



Fast Facts Report for the Talent Search Program

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What Is the Talent Search Program?

Background

The Talent Search (TS) program is one of the Federal TRIO Programs — a group of seven outreach programs funded by the U.S. Department of Education (Department). The goal of TS is to support students from disadvantaged backgrounds who have the potential to succeed in higher education, and to help these students progress through the academic pipeline from middle school to postsecondary degree attainment. The program provides academic, career, and financial counseling to its participants and encourages them to graduate from high school and continue on to college. TS also encourages individuals who have not completed secondary or postsecondary education to reenter and complete their education.

In 2008, the *Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA)* was signed into law, amending the *Higher Education Act*. The *HEOA* made significant changes to TS (which were implemented during the 2011–16 grant cycle). Most notably, the new law increased the standardization of services across grantees. Under the *HEOA*, the following services are mandatory, though additional ones may also be provided:

- Connecting participants to academic tutoring services;
- Advising and assisting with secondary school course selection and (if applicable) initial postsecondary course selection;
- Assisting with preparation for college entrance examinations and completion of college admissions applications;
- Assisting with financial aid applications;
- Providing guidance on and assistance with secondary school reentry;
- Providing guidance on and assistance with alternative education programs for secondary school dropouts;
- Providing guidance on and assistance with entry into general educational development (GED) programs or postsecondary education; and
- Connecting participants to education or counseling services to improve their financial and economic literacy.

The *HEOA* also increased the duration of the TS funding cycle from a four-year to a five-year period. Grant recipients (i.e., grantees) are institutions of higher education, public and private agencies, and organizations (including community-based organizations) with experience in serving disadvantaged youths and secondary schools. Combinations of such institutions, agencies, and organizations may also apply for grants. These grantees develop and deliver the services directly to participants.

Due to the changes that occurred within the TS program as a result of the *HEOA*, trends in TS program characteristics and outcomes across grant cycles are difficult to interpret. As a result, this report examines program characteristics and outcomes from only the first three years of the 2011–16 grant cycle (2011–12, 2012–13, and 2013–14). A small number of grantees from the 2006–11 grant cycle had grants that extended past 2010–11 even though they were not funded in the 2011–16 grant cycle. Data are reported for these grantees in the years they received funding and provided information about the participants they served.

To increase the intensity of program services for the 2011–16 funding cycle, the U.S. Department of Education reduced the minimum number of participants to be served from 600 (in the 2006–11 cycle) to 500 (in the 2011–16 cycle).

Data Sources

The information in this report comes from four main sources: annual performance reports (APRs), the U.S. Department of Education Federal TRIO Programs Funded Projects Database, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), and the NCES Common Core of Data (CCD).

Results in this report are based on grantees that submitted annual performance reports (APRs) in the given reporting year. In 2011–12, one grantee did not submit an APR. In 2012–13, one grantee relinquished its grant and did not submit an APR.

Every year, TS grantees are required to submit an APR that includes program participants' background information as well as their academic status at the end of the reporting period. Reporting periods correspond to academic years, and for most grantees run from September through the following August. TS grantees report the total number of participants within a number of specific categories — such as gender or postsecondary enrollment status — rather than the status of individual participants.

Information about TS grantees comes from either the Funded Projects Database or the 2013–14 IPEDS. The Funded Projects Database contains program characteristics for TS grantees, such as the amount of funding the grantee received, the number of participants the grantee was funded to serve, and characteristics of the grantees themselves. Additional information about “grantee institutions,” or institutions of higher education that have at least one TS grant, is obtained from the IPEDS, which contains information about every college, university, and technical and vocational institution that participates in federal student financial aid programs. Information about the characteristics of high schools and middle schools that TS participants attend is obtained from the 2013–14 CCD, which annually collects demographic and fiscal data for all public schools in the U.S.

Program Funding

Table 1 shows the funding characteristics of the TS program, as well as the size of the program (as reflected in the number of participants).

- Between 2011–12 (the first program year of the 2011–16 funding cycle) and 2013–14, the number of grantees decreased from 460 to 452 because one grantee that was funded in the current grant cycle relinquished its grant and seven grantees from the previous grant cycle had their program funding end.¹

¹ Eight grantees who submitted APR data in 2011–12 were not funded under the 2011–16 grant cycle, but their grants from the previous grant cycle extended into the current grant cycle. Of these eight grantees, six received program funding through 2011–12, one received program funding through 2012–13, and one received program funding through 2013–14.



- The federal budget sequestration in fall 2013 reduced the total amount of program funding.² As a result, the average funding per grantee decreased from \$300,564 to \$284,443 between 2012–13 and 2013–14. This reduction led to a corresponding decrease in the total number of participants that grantees were funded to serve from 313,141 to 300,505, and in the number of program participants from 316,209 to 305,983.
- For each of the TS grantees, the Department specifies the minimum number of participants that the grantee is funded to serve. In 2012–13 and 2013–14, the number of program participants exceeded the number of participants that grantees were funded to serve. For example, in 2013–14 grantees were funded to serve 300,505 participants and TS grantees served 305,983 participants.

