

# STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL ON TIME



**MISSION PROMISE**  
COMUNIDAD PROMESA DE LA MISION  
**NEIGHBORHOOD**

## Introduction

Graduation rates have increased at John O'Connell (MPN high school), and **Latino students and African American students are graduating at higher rates** from that school than from the district. MPN has leveraged SFUSD's Theory of Action and School Improvement Grant to align MPN-funded partners and school staff (Community School Coordinators, Student Success Coaches, Family Success Coaches) to build a college-going culture that focuses on academic preparation and graduation. This is completed by John O'Connell's existing initiatives to augment teacher capacity through professional development and an instructional model that allows for increased preparation time and additional adults daily co-teaching in the classroom, along with a schoolwide focus on college and career pathways.

## Indicators

It is important to note that the students who enter John O'Connell face **disproportionate challenges**: 61 percent are eligible for free/reduced lunch; 22 percent receive special education supports; and 18 percent are English Language Learners. While many students enter John O'Connell at-risk of dropping out, the supportive community helps them succeed.

**93%**

of MPN middle and high school students say that finishing high school is important to their parents

**84%**

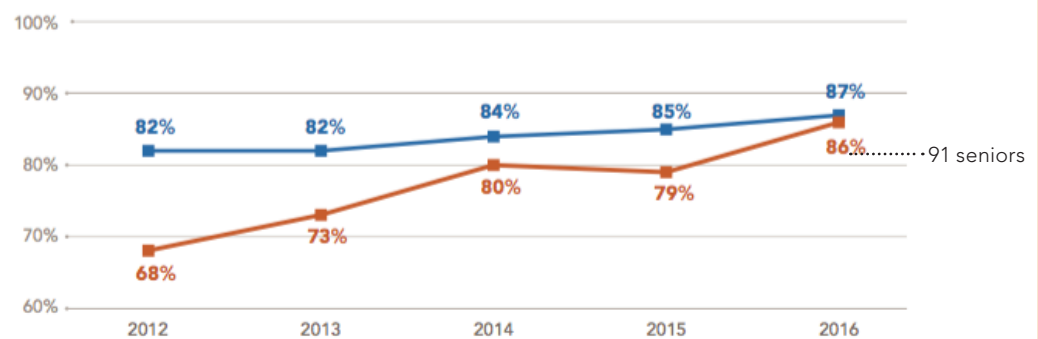
of John O'Connell students worked with MPN partner Mission Graduates (2016-2017 school year: n = 319)

**94%**

of college-eligible seniors submitted a college application

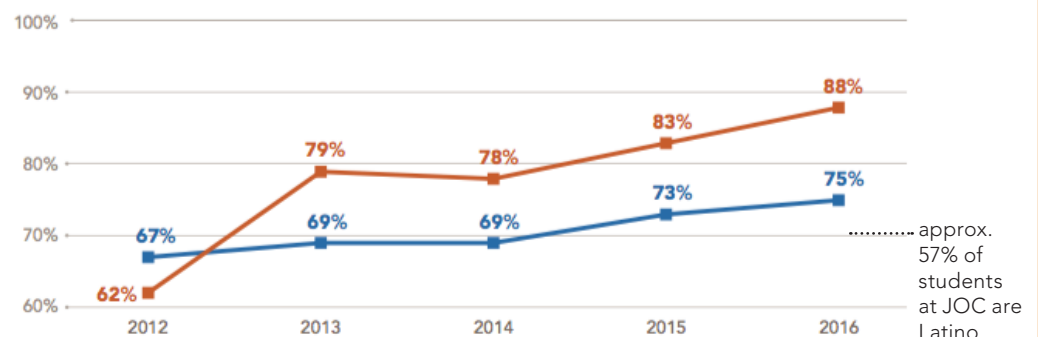
### High School Graduation: Overall

FIGURE 1: **John O'Connell overall graduation rate is closing the gap with SFUSD**  
Percent of students graduating

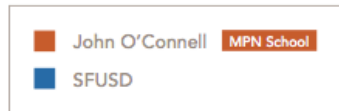


### High School Graduation: Latino

FIGURE 2: **John O'Connell graduation of Latino students is outpacing SFUSD**  
Percent of Latino students graduating

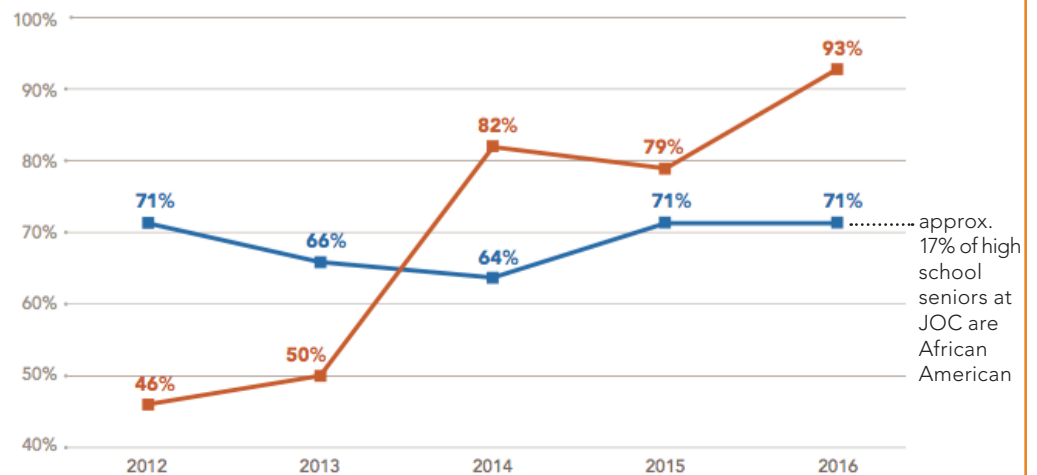


## High School Graduation: African American



Data Source:  
SFUSD Administrative Data through DataQuest

FIGURE 3: **John O'Connell graduation of African American students is outpacing SFUSD**  
Percent of African American students graduating



## Strategies

John O'Connell has adopted a multidisciplinary daily co-teaching approach, in which MPN partners collaborate with school staff to support students' academic and socio-emotional development, build a college-going culture and help students reach their goals. This intentional collaboration has built a school culture that does not wait for students to struggle and instead helps students expeditiously reach their goals.

Student Success Coaches, SFUSD's Mentoring for Success Program, Mission Graduates mentorship program and embedded college-coaching staff provide individualized support, wraparound services and college resources. Integrating caring adults from similar backgrounds, with educators of color throughout the school day offers cultural relevancy and empathy and [contributes to increases in feelings of safety and adult support among John O'Connell Students](#), and the presence of additional supportive adults in the classroom helps [increase their learning time](#).



Mission Graduates' extended-day programs (College Connect and College and Career Center), Family Success Coaches, Community School Coordinators, Americorps National Health Corps volunteers and 100% College Prep collectively build a college-going culture by working with students and parents to help navigate the college requirement, application and financial aid processes. Additional embedded partners provide internships for 11th- and 12-grade students to build their career and educational aspirations. [In 2017, 76 percent of students at John O'Connell said they planned to attend a two- or four-year college after graduating.](#)

## About Mission Promise Neighborhood

The Mission Promise Neighborhood is a citywide community partnership that was created to support kids and families living, working and attending school in the Mission District. It brings together schools, colleges, community organizations and community leaders to help kids graduate and families achieve financial stability.