

# Graduation in the United States

## GRADUATION RATES RISING

Nationwide, 73.4 percent of all public school students graduated from high school with a regular diploma in the class of 2009, marking the second straight year of gains following a period of modest declines. The national graduation rate rose by 1.7 percentage points above the rate for the class of 2008, with rates also increasing in three-quarters of the states. This continued climb in the graduation rate is driven largely by strong gains among Latinos and moderate improvements for African-American and white students, which offset small decreases for other groups.

Over the past decade, graduation rates improved by 7.3 percentage points, with all racial and ethnic groups posting solid improvements since the late 1990s. The largest increases were found among African-American and Latino students, whose graduation rates have risen by nearly 10 points over this period. Although all groups are improving, significant racial disparities persist nationwide, with a 27-percentage-point gap dividing Asian-American and Native American students, the groups with the highest and lowest graduation rates, respectively.

### 10-YEAR GRADUATION TREND (ALL STUDENTS)

### GRADUATION RATES FOR STUDENT SUBGROUPS, CLASS OF 2009

	CLASS OF 2009	CLASS OF 1999	CHANGE 1999 to 2009 (PERCENTAGE POINT)	MALE	FEMALE	AMERICAN INDIAN	ASIAN	HISPANIC	BLACK	WHITE
ALABAMA	69.2%	56.7%	+12.5	64.6%	73.8%	77.0%	76.1%	56.8%	59.8%	74.7%
ALASKA	69.3	63.7	+5.6	67.7	72.8	53.0	‡	63.9	64.0	73.7
ARIZONA	72.3	48.2	+24.1	68.8	75.5	59.9	84.1	64.0	70.6	78.3
ARKANSAS	70.6	70.5	+0.1	67.8	73.7	36.0	‡	65.4	59.7	72.7
CALIFORNIA	71.3	68.7	+2.5	67.2	75.0	40.3	77.4	63.0	50.8	75.4
COLORADO	76.4	67.5	+8.9	72.3	79.6	52.1	87.1	58.7	62.5	82.0
CONNECTICUT	76.0	75.1	+0.9	70.4	75.6	55.7	78.8	54.3	61.5	78.8
DELAWARE	67.9	57.7	+10.2	61.6	74.5	44.4	76.4	59.3	58.7	73.9
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	52.4	65.7	-13.3	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
FLORIDA	70.4	52.5	+17.9	66.8	75.9	‡	86.6	72.6	62.0	73.1
GEORGIA	62.7	51.5	+11.2	61.2	72.2	‡	86.6	57.1	55.3	72.6
HAWAII	69.2	59.5	+9.6	66.6	72.0	55.5	70.5	61.5	62.8	66.7
IDAHO	72.1	76.5	-4.4	73.0	75.6	44.3	73.7	63.5	44.2	75.7
ILLINOIS	71.2	72.4	-1.2	64.1	63.1	62.0	84.2	61.5	51.3	78.7
INDIANA	75.8	71.1	+4.7	71.7	78.8	32.3	79.1	62.0	59.5	77.9
IOWA	80.5	78.9	+1.7	77.8	81.2	22.6	62.2	53.4	45.9	81.8
KANSAS	78.4	73.5	+5.0	76.1	81.8	‡	69.8	60.3	60.1	80.5