Table 1. Talent Search program funding characteristics, by reporting year: 2011–12 through 2013–14

Program funding characteristics	Reporting year		
	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14
Number of grantees funded	460	453	452
Total program funding	\$138,353,221	\$136,155,365	\$128,568,170
Average funding per grantee	\$300,768	\$300,564	\$284,443
Total number of participants funded to serve	318,191	313,141	300,505
Average number of participants funded to serve per grantee	692	691	665
Total number of program participants	317,345	316,209	305,983
Average number of program participants per grantee	690	698	677
Average cost per participant served	\$436	\$431	\$420

NOTE: This table reflects information from the first three years of the 2011–2016 Talent Search program funding cycle. Results are based on grantees that submitted Talent Search annual performance reports (APRs) in the given reporting year. In 2011–12, one grantee did not submit an APR. In 2012–13, one grantee relinquished its grant and did not submit an APR. In 2013–14, all grantees submitted an APR. Due to the sequestration in the fall of 2013, funding decreased by approximately 5.2 percent between the 2012–13 and 2013–14 funding years.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Federal TRIO Programs, Funded Projects Database, fiscal years 2011, 2012, and 2013; and U.S. Department of Education, Federal TRIO Programs, Talent Search annual performance reports, 2011–12, 2012–13, and 2013–14.

Table 2 presents the number of grantees, number of program participants, total funding, and average cost per participant by reporting year and by type of grantee (i.e., four-year institution, two-year institution, and other organization³).

- In each reporting year, four-year institutions administered the largest number of TS grants, followed by two-year institutions. Correspondingly, a larger number of participants received program services from four-year institutions than from two-year institutions and other organizations. For example, in 2013–14 there were 204 grants awarded to four-year institutions, 160 grants awarded to two-year institutions, and 88 grants awarded to other organizations. In the same year, there were 143,219 program participants at four-year institutions, 101,990 participants at two-year institutions, and 60,774 participants at other organizations.

² Sequestration refers to the automatic cuts to U.S. federal government spending in particular categories of outlays (including education) in fall 2013. Each TRIO program's funding was reduced by 5.2 percent in 2013–14 due to sequestration.

³ The TS program's regulations established eligible entities for grants: institutions of higher education; public or private agencies or organizations, including community-based organizations, with experience in serving disadvantaged youths; secondary schools; and combinations of such institutions, agencies, and organizations. In this report, all grantees that are not institutions of higher education are referred to as "other organizations."



- The average cost per participant was higher at four-year institutions than at the other two types of grantees during the first three years of the 2011–16 grant cycle. For example, in 2013–14, the average cost per program participant was \$426 at four-year institutions, \$418 at two-year institutions, and \$410 at other organizations.

Table 2. Number of Talent Search grantees and program participants, total funding, and average cost per program participant, by reporting year and type of grantee: 2011–12 through 2013–14

Grantee and program funding characteristics	Reporting year		
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Total number of grantees	460	453	452
Four-year institutions	205	204	204
Two-year institutions	161	160	160
Other organizations	94	89	88
Total number of program participants	317,345	316,209	305,983
Four-year institutions	146,506	147,956	143,219
Two-year institutions	104,512	104,961	101,990
Other organizations	66,327	63,292	60,774
Total funding	\$138,353,221	\$136,155,365	\$128,568,170
Four-year institutions	\$64,630,707	\$64,331,058	\$60,966,539
Two-year institutions	\$45,325,582	\$45,022,497	\$42,667,820
Other organizations	\$28,396,932	\$26,801,810	\$24,933,811
Average cost per program participant	\$436	\$431	\$420
Four-year institutions	\$441	\$435	\$426
Two-year institutions	\$434	\$429	\$418
Other organizations	\$428	\$423	\$410

NOTE: This table reflects information from the first three years of the 2011–2016 Talent Search program funding cycle. Results are based on grantees that submitted Talent Search annual performance reports (APRs) in the given reporting year. Due to the sequestration in the fall of 2013, funding decreased by approximately 5.2 percent between the 2012–13 and 2013–14 funding years. “Other organizations” refers to public and private agencies and organizations, including community-based organizations and secondary schools.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Federal TRIO Programs, Funded Projects Database, fiscal years 2011, 2012 and 2013; and U.S. Department of Education, Federal TRIO Programs, Talent Search annual performance reports, 2011–12, 2012–13, and 2013–14.



What Are the Characteristics of Higher Education Institutions With Talent Search Grants?

