



From: Adam Larsen, Assistant Superintendent

To: Board of Education

Cc: Thomas Mahoney, Superintendent

Re: January 2024 Board Report

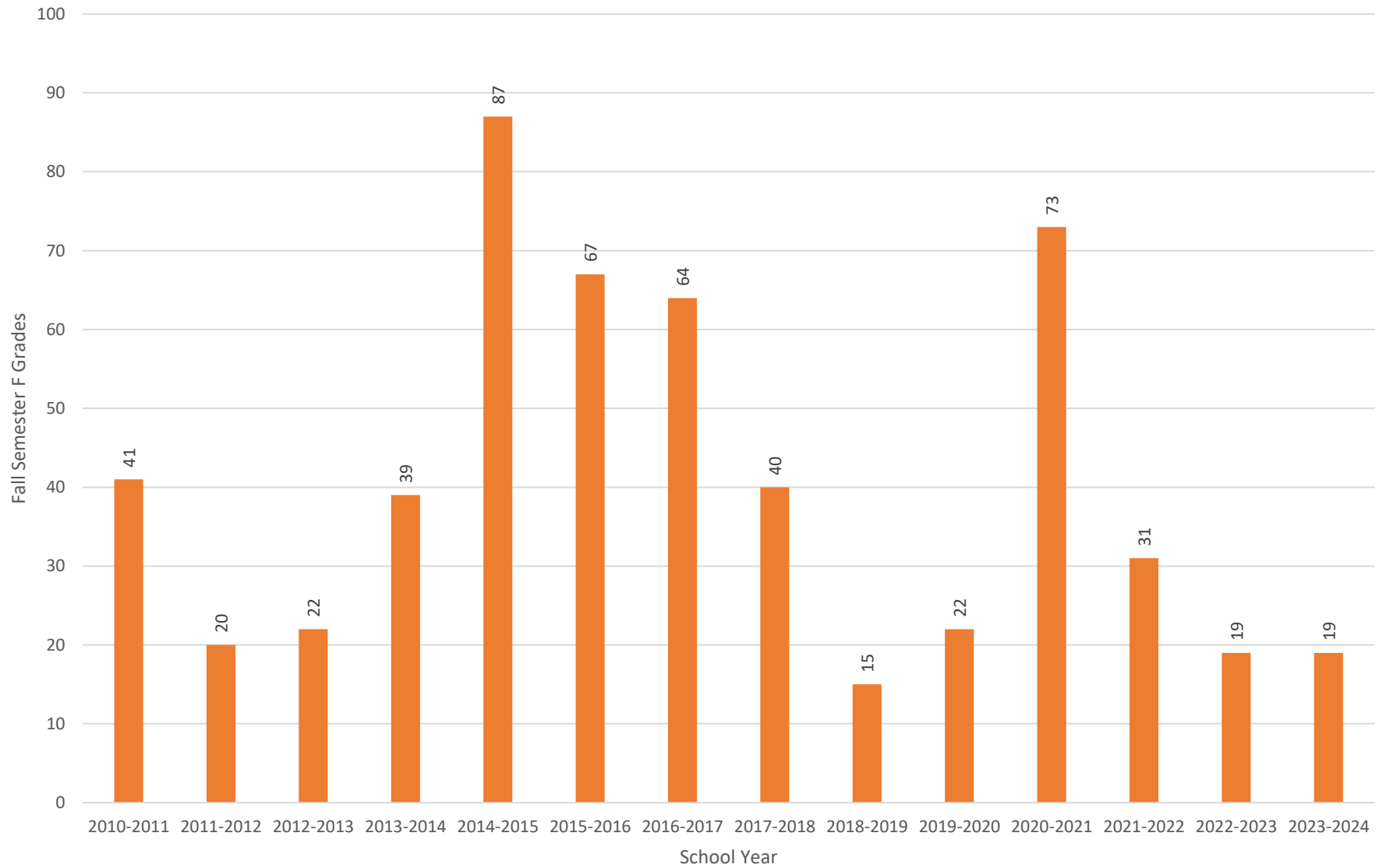
Failure Rates

One of the metrics that we track closely is the number of F grades that students earn at the end of each term at the high school level. In particular, we examine this number and the number of distinct students at the end of the fall semester in grade 9. The reason for this focus is because 1) students who fail classes early in high school are much less likely to graduate on time, and 2) this metric factors into the school's annual ESSA rating in a couple of key ways. Given that a school's graduation rate is 50% of the ESSA rating, anything that affects how many students graduate on time will be weighted rather heavily. Additionally, the 9th Grade on Track rate is its own metric that comprises 8.33% of the final rating. Students must pass 5 classes and not fail more than one core class (English, math, science, or social studies).

