



Work Ready Dual Credit Scholarship

The Work Ready Dual Credit Scholarship Program (WKDC), a portion of the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship provides aid to qualifying students to pursue dual credit while in high school for eligible programs. In this report, we analyze participation rates, demographics, and postsecondary outcomes in the 2019 and 2020 cohorts.



In 2019 & 2020, 11.0% of WKDC recipients earned a postsecondary degree by high school graduation as compared to 1.3% of all 2019 high school graduates. 2020 rates for all high school graduates are not yet available for comparison.



The participation rate in WKDC more than doubled between 2019 and 2020, with the largest increases among 11th and 12th grade students.



Of all WKDC recipients, 44.8% were considered economically disadvantaged in 2019 and 46.1% in 2020, whereas, for all high school statewide, rates were 60.7% and 60.8%, respectively.



Of all racial/ethnic groups of students, the relative number of black female students who participated increased the most from 2019 to 2020.



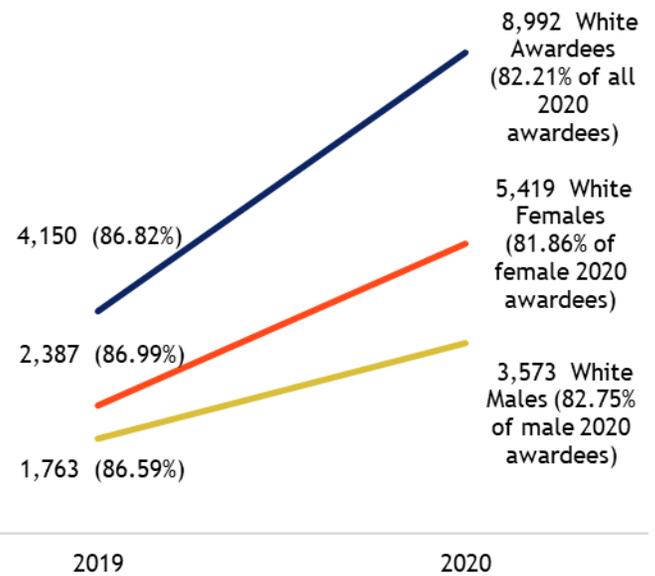
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The Work Ready Dual Credit Scholarship recipients saw several changes between its implementation in 2019 and in 2020. From 2019 to 2020, the number of individuals in the WKDC program increased from almost 5,000 students to just under 11,000; an increase of 129%.

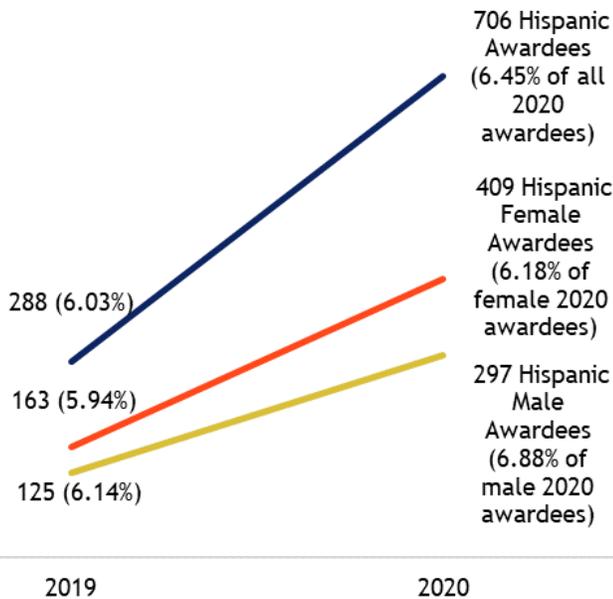
The slope graphs display the increases in WKDC students from 2019 to 2020 by race/ethnicity and gender¹. The racial diversity of the WKDC participants increased, going from 87% White, non-Hispanic in 2019 to 82% in 2020, compared to Black, non-Hispanic participation increasing from 3.6% in 2019 to 6.6% in 2020.

Additionally, there were more female (2,744) than male students (2,036) in 2019. This disparity became even more pronounced in 2020 as female awardees increased by a greater percentage than male awardees (141% increase to 6,620 vs 112% increase to 4,318).