Table 3 displays the following characteristics of institutions of higher education that administered at least one TS grant (i.e., grantee institutions) in 2013–14: minority-serving institution status; degree of urbanization (i.e., whether the institution is located in an urban, suburban, or rural area); and institutional control (i.e., whether the institution is public or private). To provide context, table 3 also contains information about all public and private, not-for-profit two-year and four-year institutions of higher education included in the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).⁴

- Among grantee institutions, 12 percent of four-year institutions and 3 percent of two-year institutions were Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). In comparison, only 4 percent of all four-year institutions and 1 percent of two-year institutions in the IPEDS subpopulation were HBCUs.
- Eleven percent of four-year grantee institutions and 10 percent of two-year grantee institutions were Hispanic-serving institutions.⁵
- The majority (64 percent) of four-year grantee institutions were located in urban settings (compared with 51 percent for the nation’s four-year institutions in the IPEDS subpopulation). Two-year grantee institutions and two-year institutions in the IPEDS subpopulation were most commonly located in rural settings (45 percent and 44 percent, respectively).
- Over three-quarters (78 percent) of the four-year grantee institutions and all of the two-year grantee institutions were public colleges and universities. This compares with only 28 percent of four-year institutions and 83 percent of two-year institutions in the IPEDS subpopulation.

Table 3. Number and percentage distribution of two- and four-year Talent Search grantee institutions and institutions in the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) subpopulation, by minority-serving institution type, degree of urbanization, and control of institution: 2013–14

Institutional characteristics	Talent Search grantee institutions		Institutions in IPEDS subpopulation	
	Four-year institutions	Two-year institutions	Four-year institutions	Two-year institutions
Number of institutions	169	146	2,270	1,366
Percentage distribution by minority-serving status				
Historically Black Colleges and Universities	11.8	2.7	3.9	0.8
Hispanic-serving institutions	11.2	9.6	–	–
Tribally controlled colleges and universities	0.0	1.4	0.6	1.5
Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions	3.6	5.5	–	–
Institutions classified as serving multiple minority populations	5.9	3.4	–	–
Predominantly black institutions	0.6	2.7	–	–

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⁴ The IPEDS contains information for institutions of higher education; therefore, TS grantees classified as other organizations are excluded from table 3. In addition, for-profit institutions and institutions in which the highest degree offered is less than an associate degree are excluded from this table because zero TS grantees fall into these categories.

⁵ Information about Hispanic-serving institutions is not available in the IPEDS.



Table 3. Number and percentage distribution of two- and four-year Talent Search grantee institutions and institutions in the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) subpopulation, by minority-serving institution type, degree of urbanization, and control of institution: 2013–14

Institutional characteristics	Talent Search grantee institutions		Institutions in IPEDS subpopulation	
	Four-year institutions	Two-year institutions	Four-year institutions	Two-year institutions
Number of institutions	169	146	2,270	1,366
Percentage distribution by degree of urbanization				
Urban	63.9	32.6	50.6	35.5
Suburban	12.4	22.9	26.0	21.0
Rural	23.7	44.5	23.4	43.5
Percentage distribution by institutional control				
Public institution	77.5	100.0	28.0	83.0
Private institution, not-for-profit	22.5	0.0	72.0	17.0

–Not available.

NOTE: The results reported for the Talent Search (TS) grantee institutions include the unique institutions of higher education that administered TS grants in the 2013–14 reporting year. While 29 institutions had two TS grants and seven had at least three TS grants, each institution is counted once in this table. Information about minority-serving institutions and institutional control for grantee institutions was obtained from the Funded Projects Database. Information on degree of urbanization for grantee institutions, and all information for IPEDS institutions, was obtained from the IPEDS. TS grantee institutions are classified as two-year and four-year institutions based on the primary degree awarded at the institution. IPEDS institutions are classified as two-year and four-year institutions based on the highest degree awarded at the institution. IPEDS institutions that awarded bachelor’s degrees and had the Carnegie classification of “Associate’s college” were re-classified as two-year institutions. For-profit institutions and institutions where the highest degree offered is less than an associate degree are excluded from this table because zero TS grantee institutions fall into these categories. In the IPEDS, information on degree of urbanization is reported in four major groupings (city, suburb, town, and rural) based on institutions’ locations relative to urbanized areas. The three town and rural codes (fringe, distant, and remote) constitute the “rural” grouping. For full documentation of the IPEDS variables, please see <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds>. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Fall 2013 Institutional Characteristics survey; and U.S. Department of Education, Federal TRIO Programs, Funded Projects Database, fiscal year 2013.

How Many Target Schools Are Associated With the Talent Search Program?

Table 4 and figure 1 provide information about the number of target schools associated with the TS program. Table 5 and figure 2 provide information about the number of participants who received services from the TS program within target schools.

- Table 4 shows that in 2013–14, TS grantees served participants who collectively attended a total of 4,393 target schools.
- Overall, grantees had a median of eight target schools each.
- Four-year institutions had a median of nine target schools, and two-year institutions had a median of eight. Other organizations had a median of five target schools.

Talent Search grantees primarily serve participants at middle schools or high schools; these are referred to as “target schools.”



