



Education Update

Rotary Club of Akron
May 26, 2026

Summit
Education
Initiative 

About Me...



**Akron Public
Schools**

1992 – 2021

- Environmental Program Mgr. + Safety + Energy Manager (1992 – 2002)
- Executive Director, Business Affairs (2002 – 2008)
- Superintendent (2008 – 2021)



2021 - 2022

- Deputy Superintendent, Business & Operations



2023

- Executive Director



About SEI

SEI's mission is to increase personal and regional prosperity through educational attainment. We envision a future where every Summit County student is equipped for success in their academic and career journey.



Framing Today's Topic:

- Pre-K through 12 System
- Demographic Factors
- Implications



Pre-K Through 12 System Snapshot



Student Demographics of Summit County's 17 Public School Districts

75,000 Students

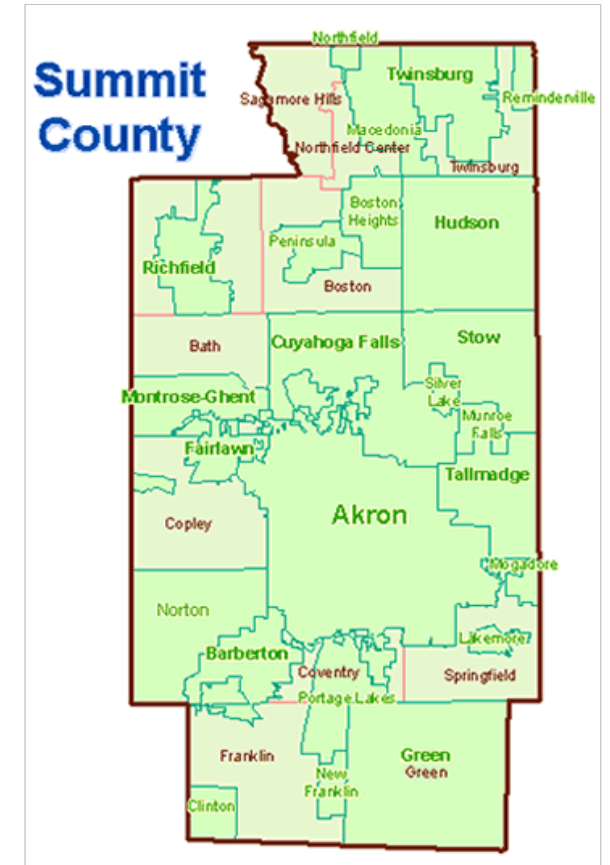
Male: 52%

Female: 48%

w/Disabilities: 18%

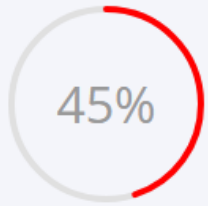
ELL: 4%

Mobility: 20%

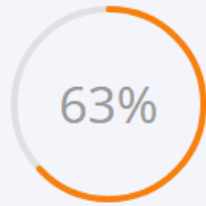


The Pre-K Through 12 System: How Are We Doing?

