

# Measuring Equity Gaps in Program Participation and Outcomes

October 30, 2017

Ashley Pierson



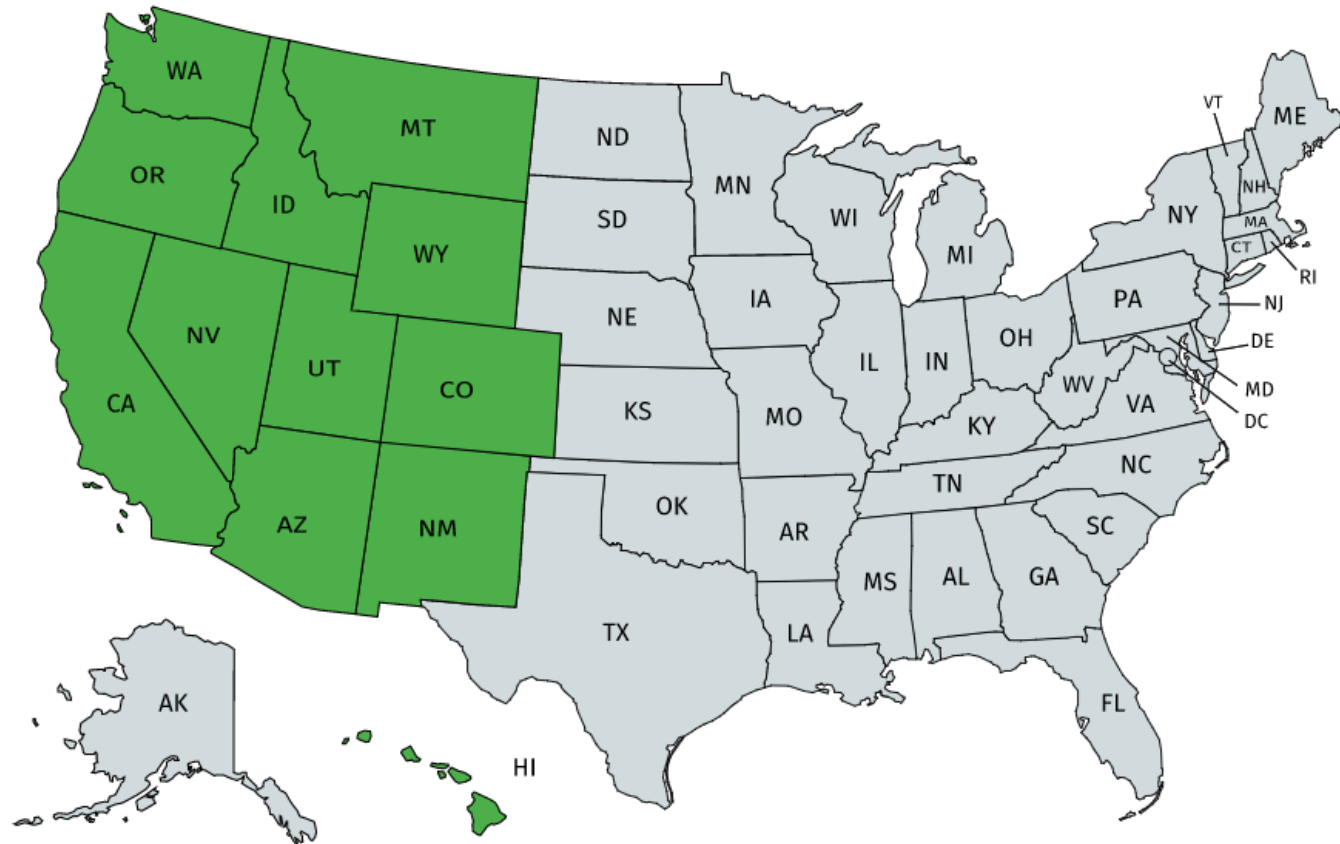
# Education Northwest

- Professional development, technical assistance, evaluation, and research services
- Various topic areas, including postsecondary readiness and success
- Federal contracts
  - Regional Educational Laboratory Northwest
  - Northwest Comprehensive Center



# Introductions

- Role
- Organization
- State



# Session goals

- Learn how to illustrate your program's equity gaps in participation and outcomes
  - Basic statistics
  - Data visualizations



# What is an equity gap?

- Difference between student groups in multiple aspects of their lives, including school systems
  - Can see gap materialize in various outcomes, like graduation or test scores
- Related to patterns of historical disadvantage
  - Race, ethnicity, language, poverty



# Why measure equity gaps?

- Understand if program is meeting goals
  - Is program reaching who we want it to reach?
  - Are there any groups of students left out?
  - Are we perpetuating inequitable systems with our program?
- Provide information to modify program if not meeting goals
  - Outreach to specific groups



# Oregon's equity lens

“We are committed to explicitly identifying disparities in education outcomes for the purpose of targeting areas for *action, intervention, and investment.*”



# How to measure equity gaps?

## **Program:**

- Percentage of students in each group who are program participants
- Does composition of program participants match the population?
  - Percentage of program participants in each group

## **Outcome:**

- Percentage of students in each group who have outcome
- Does composition of students with outcome match the population?
  - Percentage of outcome achievers in each group

