

Florida's High School Cohort

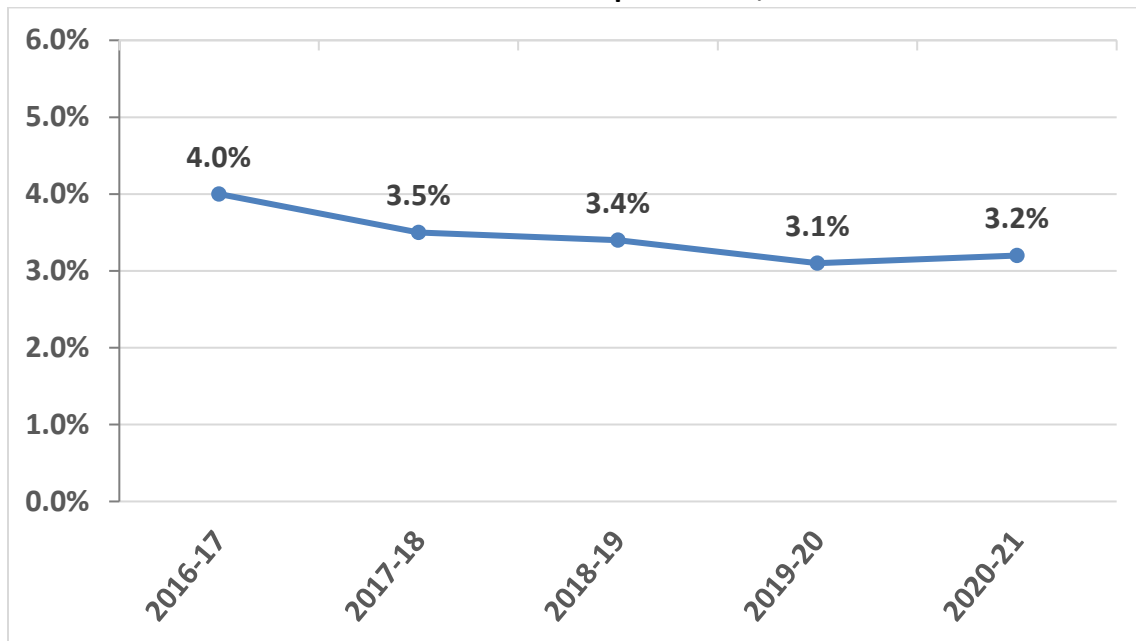
2020-21 Dropout Rate

January 2022

Florida's Dropout Rate

Florida's cohort-based dropout rate has steadily improved since 2016-17, with 0.8 percentage points fewer students dropping out prior to their scheduled graduation. The rate improved by declining from 4.0 percent in 2016-17 to 3.2 percent in 2020-21; however, the dropout rate rose from 3.1 percent to 3.2 percent between 2019-20 and 2020-21. This is a 0.1 percentage-point increase compared to last year. Exhibit 1 below shows the cohort-based dropout rates from 2016-17 to 2020-21.

Exhibit 1: Florida's Cohort-Based Dropout Rates, 2016-17 to 2020-21



The cohort-based dropout rate is the percentage of students who drop out of school within four years of their first enrollment in ninth grade. Subsequent to their enrollment in ninth grade, students who transfer out and deceased students are removed from the calculation. Entering transfer students are included in the rate for the class with which they are scheduled to graduate, based on their date of enrollment. In a cohort, at the end of four years students can be classified as graduates, dropouts or non-graduates. A dropout is defined as a student who withdraws from school for any of several reasons without transferring to another school, home education program or adult education program. In 2020-21, the cohort-based dropout rate was 3.2 percent, down from 4.0 percent in 2016-17.

The department used to publish a single-year dropout rate. The single-year dropout rate often caused confusion because it was not comparable to the graduation rate. It represented the percentage of high school students who dropped out in any one year and was not an inverse of the graduation rate. The department no longer produces a single-year dropout rate.

Exhibit 2 below provides the definitions for students counted as dropouts.

Exhibit 2: Dropout Withdrawal Codes and Definitions

DNE – Any KG-12 student who was expected to attend a school but did not enter as expected for unknown reasons
W05 – Any student age 16 or older who leaves school voluntarily with no intention of returning
W13 – Any KG-12 student withdrawn from school due to court action
W15 – Any KG-12 student who is withdrawn from school due to nonattendance
W18 – Any KG-12 student who withdraws from school due to medical reasons
W21 – Any KG-12 student who is withdrawn from school due to being expelled
W22 – Any KG-12 student whose whereabouts is unknown
W23 – Any KG-12 student who withdraws from school for any reason other than W01 - W22 or W24 - W27

Cohort-Based Dropout Rates by Race/Ethnicity and Sex

Florida’s cohort-based dropout rates vary by race/ethnicity. The subgroup with the largest decrease since 2016-17 was American Indian or Alaska Native (-2.5 percentage points). The subgroup with the largest one-year decrease was American Indian or Alaska Native (-4.5 percentage points). Exhibit 3 below shows the cohort-based dropout rates by race/ethnicity.

