

# Florida's High School Cohort Graduation Rate

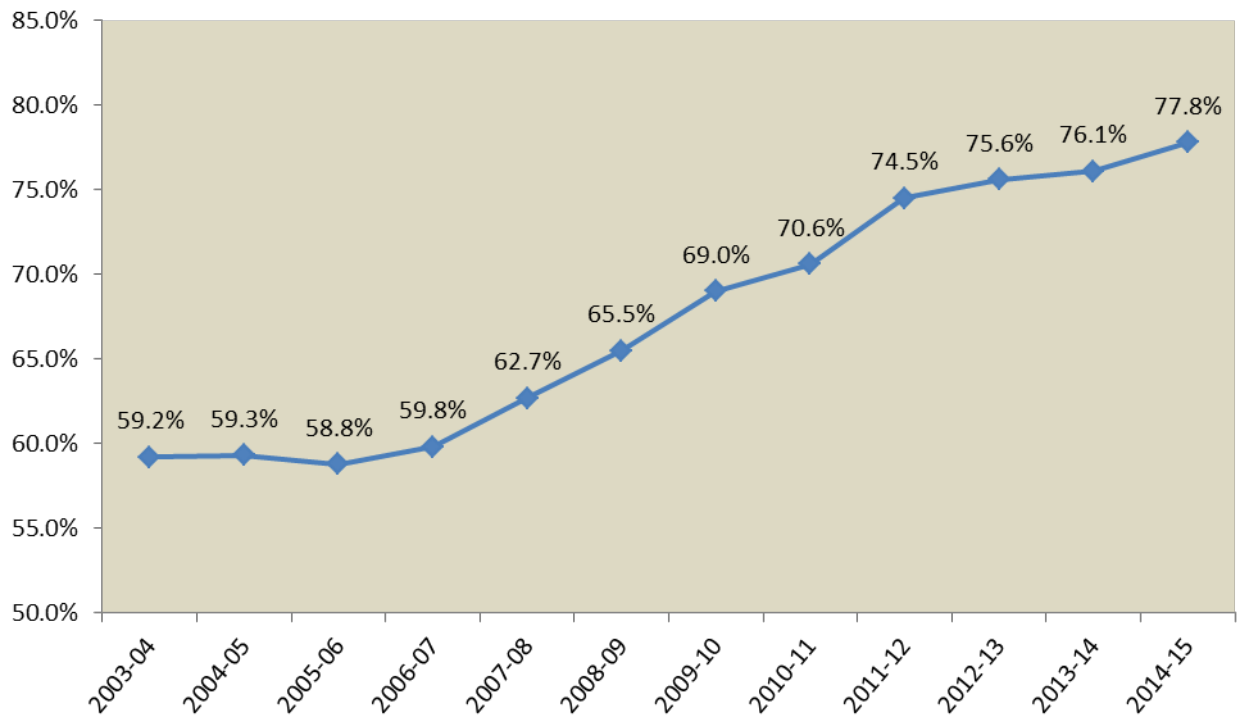
December 2015

## Florida's Graduation Rate

Florida's high school graduation rate increased by 1.7 percentage points over the last year and has increased significantly during the past eleven years. The rate rose from 59.2 percent in 2003-04 to 77.8 percent in 2014-15. Figure 1 below shows the trend in graduation rates from 2003-04 through 2014-15.

Federal regulations require each state to calculate a four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate, which includes standard diplomas but excludes GEDs, both regular and adult, and special diplomas. The U.S. Department of Education (USED) adopted this calculation method in an effort to develop uniform, accurate and comparable graduation rates across all states. The USED required states to begin calculating the new graduation rate in 2010-11. This graduation rate is currently used in Florida's school accountability system in the high school grades calculation.

**Figure 1: Florida's Graduation Rates, 2003-04 through 2014-15**



Florida's graduation rate is a cohort graduation rate. A cohort is defined as a group of students on the same schedule to graduate. The graduation rate measures the percentage of students who graduate 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 graduation rate for the class with which they are scheduled to graduate, based on their date of enrollment. District-level graduation rates are provided in Table 3. School-level graduation rates are available online at <https://edstats.fldoe.org/>.

In the calculation, stringent guidelines are prescribed for not only the definition of a graduate, but also for the definition of a transfer. Students who transfer to adult education programs or Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) facilities remain with their regular high schools' cohorts.