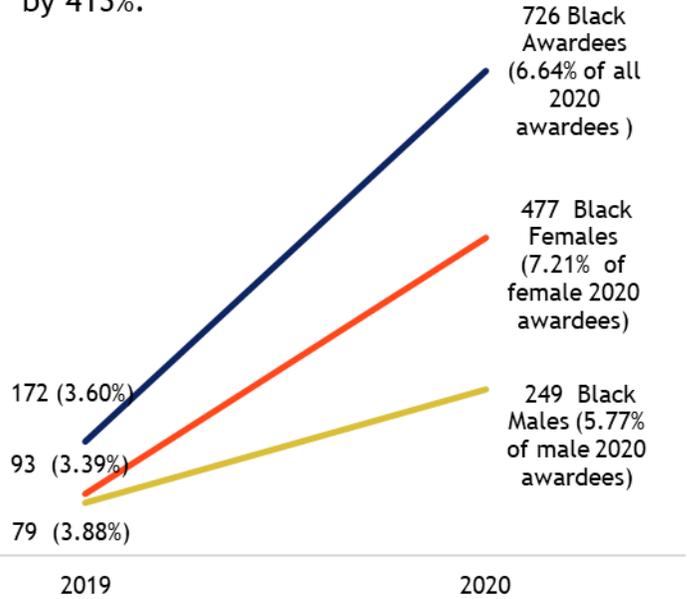
White awardees overall portion of awards dropped from 87% to 82%.



Hispanic overall participation increased by 145% from 2019 to 2020.



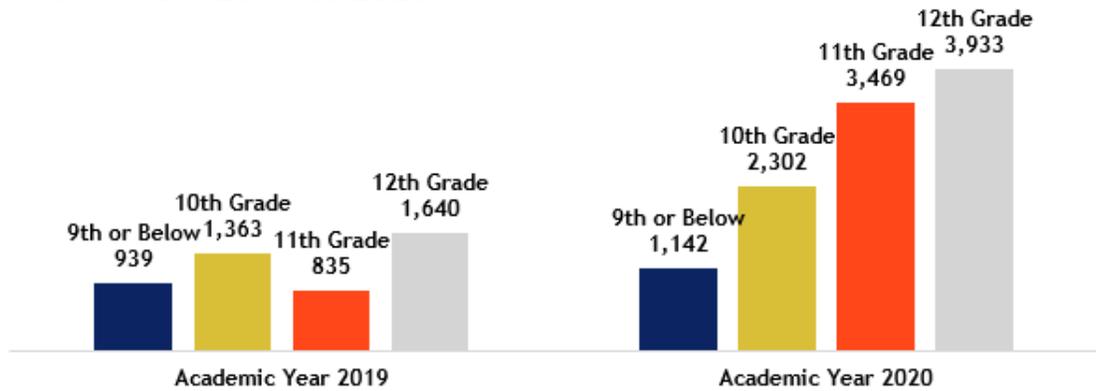
Black females increased the most of all groups by 413%.



¹ In the appendix there are both a table and the remaining slope graphs.

