

Graduation in the United States

Progress on Graduation Rate Stalls

Slightly fewer than 69 percent of all public school students in the nation graduated from high school with a regular diploma in the class of 2007, representing a small decline from the previous year. Graduation rates also dropped in the majority of states. This finding signals the continuation of an emerging trend noted in last year's report, which found the first notable annual decline in graduation in more than a decade.

When viewed over the longer term, graduation improved by 3.1 percentage points from 1997 to 2007, although progress made earlier in this period has eroded somewhat during the past several years. All racial and ethnic groups have seen improvements in the past decade, with the largest gains found among black and white students. However, large racial gaps persist nationwide, with a 30-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 2007						
	Class of 2007	Class of 1997	Change 1997 to 2007 (percentage point)	Male	Female	American Indian	Asian	Hispanic	Black	White
ALABAMA	62.5%	56.9%	+5.7	58.4%	67.5%	71.4%	69.6%	44.9%	52.4%	68.8%
ALASKA	65.2	66.4	-1.2	53.5	58.1	33.0	64.4	‡	32.6	63.8
ARIZONA	68.2	59.8	+8.4	65.2	72.0	48.3	82.1	60.3	69.6	74.1
ARKANSAS	69.3	68.6	+0.6	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
CALIFORNIA	62.7	67.4	-4.7	64.4	71.9	51.5	83.5	57.0	54.0	78.2
COLORADO	73.2	69.4	+3.9	69.2	77.8	48.8	83.2	53.7	68.9	79.8
CONNECTICUT	77.7	75.1	+2.6	74.3	80.3	36.3	80.2	52.6	62.0	84.2
DELAWARE	65.0	59.2	+5.7	59.3	70.0	‡	77.7	50.9	57.4	71.1
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	59.5	52.9	+6.6	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
FLORIDA	62.1	54.2	+7.8	57.7	66.5	51.0	83.0	58.4	51.0	67.5
GEORGIA	57.8	55.1	+2.7	53.1	62.8	38.4	81.3	42.8	48.4	65.5
HAWAII	65.1	58.4	+6.7	61.9	68.7	63.1	65.8	62.2	60.2	63.4
IDAHO	73.5	73.2	+0.3	71.5	76.8	42.9	‡	60.9	65.2	75.4
ILLINOIS	74.6	71.3	+3.3	70.2	77.0	‡	89.6	57.4	52.9	82.7
INDIANA	72.4	69.2	+3.2	68.5	75.6	36.2	75.1	57.5	53.4	75.1
IOWA	80.2	78.9	+1.3	78.1	81.7	37.4	76.8	57.9	59.2	82.4
KANSAS	75.1	73.8	+1.3	71.1	76.6	50.4	68.6	56.3	56.6	79.1
KENTUCKY	71.8	69.6	+2.2	68.2	76.2	‡	80.8	56.9	60.5	73.2
LOUISIANA	57.4	52.1	+5.3	50.6	64.3	‡	76.3	59.2	50.3	62.7
MAINE	77.6	74.8	+2.8	73.9	79.2	40.5	‡	‡	66.6	77.3
MARYLAND	73.7	74.5	-0.8	69.0	78.6	55.4	92.2	64.9	62.1	81.5
MASSACHUSETTS	77.3	74.4	+3.0	73.5	80.1	42.9	80.3	53.1	61.9	82.6
MICHIGAN	77.8	72.0	+5.7	74.8	80.7	47.6	81.9	49.4	‡	80.8
MINNESOTA	77.2	77.3	-0.1	75.9	79.5	47.5	68.3	44.1	‡	83.3
MISSISSIPPI	62.5	56.1	+6.4	56.3	68.0	31.7	64.1	48.0	58.7	65.6
MISSOURI	75.3	70.6	+4.6	72.4	77.2	52.4	‡	59.2	54.6	79.1
MONTANA	75.2	76.7	-1.5	72.6	77.3	48.6	‡	49.0	44.3	79.2
NEBRASKA	74.3	79.7	-5.5	70.8	76.7	‡	‡	48.4	43.0	82.1
NEVADA	41.8	65.7	-23.9	38.6	45.8	31.6	58.4	29.9	30.7	50.4
NEW HAMPSHIRE	76.2	66.4	+9.8	72.7	78.8	37.8	‡	29.1	‡	76.6
NEW JERSEY	83.3	80.6	+2.6	82.6	83.4	‡	85.9	66.1	66.7	87.9
NEW MEXICO	54.9	56.3	-1.4	51.9	59.0	51.3	74.3	50.3	52.6	62.6
NEW YORK	70.6	60.3	+10.3	66.7	73.0	46.8	77.6	49.1	52.5	80.5
NORTH CAROLINA	57.8	58.3	-0.5	53.5	62.6	50.6	76.0	43.5	49.5	64.1
NORTH DAKOTA	80.9	80.1	+0.8	78.0	80.0	44.3	‡	‡	‡	83.5
OHIO	74.6	68.3	+6.3	71.8	76.4	54.7	79.3	46.4	47.5	79.6
OKLAHOMA	71.8	68.9	+2.9	69.4	75.1	63.6	76.8	60.4	59.2	74.6
OREGON	74.1	69.0	+5.1	†	†	49.0	81.4	58.2	54.7	75.7
PENNSYLVANIA	77.6	74.7	+2.9	75.7	79.3	38.8	80.6	49.8	53.3	83.3
RHODE ISLAND	71.1	67.1	+4.0	69.3	73.0	‡	55.6	53.6	65.7	75.9
SOUTH CAROLINA	54.9	53.5	+1.5	48.1	60.8	26.0	‡	38.6	45.4	61.6
SOUTH DAKOTA	75.4	79.5	-4.1	71.8	76.1	39.3	78.1	51.3	‡	77.6
TENNESSEE	65.8	52.6	+13.2	61.9	69.8	‡	73.5	55.5	62.1	66.9
TEXAS	65.1	59.3	+5.8	62.4	68.1	49.8	87.7	55.6	55.3	76.0
UTAH	77.1	79.0	-1.9	76.1	80.1	‡	‡	‡	‡	79.9
VERMONT	82.3	76.4	+5.9	76.3	79.3	36.7	‡	‡	30.2	81.8
VIRGINIA	69.9	72.3	-2.3	65.1	75.0	54.6	84.9	58.0	55.7	75.9
WASHINGTON	67.9	70.6	-2.7	64.2	72.5	39.6	77.5	54.7	50.2	71.6
WEST VIRGINIA	71.6	75.5	-3.9	68.1	75.1	‡	‡	52.8	63.9	71.5
WISCONSIN	81.0	76.9	+4.1	77.9	83.2	50.7	78.0	53.8	47.1	85.9
WYOMING	72.6	74.4	-1.8	67.2	72.8	29.9	‡	59.9	57.2	73.5
U.S.	68.8%	65.7%	+3.1	66.0%	72.9%	50.7%	80.7%	55.5%	53.7%	76.6%

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

SOURCE: EPE Research Center, 2010. See Page 30 for more information about the methodology used to calculate graduation rates for this report.