



Graduation. College. Career.





A Diploma Changes Everything

It's widely understood that education is a powerful tool in the ongoing work of ending multigenerational poverty. But we also know that poverty itself plays a direct role in the challenges that make academic success difficult to achieve. Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection is dedicated to helping break that vicious cycle, one student at a time. And as you'll see in this Outcomes Report, the program yields extraordinary results wherever it is installed.

Using an evidence-based model, HW-SC unites a student's existing supports into a robust team providing motivation, mentoring and other resources—whatever it takes to enable success. The team's core is the youth and their HW-SC Youth Advocate, with the YA forming a close connection between the student and their teachers, tutors, employers and others. The unique contributions of those individuals are invaluable, and we help our students make the most of them.

To be eligible for HW-SC, a student must meet certain risk factors that suggest a high likelihood of eventually dropping out of school. (Not surprisingly, poverty is the most common.) We know that dropping out is the enemy, and that a diploma changes everything—it's the key that unlocks a lifetime of opportunity. The successes you'll read about in this Outcomes Report belong to the students, but all of us in Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection are proud to play our part.



Roderick Green
Executive Director
Hillside Work-Scholarship
Connection

"It took one Advocate to believe in me"

Alumna Success Story: Carmona Ross

Ultimately, a high school diploma would only be the beginning of Carmona Ross' academic journey. Back in middle school in 1992, however, that future was tough for her to imagine.

"I'd been having trouble with some of my classes," she recalls. "This lady at school started asking me questions about my goals, like college. But I never thought I could go to college—my family was poor, we were struggling to get by, and so I thought it wasn't for me."

The woman, Annette Gantt, was a Youth Advocate for Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection; soon, she'd persuaded Carmona to give HW-SC a try. **"She saw something in me that I didn't see at the time,"** Carmona says. **"She was extremely persistent. And eventually I began to believe in myself."**

Through her close-knit partnership with Annette, her mother and her teachers, Carmona saw her grades and her confidence increase as she moved through high

school. Along the way, she began visualizing a path toward college and a community-oriented career.

"I'm a living and breathing product of Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection," she says. "I graduated high school on time with honors. Earned my dual bachelor's degree; my first Master's in Political Science; my second Master's in Public Administration. Now I've been accepted to a PhD program. So I will say that the program works."

Carmona will pursue her doctorate while keeping her day job with Planned Parenthood, where she develops cultural competence and health literacy programs. Even with those commitments, she still devotes volunteer hours to local nonprofits. She's dedicated to using her time wisely, and to giving back.

"And it started back in school," she insists. **"It took one Advocate to believe in me, a young person from the inner city from a single-parent household that didn't see potential in herself. Where would I be now without that? I don't know."**

HW-SC: A Proven Model

Founded in 1987, Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection (HW-SC) is dedicated to reversing the trend of low high-school graduation rates, and helping students realize their potential—in the classroom, in the community and in life.



The core of the program is the close relationship between each student and their HW-SC Youth Advocate, a dedicated professional placed in the school who provides structure and motivation. The YA unites all dimensions of a student's life, and connects youth to supportive services in three areas.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Tutoring, in school or at designated locations, **supplements traditional classroom learning** and helps students improve in vulnerable academic areas. Strong communication between YAs and teachers ensures that assignments and in-class obligations are met.

JOB READINESS

HW-SC's Jobs Institute helps students define career goals, **builds their soft skills and provides practical experience** through the Youth Employment Training Academy. Following YETA certification, students can work part-time with a HW-SC Employment Partner that helps them earn money while boosting their time-management and entry-level workforce skills.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Through regular check-ins with student families and other community supports, the YA **provides guidance and advice that helps students stay focused** and on course.

National Recognition for HW-SC

Cited in the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Success at Every Step: How 23 Programs Support Youth on the Path to College and Beyond**