Table 4. Number of Talent Search grantees, number of target schools, and median number of target schools per grantee, by type of grantee: 2013–14

Grantee and target school information	Type of grantee			
	Overall	Four-year institutions	Two-year institutions	Other organizations
Number of grantees	452	204	160	88
Number of target schools	4,393	2,080	1,575	738
Median number of target schools per grantee	8	9	8	5

NOTE: Target schools are middle schools or high schools selected by grantees as the focus of Talent Search program services. The total number of target schools is the sum of the number of schools reported by each grantee. Schools that were reported by more than one grantee are included in the results more than once (i.e., once for each reporting grantee). "Other organizations" refers to public and private agencies and organizations, including community-based organizations and secondary schools. The median number of target schools per grantee is the number of target schools at which half of the grantees reported fewer target schools and half of the grantees reported more target schools.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Federal TRIO Programs, Funded Projects Database, fiscal year 2013; and U.S. Department of Education, Federal TRIO Programs, Talent Search annual performance reports, 2013–14.

Figure 1 shows the number of target schools reported by type of grantee. Over one-third (38 percent) of four-year institutions and nearly half (48 percent) of two-year institutions reported from six to 10 target schools. More than half (53 percent) of other organizations reported from one to five target schools.

Figure 1. Number and percentage distribution of target schools, by type of grantee: 2013–14

Four-year institutions (204 grantees)



Two-year institutions (160 grantees)



Other organizations (88 grantees)



0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

■ 1 to 5 schools ■ 6 to 10 schools ■ 11 to 20 schools ■ 21 or more schools

NOTE: Target schools are middle schools or high schools selected by grantees as the focus of Talent Search program services. Schools that were reported by more than one grantee are included in the results more than once (i.e., once for each reporting grantee). "Other organizations" refers to public and private agencies and organizations, including community-based organizations and secondary schools. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Federal TRIO Programs, Funded Projects Database, fiscal year 2013; and U.S. Department of Education, Federal TRIO Programs, Talent Search annual performance reports, 2013–14.



Table 5 shows the total number of program participants in all target schools and the average number of participants per target school by type of grantee.⁶

- In 2013–14, the TS program provided services to 293,823 students who collectively attended 4,393 target schools.
- On average, TS grantees served 67 participants per target school. Fewer participants per target school were served by two-year institutions (63 participants) and four-year institutions (66 participants) than by other organizations (77 participants), on average.

Table 5. Number of target schools, number of participants served in target schools, and average number of program participants per target school, by type of grantee: 2013–14

Number of target schools and participants served in target schools	Type of grantee			
	Overall	Four-year institutions	Two-year institutions	Other organizations
Number of target schools	4,393	2,080	1,575	738
Number of participants served in target schools	293,823	137,192	99,655	56,976
Average number of program participants per target school	67	66	63	77

NOTE: Target schools are middle schools or high schools selected by grantees as the focus of Talent Search program services. The total number of target schools is the sum of the number of schools reported by each grantee. Schools that were reported by more than one grantee are included in the results more than once (i.e., once for each reporting grantee). “Other organizations” refers to public and private agencies and organizations, including community-based organizations and secondary schools. Fewer than 5 percent of participants in 2013–14 received program services outside of the school setting (not shown in this table).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Federal TRIO Programs, Funded Projects Database, fiscal year 2013; and U.S. Department of Education, Federal TRIO Programs, Talent Search annual performance reports, 2013–14.

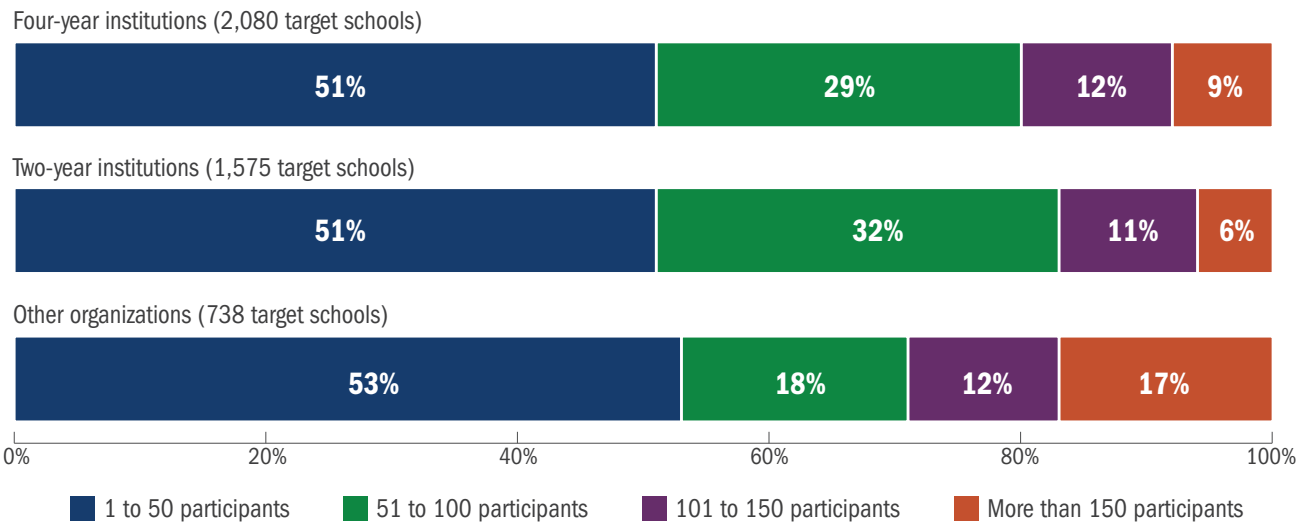
The number of program participants per target school is examined in more detail in figure 2.

