

# the condition of education 2008



## INDICATOR 21

# Public High School Graduation Rates by State

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2008*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2008*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2008031>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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# Elementary/Secondary Persistence and Progress

## Public High School Graduation Rates by State

About three-quarters of the freshman class graduated from high school on time with a regular diploma in 2004–05.

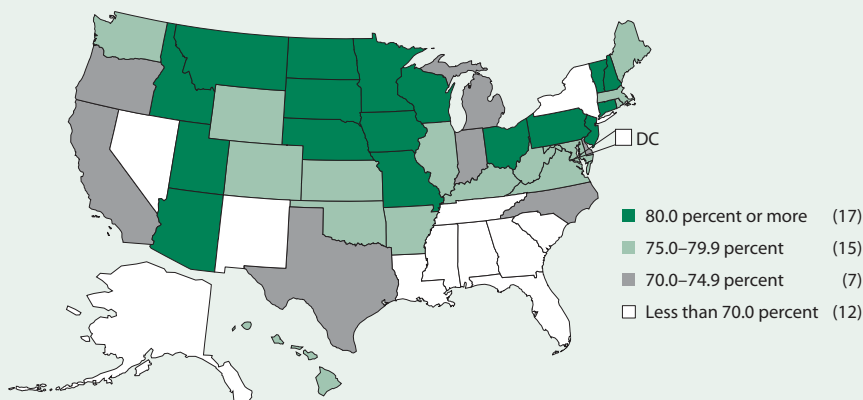
This indicator examines the percentage of public high school students who graduate on time with a regular diploma. To do so, it uses the *averaged freshman graduation rate*—an estimate of the percentage of an incoming freshman class that graduates 4 years later. The averaged freshman enrollment count is the sum of the number of 8th-graders 5 years earlier, the number of 9th-graders 4 years earlier (because this is when current year seniors were freshmen), and the number of 10th-graders 3 years earlier, divided by 3. The intent of this averaging is to account for the high rate of grade retention in the freshman year, which adds 9th-grade repeaters from the previous year to the number of students in the incoming freshman class each year.

Among public high school students in the class of 2004–05, the averaged freshman graduation rate was 74.7 percent (see supplemental table 21-1). Nebraska had the highest graduation rate at 87.8 percent. Sixteen other states had rates above 80 percent: Wisconsin, Iowa, Vermont, North Dakota, Minnesota, New Jersey,

Arizona, Utah, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Connecticut, Missouri, Ohio, and New Hampshire. Nevada had the lowest rate at 55.8 percent. Ten other states and the District of Columbia had graduation rates below 70 percent: Tennessee, Alabama, New Mexico, New York, Florida, Alaska, Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia, and South Carolina.

The overall averaged freshman graduation rate among public school students increased from 71.7 percent for the class of 2000–01 to 74.7 percent for the class of 2004–05. Between these years, there was an increase in the graduation rate in 44 states and the District of Columbia; 9 states (Arizona, Hawaii, Kentucky, Missouri, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, Vermont, and Washington) and the District of Columbia had an increase of greater than 5 percentage points. The graduation rate decreased in 6 states (Alaska, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey, and New Mexico), with Nevada being the only state experiencing a decline of greater than 5 percentage points.

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION: Averaged freshman graduation rate for public high school students, by state: School year 2004–05**



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "State Nonfiscal Survey of Public Elementary/Secondary Education," 1986–87 through 2005–06; and Seastrom, M., Hoffman, L., and Chapman, C. (2006). *The Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate for Public High Schools From the Common Core of Data: School Years 2002–03 and 2003–04* (NCES 2006-606rev).

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
 Supplemental Notes 3, 7  
 Supplemental Table 21-1  
 NCES 2006-604  
 NCES 2006-605  
 NCES 2007-059  
 NCES 2007-352



## Public High School Graduation Rates by State

**Table 21-1. Averaged freshman graduation rate for public high school students and number of graduates, by state: School years 2000–01 through 2004–05**

