



United Way of Washington County

Mobilizing Communities

DASHBOARD: COMMUNITY EDUCATION INDICATORS

Education, Financial Stability, and Health are the building blocks for opportunity – both individually and collectively. Education is essential to getting and keeping a job with wages and benefits that can sustain a family. An income that can cover today and save for tomorrow builds a family’s solid foundation. Good health helps children stay on track at school and makes adults more productive at work. Remove any of these building blocks and the other two topple. Build them all up and you have a cornerstone for individual and community prosperity.

EDUCATION

Every year, more than one million students drop out of high school nationwide. As a result, fewer young Americans are likely to earn a diploma than their parents, a distinction not shared by any other industrialized country. That’s why United Way of Washington County is working to ensure that local kids are:



- School readiness: Children ages 0 to 5 enter school prepared to succeed
- Early grade reading: Children enter 4th grade with reading and comprehensive skills that provide a strong foundation for learning
- Middle school success and reading: Students demonstrate reading proficiency and comprehensive skills in the 8th grade – preparing them for high school success
- High school graduation: Students graduate high school on time prepared for continuing education, work and life

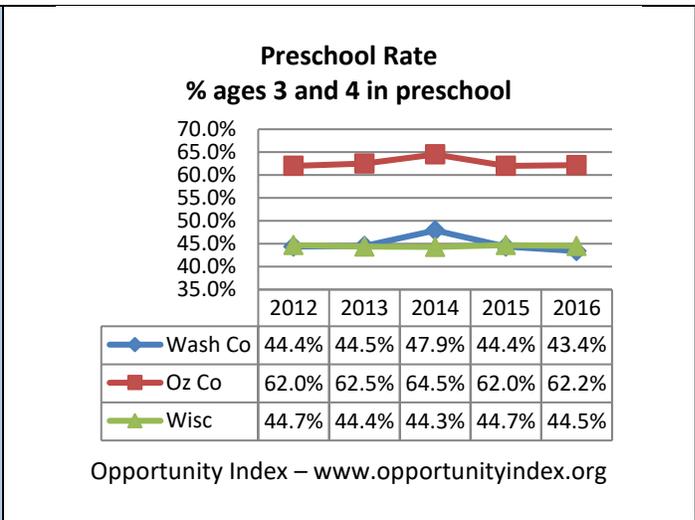
In 2014, United Way of Washington County adopted the following county-wide education indicators as metrics to track progress towards these goals.

United Way’s Community Education Goal
 Local youth achieve academic goals and demonstrate the life skills necessary to become positive, contributing members of the community.

School Readiness
 Goal: Children ages 0-5 enter school prepared to succeed.

Why this is important: Language and literacy skill development doesn’t start at school. Children who start school with poor language and communication skills often have a hard time catching up. A child who starts behind falls even farther behind, long before school. Disparities in child development are evident by nine months.

Further Reading: *Education Research Overview*, United Way Worldwide



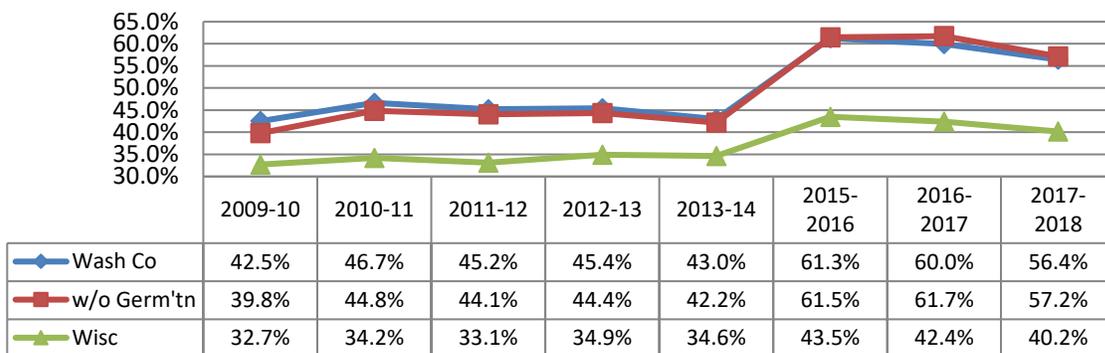
Early Grade Reading

Goal: Children enter 4th grade with reading and comprehension skills that provide a strong foundation for learning.

Why this is important: Children generally learn to read by third grade. By fourth grade, they should be reading to learn. Students who don't read well have difficulty keeping up. This can lead to bad grades, disengaging from school, and dropping out.

