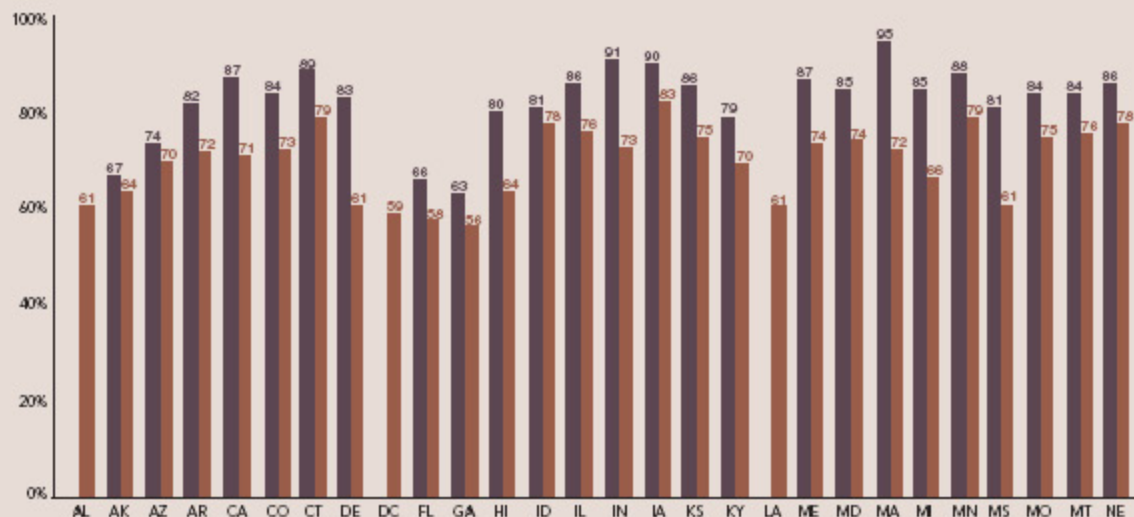


Implementing Graduation Accountability Under NCLB		CALCULATING GRADUATION RATES	GRADUATION GOALS			DATA SYSTEMS
		Formula used to calculate graduation rates for NCLB (2005-06)	Graduation-rate performance goals for adequate yearly progress (AYP)			State tracks high school completion status of individual students
			Current target (2005-06)	Final target (2013-14)	Minimum annual improvement required if not meeting target	
Alabama	Leaver rate	90%	90%	Any improvement	✓	
Alaska	Leaver rate	55.58%	55.58%	Any improvement	✓	
Arizona	Cohort - local	71%	71%	1% improvement		
Arkansas	Persistence rate	77.05%	77.05%	Any improvement		
California	Leaver rate	82.8%	100%	0.1% Improvement		
Colorado	Cohort - local	57.4%	65%	Based on AMOs*	✓	
Connecticut	Leaver rate	70%	70%	Any improvement		
Delaware	Leaver rate	78%	90%	None		
District of Columbia	Leaver rate	Based on state average	Based on state average	Any improvement		
Florida	Cohort - statewide	85%	85%	1% Improvement	✓	
Georgia	Leaver rate	60%	60%	Any improvement	✓	
Hawaii	Cohort - statewide	75%	90%	Any improvement	✓	
Idaho	Leaver rate	90%	90%	Any improvement		
Illinois	Cohort - local	69%	85%	Based on AMOs*		
Indiana	Persistence rate	95%	95%	Any improvement		
Iowa	Leaver rate	Current state average	95%	Any improvement	✓	
Kansas	Leaver rate	75%	75%	Any improvement		
Kentucky	Leaver rate	80%	98%	Any improvement		
Louisiana	Dropout rate	90% nondropout rate	90% nondropout rate	Any improvement	✓	
Maine	Leaver rate	63%	75%	Based on AMOs*		
Maryland	Leaver rate	83.24%	90%	0.1% Improvement		
Massachusetts	Completion ratio	70%	Interim goals only	N/A	✓	
Michigan	Persistence rate	80%	90%	10% Gap reduction		
Minnesota	Leaver rate	80%	80%	Any improvement		
Mississippi	Cohort - statewide	72%	72%	Any improvement		
Missouri	Leaver rate	85%	85%	Any improvement		
Montana	Leaver rate	80%	80%	Any Improvement		
Nebraska	Leaver rate	83.97%	83.97%	Any Improvement		
Nevada	Leaver rate	50%	50%	Any Improvement		
New Hampshire	Composite rate	75%	75%	Any Improvement		
New Jersey	Leaver rate	90% or state average	90% or state average	Any Improvement		
New Mexico	Completion ratio	90%	100%	None		
New York	Cohort - statewide	55%	55%	1% improvement		
North Carolina	On-time rate	90%	90%	0.1% Improvement		
North Dakota	Leaver rate	89.9%	Interim goals only	10% Reduction nongrad rate		
Ohio	Leaver rate	73.6%	100%	Any improvement	✓	
Oklahoma	Leaver rate	68.8%	68.8%	Any improvement		
Oregon	Leaver rate	68.1%	68.1%	Any improvement	✓	
Pennsylvania	Leaver rate	80%	80%	Any improvement		
Rhode Island	Leaver rate	75.3%	95%	Based on AMOs*		
South Carolina	Cohort - local	88.3%	88.3%	None		
South Dakota	Leaver rate	80%	80%	Any improvement	✓	
Tennessee	Leaver rate	90%	100%	Any improvement	✓	
Texas	Cohort - statewide	70%	70%	Any improvement	✓	
Utah	Leaver rate	85.7%	85.7%	Any improvement	✓	
Vermont	Leaver rate	75%	75%	None		
Virginia	Leaver rate	57%	TBD	Any improvement	✓	
Washington	Cohort - statewide	67%	85%	2% improvement		
West Virginia	Leaver rate	80%	80%	Any improvement	✓	
Wisconsin	Leaver rate	81.747%	81.747%	Any improvement		
Wyoming	Leaver rate	80%	80%	Any improvement		
U.S.					17	