2025 Data



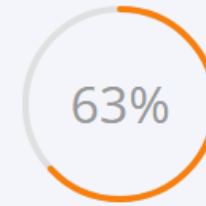
Kindergarten Readiness



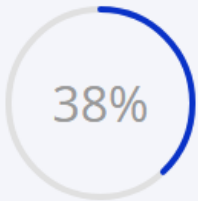
Third Grade Reading



Eighth Grade Math



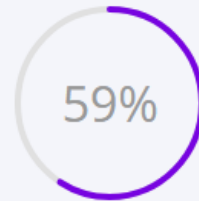
Ninth Grade Success



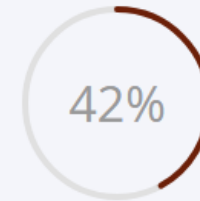
College & Career Readiness



Graduation Rates



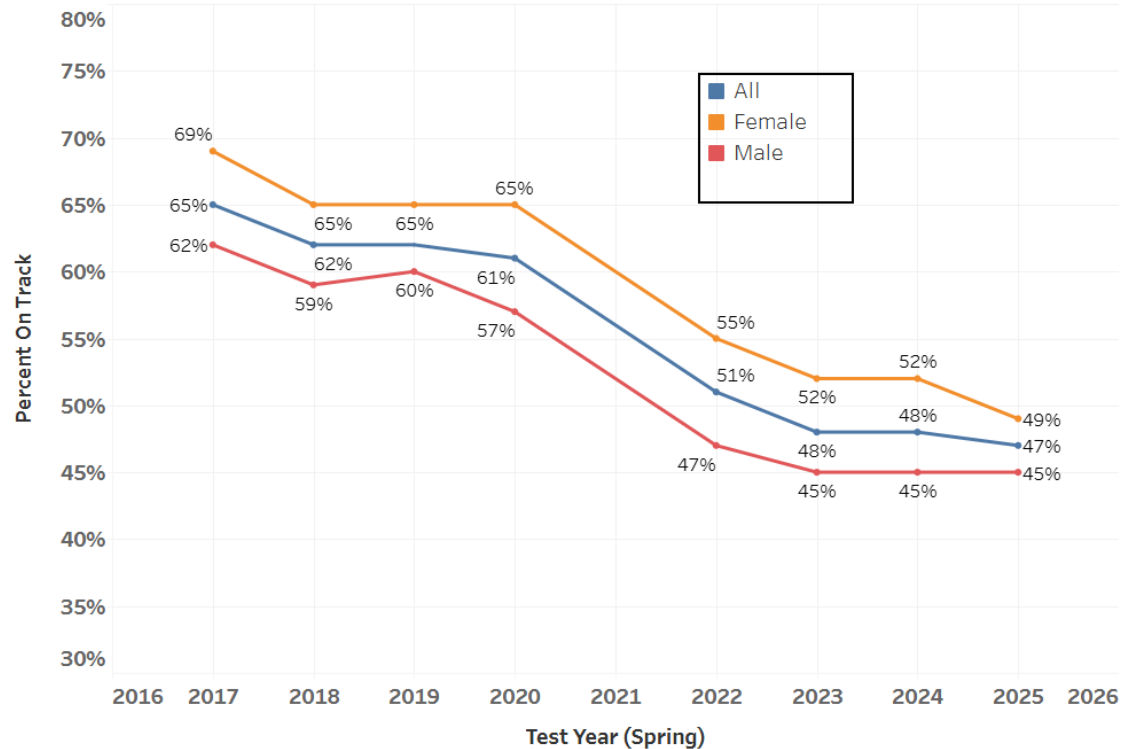
Post Secondary Success



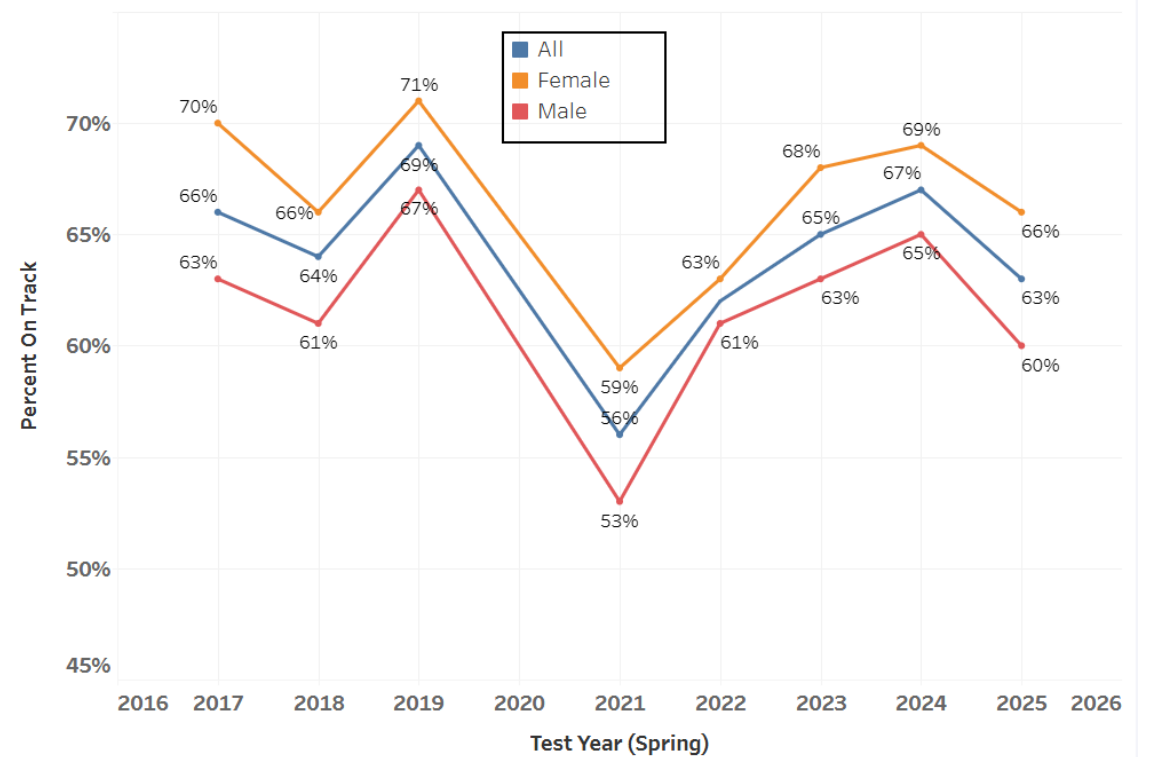