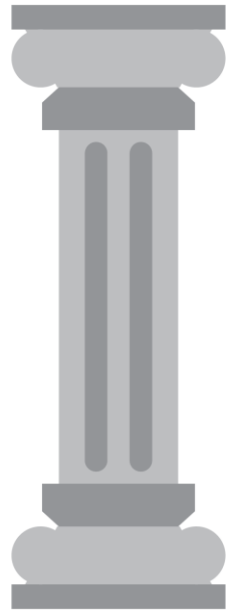


# Regional Promise (RP) background

- State focus on accelerated learning and improved student outcomes
- Allocation for Eastern Promise in 2013
- State “replicated” Eastern Promise through Regional Promise grants
  - 5 sites awarded in 2014-15 academic year
  - 5 sites awarded in 2015-17 biennium
    - 3 continuation sites
    - 2 new sites

# Five Regional Promise pillars

- Ensuring equity
- Building college-going culture
- Expanding accelerated college credit
- Fostering cross-sector partnerships
- Developing cross-sector professional learning communities



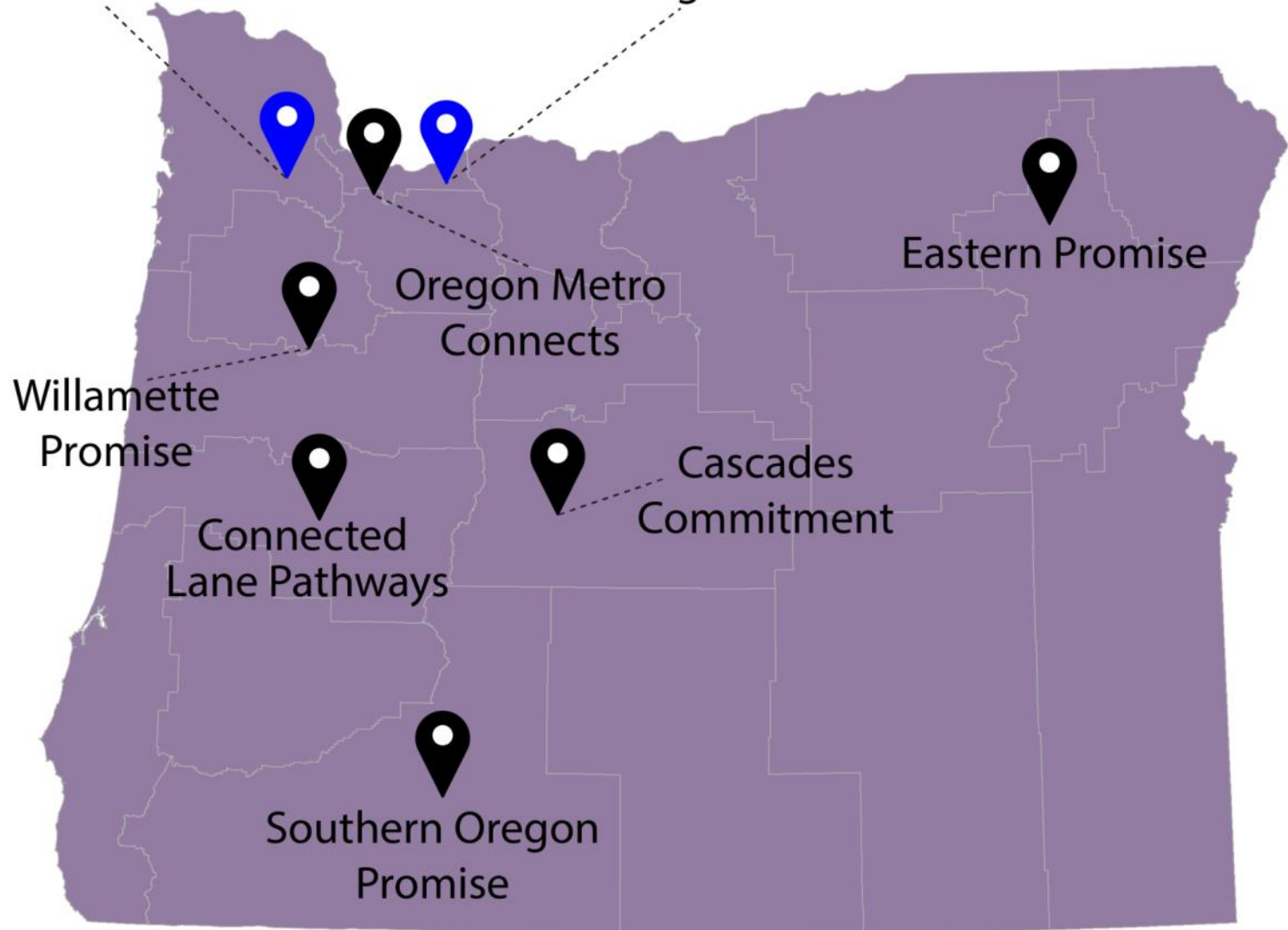
# Regional Promise sites

- Regional focus
- Educational service districts (ESDs) are “backbone” organization
- ESDs, school districts, community colleges, and universities form core partnership
- Community organizations and business community may also participate in partnership

# Regional Promise & Eastern Promise sites

Northwest  
Promise

East County Pathways  
to College Success



Eastern Promise

Oregon Metro  
Connects

Willamette  
Promise

Cascades  
Commitment

Connected  
Lane Pathways

Southern Oregon  
Promise

# Accelerated learning

■ Students taking accelerated courses increased from 2013-14 to 2014-15:

