

Ninth Grade Success Grant

History, Purpose and Impact



History, Legislative Intent and Goals

The Ninth Grade Success Grant Program was created in 2019 (House Bill 19-1276) and provides funding to assist ninth-grade students in developing the skills they need to graduate from high school and be successful in education and professional careers. Grantees commit to implementing components of the Ninth Grade Success program in four areas:

- **Ninth Grade Success Team:** Creating a cross-disciplinary success team of ninth grade teachers and support staff that meets regularly to identify and implement strategies to support ninth grade students.
- **Data System:** Implementing a data system that provides real-time access to data including student behavior, attendance, and grades and can be disaggregated.
- **Instructional Support:** Providing instructional support for ninth grade students to increase engagement and rigor in learning.
- **Transition Programs:** Based on data for incoming students, implement transition programs, class schedules aligned to student needs, and time and support for school staff to better support 9th grade students.

In 2023, changes were made to the grant program in House Bill 23-1231, Concerning Mathematics in Pre-Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade. The bill added prioritization based on mathematics performance and a focus on mathematics support. The state board is currently engaged in the rules process based on these changes.

The current grant is set to expire in June 2025.

Cohort 1

CDE conducted a Request for Applications in Fall of 2019 with grantees awarded in January 2020.

- Nine grantees were originally awarded funds for a four-year implementation. One grantee did not continue after year 1.
- No funding was allocated to the program for the 2020-2021 year so funding was extended to include the 2023-2024 year as the final year.

Year	Number of grantees	Schools served	Students served	Appropriation
2022-2023	8	9	2,713	\$800,000
2021-2022	8	9	1,825	\$800,000
2020-2021**	8	9	0	\$0
2019-2020*	9	10	998	\$800,000

* 2019-20 implementation started in January 2020 **No funding was appropriated in 2020-21. CDE did not complete End of Year Surveys this year.

Cohort 2

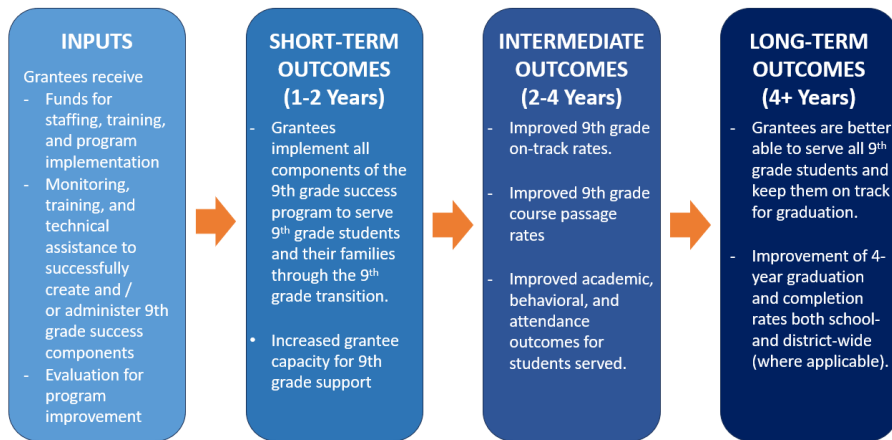
Based on additional funding of \$1.6 million allocated for the 23-24 school year, CDE conducted a Request for Applications and awarded funding to 26 new schools starting in January 2024.

KEY METRICS from 2022-2023

- **Total appropriation:** \$800,000
- **Amount distributed:** \$735,117*
- **Evaluation funding:** N/A
- **CDE staff funded by the grant:** .6 FTE
- **Staff funded by the grant in the field:** 3.9 FTE total
- **Number of grantees:** Cohort 1 (2019-2024): 8 grantees
- **Number of students served:** 2,713
- **Average cost per student served:** \$271
- The program is at **Step 3 Assess Outcomes** on the [Colorado Evidence Continuum](#)

*One grantee returned grant funds

Logic Model



Data Collection(s)

Since 2021-22, CDE has collected a survey from grantees that includes:

- Implementation levels of key components, successes, and challenges
- Outcomes for:
 - Course passage rate: Percentage of ninth grade courses taken that were passed.
 - On-Track rate: Percentage of ninth graders moving to tenth grade with no more than 1 course failure.
- Progress towards site specific progress and goals

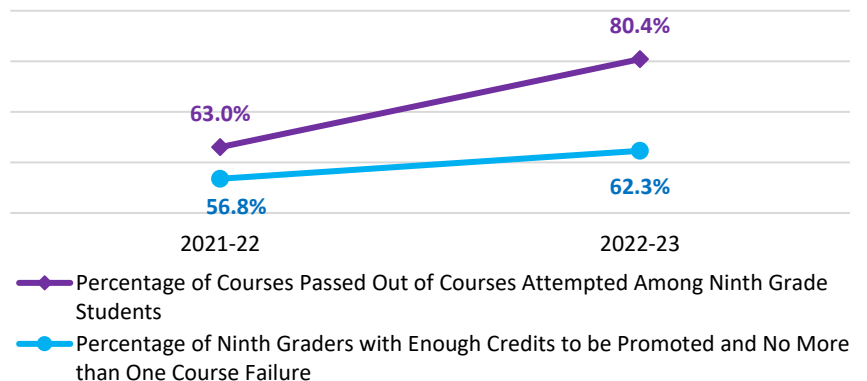
Evaluation

CDE produces an annual report that is available on the [Dropout Prevention website](#). These reports are available as part of an overall report on statewide progress in attendance, behavior, dropout, and graduation rates and summaries of each grant within the Dropout Prevention and Student Re-engagement Office.

Overall, after three years of funding and four years of implementation, there have been an increase in on-track rates and an increase in graduation rates in most participating schools. This includes:

- **On-Track Rates:** In 2022-23, grantees reported that between 39.8 percent and 98.8 percent of their ninth-grade students in 2022-23 had enough credits to be promoted to tenth grade *and* failed no more than one core academic course resulting in an overall improvement in on-track rates.
- **Course Passage:** The percentage of courses earned out of courses attempted among students served by the Ninth Grade Success Grant ranged from 60.0 percent to 94.6 percent resulting in an increase in 9th grade course passage.
- **Graduation Rate:** Six of the nine grantee schools improved their four-year graduation rates from 2018-19 to 2022-23. In addition, the overall cohort graduation rate improved within this time period.

Cohort 1: On Track and Course passage rates



WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

- [Ninth Grade Success Grant website](#)
- [Dropout Prevention Office legislative report](#)