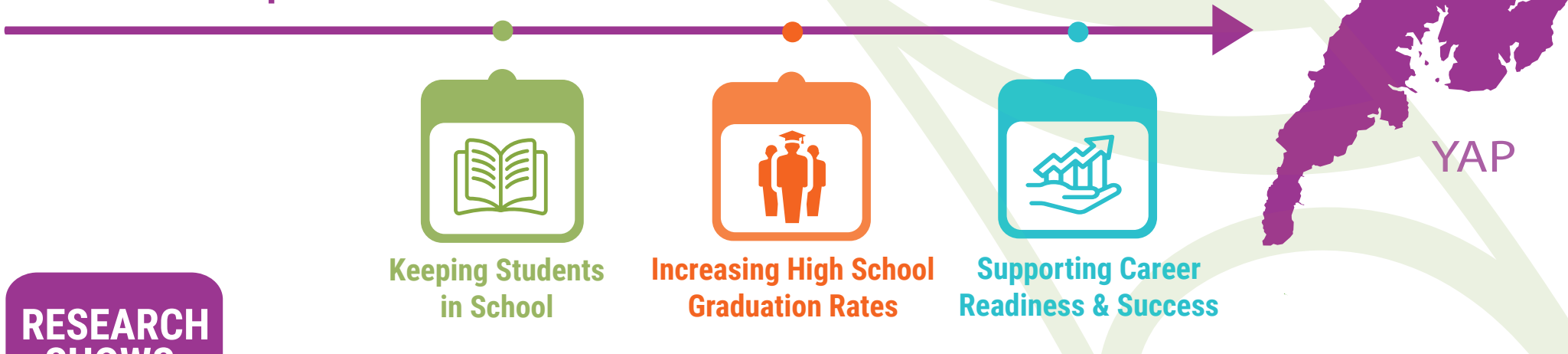


Improving the Odds for Students Entering the Workforce in Yap

In addition to ensuring students receive adequate education prior to entering the workforce, stakeholders in Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) have identified a need to implement strategies to support their secondary students in finding career opportunities after graduation. It is hoped that the implementation of evidence-based strategies to support students' college and career readiness will increase economic opportunities for them and their families, producing a stronger workforce and overall economic success.

Priorities for Yap State



RESEARCH SHOWS:



66% of school-aged children in Yap attend secondary school, which is not compulsory.¹



20% of students who graduate high school in Yap pass college entrance exams.²



According to 2013 data, 19% of households on Yap lived below the FSM basic needs poverty line.³

Addressing the Need Through Career Opportunities and Workforce Development



These statistics highlight the education and economic challenges that Yap and other jurisdictions in the REL Pacific service region may face. They also highlight the need for local schools to prepare secondary students for college and careers that can sustain the students, their families, and their communities and ensure educational and economic success for all.

Combined with accelerating levels of emigration off-island due to limited on-island economic opportunities, these challenges have the potential to affect Yap's continued economic development. To improve the local economy and provide increased career opportunities for Yapese students, educators and school systems alike are working towards implementing evidence-based strategies that better align school and career systems.

Promoting Workforce & Career Development in Yap



Economic Development for Students & Local Economy

Strategies to Support Students in the Transition From School into College and the Workforce^{4, 5, 6}

- Increase students' awareness of financial aid options.
- Build stronger connections among K-12 teachers, leaders, & the workforce.
- Help students and families apply for financial aid.
- Encourage college visits & information session attendance.
- Increase access to career advising.
- Implement curricula that improve students' capacity to manage challenges in & outside of school.
- Identify key local career pathways & needs.
- Implement career & technical education programs at the high school level.

Supporting Students' Career Readiness Through Career & Technical Education (CTE) Programs

Research indicates there are numerous benefits for students who participate in CTE-related activities. High-quality CTE and related pathways programs at the high school level have been shown to:

- lower dropout rates,⁷
- raise future income levels,⁸
- increase participation in postsecondary education,⁹ and
- allow students to earn dual enrollment credits, industry-endorsed credentials, and technical endorsements on high school diplomas.¹⁰

Data Sources

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Additional Information

For more information about this infographic, contact REL Pacific by email at relpacific@mcrel.org.

For more information regarding college and career readiness, visit REL Pacific's website at <https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/pacific/partnerships.asp>