Exhibit 3: Cohort-Based Dropout Rates by Race/Ethnicity, 2016-2017 through 2020-2021

Year	White	Black or African American	Hispanic/Latino	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Two or More Races	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Total
2016-17	3.3%	5.2%	4.3%	0.9%	5.4%	4.0%	2.2%	4.0%
2017-18	3.0%	4.2%	4.0%	0.9%	8.1%	3.4%	2.8%	3.5%
2018-19	2.7%	4.1%	3.9%	0.9%	9.2%	3.1%	4.0%	3.4%
2019-20	2.5%	3.8%	3.6%	0.4%	7.4%	2.9%	4.0%	3.1%
2020-21	2.6%	4.0%	3.7%	0.7%	2.9%	3.1%	3.7%	3.2%

Exhibit 4 provides the dropout rates for sex and by race/ethnicity within sex. Overall, the dropout rates for both females and males have decreased by 0.8 percent each, since 2016-17. Additional disaggregations for the cohort-based dropout rates may be obtained through the “Build Your Own Table” feature in the High School Graduation Rates section of the EDStats tool at <https://edstats.fldoe.org>.

Exhibit 4: Cohort-Based Dropout Rates by Sex within Race/Ethnicity, 2016-17 through 2020-21

Year	White Female	White Male	Black or African American Female	Black or African American Male	Hispanic/Latino Female	Hispanic/Latino Male	Asian Female	Asian Male
2016-17	2.6%	4.1%	3.9%	6.4%	3.3%	5.3%	0.7%	1.1%
2017-18	2.4%	3.6%	2.9%	5.5%	3.1%	4.9%	0.6%	1.1%
2018-19	2.0%	3.5%	3.1%	5.2%	3.1%	4.8%	0.5%	1.2%
2019-20	1.9%	3.1%	2.7%	4.8%	2.6%	4.4%	0.3%	0.5%
2020-21	1.8%	3.2%	2.8%	5.1%	2.6%	4.8%	0.6%	0.9%

Exhibit 4 Continued: Dropout Rates by Sex within Race/Ethnicity, 2016-17 through 2020-21

Year	American Indian or Alaska Native Female	American Indian or Alaska Native Male	Two or More Races Female	Two or More Races Male	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander Female	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander Male	Total Female	Total Male
2016-17	5.7%	5.2%	3.2%	4.8%	0.8%	3.8%	3.1%	4.9%
2017-18	4.2%	11.8%	3.0%	3.8%	2.4%	3.4%	2.7%	4.4%
2018-19	4.6%	13.1%	2.3%	4.1%	2.1%	5.8%	2.6%	4.3%
2019-20	4.8%	9.9%	2.3%	3.6%	3.0%	5.1%	2.3%	3.9%
2020-21	2.3%	3.5%	2.0%	4.1%	2.3%	4.9%	2.3%	4.1%

Cohort-Based Dropout Rates by District

Exhibit 5 shows the cohort-based dropout rates by district from 2016-17 to 2020-21. School-level and additional district-level disaggregations for the cohort-based dropout rates may be obtained via the “Build Your Own Table” section in the High School Graduation Rates section of the EDStats tool at <https://edstats.fldoe.org>.

Exhibit 5: Cohort-Based Dropout Rates by District, 2016-17 through 2020-21

District	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
FLORIDA	4.0%	3.5%	3.4%	3.1%	3.2%
01 ALACHUA	4.8%	3.7%	1.6%	2.0%	1.6%
02 BAKER	4.5%	3.9%	2.4%	2.0%	7.9%
03 BAY	2.6%	3.1%	4.6%	4.1%	7.3%
04 BRADFORD	3.0%	1.4%	3.4%	6.4%	10.0%
05 BREVARD	2.3%	2.0%	2.0%	2.3%	2.4%
06 BROWARD	2.1%	1.6%	1.8%	1.3%	2.0%
07 CALHOUN	7.0%	7.3%	4.8%	5.7%	3.5%
08 CHARLOTTE	7.4%	4.4%	4.7%	5.0%	5.5%
09 CITRUS	6.1%	9.0%	7.2%	5.4%	4.1%

