee only. ERDC currently uses National Student Clearinghouse’s (NSC) classification of two-year and four-year institutions for private and out-of-state institutions, which follows Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System’s (IPEDS) classification. Under IPEDS classification, students who attend an out-of-state or WA private two-year institution that offers four-year degrees will be categorized as an enrollment at a four-year institution.

Direct enrollments by location and sector: The number and share of direct enrollments at out-of-state four-year institutions has **increased** compared to pre-pandemic levels (Figure 2). Note that Figure 2 reflects unduplicated *enrollments* while Figure 1 reflects unduplicated *students*. In Figure 2, students who enroll in more than one institution during their first year after high school will have an observation for each institution in which they enroll. The share of enrollments at out-of-state private and public four-year institutions increased from 16% in 2019 to 21% in 2022, though it fell slightly between 2021 and 2022. The share of enrollments also increased at Washington public four-year institutions between 2019 and 2022 and fell at Washington CTCs during the same period, though it rebounded slightly for CTCs in 2022. As noted, this trend could reflect a change in the number of students enrolling in each sector after high school, the number of higher education institutions a student attends, or both.

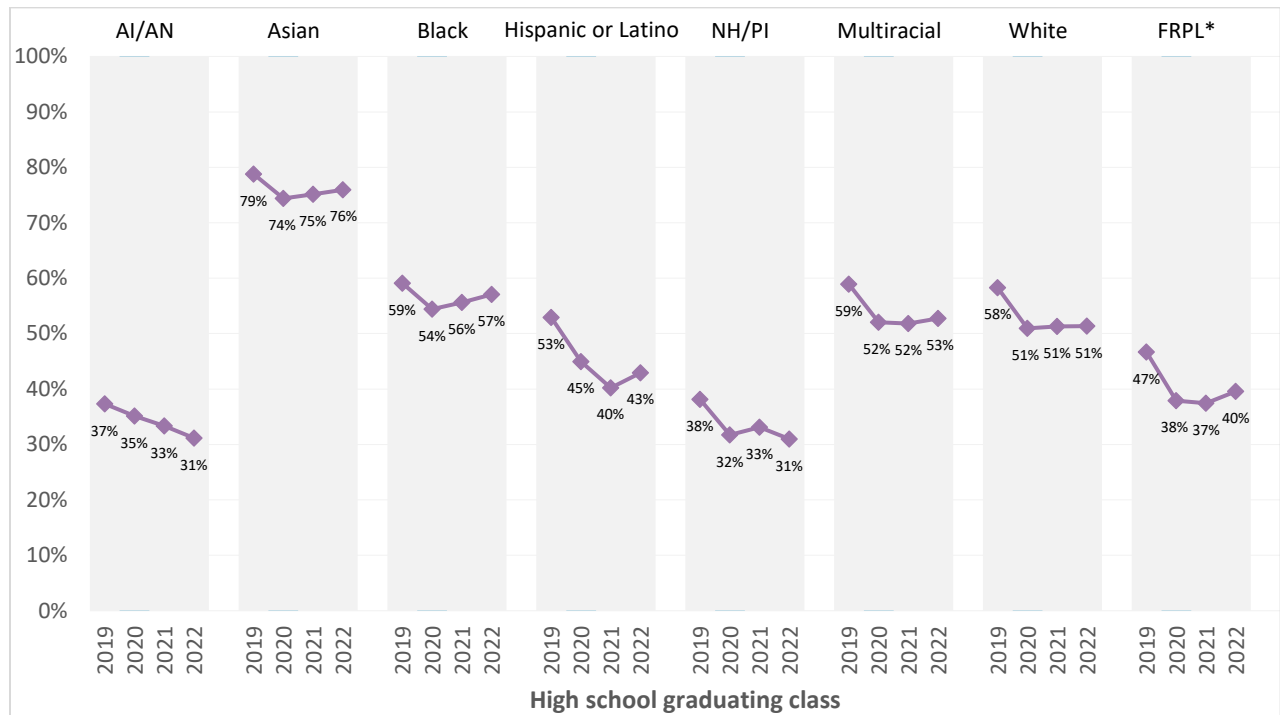
Figure 2: The number and share of direct enrollments has increased at in-state and out-of-state four-year institutions since 2019, with little change or a decline in other sectors



Source: Author calculations based on data underlying ERDC's High School Graduate Outcomes Dashboard
 Counts reflect unduplicated enrollments rather than students. Students who enroll in more than one institution will have multiple observations in this figure. ERDC currently uses NSC classification of two-year and four-year institutions for private and out-of-state institutions, which follows IPEDS classification. Under IPEDS classification, students who attend an out-of-state or WA private two-year institution that offers four-year degrees will be categorized as an enrollment at a four-year institution.

Direct enrollment by student demographic group: The trends in direct enrollment by race and ethnicity reveal conflicting patterns (Figure 3). Direct enrollment rates in 2022 continued to **decline** for American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN) and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (NH/PI) students, while rates for Asian, Black, and Latino students **increased**. Direct enrollment rates for Asian and Black students are nearing pre-pandemic levels (76% in 2022 compared to 79% in 2019 and 57% in 2022 compared to 59% in 2019, respectively). The direct enrollment rate for Latino students in the class of 2022 is still far below the class of 2019 (53% in 2019 compared to 43% in 2022). Direct enrollment for students from lower income families, as measured by free or reduced-price lunch eligibility, **increased** 3 percentage points between 2021 and 2022, the first increase since 2019.

Figure 3: Direct enrollment rates continue to decline for AI/AN and NH/PI students while they have started to rebound for students from other racial and ethnic groups and from lower income families



Source: Based on data underlying ERDC's High School Graduate Outcomes Dashboard

*FRPL=Eligible free or reduced-price lunch at any point in high school

Conclusion: This digest highlights areas of progress and places for further improvement in direct enrollment from ERDC's High School Graduate Outcomes Dashboard. In all, direct enrollment rates are still far below pre-pandemic levels (58% for the class of 2019 compared to 52% for the class of 2022), but rates have started or continued to increase for some students who graduated high school in 2022. These data reveal a need for further research and analysis to identify ways to strengthen already positive trends and reverse declining or stagnant trends in order to increase direct enrollment rates.

To view more statewide, district, and school data, visit our

High School Graduate Outcomes Dashboard

<https://erdc.wa.gov/data-dashboards/high-school-graduate-outcomes>