

Diplomas Count 2010

online at www.edweek.org/go/dc10



Graduation in the United States

Slightly fewer than 69 percent of all public school students in the nation graduated from high school with a regular diploma in the class of 2007. A gap of more than 40 percentage points separates the best-performing and worst-performing states. The national leaders—Iowa, New Jersey, North Dakota, Vermont, and Wisconsin—each graduate at least 80 percent of their students. By contrast, the graduation rate falls below 60 percent in the District of Columbia, Georgia, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

	TEN-YEAR GRADUATION TREND (ALL STUDENTS)			GRADUATION RATES FOR STUDENT SUBGROUPS, CLASS OF 2007						
	Class of 2007	Class of 1997	Change 1997 to 2007 (percentage point)	Male	Female	American Indian	Asian	Hispanic	Black	White
Alabama	62.5	56.9	+5.7	58.4	67.5	71.4	69.6	44.9	52.4	68.8
Alaska	65.2	66.4	-1.2	53.5	58.1	33.0	64.4	‡	32.6	63.8
Arizona	68.2	59.8	+8.4	65.2	72.0	48.3	82.1	60.3	69.6	74.1
Arkansas	69.3	68.6	+0.6	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
California	62.7	67.4	-4.7	64.4	71.9	51.5	83.5	57.0	54.0	78.2
Colorado	73.2	69.4	+3.9	69.2	77.8	48.8	83.2	53.7	68.9	79.8
Connecticut	77.7	75.1	+2.6	74.3	80.3	36.3	80.2	52.6	62.0	84.2
Delaware	65.0	59.2	+5.7	59.3	70.0	‡	77.7	50.9	57.4	71.1
District of Columbia	59.5	52.9	+6.6	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
Florida	62.1	54.2	+7.8	57.7	66.5	51.0	83.0	58.4	51.0	67.5
Georgia	57.8	55.1	+2.7	53.1	62.8	38.4	81.3	42.8	48.4	65.5
Hawaii	65.1	58.4	+6.7	61.9	68.7	63.1	65.8	62.2	60.2	63.4
Idaho	73.5	73.2	+0.3	71.5	76.8	42.9	‡	60.9	65.2	75.4
Illinois	74.6	71.3	+3.3	70.2	77.0	‡	89.6	57.4	52.9	82.7
Indiana	72.4	69.2	+3.2	68.5	75.6	36.2	75.1	57.5	53.4	75.1
Iowa	80.2	78.9	+1.3	78.1	81.7	37.4	76.8	57.9	59.2	82.4
Kansas	75.1	73.8	+1.3	71.1	76.6	50.4	68.6	56.3	56.6	79.1
Kentucky	71.8	69.6	+2.2	68.2	76.2	‡	80.8	56.9	60.5	73.2
Louisiana	57.4	52.1	+5.3	50.6	64.3	‡	76.3	59.2	50.3	62.7
Maine	77.6	74.8	+2.8	73.9	79.2	40.5	‡	‡	66.6	77.3
Maryland	73.7	74.5	-0.8	69.0	78.6	55.4	92.2	64.9	62.1	81.5
Massachusetts	77.3	74.4	+3.0	73.5	80.1	42.9	80.3	53.1	61.9	82.6
Michigan	77.8	72.0	+5.7	74.8	80.7	47.6	81.9	49.4	‡	80.8
Minnesota	77.2	77.3	-0.1	75.9	79.5	47.5	68.3	44.1	‡	83.3
Mississippi	62.5	56.1	+6.4	56.3	68.0	31.7	64.1	48.0	58.7	65.6
Missouri	75.3	70.6	+4.6	72.4	77.2	52.4	‡	59.2	54.6	79.1
Montana	75.2	76.7	-1.5	72.6	77.3	48.6	‡	49.0	44.3	79.2
Nebraska	74.3	79.7	-5.5	70.8	76.7	‡	‡	48.4	43.0	82.1
Nevada	41.8	65.7	-23.9	38.6	45.8	31.6	58.4	29.9	30.7	50.4
New Hampshire	76.2	66.4	+9.8	72.7	78.8	37.8	‡	29.1	‡	76.6
New Jersey	83.3	80.6	+2.6	82.6	83.4	‡	85.9	66.1	66.7	87.9
New Mexico	54.9	56.3	-1.4	51.9	59.0	51.3	74.3	50.3	52.6	62.6
New York	70.6	60.3	+10.3	66.7	73.0	46.8	77.6	49.1	52.5	80.5
North Carolina	57.8	58.3	-0.5	53.5	62.6	50.6	76.0	43.5	49.5	64.1
North Dakota	80.9	80.1	+0.8	78.0	80.0	44.3	‡	‡	‡	83.5
Ohio	74.6	68.3	+6.3	71.8	76.4	54.7	79.3	46.4	47.5	79.6
Oklahoma	71.8	68.9	+2.9	69.4	75.1	63.6	76.8	60.4	59.2	74.6
Oregon	74.1	69.0	+5.1	†	†	49.0	81.4	58.2	54.7	75.7
Pennsylvania	77.6	74.7	+2.9	75.7	79.3	38.8	80.6	49.8	53.3	83.3
Rhode Island	71.1	67.1	+4.0	69.3	73.0	‡	55.6	53.6	65.7	75.9
South Carolina	54.9	53.5	+1.5	48.1	60.8	26.0	‡	38.6	45.4	61.6
South Dakota	75.4	79.5	-4.1	71.8	76.1	39.3	78.1	51.3	‡	77.6
Tennessee	65.8	52.6	+13.2	61.9	69.8	‡	73.5	55.5	62.1	66.9
Texas	65.1	59.3	+5.8	62.4	68.1	49.8	87.7	55.6	55.3	76.0
Utah	77.1	79.0	-1.9	76.1	80.1	‡	‡	‡	‡	79.9
Vermont	82.3	76.4	+5.9	76.3	79.3	36.7	‡	‡	30.2	81.8
Virginia	69.9	72.3	-2.3	65.1	75.0	54.6	84.9	58.0	55.7	75.9
Washington	67.9	70.6	-2.7	64.2	72.5	39.6	77.5	54.7	50.2	71.6
West Virginia	71.6	75.5	-3.9	68.1	75.1	‡	‡	52.8	63.9	71.5
Wisconsin	81.0	76.9	+4.1	77.9	83.2	50.7	78.0	53.8	47.1	85.9
Wyoming	72.6	74.4	-1.8	67.2	72.8	29.9	‡	59.9	57.2	73.5
U.S.	68.8	65.7	+3.1	66.0	72.9	50.7	80.7	55.5	53.7	76.6

