

# States report new high school graduation rates using more accurate, common measure

Written by  
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Provisional Data File: SY2010-11 Four-Year Regulatory Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rates

	All Students	Major Racial and Ethnic Groups								Special Populations			Asian/Pacific Islander Detail	
		American Indian / Alaska Native or Native American	Asian / Pacific Islander <sup>1</sup>	Black (not Hispanic) or African American	Hispanic / Latino	Multicultural or Multiracial	White (not Hispanic) or Caucasian	Children with disabilities (IDEA)	Limited English proficient (LEP) Students	Economically Disadvantaged Students	Asian	Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander or Pacific Islander		
ALABAMA	72%	80%	77%	62%	65%	79%	30%	30%	62%	-	-	-		
ALASKA	98%	97%	97%	97%	97%	97%	97%	97%	97%	97%	97%	97%		
ARIZONA	76%	82%	81%	74%	72%	80%	31%	23%	73%	-	-	-		
ARKANSAS	81%	80%	79%	72%	77%	84%	73%	70%	73%	-	-	-		
BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION	81%	81%	-	-	-	-	-	-	81%	-	81%	-		
CALIFORNIA	76%	80%	82%	67%	70%	80%	30%	30%	70%	80%	74%	-		
COLORADO	74%	82%	81%	65%	60%	81%	32%	33%	62%	81%	-	-		
CONNECTICUT	82%	82%	82%	71%	64%	89%	31%	28%	82%	-	-	-		
DELAWARE	73%	78%	80%	72%	71%	87%	30%	30%	71%	-	-	-		
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	90%	-	-	88%	80%	80%	30%	30%	80%	-	-	-		
FLORIDA	71%	79%	88%	68%	69%	78%	44%	33%	68%	88%	-	-		
GEORGIA	87%	88%	79%	62%	58%	89%	78%	22%	78%	-	-	-		
HAWAII	88%	88%	81%	71%	70%	78%	30%	30%	70%	88%	81%	-		
IDAHO	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
ILLINOIS	84%	78%	82%	74%	77%	87%	30%	30%	75%	82%	80%	-		
INDIANA	80%	80%	88%	70%	81%	80%	30%	30%	70%	80%	80%	-		
IOWA	88%	88%	88%	73%	78%	82%	30%	29%	78%	88%	81%	-		
KANSAS	83%	72%	88%	72%	72%	87%	30%	29%	72%	83%	72%	-		
KENTUCKY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
KYUSHU	71%	81%	88%	68%	70%	80%	22%	43%	68%	-	80%	-		
MAINE	84%	80%	80%	77%	87%	84%	30%	30%	77%	-	-	-		
MARYLAND	83%	74%	87%	78%	72%	87%	30%	30%	74%	83%	88%	-		
MASSACHUSETTS	83%	76%	88%	71%	82%	87%	30%	30%	76%	83%	81%	-		
MICHIGAN	74%	82%	88%	67%	62%	89%	30%	32%	62%	87%	82%	-		
MINNESOTA	77%	82%	72%	68%	81%	84%	30%	32%	72%	-	-	-		
MISSISSIPPI	73%	78%	88%	68%	78%	82%	30%	30%	78%	88%	-	-		
MISSOURI	81%	77%	87%	68%	70%	82%	30%	30%	74%	81%	81%	-		
MONTANA	82%	82%	88%	81%	78%	89%	30%	30%	71%	82%	80%	-		
NEBRASKA	86%	84%	83%	70%	74%	80%	30%	30%	78%	86%	81%	-		
NEVADA	82%	76%	74%	42%	52%	80%	11%	30%	74%	82%	80%	-		
NEW HAMPSHIRE	86%	78%	87%	72%	72%	88%	30%	30%	72%	86%	80%	-		
NEW JERSEY	83%	87%	87%	68%	72%	84%	30%	30%	71%	83%	88%	-		
NEW MEXICO	81%	80%	78%	62%	68%	77%	47%	30%	68%	-	-	-		
NEW YORK	79%	84%	88%	64%	78%	88%	48%	30%	68%	84%	81%	-		
NORTH CAROLINA	78%	70%	87%	72%	69%	77%	32%	30%	71%	-	-	-		
NORTH DAKOTA	88%	82%	88%	74%	70%	87%	30%	30%	70%	88%	88%	-		
OHIO	80%	71%	88%	68%	68%	71%	30%	30%	68%	-	-	-		
OKLAHOMA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
OREGON	88%	82%	78%	54%	58%	72%	42%	30%	81%	78%	80%	-		
PENNSYLVANIA	81%	71%	84%	65%	65%	75%	30%	30%	71%	-	-	-		
Puerto Rico	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
RHODE ISLAND	77%	80%	72%	67%	67%	77%	30%	30%	68%	77%	70%	-		
SOUTH CAROLINA	74%	81%	84%	68%	68%	77%	48%	30%	68%	-	-	-		
SOUTH DAKOTA	83%	80%	80%	70%	70%	82%	30%	30%	80%	83%	83%	-		
TENNESSEE	86%	80%	87%	78%	70%	80%	30%	30%	71%	86%	81%	-		
TEXAS	86%	87%	85%	81%	82%	82%	30%	30%	84%	86%	88%	-		
UTAH	78%	71%	72%	61%	61%	80%	30%	30%	61%	78%	80%	-		
VERMONT	83%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	83%	-	-	-		
VIRGINIA	82%	-	-	73%	71%	86%	47%	30%	70%	-	-	-		
WASHINGTON	76%	82%	81%	65%	65%	72%	30%	30%	65%	-	-	-		
WEST VIRGINIA	78%	-	-	72%	71%	81%	30%	30%	68%	-	-	-		
WISCONSIN	87%	78%	88%	64%	72%	87%	30%	30%	74%	87%	84%	-		
WYOMING	80%	81%	87%	68%	74%	77%	30%	30%	68%	81%	72%	-		