District		2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
10	CLAY	2.8%	3.4%	3.0%	2.1%	2.1%
11	COLLIER	3.4%	3.3%	3.0%	2.9%	4.7%
12	COLUMBIA	2.5%	1.8%	0.3%	1.6%	0.2%
13	MIAMI-DADE	5.7%	4.8%	4.9%	3.6%	4.3%
14	DESOTO	7.6%	9.6%	8.2%	7.5%	8.4%
15	DIXIE	3.5%	0.8%	1.4%	3.7%	6.1%
16	DUVAL	5.3%	4.5%	3.0%	3.7%	2.5%
17	ESCAMBIA	1.1%	1.1%	0.6%	0.7%	0.9%
18	FLAGLER	2.6%	4.1%	3.6%	3.9%	4.3%
19	FRANKLIN	10.4%	8.0%	14.1%	19.4%	15.4%
20	GADSDEN	11.5%	10.9%	11.4%	7.5%	6.1%
21	GILCHRIST	2.4%	5.6%	5.3%	4.2%	5.9%
22	GLADES	3.7%	1.6%	3.7%	7.8%	1.5%
23	GULF	4.5%	2.5%	3.9%	8.1%	6.0%
24	HAMILTON	18.6%	9.8%	9.3%	8.3%	8.8%
25	HARDEE	8.0%	4.9%	5.0%	4.0%	2.3%
26	HENDRY	9.0%	7.2%	8.4%	6.8%	9.5%
27	HERNANDO	9.0%	7.9%	5.5%	6.1%	6.4%
28	HIGHLANDS	5.4%	4.8%	5.3%	4.2%	5.7%
29	HILLSBOROUGH	3.4%	3.6%	2.9%	2.9%	2.6%
30	HOLMES	11.6%	9.3%	7.7%	3.1%	1.8%
31	INDIAN RIVER	0.6%	1.1%	1.0%	1.1%	1.4%
32	JACKSON	2.9%	2.0%	3.1%	2.9%	5.8%
33	JEFFERSON	5.6%	15.6%	15.7%	0.0%	4.5%
34	LAFAYETTE	1.2%	1.3%	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%
35	LAKE	6.1%	6.1%	4.8%	3.4%	3.5%
36	LEE	4.3%	3.3%	2.9%	2.5%	2.4%
37	LEON	0.4%	0.4%	0.6%	0.9%	0.6%
38	LEVY	3.8%	4.4%	4.5%	5.8%	1.6%
39	LIBERTY	4.8%	8.0%	3.2%	1.2%	0.0%
40	MADISON	0.6%	6.7%	4.2%	4.7%	7.6%
41	MANATEE	4.7%	4.9%	6.8%	6.0%	6.7%
42	MARION	6.3%	4.1%	3.6%	3.7%	2.5%
43	MARTIN	4.3%	4.9%	4.8%	5.9%	3.8%
44	MONROE	4.4%	2.4%	2.8%	2.7%	3.6%
45	NASSAU	0.9%	1.6%	0.5%	1.6%	0.7%
46	OKALOOSA	2.1%	1.9%	1.8%	1.8%	1.0%
47	OKEECHOBEE	10.5%	7.7%	11.2%	5.8%	4.1%
48	ORANGE	1.4%	1.3%	1.9%	1.5%	1.3%
49	OSCEOLA	1.7%	1.9%	1.3%	2.6%	3.0%
50	PALM BEACH	5.9%	5.1%	6.2%	6.1%	6.1%
51	PASCO	3.3%	2.2%	1.7%	1.8%	1.5%
52	PINELLAS	4.1%	4.1%	3.0%	2.9%	2.3%
53	POLK	8.4%	7.8%	7.3%	6.3%	6.2%
54	PUTNAM	7.1%	5.8%	5.2%	5.3%	3.8%
55	ST. JOHNS	2.9%	2.2%	1.8%	2.1%	2.1%
56	ST. LUCIE	1.9%	0.9%	1.7%	2.0%	2.7%
57	SANTA ROSA	2.9%	2.7%	2.4%	2.3%	2.8%

District		2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
58	SARASOTA	3.6%	4.3%	4.2%	4.1%	5.7%
59	SEMINOLE	1.8%	1.1%	1.3%	1.1%	1.4%
60	SUMTER	3.6%	5.5%	4.1%	5.4%	3.7%
61	SUWANNEE	1.3%	1.2%	3.3%	5.4%	1.3%
62	TAYLOR	9.7%	1.2%	2.2%	0.7%	3.1%
63	UNION	1.3%	2.4%	4.8%	1.3%	1.3%
64	VOLUSIA	3.4%	2.8%	2.5%	1.6%	1.4%
65	WAKULLA	1.4%	0.7%	0.0%	0.3%	0.6%
66	WALTON	4.8%	5.2%	3.9%	3.8%	3.3%
67	WASHINGTON	9.3%	7.4%	10.9%	4.0%	5.6%
68	DEAF/BLIND	0.0%	0.0%	4.5%	0.0%	0.0%
71	FL VIRTUAL	4.9%	3.0%	2.5%	1.4%	0.2%
72	FAU LAB SCHOOL	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
73	FSU CHARTER SCHOOL	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%	0.0%
74	FAMU LAB SCHOOL	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
75	UF LAB SCHOOL	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.7%	0.0%