

Graduation in the United States ▶ RATE TOPS 80 PERCENT

For the first time, more than 8 out of every 10 American public high school students are graduating with a diploma. The U.S. Department of Education places the overall graduation rate at 81 percent for the class of 2012, according to the agency's latest Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate (AFGR) calculations. Thirty-three percentage points separate graduation rates in the top and bottom states. In 2012, rates in four states exceeded 90 percent, a mark no state had reached five years ago.

Nationally, graduation rates have improved by 7 percentage points since 2007, with all racial and ethnic groups seeing gains. The most substantial growth was found for Latino students, whose graduation rates rose by 14 points over this five-year period. American Indian and black students experienced gains of 7 and 8 points, respectively.

FIVE-YEAR GRADUATION TREND ALL STUDENTS

GRADUATION RATES FOR STUDENT SUBGROUPS, CLASS OF 2012

	CLASS OF 2012	CLASS OF 2007	CHANGE 2007 TO 2012 (PERCENTAGE POINT)	MALE	FEMALE	AMERICAN INDIAN	ASIAN	LATINO	BLACK	WHITE
ALABAMA	75%	67%	+8	72%	79%	87%	89%	67%	68%	80%
ALASKA	79	69	+10	78	82	62	98	84	75	83
ARIZONA	77	70	+7	73	81	67	89	72	73	82
ARKANSAS	78	74	+4	75	81	69	84	80	72	79
CALIFORNIA	82	71	+11	78	86	77	96	77	70	88
COLORADO	82	77	+5	79	86	57	87	76	65	84
CONNECTICUT	86	82	+4	83	89	≥98	95	74	73	90
DELAWARE	77	72	+5	72	82	89	96	70	69	81
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	71	55	+16	62	80	†	†	59	70	98
FLORIDA	75	65	+10	73	82	94	94	78	66	77
GEORGIA	70	64	+6	66	75	86	90	64	62	76
HAWAII	78	75	+3	75	81	65	76	68	77	56
IDAHO	84	80	+4	82	86	67	96	83	78	83
ILLINOIS	82	80	+2	83	85	91	98	79	64	89
INDIANA	80	74	+6	78	87	80	≥99	83	63	82
IOWA	89	87	+2	87	92	59	91	88	64	90
KANSAS	89	79	+10	86	92	64	92	87	70	89
KENTUCKY	82	76	+6	80	86	72	≥99	89	78	82
LOUISIANA	72	61	+11	66	78	68	98	87	65	76
MAINE	87	79	+8	86	88	60	≥98	97	83	86
MARYLAND	84	80	+4	81	89	70	96	85	74	87
MASSACHUSETTS	86	81	+5	85	89	70	98	69	82	90
MICHIGAN	77	77	0	74	82	66	92	51	60	83
MINNESOTA	88	87	+1	86	91	48	92	70	66	92
MISSISSIPPI	68	64	+4	61	74	44	85	68	63	72
MISSOURI	86	82	+4	83	89	98	98	92	73	87
MONTANA	86	82	+4	84	88	62	87	96	65	87
NEBRASKA	93	86	+7	91	95	68	97	93	65	93
NEVADA	60	54	+6	55	65	37	71	50	41	64
NEW HAMPSHIRE	87	82	+5	84	90	65	≥99	86	74	87
NEW JERSEY ¹	87	84	+3	84	89	59	≥99	78	74	91
NEW MEXICO	74	59	+15	71	78	71	90	73	68	76
NEW YORK	78	69	+9	76	79	68	94	65	65	85
NORTH CAROLINA	79	69	+10	76	83	74	88	78	68	82
NORTH DAKOTA	91	83	+8	89	93	62	≥95	82	≥98	93
OHIO	84	79	+5	84	89	75	97	82	64	89
OKLAHOMA	79	78	+1	76	82	72	≥99	78	66	80
OREGON	78	74	+4	77	85	58	87	78	65	78
PENNSYLVANIA	88	83	+5	86	91	79	≥99	76	75	92
RHODE ISLAND	76	78	-2	72	80	52	74	72	66	76
SOUTH CAROLINA	72	59	+13	67	78	53	83	72	64	76
SOUTH DAKOTA	83	83	0	82	85	42	≥98	77	77	88
TENNESSEE	83	73	+10	81	86	94	94	†	76	86
TEXAS ¹	82	72	+10	80	85	97	94	80	73	84
UTAH	78	77	+1	76	80	58	87	65	60	80
VERMONT	93	89	+4	91	95	≥90	≥98	≥95	≥98	91
VIRGINIA	84	76	+8	81	90	82	96	92	71	85
WASHINGTON	79	75	+4	77	85	41	81	79	57	80
WEST VIRGINIA	80	78	+2	78	82	69	≥98	81	76	80
WISCONSIN	92	89	+3	90	94	76	97	85	63	96
WYOMING	80	76	+4	78	82	44	79	77	58	82
U.S.	81%	74%	+7	78%	85%	68%	93%	76%	68%	85%

NOTE: Graduation rates are calculated using the U.S. Department of Education's Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate.

† Results were suppressed because the reported data did not meet NCES standards or to protect the confidentiality of individual student data.

≥ Greater than or equal to. Results have been top coded to protect the confidentiality of individual student data.

¹Missing data for 2012 have been imputed by NCES. New Jersey did not report graduate data by gender. Texas did not report any graduate data.

SOURCE: National Center for Education Statistics, "Public High School Four-Year-On-Time Graduation Rates and Event Dropout Rates: School Years 2010-11 and 2011-12," April 2014; NCES, Common Core of Data (CCD), "State Dropout and Completion Data File," 2006-07 v.1b.