## How Does Florida's Graduation Rate Compare with Other States' Rates?

- The USED recently released information on all states' 2013-14 federal graduation rates at [https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/tables/ACGR\\_RE\\_and\\_characteristics\\_2013-14.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/tables/ACGR_RE_and_characteristics_2013-14.asp). Florida's federal graduation rate in 2013-14 was 76.1 percent which placed eight states (including the District of Columbia) below it.
- However, subsequent to this release, Florida has increased its graduation rate by 1.7 percentage points in 2014-15.
- Although the federal uniform graduation rate is calculated in the same way by each state, states have different requirements for receiving a standard diploma, which means that the rates are not directly comparable from state to state.
- Florida's standard diploma is a rigorous credential for which standards and testing requirements have periodically increased. Because states have different criteria for awarding a standard diploma, comparing rates among states is problematic.

## Graduation Rates by Race/Ethnicity and Sex

Florida's graduation rates vary by race/ethnicity, but all groups have increased their graduation rates since 2011-12. The subgroups with the largest percentage point increases over 2013-14 include African Americans (3.2 percentage points) and Native Hawaiians or Other Pacific Islanders (7 percentage points).

**Table 1: Graduation Rates by Race/Ethnicity, 2010-11 through 2014-15**

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
2010-11	76.2%	58.6%	69.4%	85.9%	69.7%	75.1%		70.6%
2011-12	79.5%	63.7%	73.0%	88.5%	69.7%	78.7%	62.5%	74.5%
2012-13	80.5%	64.6%	74.9%	88.4%	76.8%	79.7%	88.2%	75.6%
2013-14	81.7%	64.7%	75.0%	89.2%	73.8%	80.1%	75.6%	76.1%
2014-15	82.7%	67.9%	76.7%	90.8%	75.7%	81.5%	82.6%	77.8%

**Note:** Beginning with the 2010-11 school year, Florida implemented new data elements for collecting and reporting student demographic data in compliance with changes made by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. For race, students select one or more of the following: American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, White. Students who select more than one racial category, but do not indicate that they are Hispanic or Latino, are included in the Two or More Races category in this report. All students who indicated that they are Hispanic or Latino are included only in the Hispanic/Latino rates in this report; they are not included in the racial categories they have selected.

**Table 2: Graduation Rates by Sex within Race/Ethnicity, 2010-11 through 2014-15**

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
2010-11	80.6%	72.1%	64.8%	52.6%	73.8%	65.2%	88.0%	84.0%
2011-12	83.4%	75.7%	70.0%	57.4%	77.2%	68.9%	90.5%	86.5%
2012-13	84.4%	76.7%	70.5%	58.9%	78.0%	71.9%	90.8%	86.0%
2013-14	85.3%	78.2%	69.4%	59.9%	78.4%	71.6%	90.8%	87.5%
2014-15	86.2%	79.3%	73.1%	62.8%	80.4%	73.1%	92.1%	89.5%

**Table 2 Continued: Graduation Rates by Sex within Race/Ethnicity, 2010-11 through 2014-15**

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
2010-11	73.3%	66.5%	79.7%	70.8%			75.3%	66.0%
2011-12	73.6%	65.6%	81.6%	75.8%	61.5%	63.2%	78.9%	70.3%
2012-13	83.5%	70.9%	83.1%	76.3%	91.7%	86.4%	79.7%	71.6%
2013-14	79.5%	68.0%	83.5%	77.3%	77.1%	74.1%	79.9%	72.5%
2014-15	81.1%	70.2%	84.4%	78.3%	82.5%	82.7%	81.7%	74.1%