– Regional Promise high schools:

• 8,503 to 27,720 students

↑ 226%

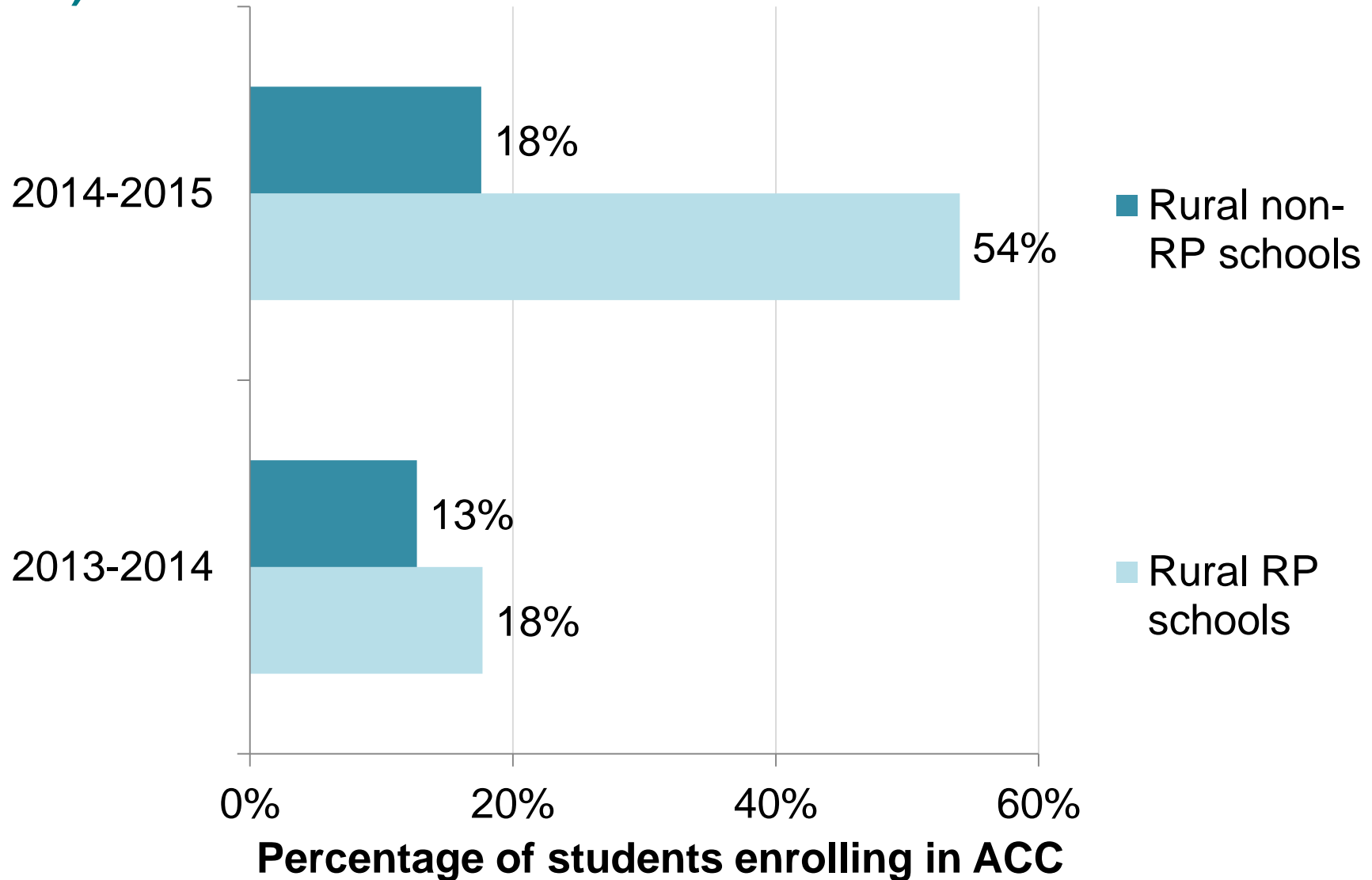
– Non-Regional Promise high schools