State	2000–01		2001–02		2002–03		2003–04		2004–05	
	Averaged freshman graduation rate <sup>1</sup>	Total number of graduates <sup>2</sup>	Averaged freshman graduation rate <sup>1</sup>	Total number of graduates <sup>2</sup>	Averaged freshman graduation rate <sup>1</sup>	Total number of graduates <sup>2</sup>	Averaged freshman graduation rate <sup>1</sup>	Total number of graduates <sup>2</sup>	Averaged freshman graduation rate <sup>1</sup>	Total number of graduates <sup>2</sup>
<b>United States</b>	<b>71.7</b>	<b>2,569,200</b>	<b>72.6</b>	<b>2,621,534</b>	<b>73.9</b>	<b>2,719,947</b>	<b>74.3<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>2,753,438<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>74.7</b>	<b>2,799,250</b>
<b>Reporting 48 states and D.C.</b>	<b>†</b>	<b>†</b>	<b>†</b>	<b>†</b>	<b>†</b>	<b>†</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>2,548,128</b>	<b>†</b>	<b>†</b>
Alabama	63.7	37,082	62.1	35,887	64.7	36,741	65.0	36,464	65.9	37,453
Alaska	68.0	6,812	65.9	6,945	68.0	7,297	67.2	7,236	64.1	6,909
Arizona	74.2	46,733	74.7	47,175	75.9	49,986	66.8	45,508	84.7	59,498
Arkansas	73.9	27,100	74.8	26,984	76.6	27,555	76.8	27,181	75.7	26,621
California	71.6	315,189	72.7	325,895	74.1	341,097	73.9	343,480	74.6	355,217
Colorado	73.2	39,241	74.7	40,760	76.4	42,379	78.7	44,777	76.7	44,532
Connecticut	77.5	30,388	79.7	32,327	80.9	33,667	80.7	34,573	80.9	35,515
Delaware	71.0	6,614	69.5	6,482	73.0	6,817	72.9	6,951	73.1	6,934
District of Columbia	60.2	2,808	68.4	3,090	59.6	2,725	68.2	3,031	68.8	2,781
Florida	61.2	111,112	63.4	119,537	66.7	127,484	66.4	131,418	64.6	133,318
Georgia	58.7	62,499	61.1	65,983	60.8	66,890	61.2	68,550	61.7	70,834
Hawaii	68.3	10,102	72.1	10,452	71.3	10,013	72.6	10,324	75.1	10,813
Idaho	79.6	15,941	79.3	15,874	81.4	15,858	81.5	15,547	81.0	15,768
Illinois	75.6	110,624	77.1	116,657	75.9	117,507	80.3	124,763	79.4	123,615
Indiana	72.1	56,172	73.1	56,722	75.5	57,897	73.5	56,008	73.2	55,444
Iowa	82.8	33,774	84.1	33,789	85.3	34,860	85.8	34,339	86.6	33,547
Kansas	76.5	29,360	77.1	29,541	76.9	29,963	77.9	30,155	79.2	30,355
Kentucky	69.8	36,957	69.8	36,337	71.7	37,654	73.0	37,787	75.9	38,399
Louisiana	63.7	38,314	64.4	37,905	64.1	37,610	69.4	37,019	63.9	36,009
Maine	76.4	12,654	75.6	12,593	76.3	12,947	77.6	13,278	78.6	13,077
Maryland	78.7	49,222	79.7	50,881	79.2	51,864	79.5	52,870	79.3	54,170
Massachusetts	78.9	54,393	77.6	55,272	75.7	55,987	79.3	58,326	78.7	59,665
Michigan	75.4	96,515	72.9	95,001	74.0	100,301	72.5	98,823	73.0	101,582
Minnesota	83.6	56,581	83.9	57,440	84.8	59,432	84.7	59,096	85.9	58,391
Mississippi	59.7	23,748	61.2	23,740	62.7	23,810	62.7	23,735	63.3	23,523
Missouri	75.5	54,138	76.8	54,487	78.3	56,925	80.4	57,983	80.6	57,841
Montana	80.0	10,628	79.8	10,554	81.0	10,657	80.4	10,500	81.5	10,335
Nebraska	83.8	19,658	83.9	19,910	85.2	20,161	87.6	20,309	87.8	19,940
Nevada	70.0	15,127	71.9	16,270	72.3	16,378	57.4	15,201	55.8	15,740
New Hampshire	77.8	12,294	77.8	12,452	78.2	13,210	78.7	13,309	80.1	13,775
New Jersey	85.4	76,130	85.8	77,664	87.0	81,391	86.3	83,826	85.1	86,502
New Mexico	65.9	18,199	67.4	18,094	63.1	16,923	67.0	17,892	65.4	17,353
New York	61.5	141,884	60.5	140,139	60.9	143,818	60.9 <sup>4</sup>	142,526 <sup>4</sup>	65.3	153,203
North Carolina	66.5	63,288	68.2	65,955	70.1	69,696	71.4	72,126	72.6	75,010
North Dakota	85.4	8,445	85.0	8,114	86.4	8,169	86.1	7,888	86.3	7,555
Ohio	76.5	111,281	77.5	110,608	79.0	115,762	81.3	119,029	80.2	116,702
Oklahoma	75.8	37,458	76.0	36,852	76.0	36,694	77.0	36,799	76.9	36,227
Oregon	68.3	29,939	71.0	31,153	73.7	32,587	74.2	32,958	74.2	32,602