† Value not calculated because necessary data field(s) not reported in the U.S. Department of Education's Common Core of Data and not provided by state education agency.

‡ Value not reported because of insufficient data for reliable estimate.

How Does the EPE Research Center Calculate Graduation Rates?

The Cumulative Promotion Index (CPI)

The Editorial Projects in Education Research Center uses the **Cumulative Promotion Index (CPI)** method to calculate graduation rates. The CPI represents the high school experience as a process rather than a single event, capturing the four key steps a student must take in order to graduate: three grade-to-grade promotions (9 to 10, 10 to 11, and 11 to 12) and ultimately earning a diploma (grade 12 to graduation). Each of these individual components corresponds to a grade-promotion ratio.

The equation below illustrates the CPI formula for calculating graduation rates. The class of 2006-07, the most recent year of data available, is used as an example.

$$\text{CPI} = \frac{\text{10th graders, fall 2007}}{\text{9th graders, fall 2006}} \times \frac{\text{11th graders, fall 2007}}{\text{10th graders, fall 2006}} \times \frac{\text{12th graders, fall 2007}}{\text{11th graders, fall 2006}} \times \frac{\text{Diploma recipients, spring 2007}}{\text{12th graders, fall 2006}}$$

Multiplying the four grade-specific promotion ratios together produces the graduation rate, the percent of public school 9th graders who will complete high school on time with a regular diploma. The CPI counts only students receiving standard high school diplomas as graduates, following the definition of a graduate established by the No Child Left Behind Act.

We can use a simplified example to further demonstrate how the center calculates the CPI. Let us suppose that a particular school district currently has 100 students enrolled in each grade from 9 through 12. We will also assume that 5 percent of students currently in grades 9, 10, and 11 will drop out of school this year and that 5 percent of seniors will fail to earn a diploma at the end of the year. So, for example, we would count 100 9th graders at our starting point but only 95 10th graders the following fall.

$$\text{CPI} = \frac{95}{100} \times \frac{95}{100} \times \frac{95}{100} \times \frac{95}{100} = .815$$

Carrying out the calculation (shown above), we arrive at a graduation rate of 81.5 percent for this district. Given conditions in this hypothetical district (an effective 5 percent annual attrition rate for students at each grade level), only about 82 out of every 100 9th graders would be expected to finish high school with a diploma.

The CPI can be calculated for public school districts that have students enrolled in the secondary grades (9 through 12). State and national statistics are generated by aggregating the district-level data upward.

Notes on the Methodology

The EPE Research Center calculates graduation rates using data from the Common Core of Data (CCD), an annual census of public schools and school districts in the United States conducted by the U.S. Department of Education. Detailed methodological descriptions of the CCD can be found in technical documentation published by the National Center for Education Statistics (available online at nces.ed.gov/ccd). The District of Columbia, Kentucky, and Oregon did not report 2006-07 diploma counts for student subgroups to the CCD. The EPE Research Center was able to obtain additional graduation data directly from the state education agencies of Kentucky and Oregon.

