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## **District Board Talking Points February 2019**

Oregon recently celebrated a 2% growth in the high school graduation rate. In 2018, 79% of Oregon students graduated with their peer cohort in four years. Each underserved population group experienced significant growth, including Native American (6% increase to 65%) and Hispanic/Latino (2% increase to 75%) students.

Once again, our region was a leader in the state. The overall average for IMESD component districts was 84%. Good things are happening in our local schools!

It must be noted Oregon's graduation rate still ranks near the bottom nationally. However, comparing states with this metric is apples to oranges. 50 different states have 50 different requirements for a diploma. For example, Nevada's graduation rate recently jumped dramatically because they eliminated state testing as part of their diploma requirements (Oregon requires students to pass SBAC or demonstrate portfolio mastery in English, Math, and Writing). Although we should never be satisfied until we have 100% graduation rates, it is important to not fall into the trap of labelling Oregon schools as failing.