Post Secondary Completion

Academic Performance Trends

Kindergarten Reading Trends

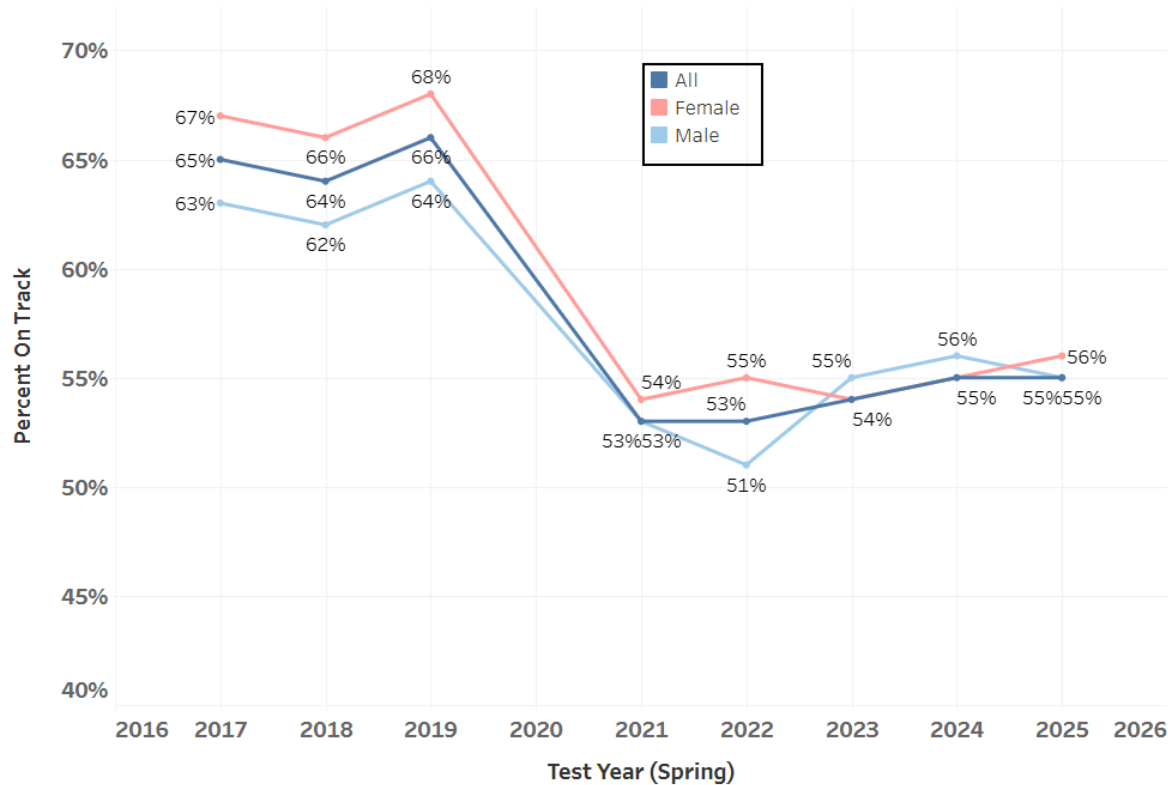


Third Grade Reading Trends

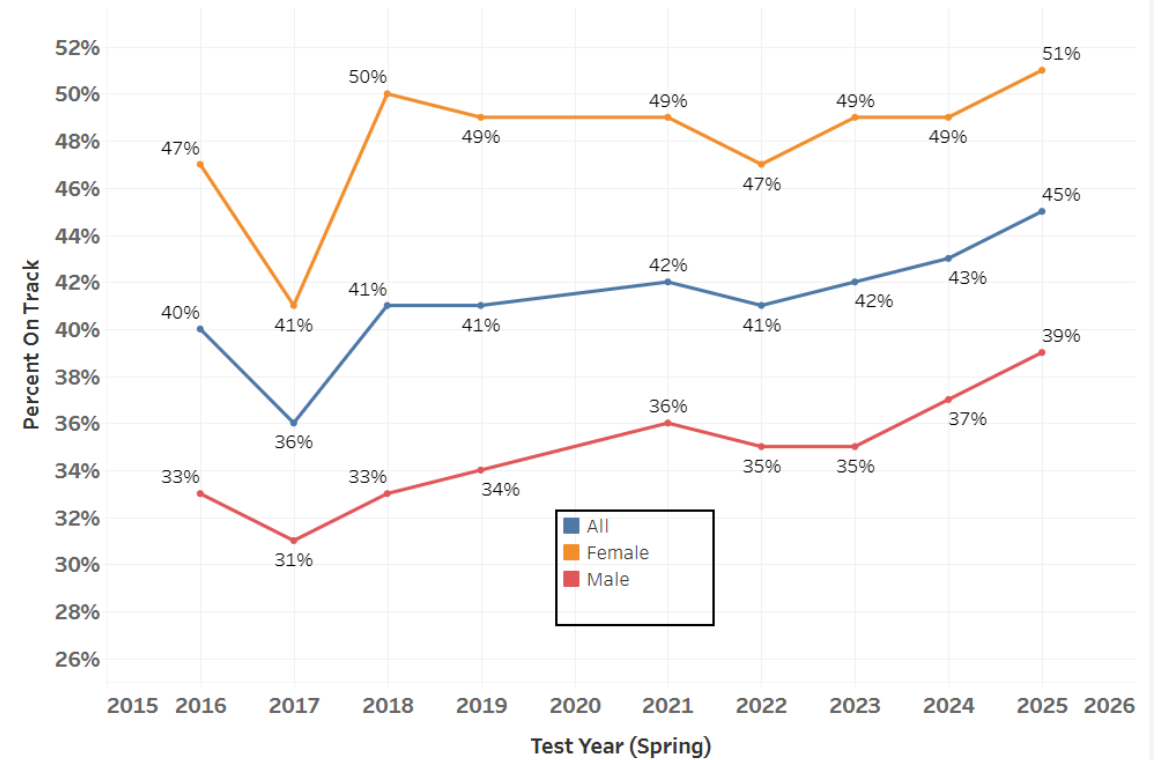