• 17,308 to 31,764 students

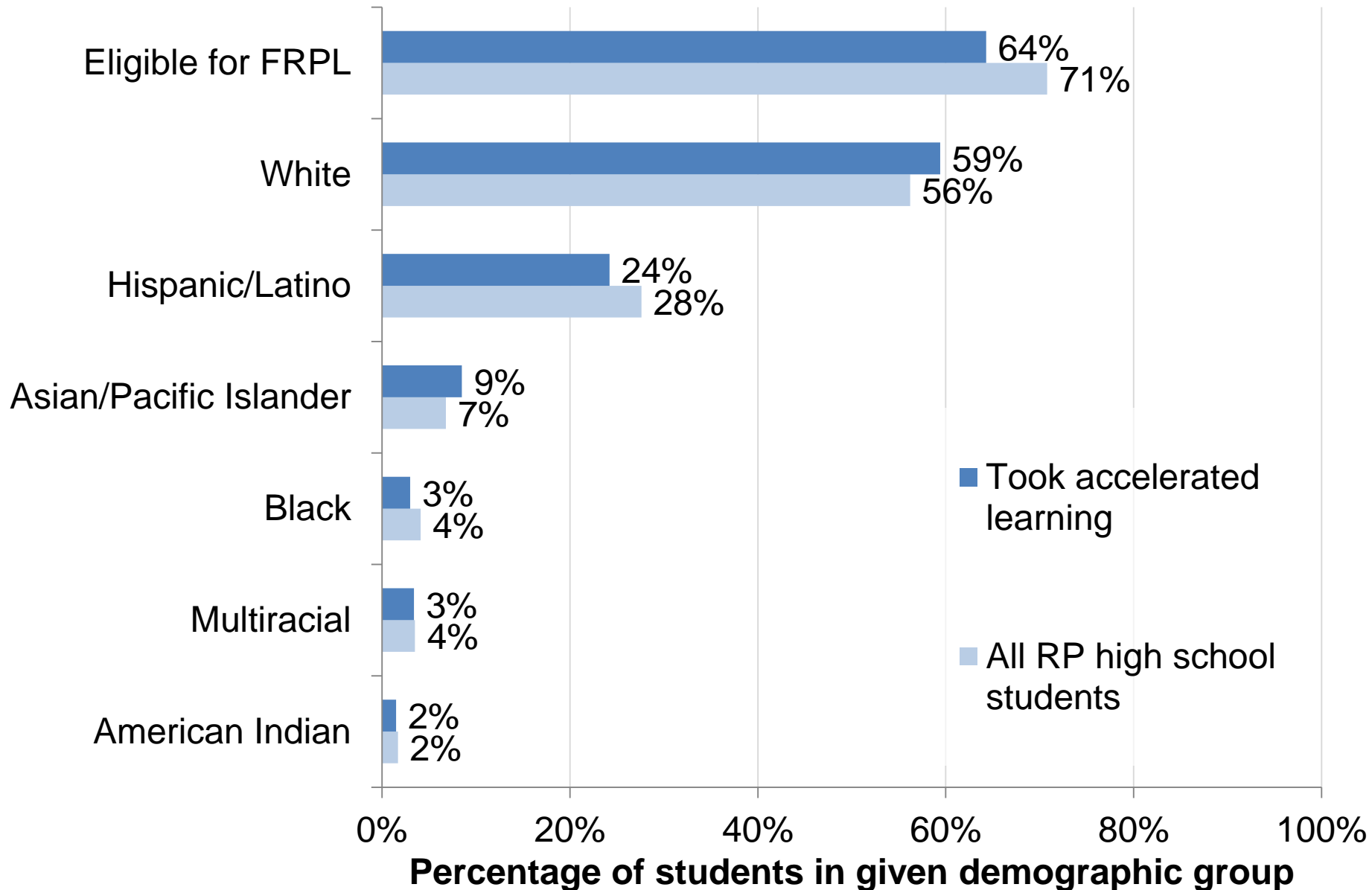
↑ 84%



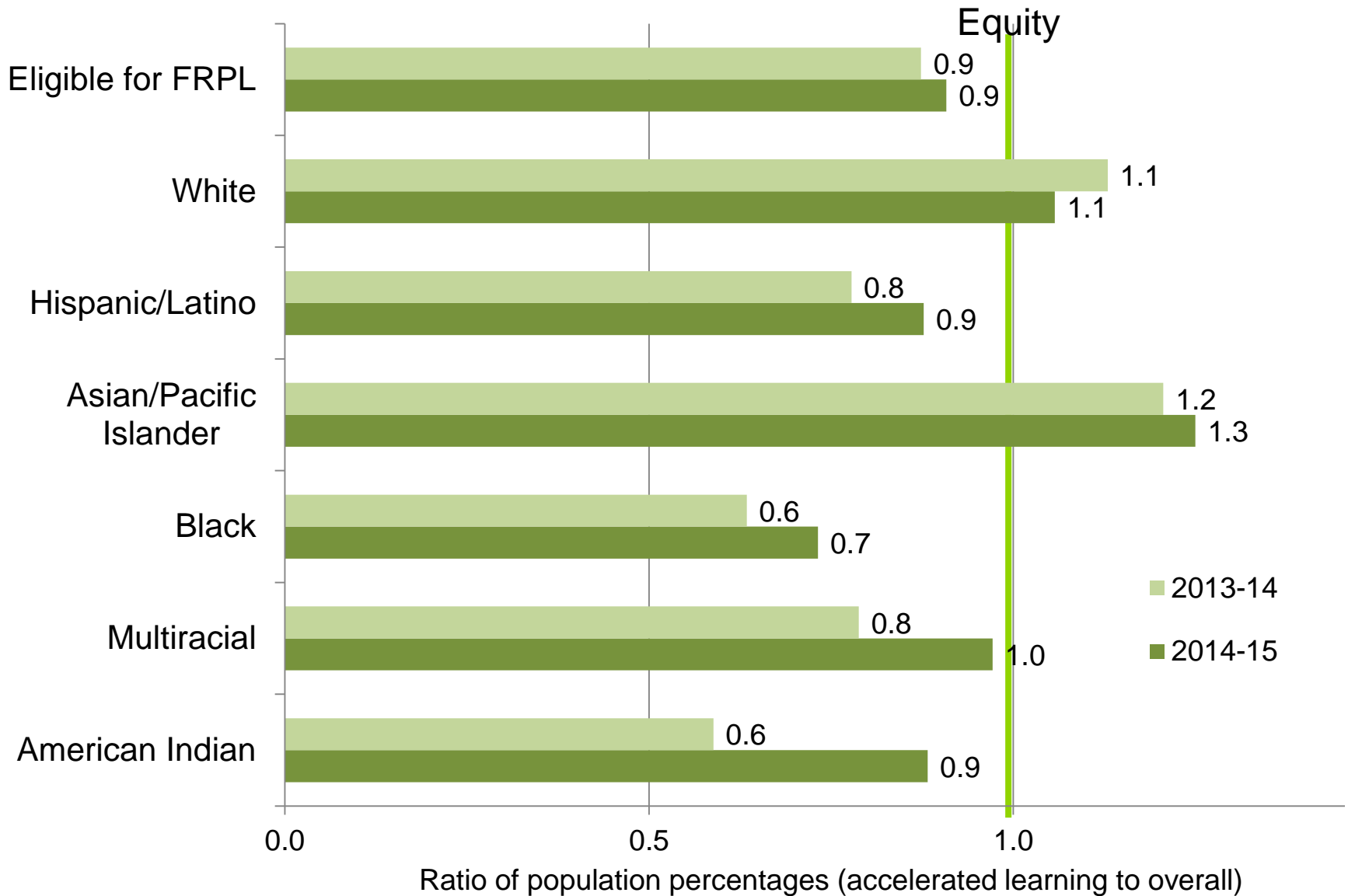
# Enrollment in rural schools (2014-15)