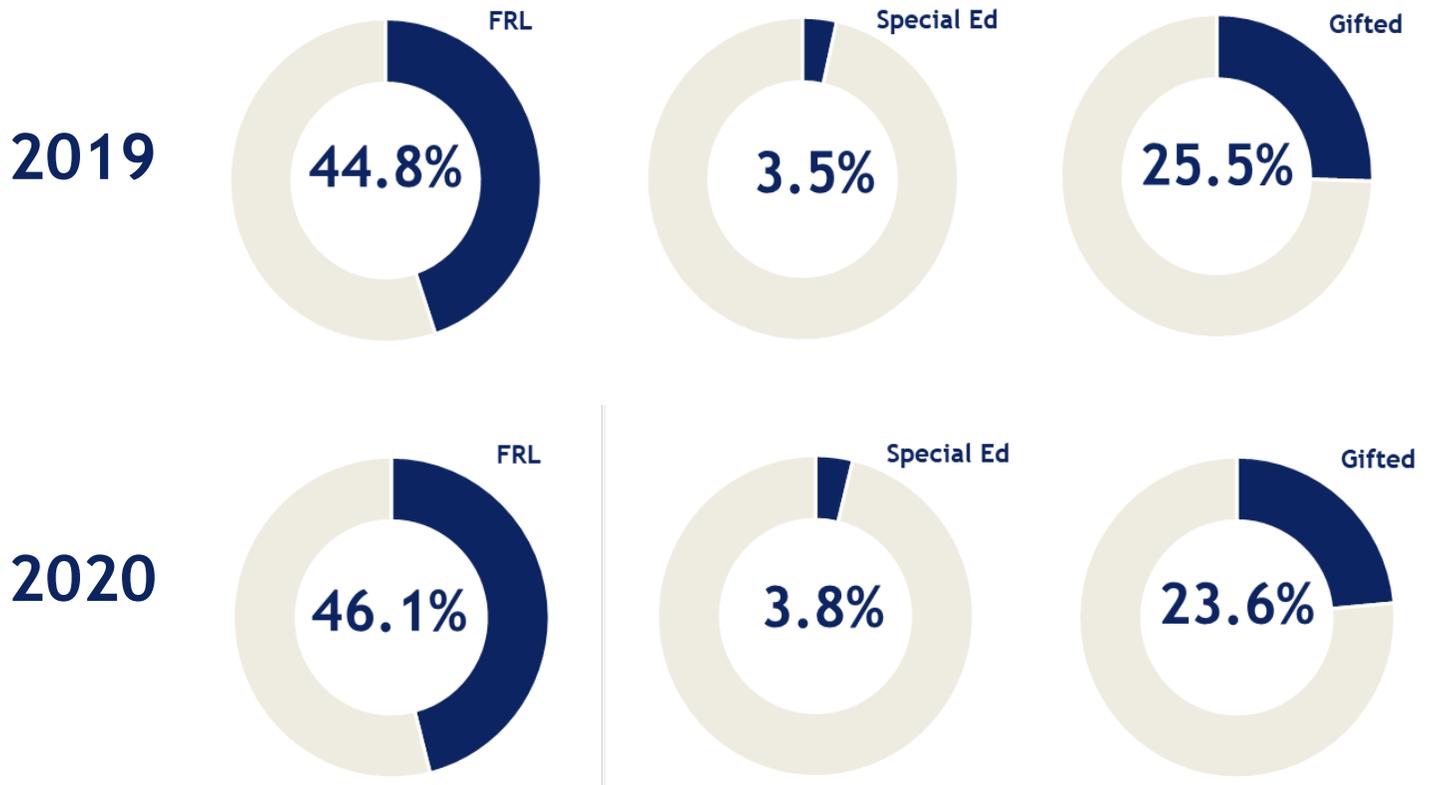
WKDC awards could be received in any grade during high school, with distributions varying between 2019 and 2020. The most dramatic increase in awardees occurred among 11th graders, increasing by more than 300% year over year².

Awards given to 11th and 12th graders increased by 300% from 2019 to 2020.



Economically disadvantaged (as measured by free-or-reduced-price lunch qualification), special education, and gifted students were awarded WKDC scholarships at similar rates in 2019 and 2020. By comparison, in both 2019 and 2020, just over 60% of Kentucky public school students were considered economically disadvantaged, over 16% were students with a disability, and almost 15% of students were identified as gifted and talented. (Source: KDE School Report Card)

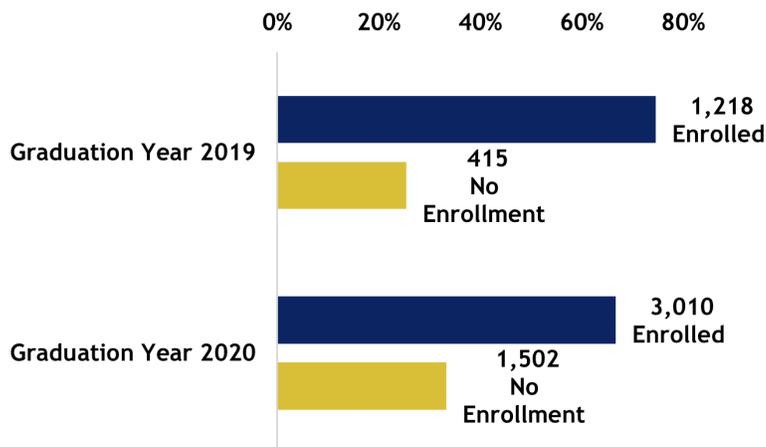
The proportion of FRL, Special Education, and Gifted and Talented students in the WKDC program remained stable from 2019 to 2020.