The center's goal is to provide a direct measure of the graduation rate for each of the roughly 11,000 school districts in the nation that enroll high school students. It was possible to do this for districts serving the vast majority (97 percent) of all public school students nationwide. But in a small number of cases—for example, if a particular piece of information needed to calculate the CPI indicator was missing—the center could not directly compute the graduation rate.

To avoid the unintentional disclosure of information about individual students, the EPE Research Center does not report results for very small demographic subgroups, those with fewer than five students in a given category. Additional procedures are employed to ensure that results are only reported in situations where sufficient data are available for a reliable calculation.

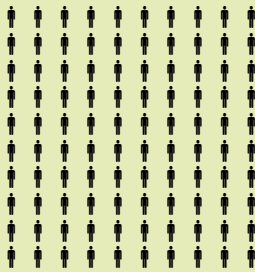
U.S. Public High Schools Losing More Than 7,200 Students Per Day

Nationally, 1.3 million members of the public high school class of 2010 will fail to graduate with a diploma. That amounts to a loss of 7,200 students from the U.S. graduation pipeline every school day, or one student every 25 seconds.

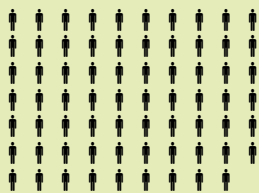
**Class of 2010:
1.3 Million Students
Will Fail to Graduate**

Diplomas Count uses the Cumulative Promotion Index (CPI) method to measure high school graduation rates as the percent of 9th graders who will earn a diploma four years later. The center can project the expected numbers of graduates and nongraduates for the class of 2010 by multiplying the CPI value for 2006-07 by the number of 9th grade students enrolled that year.

**4.2 Million
9th Graders in 2006-07**



**2.9 Million
Graduates in 2010**



**1.3 Million
Nongraduates in 2010**



= Approximately
42,000 students

Projection of Graduates and Nongraduates

	9th graders 2006-2007	Projected outcomes 2009-10		Total students lost each school day
		Graduates	Nongraduates	
Alabama	64,943	40,615	24,328	135
Alaska	11,233	7,324	3,909	22
Arizona	77,621	52,947	24,674	137
Arkansas	38,787	26,861	11,926	66
California	534,357	334,911	199,446	1,108
Colorado	64,559	47,284	17,275	96
Connecticut	44,975	34,962	10,013	56
Delaware	11,004	7,151	3,853	21
District of Columbia	5,127	3,053	2,074	12
Florida	238,582	148,094	90,488	503
Georgia	145,806	84,289	61,517	342
Hawaii	16,419	10,688	5,731	32
Idaho	21,843	16,054	5,789	32
Illinois	179,053	133,493	45,560	253
Indiana	85,486	61,921	23,565	131
Iowa	39,988	32,069	7,919	44
Kansas	38,382	28,833	9,549	53
Kentucky	57,252	41,086	16,166	90
Louisiana	57,171	32,794	24,377	135
Maine	15,988	12,407	3,581	20
Maryland	78,874	58,108	20,766	115
Massachusetts	62,442	48,282	14,160	79
Michigan	145,748	113,339	32,409	180
Minnesota	66,738	51,527	15,211	85
Mississippi	41,948	26,205	15,743	87
Missouri	80,759	60,782	19,977	111
Montana	12,792	9,616	3,176	18
Nebraska	24,411	18,129	6,282	35
Nevada	41,055	17,147	23,908	133
New Hampshire	18,227	13,881	4,346	24
New Jersey	107,828	89,807	18,021	100
New Mexico	29,606	16,254	13,352	74
New York	247,787	174,901	72,886	405
North Carolina	127,683	73,835	53,848	299
North Dakota	8,262	6,685	1,577	9
Ohio	154,556	115,354	39,202	218
Oklahoma	51,048	36,654	14,394	80
Oregon	45,441	33,670	11,771	65
Pennsylvania	153,179	118,854	34,325	191
Rhode Island	12,130	8,625	3,505	19
South Carolina	66,578	36,576	30,002	167
South Dakota	10,371	7,815	2,556	14
Tennessee	82,343	54,173	28,170	157
Texas	387,440	252,319	135,121	751
Utah	37,806	29,162	8,644	48
Vermont	7,535	6,203	1,332	7
Virginia	107,577	75,215	32,362	180
Washington	90,199	61,236	28,963	161
West Virginia	24,331	17,420	6,911	38
Wisconsin	74,984	60,743	14,241	79
Wyoming	7,164	5,198	1,966	11
U.S.	4,155,418	2,857,791	1,297,628	7,209