

# Graduation in the United States

About 71 percent of all public school students in the nation graduated from high school with a regular diploma in the class of 2005. Thirty-eight percentage points separate the graduation rates in best-performing states (New Jersey) and the worst-performing (Nevada). Large disparities are also found across racial and ethnic groups, with a 31 percentage-point gap dividing Asian-American and Native American students, the groups with the highest and lowest graduation rates respectively. Between 2001 and 2005 the nation's graduation rate increased by 2.6 percentage points, signaling slow but steady progress. In all, the percent of students finishing high school with a diploma improved in 35 states during this period.

	PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES, CLASS OF 2005							FIVE-YEAR TREND (ALL STUDENTS)		
	All students	Male	Female	American Indian	Asian	Hispanic	Black	White	Graduation rate class of 2001	Change 2001 to 2005
Alabama	61.3	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	61.6	-0.4
Alaska	67.6	61.8	71.7	46.8	67.8	24.4	59.0	74.4	64.1	+3.5
Arizona	73.3	69.8	77.5	52.4	88.9	65.0	71.6	78.7	67.3	+6.0
Arkansas	73.2	69.2	76.5	51.2	‡	‡	65.2	74.8	70.8	+2.4
California	70.1	65.7	74.1	52.4	84.0	59.5	57.0	78.2	69.2	+0.9
Colorado	74.2	70.2	78.4	46.3	80.1	55.7	64.5	80.4	69.1	+5.0
Connecticut	78.1	74.9	80.8	25.9	79.0	53.5	59.6	84.2	76.8	+1.3
Delaware	60.1	55.0	64.0	‡	81.7	‡	48.9	67.4	64.3	-4.2
District of Columbia	57.6	51.2	‡	‡	81.3	51.3	‡	84.1	65.2	-7.5
Florida	60.8	56.1	65.5	‡	85.6	60.0	48.8	65.2	53.0	+7.8
Georgia	58.1	52.8	63.8	45.1	80.9	39.1	49.0	64.5	55.5	+2.6
Hawaii	67.4	64.6	70.4	49.3	68.9	60.5	51.1	64.2	66.0	+1.4
Idaho	76.6	74.4	78.1	48.4	‡	56.2	‡	79.2	79.8	-3.2
Illinois	76.7	72.0	77.9	34.4	83.5	56.3	52.4	83.2	74.8	+1.9
Indiana	73.6	67.7	76.3	39.4	71.5	51.1	53.5	74.7	72.5	+1.2
Iowa	82.8	80.5	83.4	‡	76.2	54.0	58.6	84.8	78.7	+4.1
Kansas	74.3	70.8	75.8	46.1	72.2	46.2	54.7	79.0	74.3	+0.0
Kentucky	71.5	66.2	76.0	21.8	82.0	49.4	58.2	72.4	65.3	+6.2
Louisiana	54.7	48.3	60.5	‡	49.4	36.8	39.9	62.8	64.1	-9.4
Maine	77.2	72.8	78.7	31.8	66.5	‡	‡	76.6	72.1	+5.2
Maryland	73.6	68.3	78.4	63.8	91.6	63.3	61.6	80.3	75.3	-1.7
Massachusetts	74.7	69.0	75.5	37.3	68.8	49.0	50.8	78.2	71.0	+3.6
Michigan	70.5	67.3	74.2	48.2	75.5	45.9	42.2	76.7	71.0	-0.5
Minnesota	78.1	77.3	81.2	40.5	69.9	41.9	38.8	83.3	78.9	-0.8
Mississippi	61.8	55.4	68.6	34.1	57.9	45.6	59.4	64.4	58.0	+3.8
Missouri	76.5	73.5	79.0	‡	81.3	59.0	60.4	79.2	73.0	+3.5
Montana	75.7	73.2	78.2	50.0	‡	57.7	59.2	79.3	77.4	-1.7
Nebraska	79.6	75.0	80.8	28.9	‡	55.0	42.4	84.4	77.7	+1.9
Nevada	45.4	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	54.7	-9.3
New Hampshire	77.1	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	74.1	+3.1
New Jersey	83.3	81.1	84.0	‡	86.3	64.4	62.2	87.3	83.4	-0.1
New Mexico	54.1	49.1	59.8	45.3	72.6	49.4	52.1	64.2	61.4	-7.3
New York	68.0	73.2	79.2	42.8	‡	‡	‡	80.4	61.8	+6.2
North Carolina	67.0	61.3	73.3	47.0	78.5	53.7	58.4	72.7	63.5	+3.5
North Dakota	79.2	76.3	80.2	37.9	‡	‡	‡	81.8	79.9	-0.7
Ohio	75.9	72.6	78.1	39.7	78.4	48.1	49.9	80.2	70.9	+5.0
Oklahoma	70.8	70.0	73.3	63.8	‡	54.0	58.5	72.3	70.1	+0.7
Oregon	70.4	69.8	76.8	42.7	78.3	60.7	44.0	74.0	73.3	-2.9
Pennsylvania	80.4	78.1	82.6	44.5	80.2	58.1	62.9	84.2	75.5	+4.9
Rhode Island	71.1	67.1	74.3	‡	47.8	52.5	58.6	75.9	73.5	-2.4
South Carolina	55.6	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	50.8	+4.9
South Dakota	75.6	71.4	77.2	30.4	‡	20.4	39.4	81.7	79.8	-4.2
Tennessee	65.4	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	57.5	+7.9
Texas	68.5	64.9	72.7	56.7	87.6	57.3	68.4	76.7	64.9	+3.6
Utah	78.6	76.1	85.2	50.6	76.9	53.6	58.2	84.0	78.5	+0.1
Vermont	80.2	73.2	74.0	77.0	‡	‡	‡	74.6	78.0	+2.2
Virginia	72.9	68.9	76.7	56.7	84.5	56.5	60.7	77.4	72.6	+0.3
Washington	68.8	64.8	74.6	42.7	75.5	56.9	51.8	72.3	62.8	+6.0
West Virginia	72.8	70.0	76.3	52.5	‡	‡	63.7	73.1	70.7	+2.1
Wisconsin	80.5	77.0	82.4	48.3	76.3	48.0	43.9	85.5	78.1	+2.3
Wyoming	74.2	69.4	75.3	‡	‡	54.6	‡	75.6	72.4	+1.8
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>70.6</b>	<b>67.8</b>	<b>75.3</b>	<b>50.6</b>	<b>81.3</b>	<b>57.8</b>	<b>55.3</b>	<b>77.6</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>+2.6</b>

† Value not calculated because necessary data field(s) not reported in the Common Core of Data, the U.S. Department of Education database used for this analysis.

‡ Value not reported because of insufficient data for reliable estimate.

SOURCE: EPE Research Center, 2008

From *Diplomas Count 2008: School to College: Can State P-16 Councils Ease the Transition?*