**Table 3: Graduation Rates by District, 2010-11 through 2014-15**

District	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
FLORIDA	70.6%	74.5%	75.6%	76.1%	77.8%
01 Alachua	63.4%	68.7%	72.6%	72.2%	74.3%
02 Baker	65.0%	72.8%	72.1%	75.2%	81.8%
03 Bay	68.1%	73.7%	73.0%	70.8%	70.6%
04 Bradford	61.1%	64.2%	67.5%	71.3%	76.9%
05 Brevard	81.4%	85.2%	87.4%	85.8%	86.2%
06 Broward	71.6%	76.4%	75.3%	74.2%	76.6%
07 Calhoun	74.1%	77.3%	80.6%	80.8%	84.0%
08 Charlotte	73.0%	79.2%	75.5%	76.2%	75.5%
09 Citrus	74.5%	78.0%	80.1%	77.0%	77.4%
10 Clay**	74.4%	74.2%	77.9%	80.1%	83.7%
11 Collier	72.5%	78.4%	81.3%	82.1%	84.3%
12 Columbia	63.2%	64.8%	65.7%	61.0%	71.0%
13 Miami-Dade	71.3%	76.0%	77.2%	76.6%	78.1%
14 DeSoto	63.1%	67.9%	61.6%	61.0%	62.2%
15 Dixie	52.5%	77.1%	82.4%	87.8%	96.9%
16 Duval	63.3%	67.7%	72.1%	74.0%	76.6%
17 Escambia	57.7%	62.1%	64.2%	66.1%	72.7%
18 Flagler	70.1%	74.8%	76.9%	77.8%	77.5%
19 Franklin	59.0%	59.0%	58.8%	69.9%	49.0%
20 Gadsden	55.1%	61.4%	58.3%	56.0%	65.4%
21 Gilchrist	79.9%	85.9%	89.7%	95.4%	94.0%
22 Glades	47.7%	64.8%	61.8%	60.8%	80.7%
23 Gulf	77.6%	84.7%	85.7%	77.8%	83.6%
24 Hamilton	65.0%	55.0%	55.5%	78.6%	73.7%
25 Hardee	65.7%	63.6%	65.2%	64.3%	59.7%
26 Hendry	65.6%	73.5%	67.8%	67.5%	76.8%
27 Hernando	71.5%	74.2%	74.1%	76.7%	78.0%
28 Highlands	60.2%	62.1%	61.8%	63.6%	64.5%
29 Hillsborough	69.3%	72.6%	74.1%	73.5%	76.0%
30 Holmes	75.1%	72.8%	78.1%	71.6%	80.5%
31 Indian River	71.7%	80.9%	80.1%	79.1%	75.7%
32 Jackson	64.7%	69.2%	72.1%	70.2%	69.7%
33 Jefferson	38.6%	42.6%	35.1%	56.7%	73.3%

