

MOST OF THE NATION'S LARGEST SCHOOL SYSTEMS EXCEED EXPECTATIONS

Graduation rates in the nation's 50 largest districts range from 46 percent to 85 percent for the class of 2010. Three large suburban districts near the nation's capital—Fairfax County, Va., and Maryland's Baltimore and Montgomery counties—top the rankings. An original statistical analysis shows that three-quarters of these large districts posted graduation rates that are higher than expected given their size, poverty level, and other defining characteristics.

District	Size Rank	Graduation Rate Class of 2010		Expectations Index
		Actual	Expected	(Actual Minus Expected)
Fairfax County, Va.	12	85%	76%	+9
Baltimore County, Md.	26	84	74	+10
Montgomery County, Md.	16	84	80	+4
Jefferson County, Colo.	35	83	71	+12
Northside, Texas	31	82	71	+11
Broward County, Fla.	6	80	60	+20
Prince William County, Va.	42	79	72	+7
Palm Beach County, Fla.	11	78	63	+15
Cypress-Fairbanks, Texas	25	78	75	+3
Memphis, Tenn.	22	77	59	+18
Jefferson County, Ky.	28	77	64	+13
Wake County, N.C.	17	77	70	+7
Fulton County, Ga.	33	76	59	+17
Guilford County, N.C.	46	76	64	+12
Virginia Beach, Va.	48	76	72	+4
Anne Arundel County, Md.	45	76	80	-4
Chicago	3	75	50	+25
Lee County, Fla.	39	75	63	+12
Hillsborough County, Fla.	8	74	63	+11
Brevard County, Fla.	47	74	71	+3
Miami-Dade County, Fla.	4	73	57	+16
Philadelphia	13	73	57	+16
Orange County, Fla.	10	73	64	+9
Long Beach, Calif.	34	73	67	+6
Nashville-Davidson County, Tenn.	44	72	67	+5
Duval County, Fla.	21	70	62	+8
Polk County, Fla.	30	70	64	+6
San Diego	19	68	66	+2
Fort Worth, Texas	40	67	63	+4
Austin, Texas	36	67	65	+2
Hawaii (statewide district)	9	67	67	0
Pinellas County, Fla.	24	67	67	0
Cobb County, Ga.	23	66	62	+4
Houston	7	66	64	+2
Baltimore	37	65	58	+7
Charlotte-Mecklenburg, N.C.	18	65	61	+4
Granite, Utah	50	65	69	-4
Dallas	15	64	59	+5
Gwinnett County, Ga.	14	63	61	+2
Greenville, S.C.	49	63	62	+1
Fresno, Calif.	43	63	65	-2
Clark County, Nev.	5	62	57	+5
Prince George's County, Md.	20	62	68	-6
DeKalb County, Ga.	27	57	53	+4
New York City	1	54	—*	—*
Milwaukee	38	54	62	-8
Los Angeles	2	52	56	-4
Albuquerque, N.M.	29	51	61	-10
Denver	41	50	59	-9
Detroit	32	46	49	-3

NOTE: Expected rate based on individual profile.

* Information not available.

SOURCE: EPE Research Center, 2013