

Agency Mission: To contribute leadership and resources to increase the skills, knowledge, and career opportunities of Oregonians.

KPM #2	AT-RISK YOUTH WHO EXIT SUCCESSFULLY Percentage of enrolled at-risk youth who remained in or returned to school, or obtained their high school diploma/equivalent upon exiting the program	Measure since: 2002
Goal	Goal 1: Oregonians have strong literacy skills	
Oregon Context	OBM 23: High school completion	
Data source	Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Title I-B Database.	
Owner	CCWD Youth Policy, 503-378-8648	

1. OUR STRATEGY

As a key stakeholder in the Oregon Workforce Investment Board, the Department contributes to the two-year state WIA plan and assists Local Workforce Investment Boards (LWIBs) with their strategic planning. In addition, CCWD conducts monitoring visits to ensure compliance with state and local WIA plans and promotes awareness of best practices among LWIBs.

2. ABOUT THE TARGETS

Targets for 2006 and 2007 were held steady due to the declines in performance expected in those years. Targets for 2008 and 2009 are increased by 2% from the prior year's target. Higher is better.

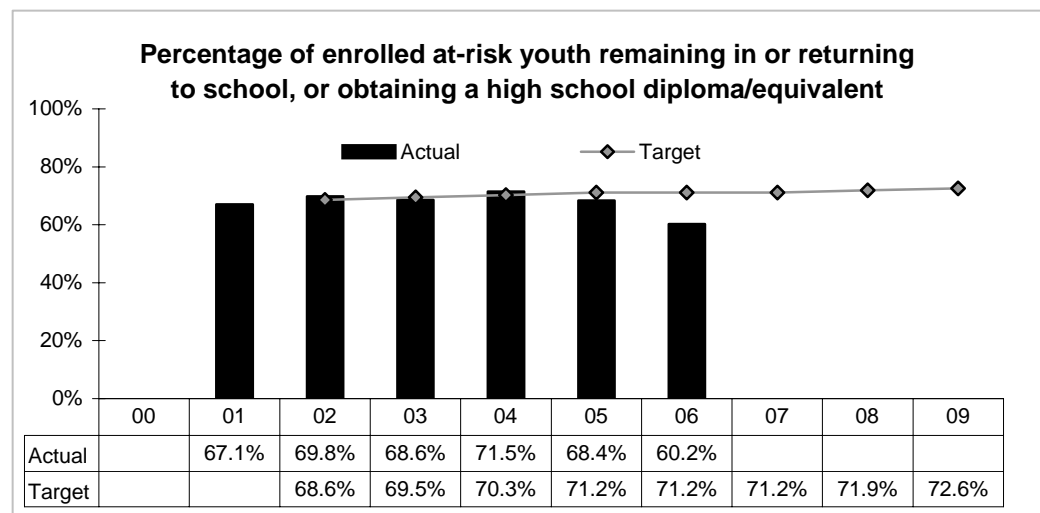
3. HOW WE ARE DOING

The percentage of enrolled at-risk youth who remained in or returned to school or obtained a high school diploma or equivalent was 60.2% in 2006, a decline of nearly 12% in one year and nearly 16% in two years. The 2006 performance is the lowest recorded for this measure since its inception.

4. HOW WE COMPARE

Although other states do not report an identical measure, all states must report annually on diploma attainment for younger youth (14-18) who exit WIA IB programs and are no longer enrolled in high school. In program year 2006 (April 2005-March 2006), 65.1% of all Oregon younger youth exiters not in high school received a high school diploma or equivalent. The corresponding rate in Washington was 62.3% and the national rate was 65.1%, the same as in Oregon.³

5. FACTORS AFFECTING RESULTS



³ Social Policy Research Associates. *PY 2005 WIASRD Data Book*. Prepared for the Office of Performance and Technology Employment and Training Administration: US Department of Labor. Retrieved on August 27, 2007 from http://www.doleta.gov/Performance/results/PY_2005_WIASRD_DataBook_Rev%208-14-2007.pdf.

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New guidance from US Department of Labor, as expressed in the New Strategic Vision for the Delivery of Youth Services,⁴ has placed greater emphasis on WIA youth programs targeting their services toward out-of-school youth. This change has led to a 47% decline (from 154 to 82) during the past two years in the number of younger at-risk youth (age 14-18) recorded as in-school upon exit from WIA IB programs in Oregon. During the same time period, the number of at-risk younger youth employed upon exiting a WIA IB program has increased by more than 10 percentage points. Although educational attainment remains priority of WIA IB programs, encouraging out-of-school youth to return to school is more challenging than keeping youth in school.

6. WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

Federal, state, and local agencies tasked with serving at-risk youth need to improve coordination to promote early-intervention strategies for students likely to drop out of high school. CCWD is exploring how local school districts and workforce boards can work together to better identify and target youth who do drop out of high school and implement strategies to encourage them to obtain a high school diploma or GED.

To encourage superior performance at the local level, CCWD plans to expand the role of its program monitoring and compliance visits to include real-time feedback on program quality improvement. The enhanced monitoring visits should expedite the distribution and adoption of best practices across the state.

7. ABOUT THE DATA

Reporting cycle: Oregon fiscal year. Younger at-risk youth are youth ages 14-18 with one or more of the following barriers: limited English proficiency, single parent, offender, homeless or run away, pregnant or parenting. At-risk younger youth included in the measure are those who exited from a WIA IB program during the period and remained in or returned to school or obtained their high school diploma or equivalent. This group is divided by the total number of younger at-risk youth exiters.

⁴ “Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 03-04: The Employment and Training Administration's (ETA's) New Strategic Vision for the Delivery of Youth Services Under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).” Employment and Training Administration Advisory System: U.S. Department of Labor: July 16, 2004. Retrieved August 27, 2007 from http://ows.doleta.gov/dmstree/tegl/tegl2k4/tegl_03-04.htm.