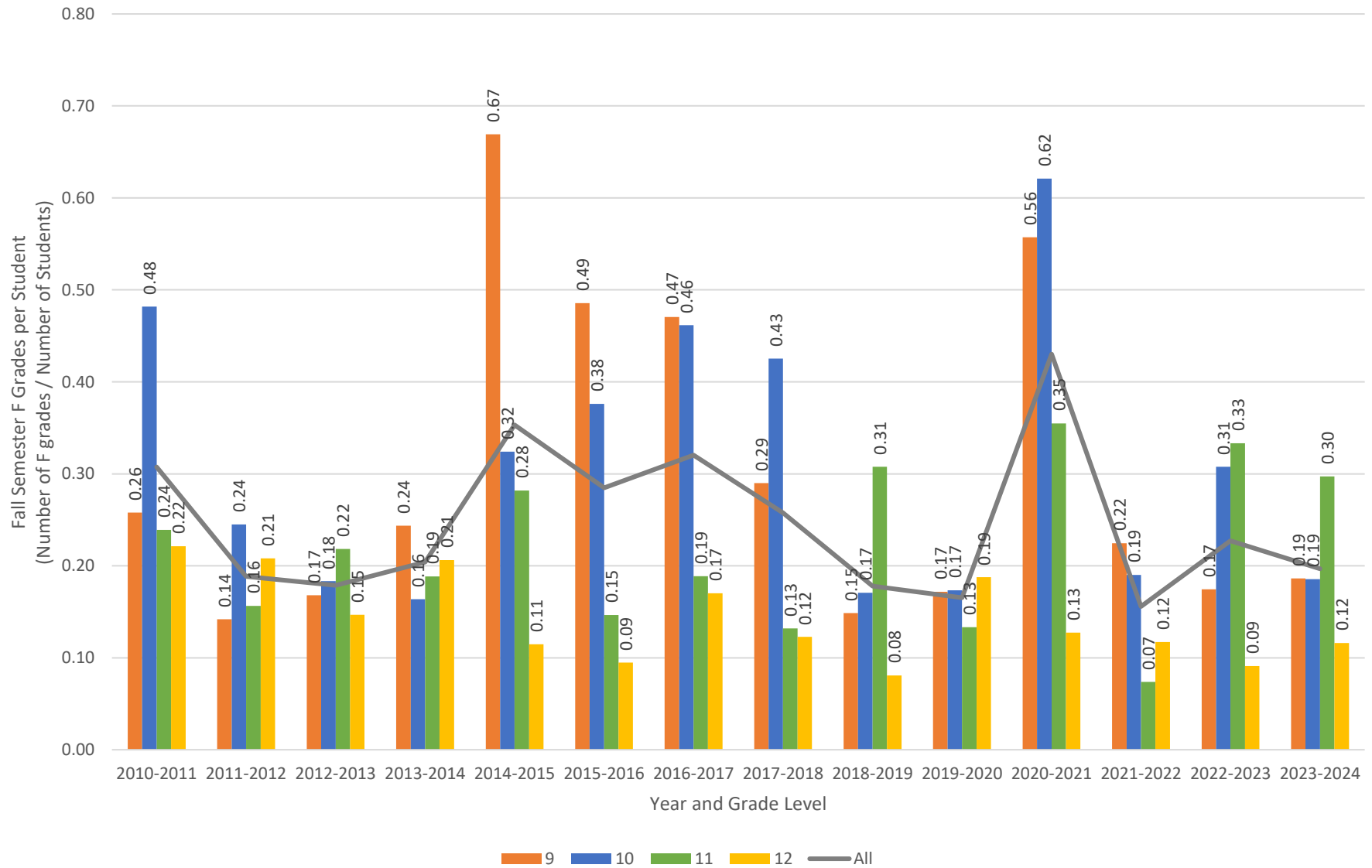
Taken together, the failure rate among freshman students is of great interest when engaging in school improvement work. Early in the process of developing Hawks Take Flight and the Freshman Team, the number of failures dropped to extremely low values. Sometimes we would see two dozen F grades earned by only a handful of individual students. As personnel and focus areas changed, these numbers went up for a few years (2014 through 2018), but have returned to low levels in recent years. The lone exception to this recent trend is the 2020-2021 school year, when some students were learning remotely and those who were on campus were adjusting to frequent quarantines and 6-foot rules.

Two graphs follow. The first isolates the number of fall semester F grades for freshman students since the 2010-2011 school year. This clearly illustrates the ups and downs mentioned above. The second graph includes all grade levels and plots the number of F grades per student across the same time interval. Given that class sizes vary somewhat, calculating the F rate per student provides the most consistent metric over the set of years and cohorts. While each grade level is portrayed by a different color bar in the graph, there is also a thin gray line that plots the overall rate across all four grade levels.

Oregon High School
Fall Semester F Grades
Grade 9



Oregon High School Fall Semester F Grades per Student by Year and Grade Level





Winter Benchmarking

We completed FastBridge benchmarking in December, and NWEA MAP testing starts on January 16. This is our fifth time giving the FastBridge assessments, and we have fallen into a fairly predictable rhythm with the testing system. We will have updated scores and spring test predictions to analyze in February.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Adam P. Larsen'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Adam' and last name 'Larsen' clearly legible.

Adam P. Larsen
Assistant Superintendent
Oregon CUSD #220