Academic Performance Trends

Eighth Grade Math Trends

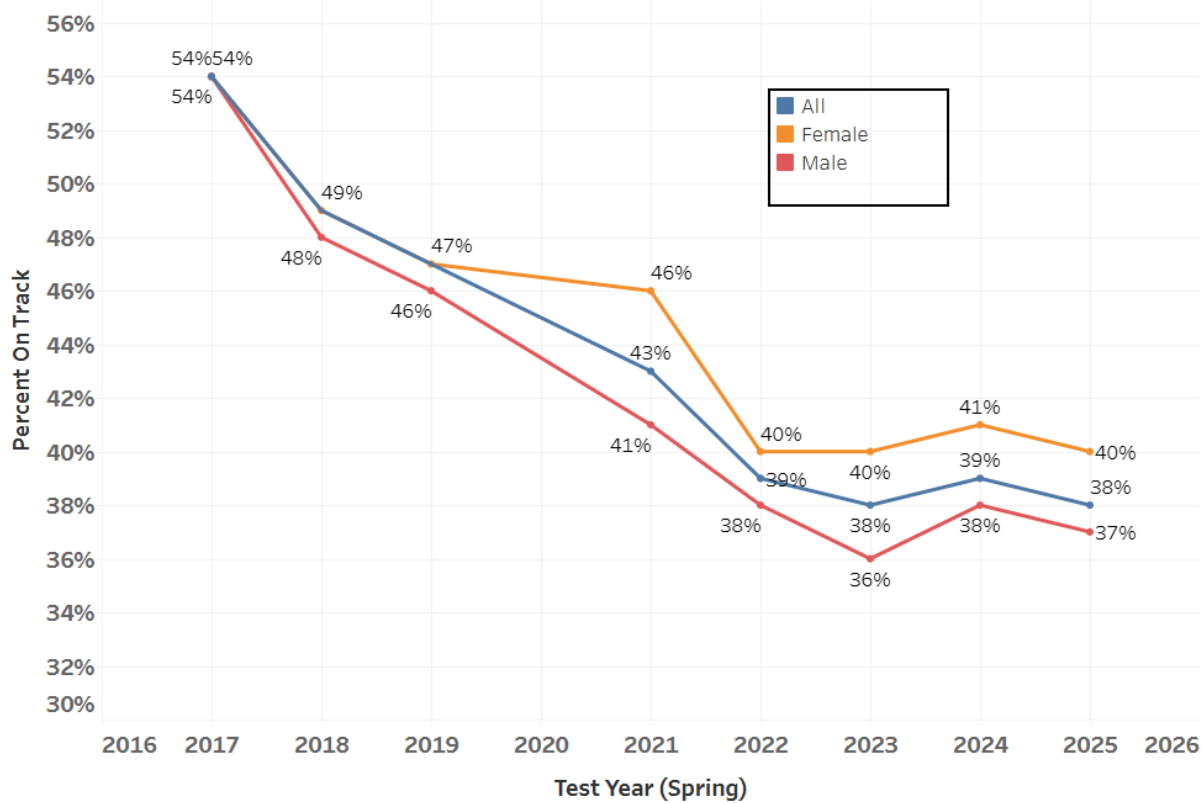


Ninth Grade Success Trends

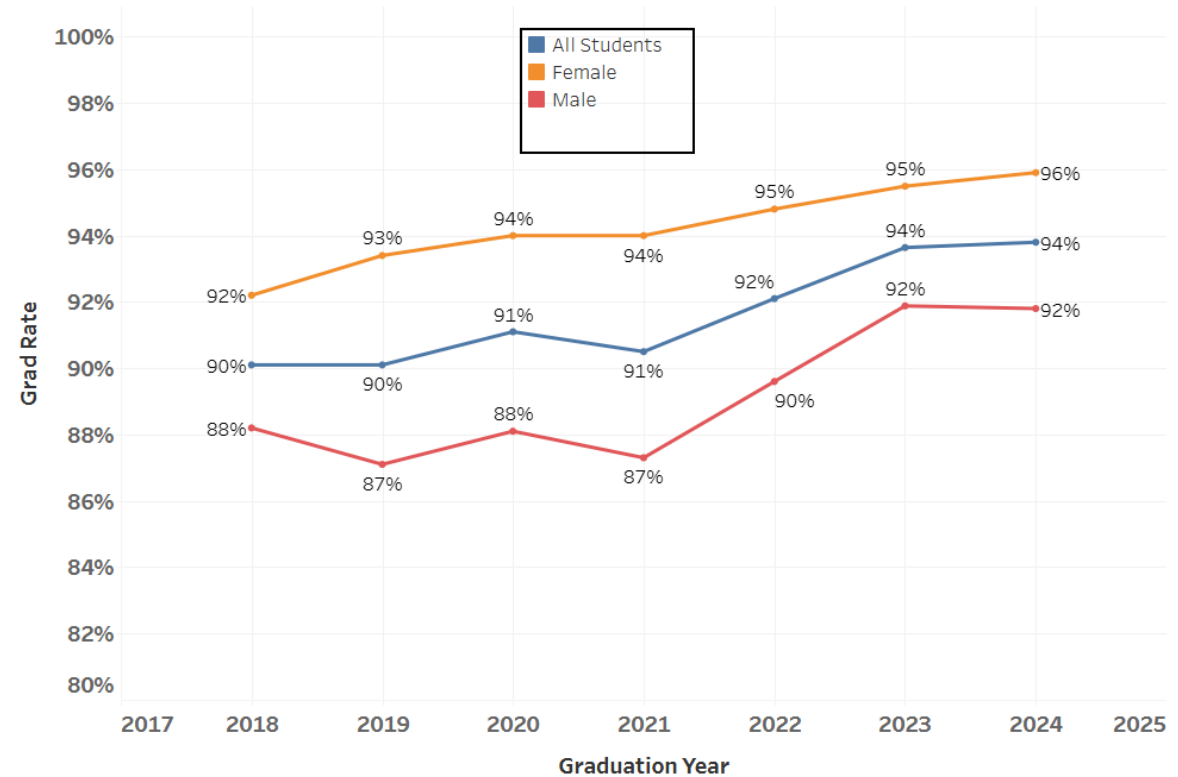


Academic Performance Trends

College & Career Readiness Trends