Named to the **Social Impact Exchange S&I 100 index** of top nonprofits

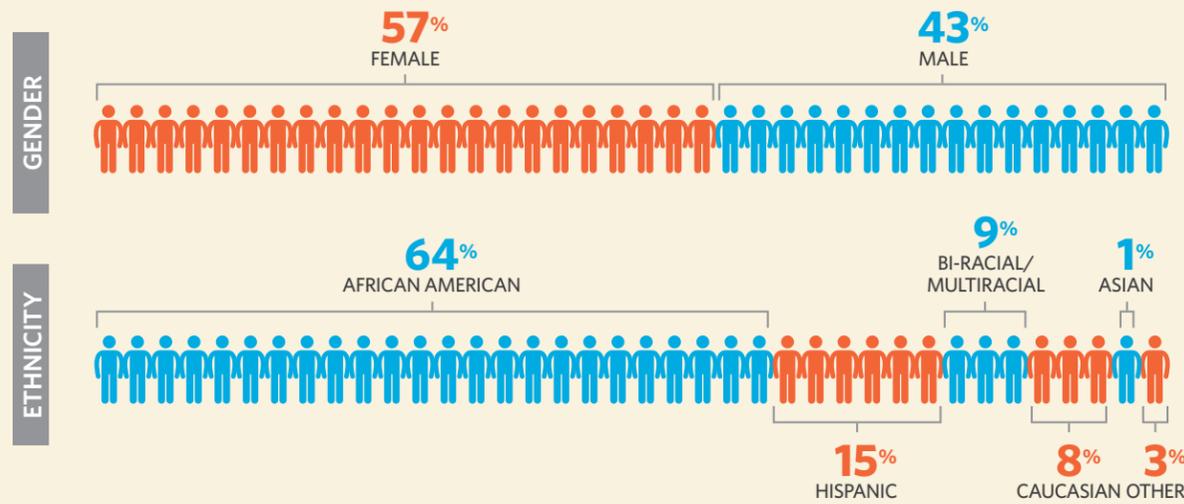
Accredited by the **Standards for Excellence Institute** for high standards of ethics and accountability

Praised for workforce development and student empowerment in Congressional testimony by the **U.S. Chamber of Commerce**

Awarded multimillion-dollar expansion grants from the **NYS Upstate Revitalization Initiative, My Brother's Keeper and Venture Philanthropy Partners**

AT A GLANCE

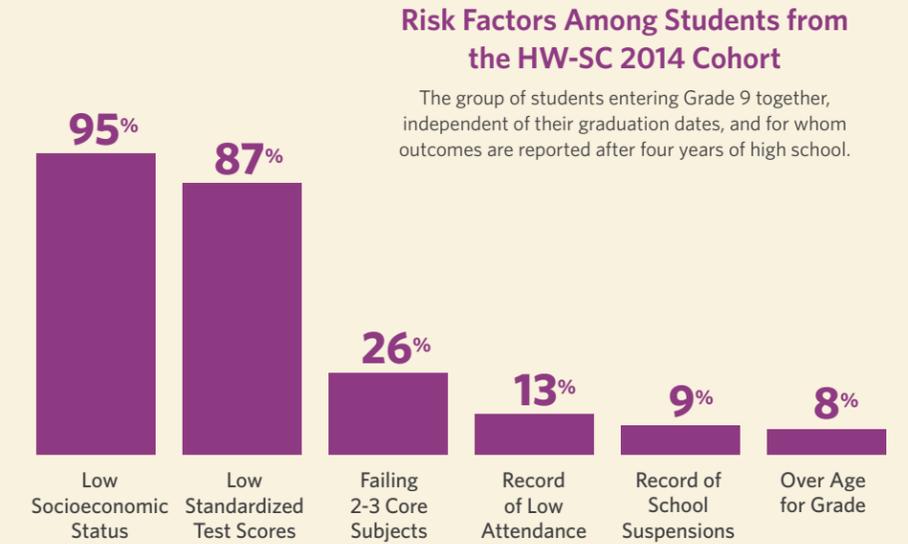
HW-SC Student Demographics | Class of 2018



Risk Factors

Specific factors correspond to increased risk of a student not graduating from high school.

To join HW-SC, a youth must have at least two of the following risk factors:



HW-SC OUTCOMES

Positive Results at All Engagement Levels | Class of 2018

Students in HW-SC benefit from sustained partnerships with their Youth Advocates, as well as with their families, teachers, school staff and other community supports. The results can be seen each year in the extraordinary graduation rates relative to their home districts.



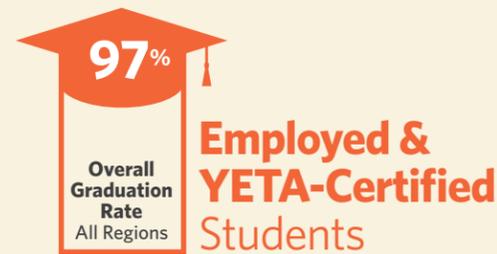
Simply joining HW-SC in Grade 9 or earlier sharply increases the likelihood of on-time graduation compared to non-participating students.

\$4.75 in community benefits generated by participants for every \$1 of program cost**



Students who remain in HW-SC throughout high school enjoy even greater results.