# Accelerated learning equity 2014-15

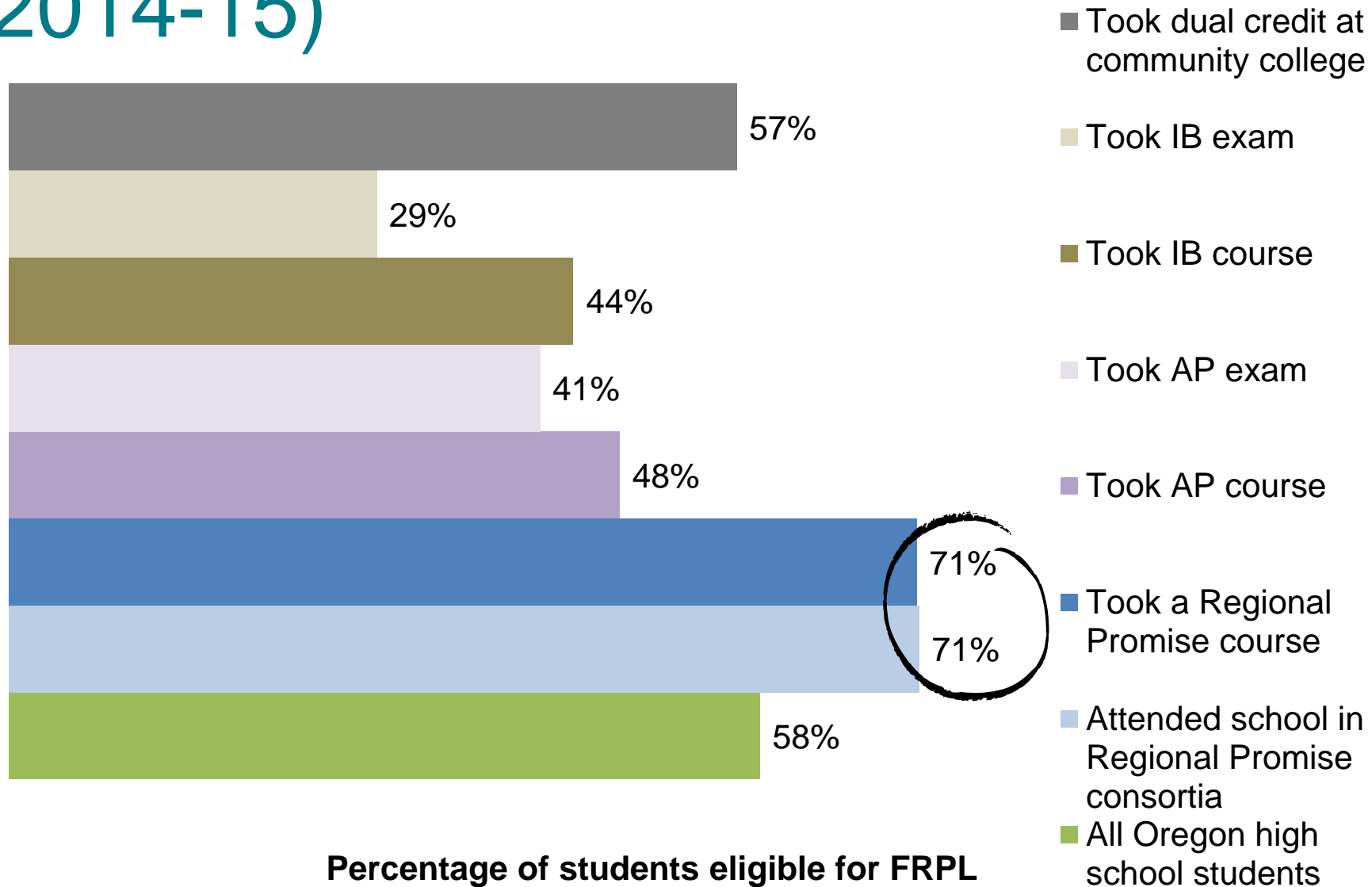


# Accelerated learning composition index





# Participation among FRPL students (2014-15)



# RP equity

- RP closed gaps in participation for historically underserved student groups
- RP courses served higher percentages of students in poverty and students of color than other accelerated course types



# Likelihood of graduation & enrollment

- Students who took RP courses were more likely to graduate from high school and enroll in college, controlling for other factors
- Taking RP courses was related to a 13-percent higher likelihood of graduation among Hispanic and FRPL students
- RP & FRPL students more likely to enroll in college than non-RP peers



# Practice

■ Excel file available at:

<http://bit.ly/MeasuringEquity>



# Group discussion

- Other ways to depict/describe equity gaps
- What has worked for your program?