<sup>1</sup> The Asian/Pacific Islander column represents either the value reported by the state to the Department of Education for the major racial and ethnic group "Asian/Pacific Islander" or an aggregation of values reported by the state for the major racial and ethnic groups "Asian," "Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander or Pacific Islander," and "Hawaiian." Values reported in the Asian/Pacific Islander column which represent the U. S. Department of Education aggregation of other values reported by the state have been presented in this type. (California is the only state currently using the major racial and ethnic group "Hawaiian.")  
<sup>2</sup> Designated reporting for Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rates is done according to the provisions outlined within each state's Accountability Workbook. Accordingly, not every state uses major racial and ethnic groups which enable further disaggregation of Asian-American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) populations.  
Please refer to the endnotes, "Four-Year Regulatory Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate, School Year 2010-11, Provisional Release, Data Notes" for an explanation of the symbols in this sheet.

The U.S. Department of Education released data detailing state four-year high school graduation rates in 2010-11 – the first year for which all states used a common, rigorous measure. The varying methods formerly used by states to report graduation rates made comparisons between states unreliable, while the new, common metric can be used by states, districts and schools to promote greater accountability and to develop strategies that will reduce dropout rates and increase graduation rates in schools nationwide.

The new, uniform rate calculation is not comparable in absolute terms to previously reported rates. Therefore, while 26 states reported lower graduation rates and 24 states reported unchanged or increased rates under the new metric, these changes should not be viewed as measures of progress but rather as a more accurate snapshot.

"By using this new measure, states will be more honest in holding schools accountable and ensuring that students succeed," said U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. "Ultimately, these data will help states target support to ensure more students graduate on time, college and career ready."

The transition to a common, adjusted four-year cohort graduation rate reflects states' efforts to create greater uniformity and transparency in reporting high school graduation data, and it meets the requirements of October 2008 federal regulations. A key goal of these regulations was to develop a graduation rate that provides parents, educators and community members with better information on their school's progress while allowing for meaningful comparisons of graduation rates across states and school districts. The new graduation rate measurement also accurately accounts for students who drop out or who do not earn a regular high school diploma.

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In 2011, states began individually reporting 2010-11 high school graduation rates, but this is the first time the Department has compiled these rates in one public document. These 2010-11 graduation rates are preliminary, state-reported data, and the Department plans to release final rates in the coming months. Beginning with data for the 2011-12 school year, graduation rates calculated using this new method will become a key element of state accountability systems, including for states that have been approved for ESEA flexibility.

The rates will be posted in the coming days on ED Data Express: <http://www.eddataexpress.ed.gov/>.