² Not all awardees were found in the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) data for reasons such as, students in private school may also receive the scholarship.

Immediate Postsecondary Enrollment After HS Graduation

Of the 2019 graduates, 74.6% enrolled in postsecondary in the 2020 AY.

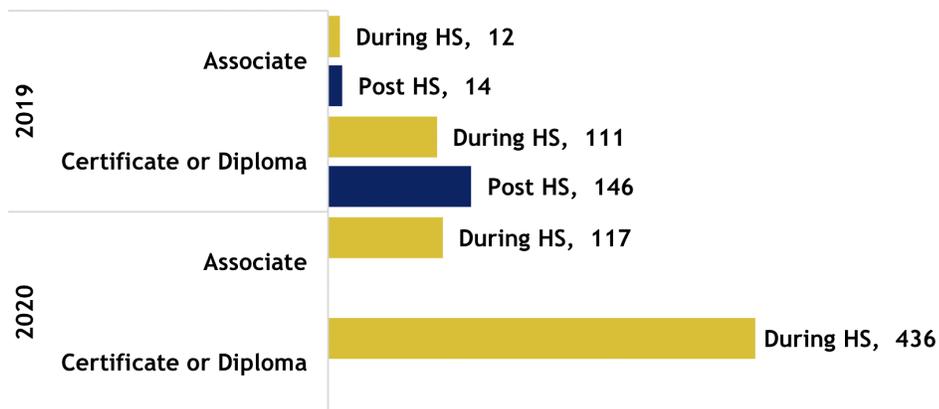


Awardees who graduated high school in 2019 or 2020 went on to enroll in a Kentucky postsecondary institution at rates of 74.6% and 66.7%, respectively, in the academic year immediately following high school graduation. For reference, the immediate enrollment rate in a Kentucky postsecondary institution of 2019 high school graduates was 57%. College going rates for 2020 are not yet available.

In 2019 and 2020, 11% of WKDC high school graduates earned a postsecondary credential by high school graduation.

Many were able to earn a postsecondary degree by the end of 2020, some even by the time of high school graduation³. In fact, over 500, or 12%, of 2020 high school graduates earned an Associate degree, Diploma, or Certificate by the time of their high school graduation.

Highest Degree Attained by High School Graduates



³ Degree attainment information was not available for 2021.

Appendix:

Race/Ethnicity and Gender: The table and slope graphs below summarize the increases by race/ethnicity and gender of the WKDC students. Asian students are not broken out by gender due to small counts. Other race/ethnicity groups are not shown at all due to small counts. There is a table in the appendix for exact counts.

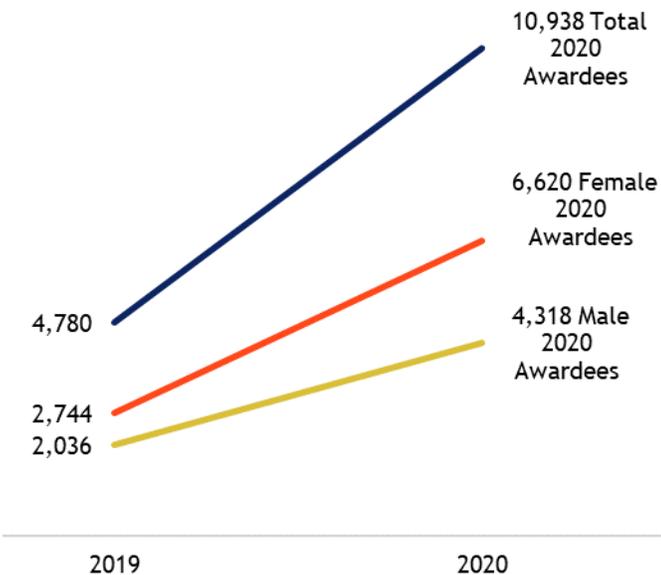
2019 WKDC Individuals

Race/Ethnicity	Female	Male	All
American Indian			
Asian			44
Black	93	79	172
Hawaiian			
Hispanic	163	125	288
Other Race			
Two or More	69	43	112
White	2,387	1,763	4,150
All	2,744	2,036	4,780