# Closing thoughts

- Any “aha” moments to share?
- Questions?



# Contact information

**Ashley Pierson, Senior Researcher**

**Education Northwest**

Ashley.Pierson@educationnorthwest.org

@AshleyBPierson 

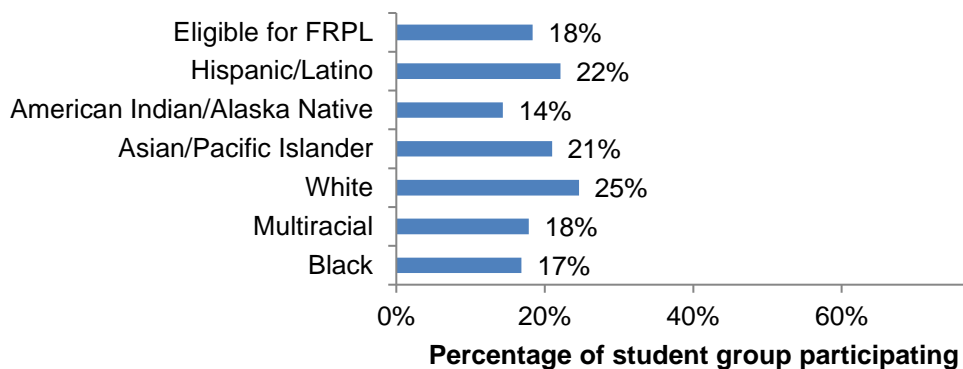


Questions? Email Ashley Pierson, Senior Researcher at Education Northwest  
 Ashley.Pierson@educationnorthwest.org

| Student group                              | Number of students in program | Number of students in school |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Black                                      | 425                           | 2521                         |
| Multiracial                                | 384                           | 2152                         |
| White                                      | 8500                          | 34558                        |
| Asian/Pacific Islander                     | 877                           | 4181                         |
| American Indian/Alaska Native              | 150                           | 1045                         |
| Hispanic/Latino                            | 3753                          | 16972                        |
| Eligible for FRPL                          | 8000                          | 43536                        |
| <b>Total number of students in program</b> | <b>14089</b>                  |                              |
| <b>Total number of students in school</b>  | <b>61429</b>                  |                              |

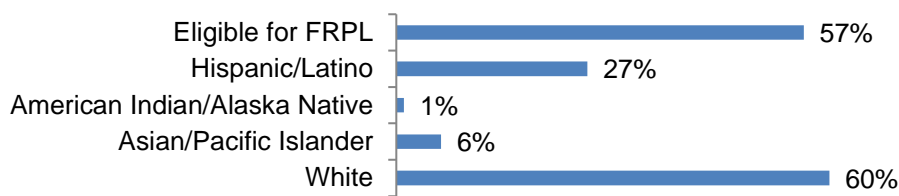
**Percentage breakdown within group**

**White students have the highest within group participation**

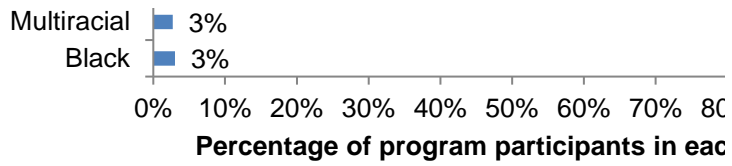


**Percentage breakdown within program**

**White students make up about 60 percent of program participants**

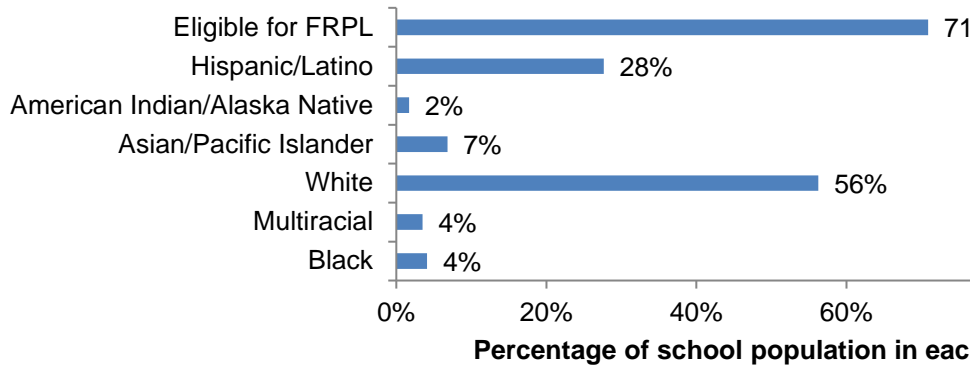






**Percentage breakdown within school**

**Students eligible for FRPL make up 71 percent of school population**



Take the number of students in program in the group and divide by total number of students in group