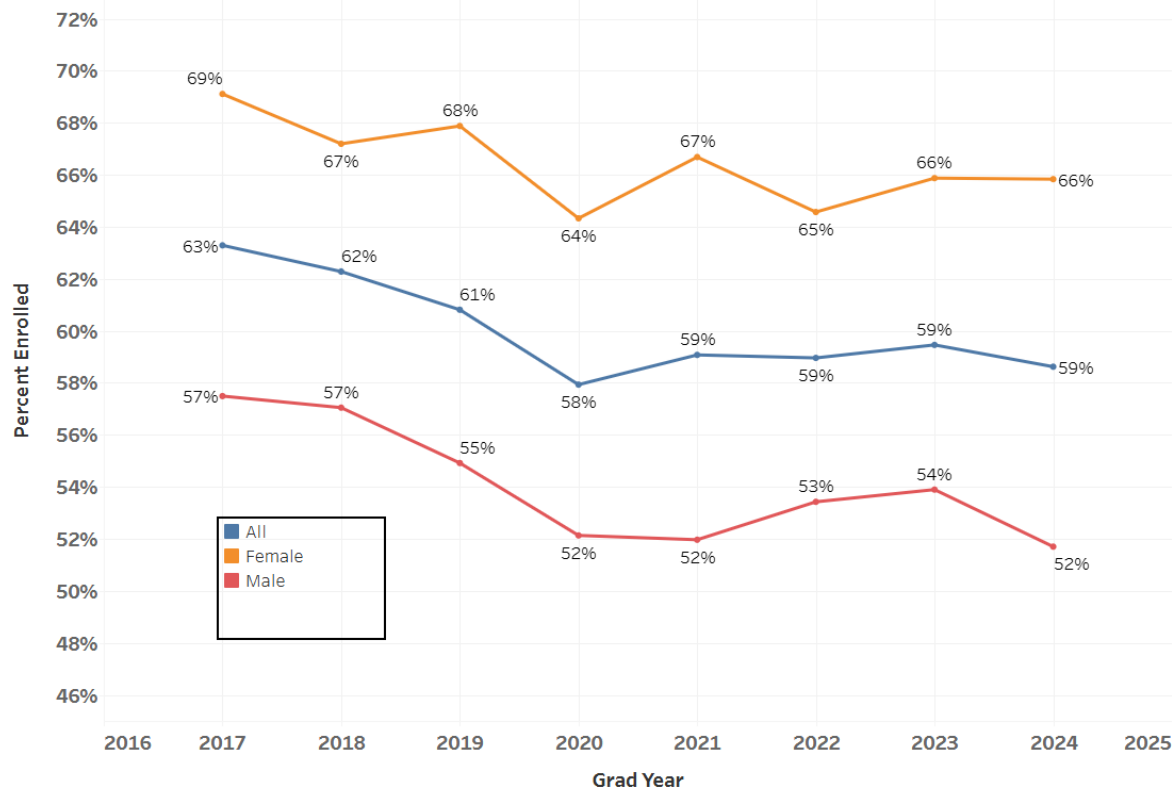


Four Year Graduation Trends

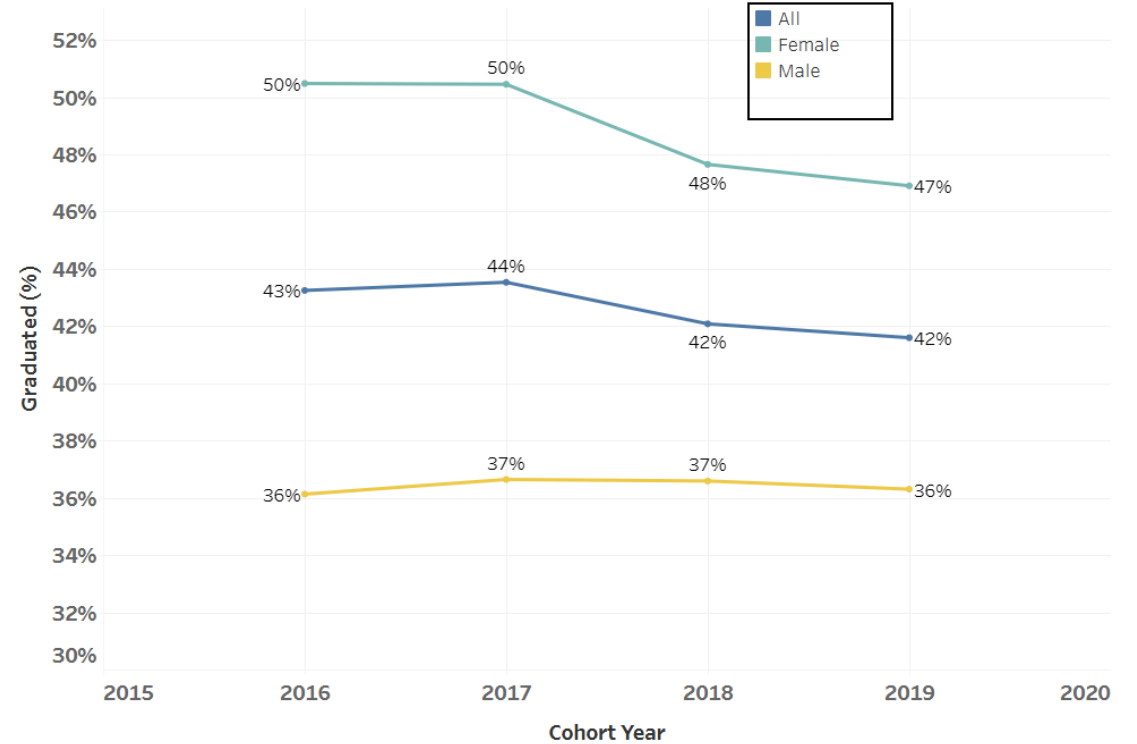


Academic Performance Trends

College Enrollment Trends (Fall After Graduating)