- More than half of target schools across all three types of grantees had 50 or fewer participants.
- Nine percent of target schools associated with four-year institutions and 6 percent of target schools associated with two-year institutions had more than 150 participants. In contrast, 17 percent of the target schools associated with other organizations had more than 150 participants.

⁶ A majority of Talent Search participants are served within target schools each year, with fewer than 5 percent of participants in 2013–14 receiving program services outside of the school setting. Table 5 presents information about the participants served through the 4,393 target schools.



Figure 2. Percentage distribution of target schools by the number of participants, within type of grantee: 2013-14



NOTE: Target schools are middle schools or high schools selected by grantees as the focus of Talent Search program services. The total number of target schools is the sum of the number of schools reported by each grantee. Schools that were reported by more than one grantee are included in the results more than once (i.e., once for each reporting grantee). "Other organizations" refers to public and private agencies and organizations, including community-based organizations and secondary schools. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Federal TRIO Programs, Funded Projects Database, fiscal year 2013; and U.S. Department of Education, Federal TRIO Programs, Talent Search annual performance reports, 2013-14.

Table 6 shows characteristics of TS target schools alongside information for all schools in the Common Core of Data (CCD) serving students in any grade level between eight and 12.⁷

- Overall, target schools were more likely than schools in the CCD subpopulation to have a student population in which more than half of the students were underrepresented minorities⁸ (47 percent of target schools compared with 34 percent of schools in the CCD subpopulation).
- Eighty percent of target schools had a student population in which more than half of the students qualified for free or reduced-price lunch, an indicator of low-income status, compared with 54 percent of schools in the CCD subpopulation.
- More target schools and schools in the CCD subpopulation were located in rural areas (53 percent of target schools; 46 percent of schools in the CCD subpopulation) than in urban or suburban areas.

Table 6. Percentage of target schools and percentage of schools in the Common Core of Data (CCD) subpopulation that served any grade level between eight and 12, by certain school characteristics: 2013-14

School characteristics	Percent of target schools	Percent of schools in the CCD subpopulation
Schools in which more than half of the students are underrepresented minority students	47.2	33.6
Schools in which more than half of the students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch	80.3	53.6

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⁷ Because TS predominately serves middle school and high school students, the sample of schools selected from the CCD for this comparison includes all schools that reported the enrollment of students who were in any grade level between eight and 12.

⁸ Underrepresented minorities include African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders.



Table 6. Percentage of target schools and percentage of schools in the Common Core of Data (CCD) subpopulation that served any grade level between eight and 12, by certain school characteristics: 2013–14

School characteristics	Percent of target schools	Percent of schools in the CCD subpopulation
Degree of urbanization		
Urban	30.4	26.9
Suburban	16.2	27.1
Rural	53.4	46.0

NOTE: Underrepresented minorities include African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders. Target schools are middle schools or high schools selected by grantees as the focus of Talent Search program services. The Common Core of Data (CCD) subpopulation includes all schools in the 2013–14 academic year that reported serving any grade level between eight and 12. Characteristics of target schools are reported for unique target schools; therefore, a school reported by more than one grantee is counted only once. This table excludes 16 private target schools and 23 target schools located in Micronesia and Palau, because the CCD does not contain information for these schools. In addition, this table excludes 53 target schools with identifying information that did not link to the CCD data. In the CCD, information on the degree of urbanization is reported by four major groupings (city, suburb, town, and rural) based on the schools' locations relative to urbanized areas. The three town and rural codes (fringe, distant, and remote) together constitute the "rural" grouping. For full documentation of the CCD variables, please see <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/>. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Federal TRIO Programs, Talent Search annual performance reports, 2013–14; and U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), 2013–14.

Who Are the Talent Search Program Participants?

Table 7 shows the characteristics of the TS participants for the 2013–14 reporting year.

- The majority of TS participants (75 percent) were from low-income families and were also potentially first-generation students.⁹
- Sixty-one percent of TS participants were female.
- Thirty percent of program participants were African American, 26 percent were Hispanic, and 30 percent were white.
- Three-quarters of participants (75 percent) were between 14 and 18 years of age, and nearly one-quarter (23 percent) were younger than 14 years of age.
- Twenty-seven percent of participants were enrolled in middle school (grades six through eight), 52 percent of participants were high school non-seniors (grades nine through 11), and 21 percent were high school seniors (grade 12).

⁹ Talent Search grantees must provide assurances that at least two-thirds of participants will be low-income individuals who are potentially first-generation college students. "Low income" refers to an individual whose family's taxable income did not exceed 150 percent of the poverty level in the calendar year preceding the year in which the individual initially participated in the project. "Potentially first-generation college status" refers to an individual neither of whose natural or adoptive parents received a baccalaureate degree, or a student who, prior to the age of 18, regularly resided with and received support from only one natural or adoptive parent and whose supporting parent did not receive a baccalaureate degree, or an individual who, prior to the age of 18, did not regularly reside with or receive support from a natural or an adoptive parent.



