

# Identifying Overachievers

An EPE Research Center analysis identified a pool of school districts matching the profile of the nation's largest urban systems and then singled out those demonstrating the highest graduation rates and strongest growth, relative to expectations based on district characteristics. Thirty-three of these big-city peer districts posted 2006 graduation rates at least 10 percentage points higher than anticipated, while 27 districts from across the country surpassed expected graduation-rate improvements between 1996 and 2006 by 10 points or more.

Graduation Rates for Class of 2006		Graduation Rate, 2006		Expectations Index
		Actual	Expected	(Actual minus Expected)
District				
Warren Township*	(Indianapolis)	81%	60%	+21
Texarkana ISD*	(Texarkana, Texas)	79	59	+21
Fort Smith	(Fort Smith, Ark.)	84	66	+18
Euclid City*	(Euclid, Ohio)	78	61	+17
Stockton Unified*	(Stockton, Calif.)	77	60	+17
Yuba City USD	(Yuba City, Calif.)	85	69	+16
Steubenville City	(Steubenville, Ohio)	79	63	+16
Merced Union*	(Merced, Calif.)	78	62	+15
United ISD	(Laredo, Texas)	72	57	+15
Leon County*	(Tallahassee, Fla.)	66	52	+15
Sharyland ISD*	(Mission, Texas)	80	65	+15
Guilford County	(Greensboro, N.C.)	68	53	+14
Clintondale Schools	(Clinton Township, Mich.)	72	58	+14
Phenix City*	(Phenix City, Ala.)	69	56	+13
Wayne Township	(Indianapolis)	73	60	+13
Yuma Union High School	(Yuma, Ariz.)	72	60	+13
Thornton Township HSD 215	(Calumet City, Ill.)	76	64	+13
Hillsborough County	(Tampa, Fla.)	63	50	+12
San Angelo ISD*	(San Angelo, Texas)	77	65	+12
Flagstaff Unified	(Flagstaff, Ariz.)	75	63	+12
Newport-Mesa Unified	(Newport Beach, Calif.)	75	63	+12
Paducah Independent	(Paducah, Ky.)	75	63	+11
Des Moines Independent	(Des Moines, Iowa)	79	68	+11
Tuloso-Midway ISD	(Corpus Christi, Texas)	80	69	+11
Monrovia Unified	(Monrovia, Calif.)	77	66	+11
Cumberland County	(Fayetteville, N.C.)	65	55	+10
Mesa Unified	(Mesa, Ariz.)	67	56	+10
Portland*	(Portland, Ore.)	74	63	+10
Visalia Unified	(Visalia, Calif.)	72	62	+10
Tucson Unified	(Tucson, Ariz.)	67	57	+10
East Baton Rouge	(Baton Rouge, La.)	59	50	+10
Riverbank Unified	(Riverbank, Calif.)	73	64	+10
Waterbury	(Waterbury, Conn.)	69	59	+10

Ten-Year Trend in Graduation Rates 1996 to 2006		Percentage-Point Change		Expectations Index
		Actual	Expected	(Actual minus Expected)
District				
Stockton Unified*	(Stockton, Calif.)	+27	-1	+29
Sharyland ISD*	(Mission, Texas)	+32	+4	+28
Phenix City*	(Phenix City, Ala.)	+30	+3	+28
Texarkana ISD*	(Texarkana, Texas)	+31	+5	+26
Warren Township*	(Indianapolis, Ind.)	+24	-2	+26
Cincinnati	(Cincinnati, Ohio)	+25	+2	+23
San Marcos CISD	(San Marcos, Texas)	+25	+5	+21
Lafayette Parish	(Lafayette, La.)	+20	+4	+16
Opelika City	(Opelika, Ala.)	+17	+2	+15
Merced Union*	(Merced, Calif.)	+14	-1	+15
Calhoun County ISD	(Port Lavaca, Texas)	+19	+5	+14
Gilroy Unified	(Gilroy, Calif.)	+14	-1	+14
Galveston ISD	(Galveston, Texas)	+19	+4	+14
San Angelo ISD*	(San Angelo, Texas)	+20	+6	+14
Temple ISD	(Temple, Texas)	+19	+5	+14
St. Lucie County	(Fort Pierce, Fla.)	+11	-2	+13
Euclid City*	(Euclid, Ohio)	+15	+2	+13
Leon County*	(Tallahassee, Fla.)	+12	0	+12
Portland*	(Portland, Ore.)	+20	+8	+12
Oklahoma City	(Oklahoma City, Okla.)	+13	+2	+11
Putnam City	(Warr Acres, Okla.)	+12	+2	+10
Marysville Joint Unified	(Marysville, Calif.)	+11	+1	+10
Warren City	(Warren, Ohio)	+13	+3	+10
Kansas City	(Kansas City, Kan.)	+9	-1	+10
Wichita	(Wichita, Kan.)	+10	0	+10
Riverside Unified	(Riverside, Calif.)	+10	0	+10
Austin ISD	(Austin, Texas)	+14	+5	+10

\* District exceeds expectations for both 2006 graduation rate and change in rate from 1996 to 2006.

Note: All values above have been rounded to nearest whole number.

SOURCE: EPE Research Center, 2009