



Goal 1: Human and Family Development

Desired Community Condition: Residents are literate and educated and engaged in the educational process.



Indicator: High School Drop Out Rates

Progress Rating: **Local Trend: POSITIVE** **National Comparison: SIMILAR**

Indicator Description

This indicator measures the dropout rate for public high school students in Albuquerque. The annual dropout rate is the percent leaving high school each year without obtaining a secondary school credential or without enrolling in another educational program. It also includes students who have successfully completed eighth grade but failed to re-enroll for ninth grade in Albuquerque Public Schools. This figure reflects student enrollment status from the beginning of one school year to the end of that same year. Students dropping out during one year but returning the next year are still counted as dropouts for that one year.

Why is this indicator important?

Dropout and graduation rates have long been used as indicators of success in preparing students for post secondary education and careers. These rates have a long-term impact on such conditions as unemployment, earning power, and average income. The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) undertook an extensive study to focus on the literacy skills of the nation's civilian labor force. Literacy was determined using three scales: Prose literacy, document literacy, and quantitative literacy. Mean prose proficiencies, for example, were just 172 for those with only a primary school education, compared with 272 to 275 for those with a high school diploma or GED certificate but no postsecondary schooling, 309 for those with a two-year degree, and 334 for those who completed at least a four-year degree. This study showed that a 60-point increase in prose proficiency raised expected earnings by \$3,131, or nearly 15 percent of mean annual earnings.

Data Sources

Albuquerque Public Schools, "Literacy in the Labor Force," U.S. Department of Education, Office of Education Research and Improvement, NCES 1999-470; American Community Survey

What can we tell from the data?

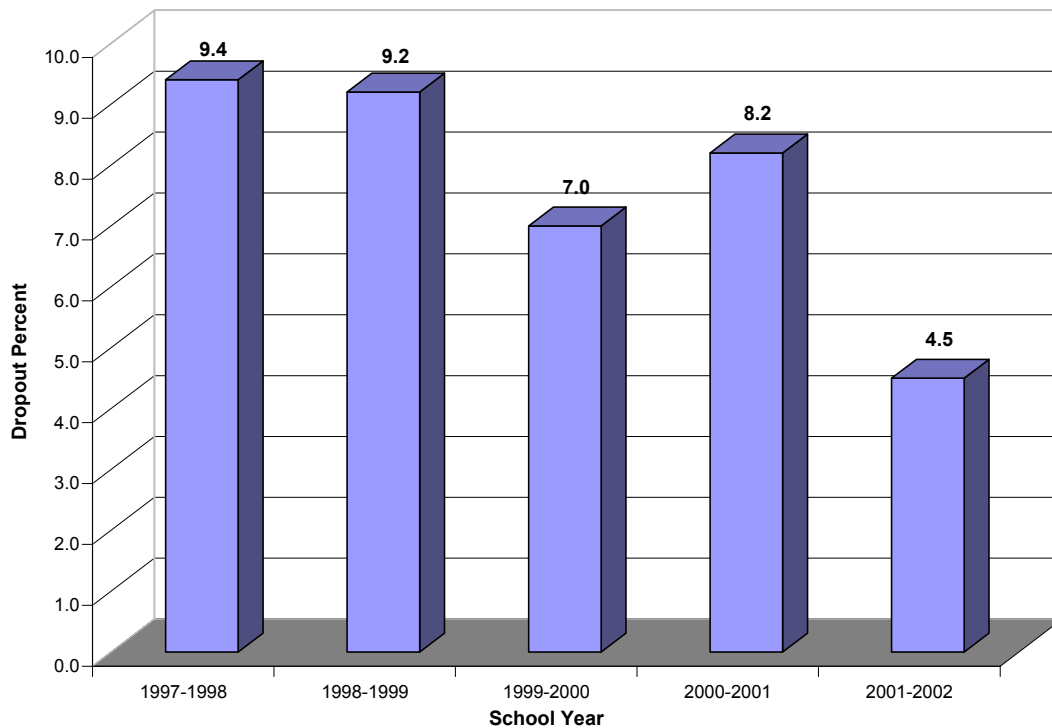
- There has been a 52.1% decrease in the high school dropout rate from the 1997-1998 school year to the 2001-2002 school year.
- All schools have shown improvement.
- The high school dropout rate for school year 2000-01 in New Mexico is approximately half the national average of 10.9%. Albuquerque high school rate was 8.2% that year.

High School Dropout Rates for School Year 2000-2001

JURISDICTION	2000-01
Texas	4.2%
Oklahoma	5.2%
Nevada	5.2%
New Mexico	5.3%
Arizona	10.9%
United States	10.9%

Data was unavailable for Colorado.

Percent Dropout Rates for Albuquerque Public Schools High Schools



School	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Albuquerque High	10.2	11.2	10.0	10.7	4.9
Cibola	9.3	4.0	1.9	3.5	2.1
Del Norte	8.8	10.4	6.8	5.8	4.9
Eldorado	4.1	3.9	3.0	3.1	2.4
Highland	12.1	10.3	9.9	11.4	4.8
La Cueva	2.7	3.3	1.1	1.1	0.7
Manzano	6.7	5.4	2.6	6.3	3.3
Rio Grande	12.7	11.7	12.2	17.1	6.8
Sandia	5.9	6.8	4.5	5.2	4.6
Valley	8.9	8.6	6.3	7.3	4.5
West Mesa	8.5	9.9	9.9	5.3	5.0
High Schools	9.4	9.2	7.0	8.2	4.5