Table 7. Number and percentage distribution of Talent Search participants, by socioeconomic status, gender, race and ethnicity, age, and academic status: 2013–14

Participant characteristics	Number of participants	Percent
Socioeconomic status		
Low income and potentially first generation	228,509	74.7
Low income only	22,458	7.3
Potentially first generation only	37,909	12.4
Neither low income nor potentially first generation	17,107	5.6
Gender		
Female	185,480	60.6
Male	120,503	39.4
Race and ethnicity		
American Indian or Alaska Native	10,934	3.6
Asian	12,347	4.0
Black or African American	92,260	30.2
Hispanic or Latino of any race	80,082	26.2
White	92,757	30.3
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	3,796	1.2
Two or more races	11,984	3.9
Race and ethnicity unknown	1,823	0.6
Age		
Between 10 and 13 years of age	69,633	22.8
Between 14 and 18 years of age	229,781	75.1
Between 19 and 27 years of age	5,859	1.9
28 years of age or above	263	0.1
Unknown age	447	0.1
Academic status		
Middle school (grades 6–8)	82,646	27.0
High school non-senior (grades 9–11)	158,508	51.8
High school senior (grade 12 only)	62,812	20.5
Participant not older than 18 years enrolled in an alternative education program at an academic level equivalent to that of a high school senior	529	0.2
Postsecondary dropout	112	#
Other/Unknown academic status	1,376	0.4

Rounds to zero.

NOTE: Talent Search grantees must provide assurances that at least two-thirds of participants will be low-income individuals who are potentially first-generation college students. “Low income” refers to an individual whose family’s taxable income did not exceed 150 percent of the poverty level in the calendar year preceding the year in which the individual initially participated in the project. “Potentially first-generation college status” refers to an individual neither of whose natural or adoptive parents received a baccalaureate degree, or a student who, prior to the age of 18, regularly resided with and received support from only one natural or adoptive parent and whose supporting parent did not receive a baccalaureate degree, or an individual who, prior to the age of 18, did not regularly reside with or receive support from a natural or an adoptive parent. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Federal TRIO Programs, Talent Search annual performance reports, 2013–14.



What Are the Talent Search Program Outcomes?

The financial aid application rate is the percentage of high school seniors who completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) during the reporting year.

The *Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA)* mandates reporting on the performance of each TRIO program. The resultant data are published annually on the TRIO website (for TS see <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/triotalent/grantee-level.html>). The TS *GPRA* report is based on APR data and includes two measures of performance outcomes that are reported at the program level and at the grantee level.

The two performance outcomes in the *GPRA* report are the financial aid application rate (i.e., the percentage of high school senior participants who applied for financial aid) and the postsecondary enrollment rate (i.e., the percentage of college-ready participants who enrolled in postsecondary education). In addition to these two outcomes, the types of institutions of higher education (e.g., four-year institutions, two-year institutions) in which participants enrolled are reported below.

Program Outcomes: 2011–12 Through 2013–14

Table 8 displays the financial aid application and postsecondary enrollment outcomes for TS participants between 2011–12 and 2013–14.

- Between 2011–12 and 2013–14, 84 to 85 percent of high school seniors applied for financial aid.
- Over the same reporting years, about 80 percent of college-ready seniors enrolled in institutions of higher education.

The postsecondary enrollment rate is the percentage of college-ready seniors who enrolled in postsecondary education by the fall term immediately following high school graduation, or by the next academic term if the accepting institution deferred the participant’s enrollment. “College-ready” participants are high school seniors who received a high school diploma or alternative certification during the reporting year.

Table 8. Number and percentage of Talent Search participants who applied for financial aid and number and percentage of participants who enrolled in postsecondary institutions, by reporting year: 2011–12 through 2013–14

Program outcomes	Reporting year		
	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14
Financial aid			
Participating high school seniors	63,365	63,752	62,812
Participating high school seniors who applied for financial aid	53,818	53,416	53,079
Financial aid application rate	84.9%	83.8%	84.5%

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Table 8. Number and percentage of Talent Search participants who applied for financial aid and number and percentage of participants who enrolled in postsecondary institutions, by reporting year: 2011–12 through 2013–14