Take the number of students in program in the group and divide by total number of students in program

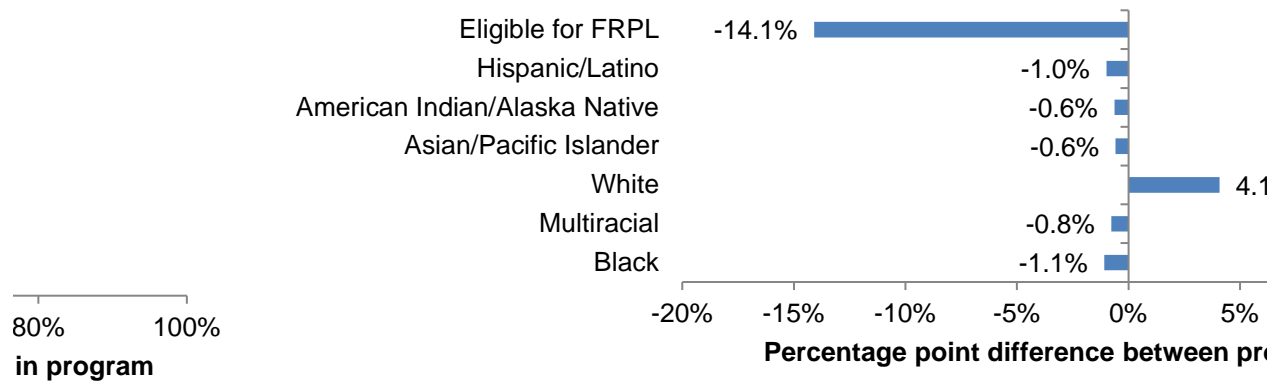
Take the number of students in school in the group and divide by total number of students in school

| Percentage breakdown within group | Percentage breakdown within program | Percentage breakdown within school |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 17%                               | 3%                                  | 4%                                 |
| 18%                               | 3%                                  | 4%                                 |
| 25%                               | 60%                                 | 56%                                |
| 21%                               | 6%                                  | 7%                                 |
| 14%                               | 1%                                  | 2%                                 |
| 22%                               | 27%                                 | 28%                                |
| 18%                               | 57%                                 | 71%                                |

Within program - within school

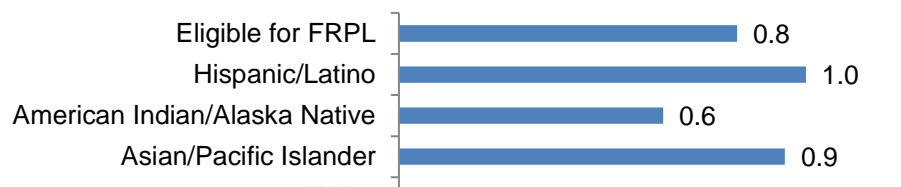
within-

### FRPL students are underrepresented in program compared to school population

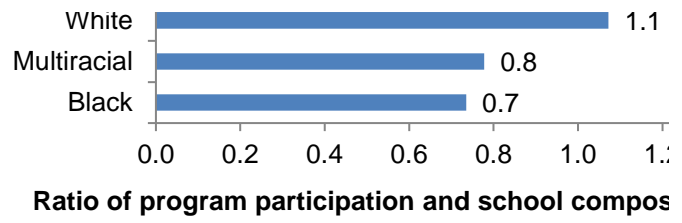


Composition index

### Some groups are underrepresented in our program



80% 90% 100%  
Ethnic group



## ip 70

1%

80% 100%  
Ethnic group

*Take the program percentage breakdown and subtract the school percentage breakdown*

*Divide the program percentage breakdown by the school percentage breakdown*

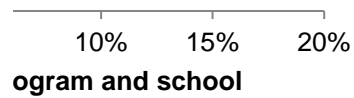
**Within program - within school**

**Composition index**

|        |     |
|--------|-----|
| -1.1%  | 0.7 |
| -0.8%  | 0.8 |
| 4.1%   | 1.1 |
| -0.6%  | 0.9 |
| -0.6%  | 0.6 |
| -1.0%  | 1.0 |
| -14.1% | 0.8 |

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1%



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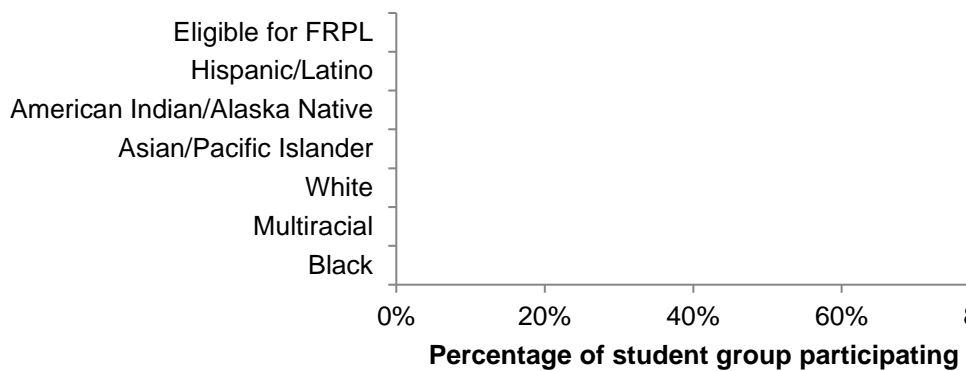
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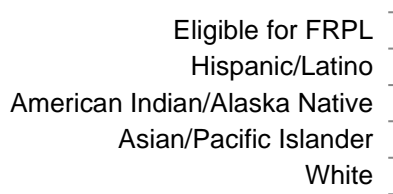
Percentage breakdown within group