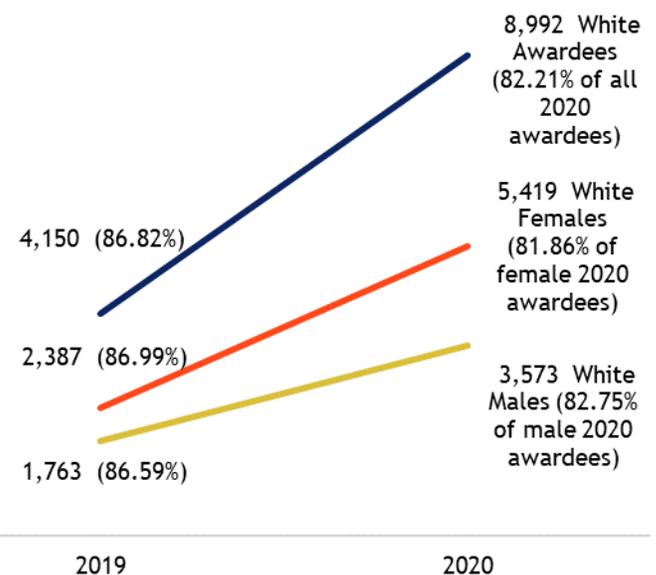
2020 WKDC Individuals

Race/Ethnicity	Female	Male	All
American Indian			10
Asian			197
Black	477	249	726
Hawaiian			
Hispanic	409	297	706
Other Race			
Two or More	183	112	295
White	5,419	3,573	8,992
All	6,620	4,318	10,938

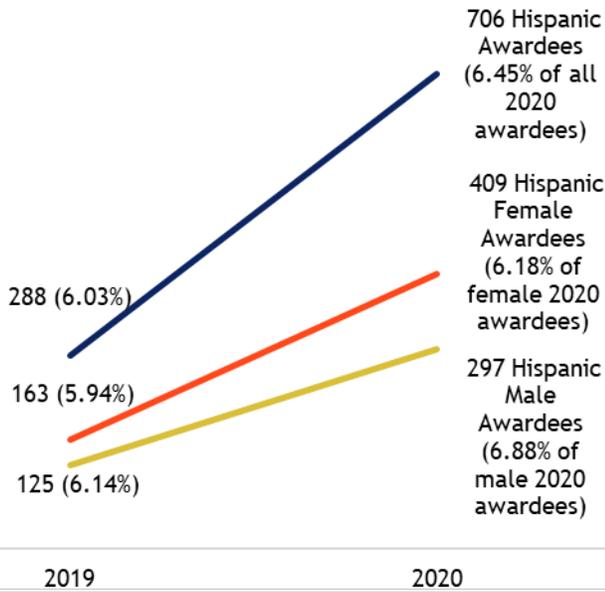
Overall awardees increased by 129% from 2019 to 2020.