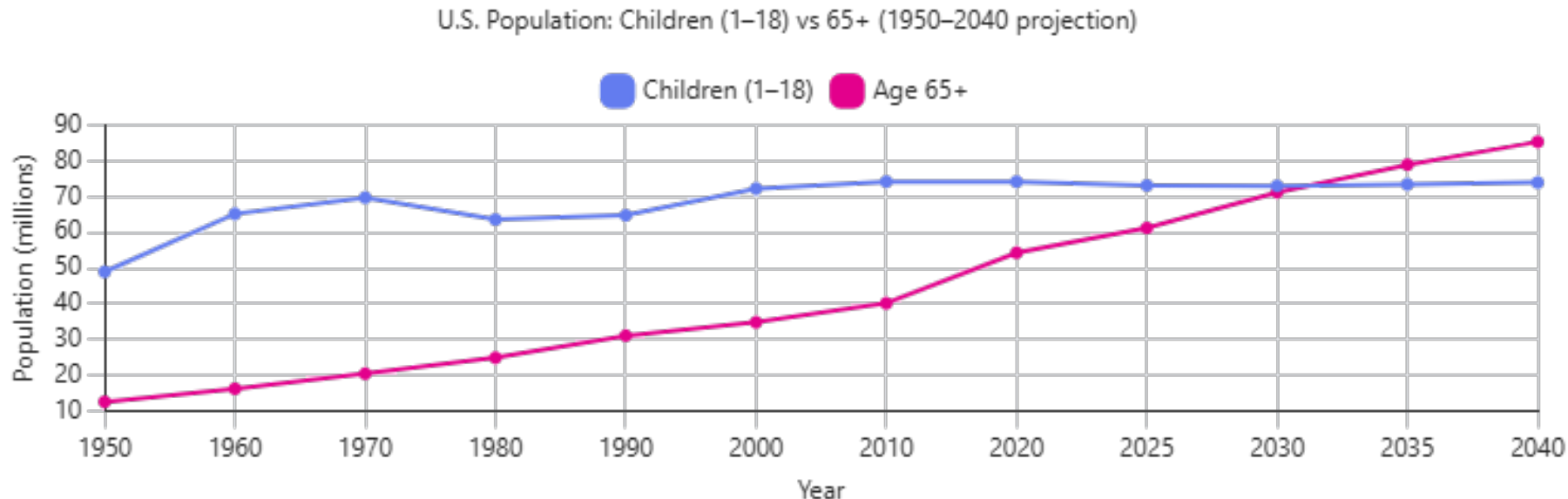


Six-Year College Graduation Rates



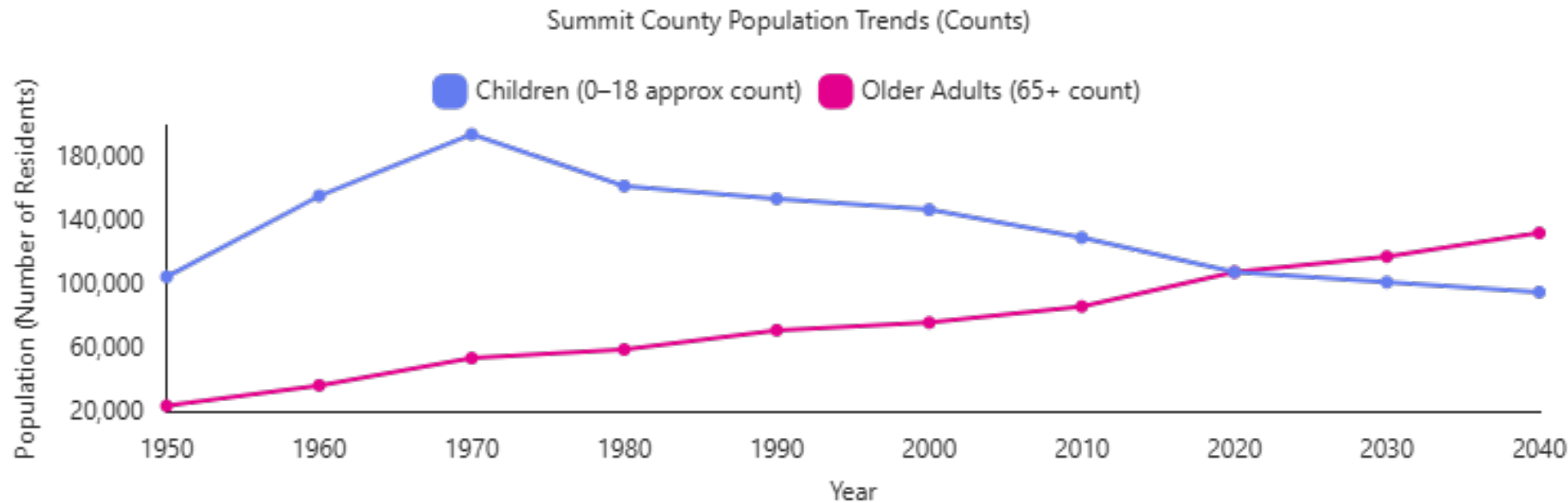
Understanding the Ecosystem

The U.S. Census Bureau identifies 2030 as a “demographic turning point”, when “one in every five Americans is projected to be of retirement age.” [census.gov]



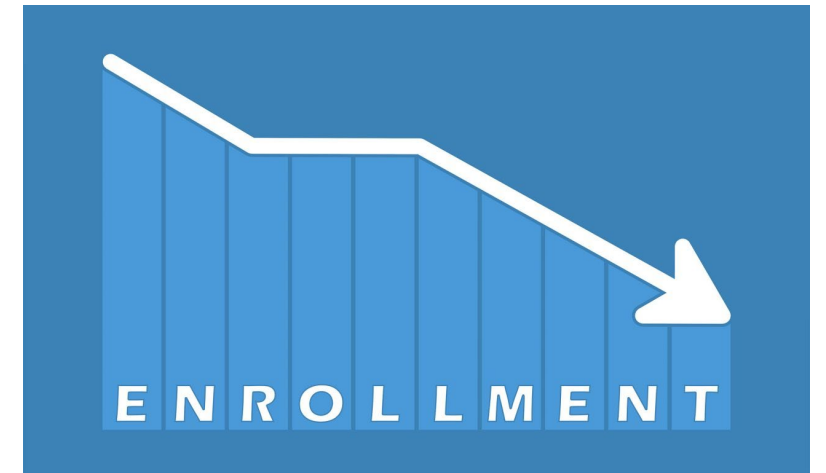
Understanding the Ecosystem

In Summit County, this “turning point” occurred in 2020.

