Washington State Quality Assurance
Student Achievement Comparison
Walla Walla 2009-10 to 2010-11

What is the Student Achievement Initiative?

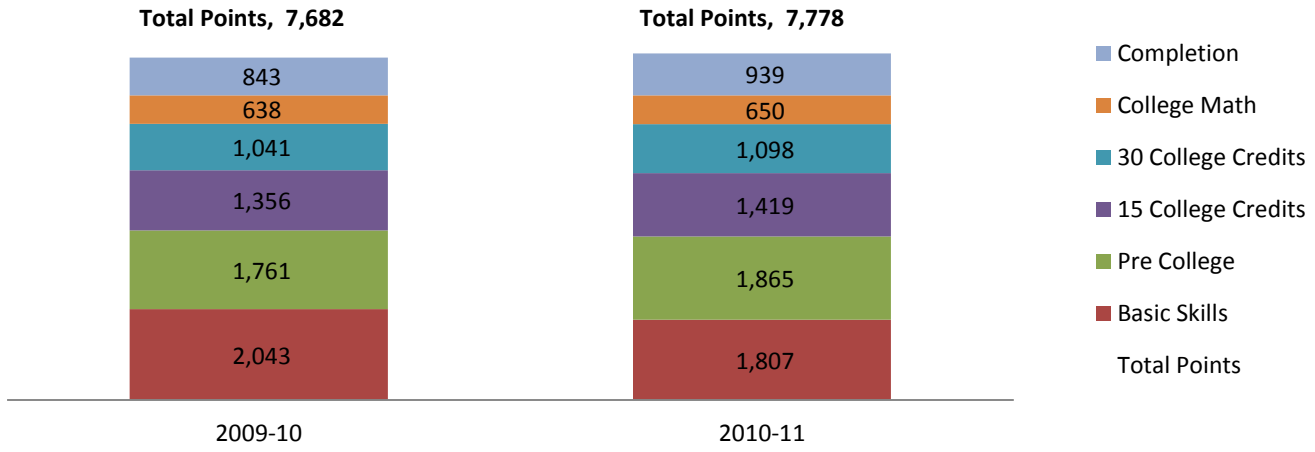
The Student Achievement Initiative is a new performance funding system for community and technical colleges that represents a shift from funding entirely for enrollment inputs to also funding meaningful outcomes.

The initiative is intended to:

- Improve public accountability by more accurately describing what students achieve from attending our colleges each year.
- Provide financial incentives to colleges for increasing the levels of achievement attained by their students.

Achievement Point Gains

The initiative measures incremental gains students make, where each gain increases a student's likelihood for completion. All students, regardless of program, are measured for gains that get them ready for college level work, first-year college milestones and college completion. The gains are translated into point gains, and they increase when colleges enroll more students and when they improve practices to advance students further.



Point Gains Show Improvement

To understand where colleges are improving, we compare the total change in the number of students to the total change in achievement points. When a percent change in points is more than the percent change in students who started the year below that point, colleges are improving in advancing students. Conversely, when the percent change in students is higher, than the percent change in points it means that any point growth is more attributable to increased enrollment than increased efficiency.

				Started Year with			
Change in Percent	Total	Basic Skills	Pre College	< 15 College Credits	< 30 College Credits	No College Math	Completions
Students	7%	-13%	3%	9%	9%	7%	7%
Points	1%	-12%	6%	5%	5%	2%	11%