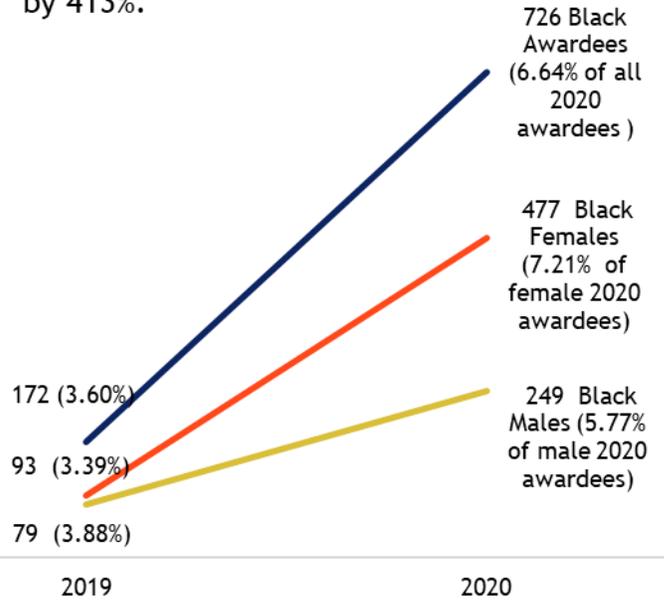
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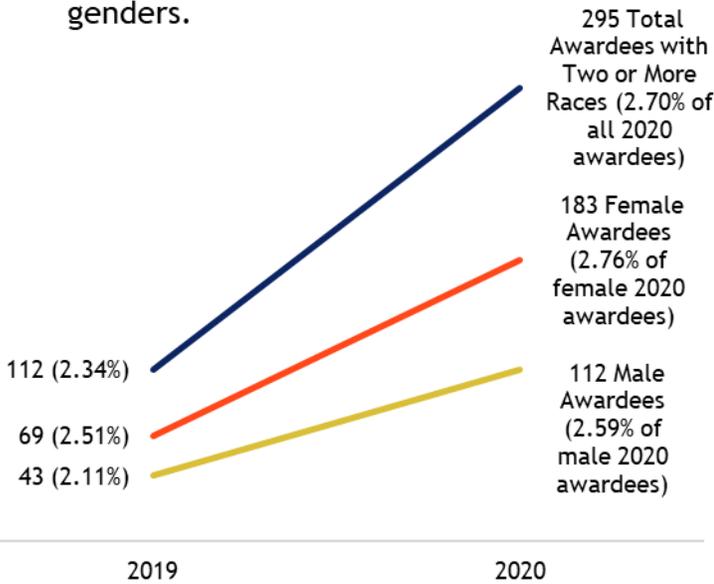
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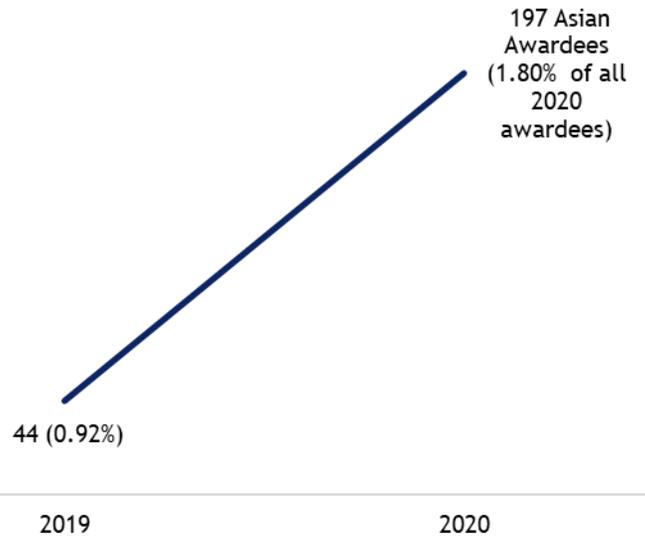
Black females increased the most of all groups by 413%.



Participation among those with two or more races increased by more than 160% across all genders.



Asian awards increased from 44 awardees to 197 awardees.



High School Grade of Awardees: Not all awardees were found in the KDE data for reasons such as, students in private school may also receive the scholarship.

Grade	Academic Year 2019	Academic Year 2020
9th Grade or Below	939	1,142
10th Grade	1,363	2,302
11th Grade	835	3,469
12th Grade	1,640	3,933

High School Characteristics: Of those identified in a Kentucky public school in 2019 and 2020, the following table gives the total people in each category.

	Academic Year 2019	Academic Year 2020
Free-or-Reduced-Price Lunch	2,143	5,039
Gifted	1,219	2,578
Special Education	169	417
Total	4,781	10,942

Immediate Postsecondary Enrollment: Enrollment in a Kentucky postsecondary institution in the academic year immediately following the academic year of graduation is considered. Only 2019 and 2020 Kentucky public high school graduates are included.

Immediate Postsecondary Enrollment	Graduation Year 2019	Graduation Year 2020
Enrolled	1,218	3,010
No Enrollment	415	1,502

Highest Degree of Attainment: The highest degree of attainment during each time period is noted below. Only Kentucky public high school graduates in 2019 and 2020 are included. Credential data for 2021 was not yet available at the time of this report.

Graduation Year	Credential Type	During HS	Post HS
2019	Associate	12	14
2019	Certificate or Diploma	111	146
2020	Associate	117	*
2020	Certificate or Diploma	436	*