This addendum contains self-reported 2015-2016 school year data from the Washington State Open Doors Program. Statewide, the Open Doors Program seeks to function as a “reengagement system” to reconnect out of school youth ages 16 to 21. The sizeable Open Doors cohort adds nearly 7,500 youth and young adults to the nationwide, multi-site group of 48,000 on which the full 2015-16 Census reports, bringing the new total to 55,500.

Overview
In 2016, nearly 100 Open Doors programs reconnected 7,497 youth and young adults. At the end of the school year, 4,801 had made educational progress, graduated, or earned a credential. The Open Doors cohort represents a large, diverse group, with a variety of needs and experiences. Many of the school district-administered reengagement efforts in the Open Doors state network also adopt a network approach locally, adapting and finding suitable programs to meet youth needs. Some locations and programs offer additional services or job training. Some operate through community and community college partnerships, and some operate in WorkSource or One Stop centers. To learn more, go to http://www.k12.wa.us/GATE/SupportingStudents/StudentRetrieval.aspx.

Changes to the National Reengagement Picture
The addition of the 2016 Washington State cohort to the full national cohort would decrease the overall percentage of Black, Hispanic, and Other students from 78.7% to 62.9%, and increase the percentage of White, Asian/Pacific Islander, Native American, and Multiracial students from 21.3% to 37.5%. Adding the cohort would have little effect on age and gender demographics.

Analysis of Washington State Data
Stick Rate: The reenrollment and progress figures noted above translate to a 64% stick rate.
Predictive indicators: Open Doors’ reporting regime lends itself to understanding characteristics of the young people receiving reengagement support. For instance, 3975 of the students, around 50%, qualified for Free and reduced-price lunch. This is an underestimate, because some programs did not collect this information as they do not provide food service. Some 990 students, or 12%, had a record of enrollment in a juvenile facility. 635 (7%) were homeless or high mobility. 132 students aged 16 to 18 were in foster care (4.8% of 16-18-year-olds).

Caveats: Open Doors’ reporting regime does not at present support calculation of several figures addressed in the full Reengagement Census. These include: initial contacts; outreach methods; the total number of students who completed the intake process (the latter figure likely larger than 7,500); grade level at time of placement; LGBTQ identity; or Parenting/pregnancy status. This constitutes the first year for which Open Doors shared more detailed data with the Reengagement Network. There is no data to track previous foster care recipients aged 19 to 21.

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Age Distribution: 2015-2016 Open Doors Cohort

Race/Ethnicity: 2015-16 Open Doors Cohort