

# Graduation Profile

About 70 percent of all students in the nation graduate from high school with a regular diploma, according to 2003-04 data from the EPE Research Center. Thirty percentage points separate the graduation rates in best- and worst-performing states (83.8 percent in Utah vs. 53.8 percent in South Carolina). Large disparities are found across racial and ethnic groups, with about half of American Indian and black students graduating, compared with more than three-quarters of non-Hispanic whites and Asians.

## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES, 2003-04

	All students	Male	Female	American Indian	Asian	Hispanic	Black	White
ALABAMA	59.0	55.2	64.5	65.3	66.2	36.5	49.9	65.2
ALASKA	65.1	61.7	67.9	47.2	65.7	55.7	59.3	70.5
ARIZONA	68.4	53.1	60.3	36.7	68.1	54.8	57.8	58.5
ARKANSAS	72.2	68.7	76.9	44.8	‡	‡	64.1	74.9
CALIFORNIA	70.7	65.8	74.2	52.3	83.7	60.0	57.3	76.7
COLORADO	74.6	71.5	77.6	52.8	80.4	53.8	57.9	81.4
CONNECTICUT	79.8	75.9	82.9	‡	79.3	53.6	63.5	85.5
DELAWARE	62.0	55.4	68.8	‡	‡	41.4	‡	69.0
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	58.2	52.4	‡	‡	61.3	39.7	58.5	86.3
FLORIDA	60.5	56.1	65.3	‡	82.2	59.0	46.7	66.0
GEORGIA	56.1	48.3	58.7	23.8	75.4	38.6	44.4	59.2
HAWAII	64.1	60.5	68.2	43.6	65.3	59.8	65.0	60.9
IDAHO	77.0	73.2	77.7	53.5	‡	52.3	‡	77.7
ILLINOIS	75.7	71.2	77.9	22.8	83.4	59.8	51.8	82.5
INDIANA	70.9	66.9	74.3	30.0	69.8	50.2	41.6	74.6
IOWA	81.1	78.1	81.7	39.0	‡	47.6	54.0	82.8
KANSAS	74.4	71.8	75.7	49.5	75.3	49.0	53.0	78.5
KENTUCKY	70.0	65.8	73.4	‡	84.5	66.5	59.2	70.3
LOUISIANA	61.4	54.0	69.1	54.2	85.0	62.5	54.6	66.2
MAINE	76.2	73.4	77.4	29.9	57.2	‡	‡	76.1
MARYLAND	74.7	69.9	79.2	56.1	91.8	64.9	62.0	81.8
MASSACHUSETTS	73.2	69.8	76.4	32.5	75.8	44.0	56.6	79.4
MICHIGAN	69.1	64.9	71.4	46.2	69.4	37.0	35.2	75.9
MINNESOTA	78.7	76.8	83.1	41.3	64.6	‡	42.7	82.6
MISSISSIPPI	62.1	55.6	68.7	29.2	63.4	47.5	58.0	65.6
MISSOURI	75.0	72.4	77.6	69.1	‡	57.4	55.8	78.0
MONTANA	76.2	73.5	77.1	42.7	‡	51.5	‡	79.4
NEBRASKA	79.8	76.4	80.0	35.2	76.2	53.8	47.4	84.5
NEVADA	54.0	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
NEW HAMPSHIRE	76.0	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
NEW JERSEY	82.5	80.0	82.8	‡	84.7	67.0	62.5	84.6
NEW MEXICO	60.1	54.7	64.2	52.7	72.3	55.3	54.1	68.0
NEW YORK	65.0	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
NORTH CAROLINA	66.1	60.6	71.9	41.6	75.5	53.8	57.0	71.7
NORTH DAKOTA	79.4	81.4	79.4	29.1	‡	33.2	47.4	83.9
OHIO	74.7	71.1	76.8	39.4	75.3	46.8	48.0	78.8
OKLAHOMA	70.4	68.9	74.0	63.9	79.3	52.6	57.0	75.0
OREGON	71.1	†	†	37.6	75.7	56.0	32.7	71.1
PENNSYLVANIA	78.2	†	†	36.9	78.3	47.3	52.6	83.6
RHODE ISLAND	70.6	66.0	74.8	28.3	53.7	54.4	57.2	74.3
SOUTH CAROLINA	53.8	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
SOUTH DAKOTA	78.5	75.2	79.1	36.4	‡	44.2	‡	82.3
TENNESSEE	72.2	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
TEXAS	67.3	63.8	71.2	52.1	86.9	57.9	61.7	75.6
UTAH	83.8	84.2	87.9	62.0	79.4	61.7	65.5	88.6
VERMONT	81.0	71.0	76.6	‡	77.7	‡	‡	80.9
VIRGINIA	73.1	69.2	77.6	57.9	83.0	57.1	61.0	78.2
WASHINGTON	66.5	63.1	71.8	36.9	72.9	50.1	45.7	70.0
WEST VIRGINIA	71.7	68.2	76.4	87.0	70.8	59.9	60.7	72.6
WISCONSIN	77.3	73.9	79.5	‡	74.8	53.6	44.8	82.6
WYOMING	75.8	71.0	78.1	27.7	62.0	56.0	45.1	77.7
U.S.	<b>69.9</b>	<b>66.0</b>	<b>73.6</b>	<b>49.3</b>	<b>80.2</b>	<b>57.8</b>	<b>53.4</b>	<b>76.2</b>

† Value not calculated because necessary data field(s) not reported in CCD or because of very small group size.

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

SOURCE: EPE Research Center, 2007

## 1.23 Million Students, Most From Minority Groups, Fail to Graduate

The Cumulative Promotion Index (CPI) used to measure graduation rates in this report estimates the percent of 9th grade students who will receive a high school diploma four school years later. Multiplying the CPI for 2003-04 by the number of 9th graders enrolled that year, we can project the expected number of graduates and nongraduates for the 2006-07 school year.

$$4.10 \text{ million 9th graders in 2003-04} \times 69.9\% \text{ CPI} = 2.87 \text{ million graduates in 2006-07}$$

4.10 million 9th graders

— 2.87 million graduates

**1.23 million nongraduates**

We performed similar projections for specific racial and ethnic groups. That analysis shows that minority students make up more than half of nongraduates, even though minorities account for less than half the total public school population. This overrepresentation of minorities among nongraduates results from much lower graduation rates compared with whites.

Note: Graduation rates are calculated using the Cumulative Promotion Index (CPI). Based on enrollment and diploma data, the CPI estimates the percent of public high school students who graduate on time with a standard diploma. Data were obtained from the U.S. Department of Education's Common Core of Data (CCD) database. New York and Wisconsin did not report 2003-04 diploma counts to the CCD. The EPE Research Center collected that information from the respective state education agencies.