KENTUCKY	70.5	62.3	+8.2	66.3	74.0	21.9	75.5	58.5	53.6	72.5
LOUISIANA	64.0	59.1	+4.9	57.9	70.2	56.9	85.5	68.0	56.0	69.7
MAINE	72.3	68.9	+3.4	68.5	74.8	‡	‡	‡	‡	72.3
MARYLAND	77.9	71.8	+6.1	73.6	82.5	‡	95.0	70.3	67.0	85.5
MASSACHUSETTS	79.1	73.9	+5.3	75.3	82.2	‡	86.3	55.5	64.0	84.9
MICHIGAN	74.1	68.7	+5.4	70.4	79.4	48.1	75.7	43.6	‡	79.8
MINNESOTA	82.6	79.4	+3.1	80.1	82.4	‡	75.5	‡	‡	85.4
MISSISSIPPI	62.2	58.4	+3.8	57.1	68.3	35.8	73.6	51.6	58.1	67.1
MISSOURI	79.3	72.1	+7.3	76.5	81.4	67.5	84.4	68.7	61.0	82.6
MONTANA	77.4	75.7	+1.7	74.2	78.6	53.0	56.9	49.2	57.3	79.8
NEBRASKA	76.6	77.6	-1.0	72.3	79.1	31.4	‡	57.4	42.3	81.7
NEVADA	59.2	69.0	-9.8	55.7	62.2	44.6	74.9	53.3	48.9	60.4
NEW HAMPSHIRE	79.1	72.7	+6.5	75.7	81.2	‡	‡	‡	‡	79.2
NEW JERSEY	87.4	76.3	+11.0	85.3	87.2	33.2	88.3	74.1	74.4	90.1
NEW MEXICO	59.4	58.1	+1.3	55.3	64.2	48.0	72.2	62.3	35.8	55.9
NEW YORK	78.4	58.5	+19.9	71.9	82.8	52.5	82.0	57.9	57.6	84.7
NORTH CAROLINA	68.0	58.7	+9.3	61.9	72.0	56.8	79.5	54.1	56.0	74.9
NORTH DAKOTA	85.9	82.9	+3.1	82.3	87.7	57.5	‡	‡	‡	87.9
OHIO	76.4	69.0	+7.4	76.1	80.6	‡	‡	50.5	51.3	83.2
OKLAHOMA	73.6	70.4	+3.2	71.4	76.5	65.8	85.1	67.8	62.4	75.7
OREGON	73.1	64.0	+9.1	69.9	76.0	‡	72.0	‡	54.4	73.7
PENNSYLVANIA	80.5	75.3	+5.1	78.2	82.5	43.8	88.1	58.7	59.0	85.2
RHODE ISLAND	75.3	70.8	+4.5	70.8	78.6	‡	69.1	59.4	61.9	79.6
SOUTH CAROLINA	61.7	47.1	+14.6	55.9	67.9	33.3	77.0	53.8	53.6	67.3
SOUTH DAKOTA	69.5	74.6	-5.0	65.5	70.9	26.6	66.8	43.8	65.9	75.6
TENNESSEE	75.8	62.1	+13.7	71.7	79.6	53.3	85.9	64.3	68.0	78.6
TEXAS	71.5	60.2	+11.3	68.9	74.3	‡	90.1	64.4	64.4	79.6
UTAH	78.4	75.7	+2.7	64.3	70.2	59.0	65.4	51.7	54.2	69.2
VERMONT	77.4	76.9	+0.5	78.2	82.3	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
VIRGINIA	76.0	73.9	+2.1	71.9	80.5	‡	89.0	65.5	64.8	81.5
WASHINGTON	68.1	68.6	-0.5	65.2	72.4	39.7	78.4	56.0	49.4	71.4
WEST VIRGINIA	71.5	71.2	+0.4	67.8	75.1	50.7	72.3	47.3	65.2	71.4
WISCONSIN	83.8	76.4	+7.4	80.8	85.2	54.2	82.3	64.2	50.4	88.3
WYOMING	73.9	73.4	+0.5	69.9	76.5	30.9	50.2	‡	33.2	75.1
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>73.4%</b>	<b>66.0%</b>	<b>+7.3</b>	<b>69.6%</b>	<b>76.4%</b>	<b>53.1%</b>	<b>80.5%</b>	<b>63.0%</b>	<b>58.7%</b>	<b>78.8%</b>

† Value not calculated because necessary data field(s) not reported in the U.S. Department of Education's Common Core of Data and not available from state education agency.  
‡ Value not reported because of insufficient data for reliable estimate.