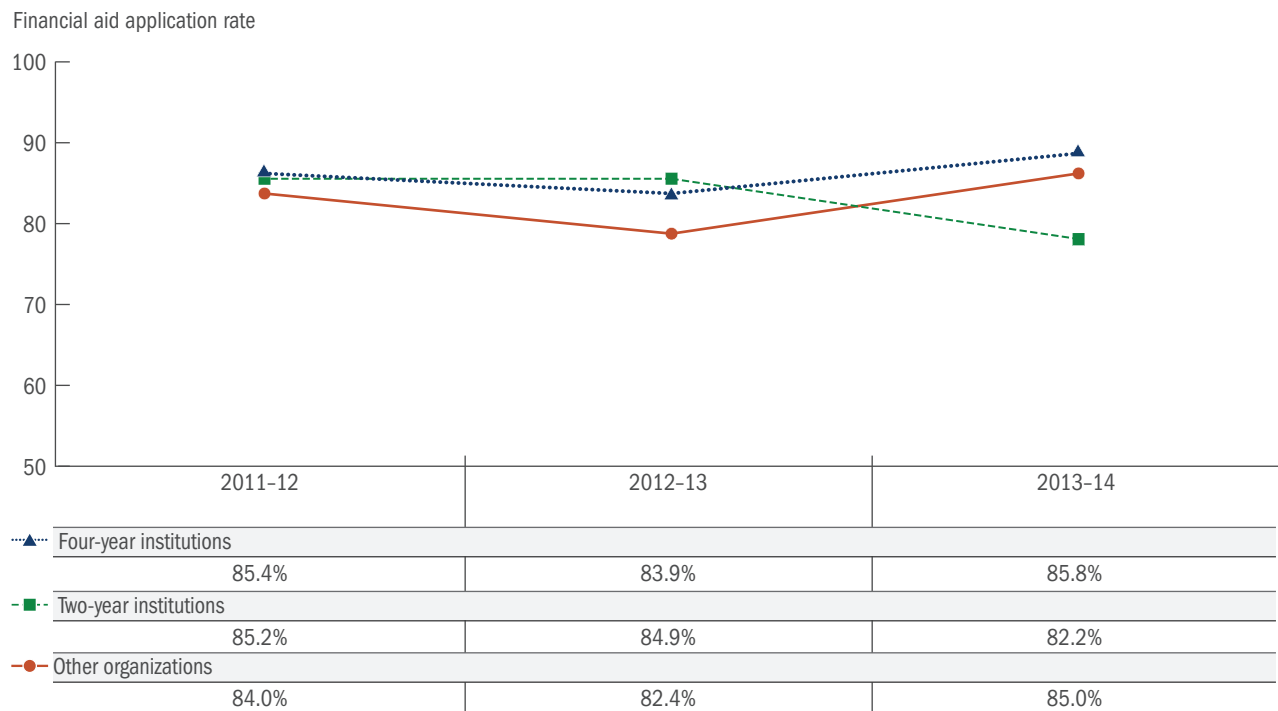
Program outcomes	Reporting year		
	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14
Postsecondary enrollment			
College-ready participants	61,695	62,057	61,183
College-ready participants who enrolled in postsecondary education	49,235	50,023	48,750
Postsecondary enrollment rate	79.8%	80.6%	79.7%

NOTE: This table reflects information from the first three years of the 2011–16 Talent Search program funding cycle. Results are based on grantees that submitted Talent Search annual performance reports (APRs) in the given reporting year. The financial aid application rate is calculated as the percentage of high school seniors who completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). College-ready participants are high school seniors who received a regular diploma or an alternative award (e.g., certificate of attendance, high school equivalency certificate) during the reporting year. The postsecondary enrollment rate is calculated as the percentage of college-ready participants who enrolled in postsecondary education by the fall term immediately following high school completion or by the next academic term if the institution deferred the participant’s enrollment.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Federal TRIO Programs, Talent Search annual performance reports, 2011–12, 2012–13, and 2013–14.

Figure 3 displays the financial aid application rate by type of grantee for reporting periods between 2011–12 and 2013–14.

Figure 3. Financial aid application rate among high school senior Talent Search participants, by type of grantee and reporting year: 2011–12 through 2013–14



NOTE: This figure reflects information from the first three years of the 2011–16 Talent Search program funding cycle. Results are based on grantees that submitted Talent Search annual performance reports (APRs) in the given reporting year. “Other organizations” refers to public and private agencies and organizations, including community-based organizations and secondary schools. The financial aid application rate is calculated as the percentage of high school seniors who completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Federal TRIO Programs, Funded Projects Database, fiscal years 2011, 2012, and 2013; and U.S. Department of Education, Federal TRIO Programs, Talent Search annual performance reports, 2011–12, 2012–13, and 2013–14.



- Between 2011–12 and 2012–13, there was a decrease in the financial aid application rate for four-year institutions, from 85 percent to 84 percent; however, this rate increased to 86 percent in 2013–14.
- Two-year institutions experienced a decrease in the financial aid application rate from 85 percent to 82 percent between 2011–12 and 2013–14.
- Other organizations also had a decrease in the financial aid application rate between 2011–12 and 2012–13, from 84 percent to 82 percent; however, the rate increased to 85 percent in 2013–14.

Figure 4 illustrates the postsecondary enrollment rate by type of grantee for reporting periods between 2011–12 and 2013–14.

- The postsecondary enrollment rate for college-ready participants served by four-year institutions remained constant at approximately 80 percent across the three years.
- In two-year institutions, the postsecondary enrollment rate for college-ready participants declined from 80 percent to 77 percent between 2011–12 and 2013–14.
- Other organizations experienced an increase in the postsecondary enrollment rate among college-ready participants, from 79 percent in 2011–12 to 82 percent in 2013–14.

