

# Graduation. College. Career.

**Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection**  
Outcomes Report | Class of 2019

Published 2020



# An Inspiring Partnership

A lasting connection with his YA made all the difference for this HW-SC alumnus

Jermaine LeGree was a middle school student when he first heard about Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection from his mother. **“Mom put me in the program as soon as I set foot in high school,”** he recalls. **“She told me it would help me get a job and scholarships, and boost my resume.”**

Over the next several years, Jermaine’s commitment to that transformative program would do even more, thanks in large part to the caring connection he formed with Tomeka Green, his HW-SC Youth Advocate (YA).

An alumna of the program herself, Green rejoined HW-SC to give back to the kids in her community. As Jermaine’s YA, she checked in regularly with the student, his teachers and his family at home; facilitated academic tutoring and job readiness training; and even helped him secure his first part-time job.

“My favorite thing about Mrs. Green is her attitude. She gets straight to business,” Jermaine says.

**“She kept me on track with my schoolwork and my different responsibilities** - like a second mom, I guess. Sometimes that was just what I needed.”

“I understand where the kids are coming from, what they’re going through, because someone helped me,” Green says.

Between his part-time job and Green’s one-on-one mentoring, Jermaine developed the time-management and prioritization skills he needed to balance his schoolwork, job and extracurricular activities. **“Being both an employee and a student can be stressful,” he says, “but it’s taught me important life lessons.”**

Having completed the HW-SC program and graduated high school, Jermaine is now enrolled at Pace University in New York City, where he has his sights on a BFA acting program major and a science minor. “Hillside has made a huge impact on my life,” he enthuses. “The program helped me focus on my goals and make them happen.”

## 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**

# 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

## 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.

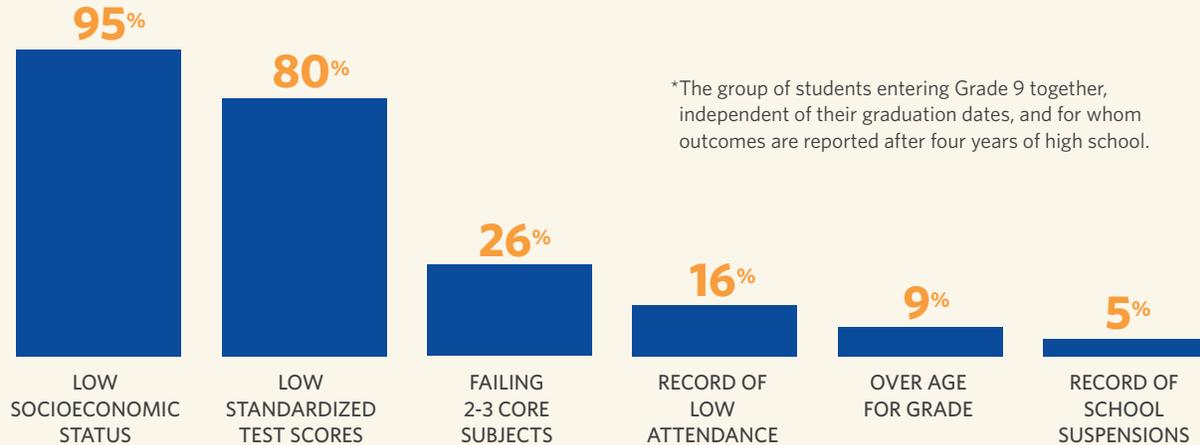
### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

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.

# AT A GLANCE

## Risk Factors | HW-SC 2015 Cohort\*

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:

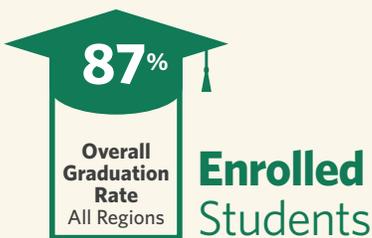


\*The group of students entering Grade 9 together, independent of their graduation dates, and for whom outcomes are reported after four years of high school.

# HW-SC OUTCOMES

## Positive Results at All Engagement Levels | Class of 2019

HW-SC students benefit from sustained partnerships with Youth Advocates, and with families, teachers, school staff and other community supports. The results are seen in their extraordinary graduation rates relative to their home districts. Involvement in the Youth Employment Training Academy (YETA) further improves their outcomes.



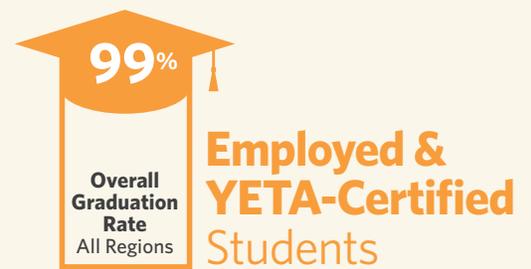
Simply joining HW-SC in Grade 9 or earlier sharply increases the likelihood of on-time graduation compared to non-participating students.