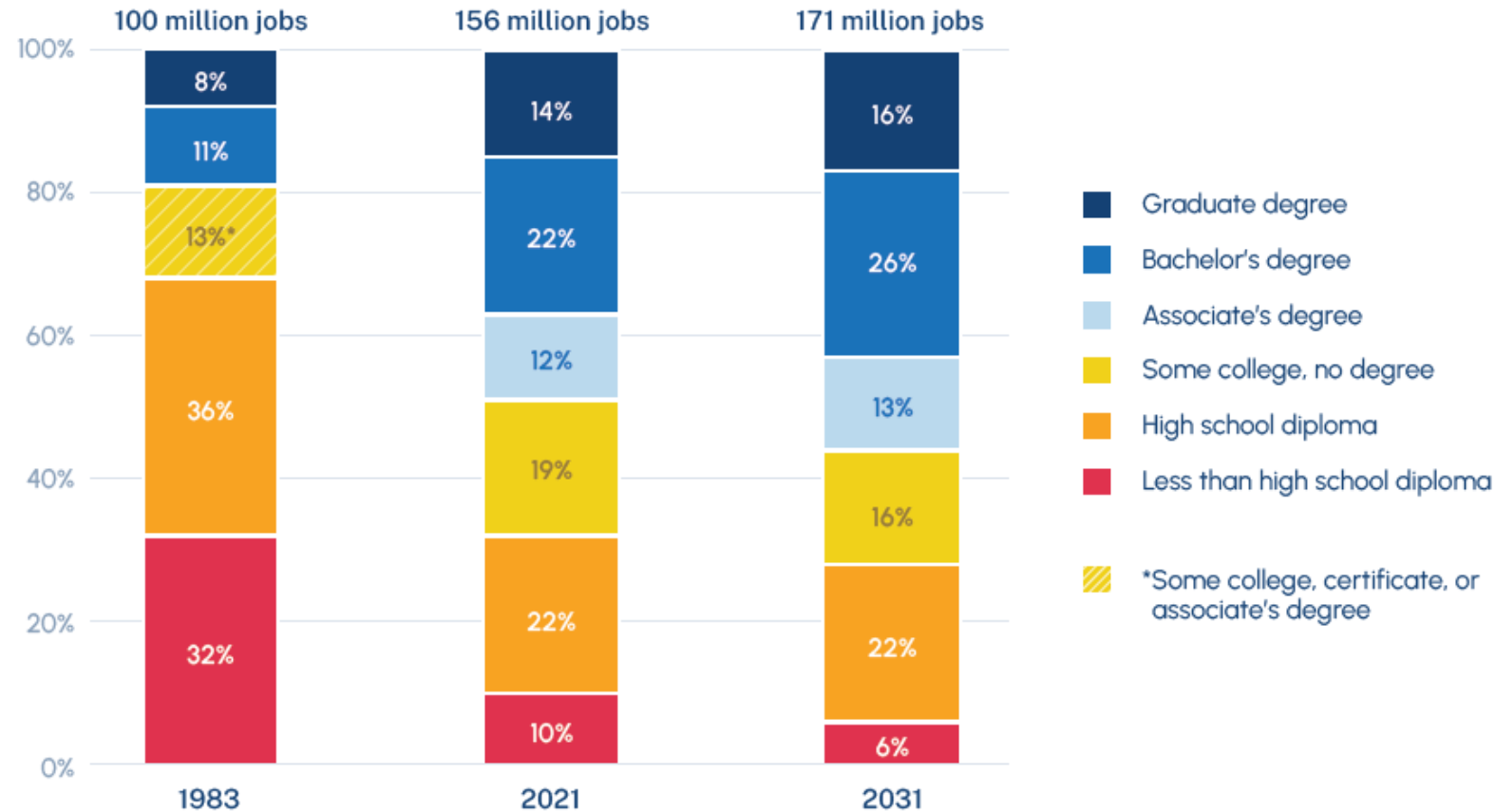


Implications

- 65+ population is rising, retirements are accelerating, and in Summit County, the population of school-age children is declining.
- Fewer young workers are entering the workforce.
- School districts are facing staff reductions and building consolidations due to declining enrollment.
- Colleges are facing enrollment declines and consolidations.



The New Reality



Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce forecast using data from the US Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey (CPS); US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS); US Bureau of Labor Statistics; IHS Markit; Lightcast; and US Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey (CPS), 1983.

What does this all mean?

- The high school diploma is not enough; more education and training will be required to meet skill demands.
- As the worker supply shrinks and the population ages, demand will rise for age-related healthcare jobs.
- K-12 schools and post-secondary institutions will need to focus more on career-connected learning.



What is SEI doing?

- Our two main priorities are supporting high-quality pre-K programming and career-connected learning.
 - ❖ Unified Early Learning System Pilot
 - ❖ College and Career Academies of Akron
 - ❖ Pathways for Accelerated College and Career Experience (PACCE) in Barberton City Schools.



Summary

Future job growth: post-secondary education and training.

High school diploma: lower economic mobility.

Technology: AI and automation risk –manufacturing, wholesale and retail services, construction, and financial services.

Replacing the growing number of retiring workers.

For our youth, career pathways are essential.

Higher academic performance in our schools.





Questions?

For more information, visit us at:

seisummit.org

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