See notes at end of table.

## Public High School Graduation Rates by State

**Table 21-1. Averaged freshman graduation rate for public high school students and number of graduates, by state: School years 2000–01 through 2004–05—Continued**

State	2000–01		2001–02		2002–03		2003–04		2004–05	
	Averaged freshman graduation rate <sup>1</sup>	Total number of graduates <sup>2</sup>	Averaged freshman graduation rate <sup>1</sup>	Total number of graduates <sup>2</sup>	Averaged freshman graduation rate <sup>1</sup>	Total number of graduates <sup>2</sup>	Averaged freshman graduation rate <sup>1</sup>	Total number of graduates <sup>2</sup>	Averaged freshman graduation rate <sup>1</sup>	Total number of graduates <sup>2</sup>
Pennsylvania	79.0	114,436	80.2	114,943	81.7	119,933	82.2	123,474	82.5	124,758
Rhode Island	73.5	8,603	75.7	9,006	77.7	9,318	75.9	9,258	78.4	9,881
South Carolina	56.5	30,026	57.9	31,302	59.7	32,482	60.6	33,235	60.1	33,439
South Dakota	77.4	8,881	79.0	8,796	83.0	8,999	83.7	9,001	82.3	8,585
Tennessee	59.0	40,642	59.6	40,894	63.4	44,113	66.1	46,096	68.5	47,967
Texas	70.8	215,316	73.5	225,167	75.5	238,111	76.7	244,165	74.0	239,717
Utah	81.6	31,036	80.5	30,183	80.2	29,527	83.0	30,252	84.4	30,253
Vermont	80.2	6,856	82.0	7,083	83.6	6,970	85.4	7,100	86.5	7,152
Virginia	77.5	66,067	76.7	66,519	80.6	72,943	79.3	72,042	79.6	73,667
Washington	69.2	55,081	72.2	58,311	74.2	60,435	74.6	61,274	75.0	61,094
West Virginia	75.9	18,440	74.2	17,128	75.7	17,287	76.9	17,339	77.3	17,137
Wisconsin	83.3	59,341	84.8	60,575	85.8	63,272	85.8 <sup>4</sup>	62,784 <sup>4</sup>	86.7	63,229
Wyoming	73.4	6,071	74.4	6,106	73.9	5,845	76.0	5,833	76.7	5,616

† Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> The rate is the number of graduates divided by the estimated count of freshmen 4 years earlier. The estimated averaged freshman enrollment count is the sum of the number of 8th-graders 5 years earlier, the number of 9th-graders 4 years earlier (because this is when current year seniors were freshmen), and the number of 10th-graders 3 years earlier, divided by 3. Enrollment counts include a proportional distribution of students not enrolled in a specific grade.

<sup>2</sup> Graduates include only those who earned regular diplomas or diplomas for advanced academic achievement (e.g., honors diploma) as defined by the state or district.

<sup>3</sup> The 2003–04 national estimates do not include data from two states with missing diploma counts: New York and Wisconsin.

<sup>4</sup> To impute the number of graduates in these states in 2003–04, the 2002–03 averaged freshman graduation rates for Wisconsin and New York were applied to the average of the grade-specific enrollment data in the state for grade 8 in 1999–2000, grade 9 in 2000–01, and grade 10 in 2001–02.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "State Nonfiscal Survey of Public Elementary/Secondary Education," 1986–87 through 2005–06; and Seastrom, M., Hoffman, L., and Chapman, C. (2006). *The Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate for Public High Schools From the Common Core of Data: School Years 2002–03 and 2003–04* (NCES 2006-606rev).