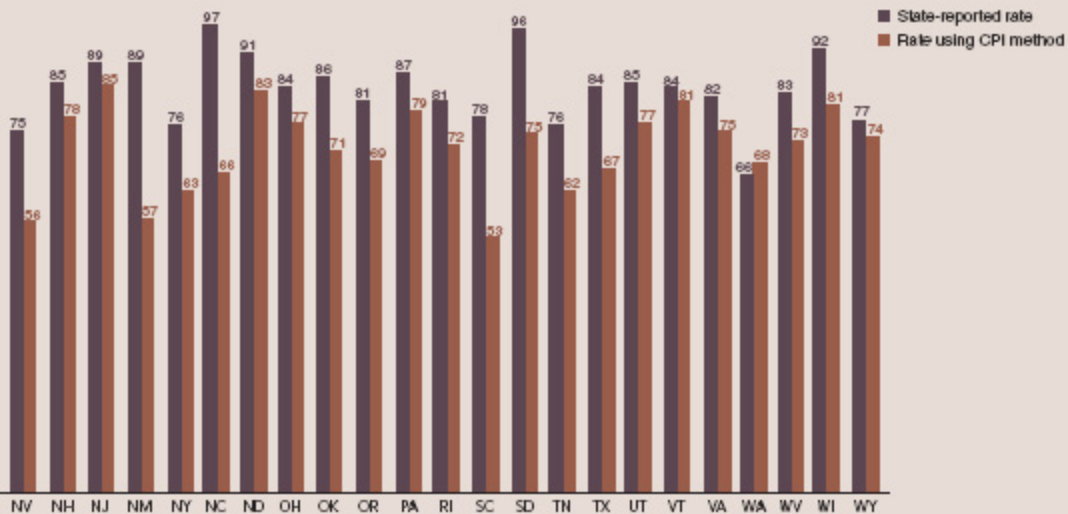
## Graduation Rates in the Eye of the Beholder?

The Editorial Projects in Education Research Center calculated 2002-03 graduation rates for each state using the Cumulative Promotion Index (CPI). Official state-reported rates for that same year were almost always higher, sometimes much higher. In North Carolina and New Mexico, state-reported rates exceeded the CPI by over 30 percentage points. Washington was the only state that reported a lower rate than the research center found using the CPI. A major reason for these differences is the variety of different methods the states use to calculate their own graduation rates.

SOURCE: EPE Research Center 2006, The Education Trust 2005



ONLINE: For detailed graduation-rate data go to [www.edweek.org/dc06](http://www.edweek.org/dc06)



## A GUIDE TO GRADUATION RATES

### Methods Used by States to Calculate Graduation Rates Under NCLB

**Cohort Rate:** Percent of students from an entering 9th grade cohort who graduate with a standard diploma within four years. Method can account for transfers and students retained in grade. Student data may be tracked on a statewide or local basis. (10 states)

**Leaver Rate:** Percent of students leaving high school with a standard high school diploma, expressed as a proportion of all those documented leaving with a diploma or other completion credential or as a dropout. This method is sometimes referred to as a departure-classification index. (33 states)

**Completion Ratio:** Number of diploma recipients divided by an approximation of the starting 9th grade class. Method cannot fully account for entering cohort membership, net transfer, and grade retention. (2 states)

**Dropout Rate:** Percent of students enrolled in grades 9 through 12 who drop out during a given school year. High school completion is not measured. (1 state)

**Persistence Rate:** Percent of students who remain in school from grade 9 through grade 12. Rate is calculated using information on (1) the percent of students not dropping out at specific grade levels or (2) the percent of students estimated to be promoted from grade to grade. This method does not measure high school completion. (3 states)

**On-Time Rate:** Proportion of all high school graduates in a given year who have received a standard diploma on time. This method compares on-time graduates with those taking longer than four years to earn a diploma. (1 state)

**Composite Rate:** Proportion of students estimated to remain in high school until grade 12 and receive a diploma. The rate for a given year is calculated by multiplying (1) the rate of persistence between grades 9 and 12 and (2) the percent of completers who receive a diploma rather than another credential. (1 state)