\$7.52 in community benefits generated by participants for every \$1 of program cost**

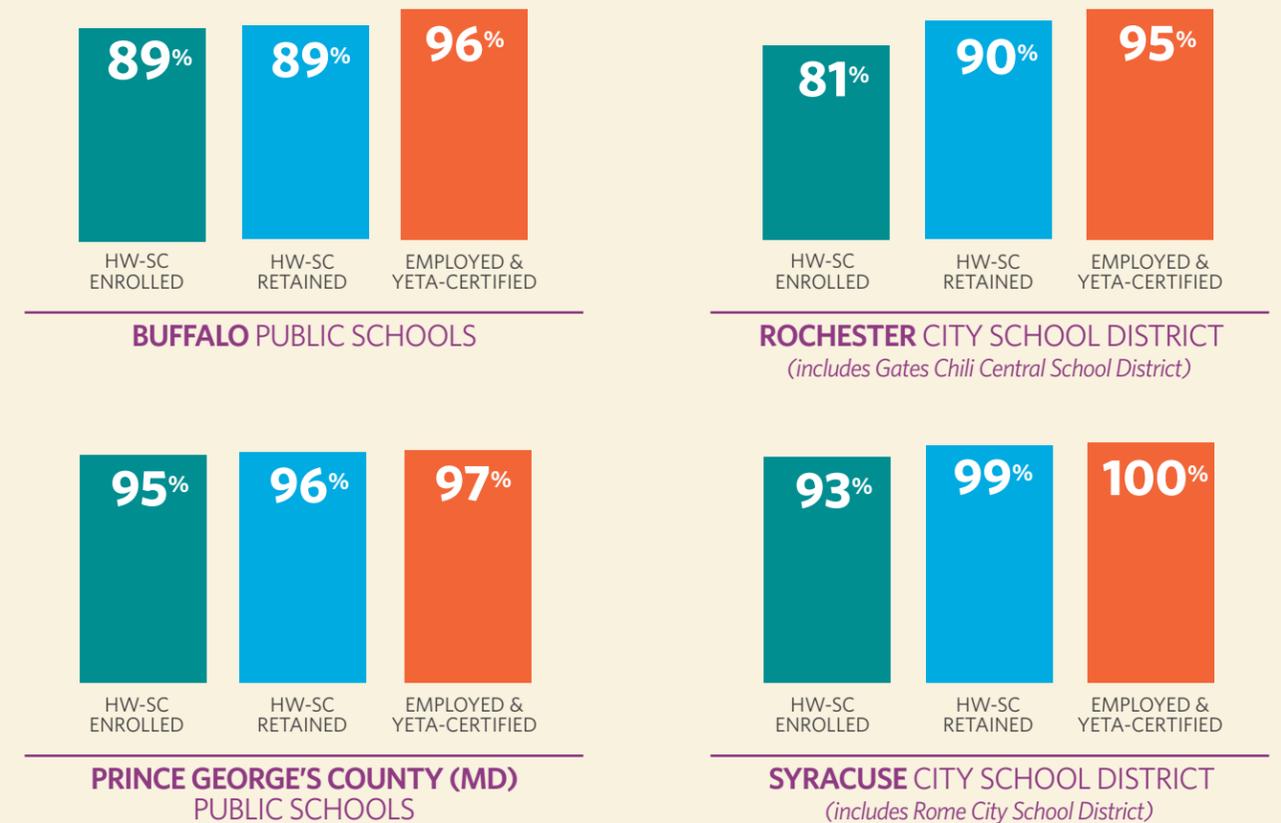


Students who are YETA-certified and employed by an HW-SC employment partner see the highest graduation rates of any segment of the program.

\$8.52 in community benefits generated by participants for every \$1 of program cost**

**Based on a HW-SC Benefit-Cost Analysis prepared by the University of Rochester Warner School of Education, Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse Districts only.

Graduation Rates by Regions | Class of 2018



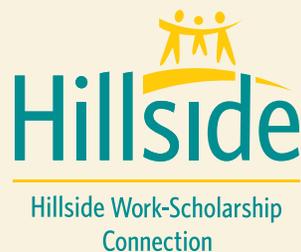


A Partnership that Works

Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection is a public-private partnership that depends on strong support from school districts and communities. Many thanks to our district partners during the 2017-2018 academic year:

Binghamton City School District
Buffalo Public Schools
Gates Chili School District
Prince George's County (MD) Public Schools
Rochester City School District
Rome City School District
Salamanca City School District
Syracuse City School District
Union-Endicott Central School District

To learn more about how a HW-SC partnership can elevate the performance of students and their school districts, contact Roderick Green, HW-SC Executive Director, at rgreen@hillside.com.



Your Support Makes the Difference

You can help Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection achieve even greater success. Find out more today: (888) 514-4455 | hillside.com