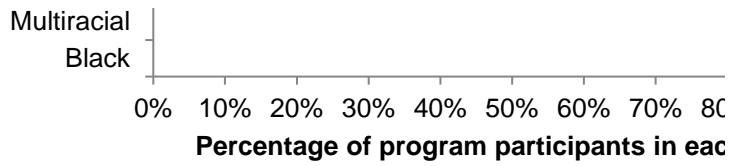
### White students have the highest within group participation



Percentage breakdown within program

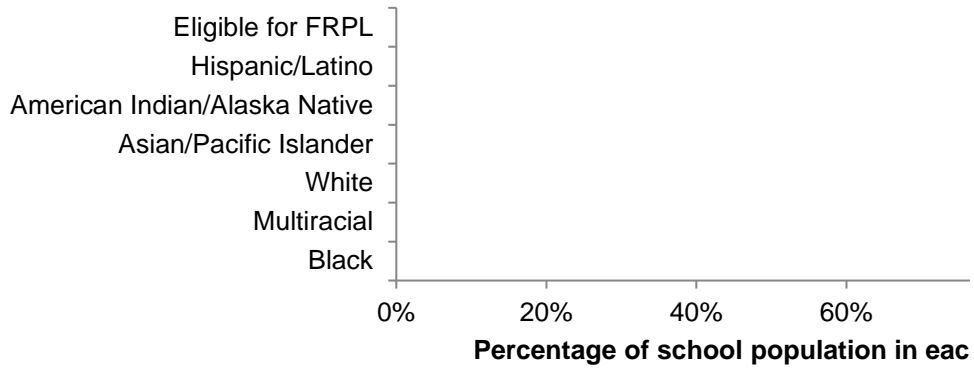
### White students make up about 60 percent of program participants





**Percentage breakdown within school**

**Students eligible for FRPL make up 15 percent of school population**



Take the number of students in program in the group and divide by total number of students in group

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Take the number of students in school in the group and divide by total number of students in school

**Percentage breakdown within group**

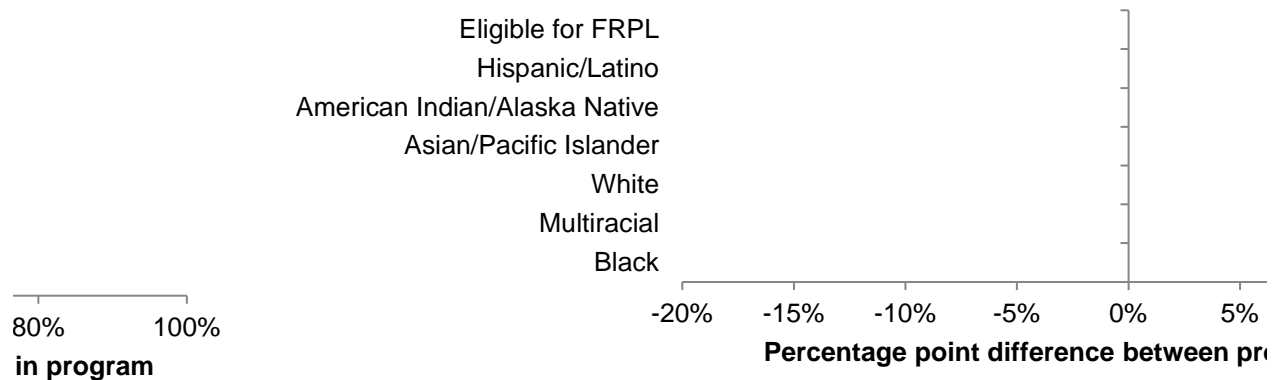
**Percentage breakdown within program**

**Percentage breakdown within school**

Within program - within school

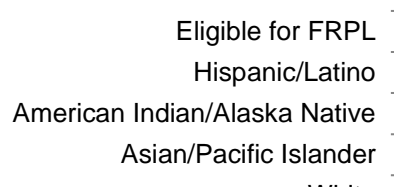
within-

## FRPL students are underrepresented in program compared to school population



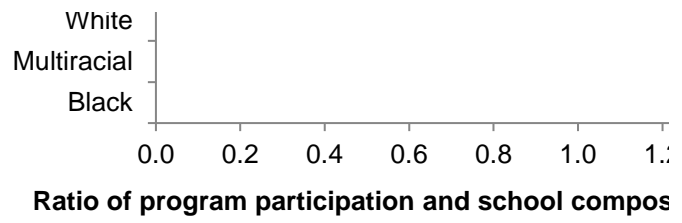
Composition index

## Some groups are underrepresented in our program





80% 90% 100%  
White group



## ip 70

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White group

*Take the program percentage breakdown and subtract the school percentage breakdown*

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**Within program - within school**

**Composition index**

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10% 15% 20%  
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