**\$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\*\*

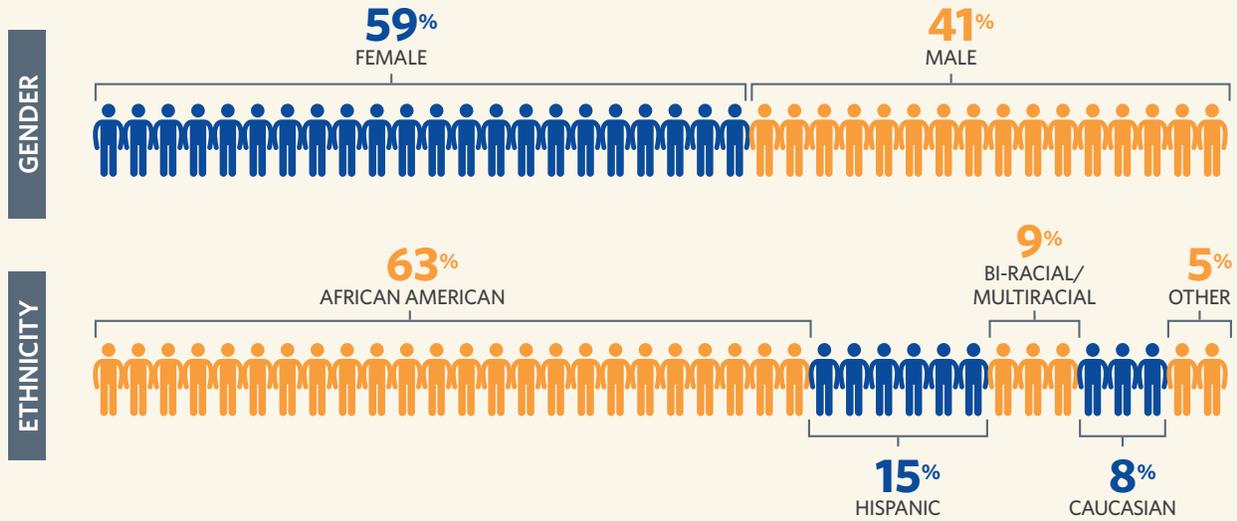


Students who are YETA-certified and employed by an HW-SC employment partner see the highest graduation rates of any segment of the program.

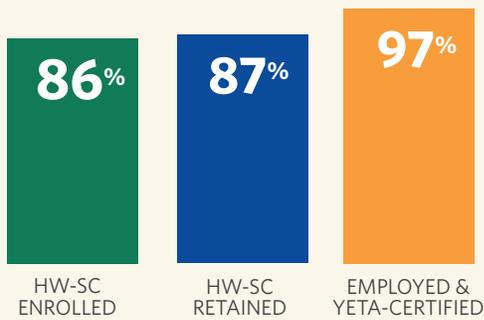
**\$8.52** in community benefits generated by participants for every \$1 of program cost\*\*

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

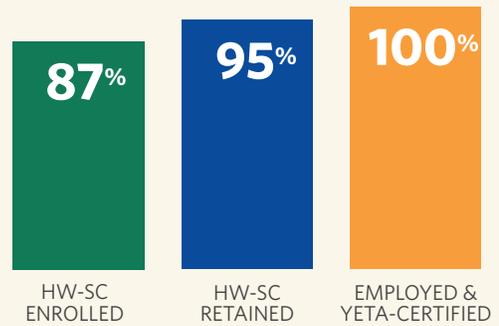
## HW-SC Student Demographics | Class of 2019



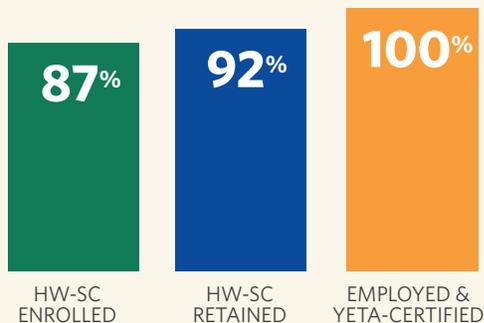
## Graduation Rates by Regions | Class of 2019



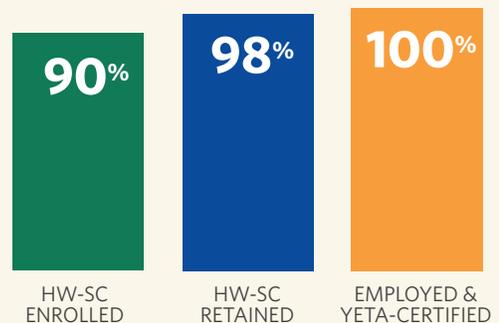
**BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



**ROCHESTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
*(includes Gates Chili Central School District)*



**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY (MD) PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



**SYRACUSE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
*(includes Rome City School District)*



## 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 2018-2019 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  
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](mailto: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](http://hillside.com)