Further Reading: *Early Warning! Why Reading by the End of Third Grade Matters*, Annie E. Casey Foundation, aecf.org, 2012. *Charting a Course for Change: Advancing Education, Income and Health Through Collective Impact*, United Way.org, May 2012

Grade 3 Reading: Proficient
Public Schools only



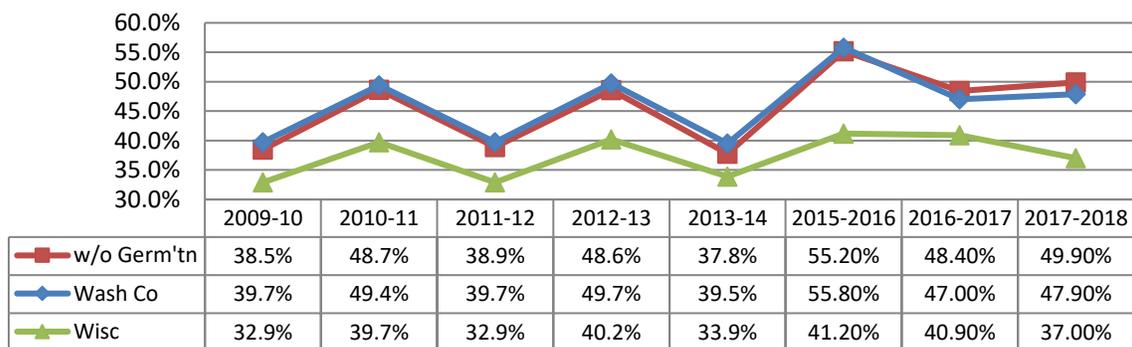
Wisconsin Information System for Education – www.wisedash.dpi.wi.gov

Middle School Success

Goal: Students demonstrate reading proficiency and comprehensive skills in the 8th grade – preparing them for high school success

Why this is important: As poor readers enter middle school, they are more likely to fail courses and eventually drop out of school. Research shows that poor transitions into and out of the middle grades are strongly linked to failing to finish high school.

Grade 8 Reading: Proficient
Public Schools only



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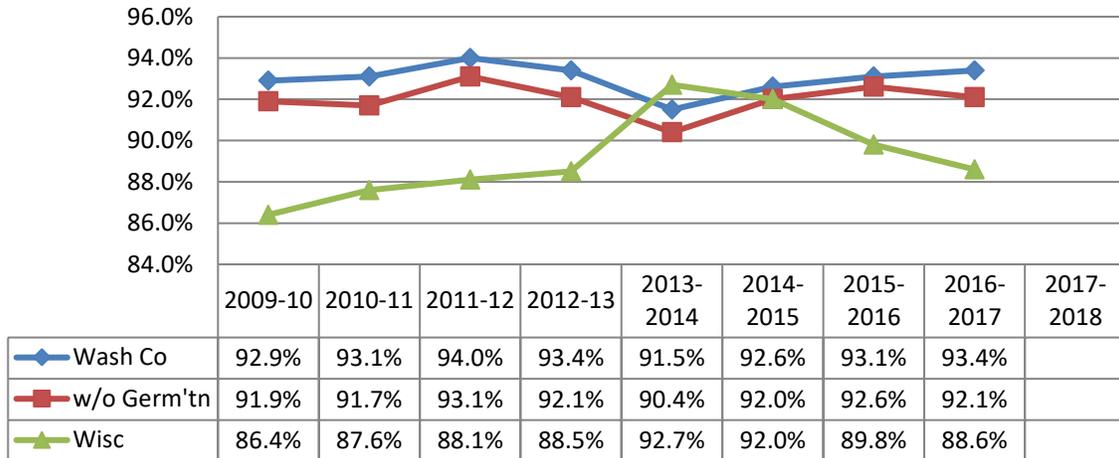
High School Graduation

Goal: Students graduate high school on time prepared for college, work and life.

Why this is important: High school dropouts are more likely to be unemployed, to earn low wages and to end up on welfare or in prison. They are also less likely to pay taxes or vote. One study estimates that U.S. taxpayers would save \$45 billion annually if the number of school dropouts were cut in half.

Further Reading: *Charting a Course for Change: Advancing Education, Income and Health Through Collective Impact*, United Way.org, May 2012

Graduation Rate (All)



*Note in 2013-2014 DPI transitioned from recording state of Wisconsin graduation rates for 4-year cohorts to 6-year cohorts

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Learn more about United Way of Washington County's work at UnitedWayOfWashingtonCounty.org