Figure 4. Postsecondary enrollment rate among college-ready Talent Search participants, by type of grantee and reporting year: 2011–12 through 2013–14



NOTE: This figure reflects information from the first three years of the 2011–16 Talent Search program funding cycle. Results are based on grantees that submitted Talent Search annual performance reports (APRs) in the given reporting year. College-ready participants are high school seniors who received a regular diploma or an alternative award (e.g., certificate of attendance, high school equivalency certificate) during the reporting year. “Other organizations” refers to public and private agencies and organizations, including community-based organizations and secondary schools. The postsecondary enrollment rate is calculated as the percentage of college-ready participants who enrolled in postsecondary education by the fall term immediately following high school completion or by the next academic term if the institution deferred the participant’s enrollment.

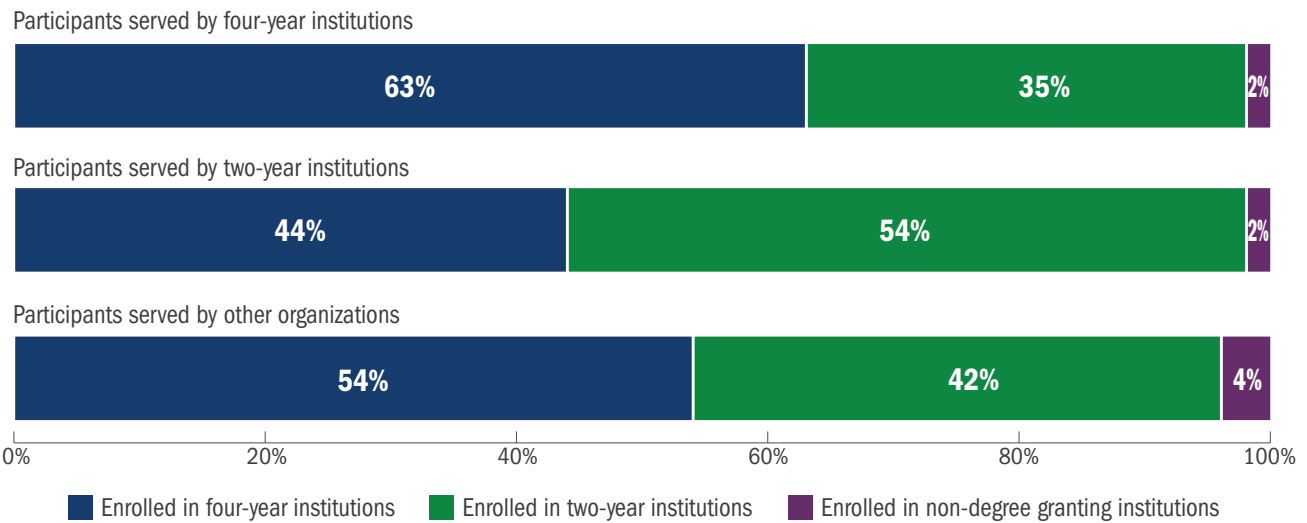
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Federal TRIO Programs, Funded Projects Database, fiscal years 2011, 2012, and 2013; and U.S. Department of Education, Federal TRIO Programs, Talent Search annual performance reports, 2011–12, 2012–13, and 2013–14.



Figure 5 examines the types of postsecondary institutions in which TS participants enrolled after graduating from high school. Among participants who enrolled in postsecondary education, figure 5 shows the percentage who enrolled in (1) four-year institutions, (2) two-year institutions, and (3) “non-degree granting” institutions (referring to vocational, trade, and proprietary institutions, as well as institutions of an unknown type) during the 2013–14 reporting year.¹⁰

- The majority of participants served by four-year institutions who enrolled in postsecondary education did so in four-year institutions of higher education (63 percent), while 35 percent enrolled in two-year institutions.
- The majority of participants served by two-year institutions who enrolled in postsecondary education did so in two-year institutions (54 percent), while 44 percent enrolled in four-year institutions.
- Participants served by other organizations who enrolled in postsecondary education were more likely to enroll in four-year institutions (54 percent) than in two-year institutions (42 percent).

Figure 5. Percentage distribution of Talent Search participants who enrolled in postsecondary education, by type of postsecondary institution and type of grantee: 2013–14



NOTE: Percentages were calculated based on the number of participants who enrolled in postsecondary education by the fall term immediately following high school completion or by the next academic term if the institution deferred the participant’s enrollment. Participants enrolled in non-degree granting institutions include participants enrolled in vocational, trade, or proprietary institutions, as well as participants enrolled in an institution of an unknown type. “Other organizations” refers to public and private agencies and organizations, including community-based organizations and secondary schools. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Federal TRIO Programs, Funded Projects Database, fiscal year 2013; and U.S. Department of Education, Federal TRIO Programs, Talent Search annual performance reports, 2013–14.

¹⁰ Similar results were seen in the 2011–12 and 2012–13 reporting years.



About the Study

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