**Table 3: Graduation Rates by District, 2010-11 through 2014-15**

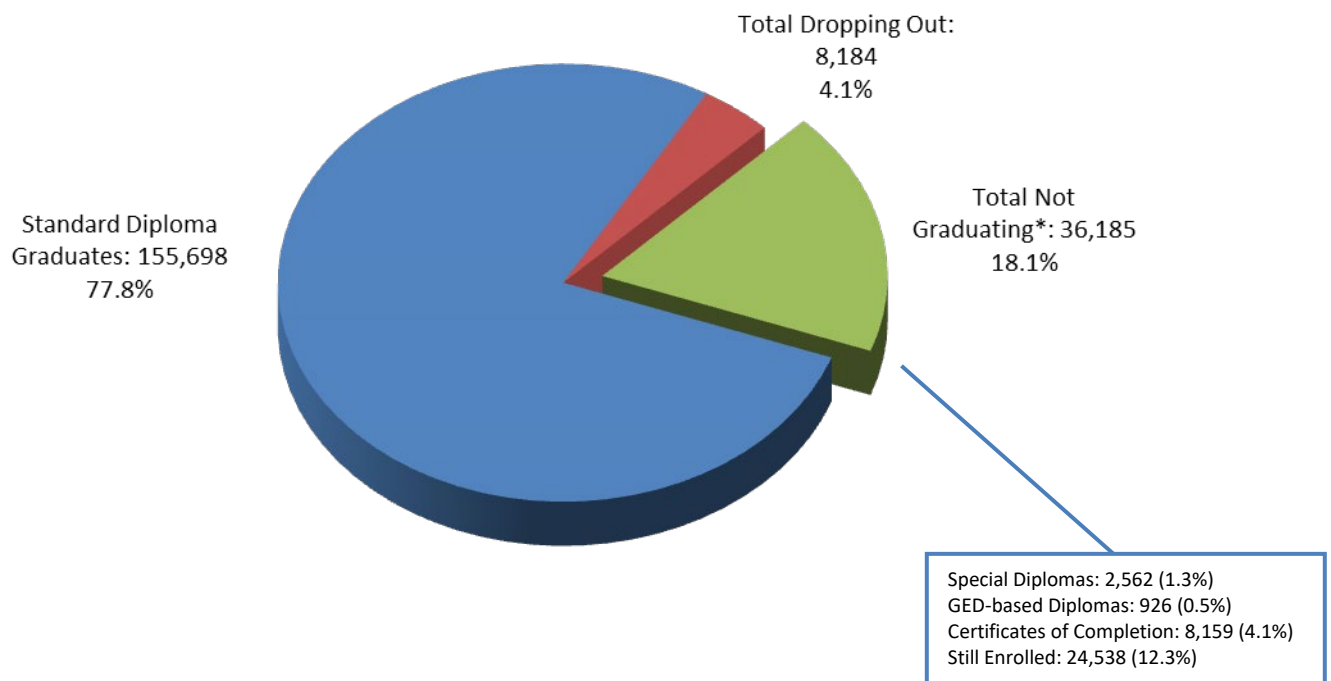
	District	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
	FLORIDA	70.6%	74.5%	75.6%	76.1%	77.8%
34	Lafayette	63.8%	65.8%	87.5%	80.0%	80.7%
35	Lake	75.4%	78.2%	78.3%	76.6%	75.8%
36	Lee	68.9%	71.9%	74.4%	75.2%	74.7%
37	Leon	68.4%	71.3%	77.0%	83.5%	87.2%
38	Levy	61.0%	72.2%	77.8%	69.1%	81.6%
39	Liberty	53.5%	64.2%	68.9%	71.3%	77.7%
40	Madison	57.1%	66.3%	64.0%	75.7%	58.1%
41	Manatee	64.7%	76.2%	76.8%	75.7%	77.9%
42	Marion	69.8%	75.2%	76.7%	77.9%	80.7%
43	Martin	82.4%	84.9%	87.7%	88.8%	88.9%
44	Monroe	66.4%	68.6%	71.3%	72.8%	76.9%
45	Nassau	79.9%	89.0%	90.9%	89.9%	90.9%
46	Okaloosa	84.5%	83.3%	82.7%	82.5%	82.4%
47	Okeechobee	61.9%	58.9%	63.0%	61.2%	65.9%
48	Orange	71.4%	73.9%	75.9%	74.6%	77.6%
49	Osceola	76.1%	77.5%	78.1%	78.0%	80.6%
50	Palm Beach	74.3%	77.0%	76.3%	77.9%	79.4%
51	Pasco	71.0%	76.6%	75.9%	79.4%	78.6%
52	Pinellas	65.2%	72.0%	71.9%	76.2%	78.3%
53	Polk	66.4%	67.6%	69.4%	69.0%	69.4%
54	Putnam	63.2%	58.9%	58.2%	58.2%	54.9%
55	St. Johns	85.8%	86.0%	86.7%	87.8%	90.5%
56	St. Lucie	65.4%	70.6%	67.7%	73.2%	75.5%
57	Santa Rosa	77.8%	77.2%	78.9%	82.8%	83.2%
58	Sarasota	70.7%	78.0%	76.2%	81.3%	79.2%
59	Seminole	78.8%	80.3%	83.8%	85.1%	86.4%
60	Sumter	75.3%	77.7%	78.5%	83.4%	78.1%
61	Suwannee	54.4%	59.5%	59.5%	76.6%	67.5%
62	Taylor	61.1%	63.5%	62.4%	49.5%	64.7%
63	Union	73.7%	70.4%	79.0%	82.8%	77.7%
64	Volusia	62.0%	66.8%	68.0%	70.6%	71.6%
65	Wakulla	74.7%	70.4%	78.9%	75.1%	78.1%
66	Walton	74.2%	74.5%	77.6%	68.4%	74.4%
67	Washington	68.7%	71.1%	71.0%	66.2%	70.5%
68	Deaf/Blind	64.3%	36.9%	44.0%	51.8%	46.3%
69	Wash. Special	3.2%	0.0%	*	*	*
71	FL Virtual		*	*	74.9%	70.9%
72	FAU Lab School	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
73	FSU Charter School	98.5%	98.5%	97.6%	88.0%	97.1%
74	FAMU Lab School	95.1%	81.8%	92.9%	76.7%	97.1%
75	UF Lab School	95.6%	94.8%	95.0%	97.3%	97.3%

**Notes:**  
Source: 2014-15 Florida Department of Education (FDOE) cohort graduation data as of 12/16/15.  
Clay County's 2011-12 rate was revised after the official release.  
To provide meaningful results and to protect the privacy of individual students, data are displayed only when the total number of students in a group is at least 10. Data for groups less than 10 are displayed with an asterisk (\*). A blank cell indicates no students in the cohort.  
Cells shaded green indicate that a district improved its graduation rate or maintained a graduation rate of 100 percent from 2013-14 to 2014-15.

## Withdrawal Status of All Students in the Graduation Cohort

Florida’s graduation rate is 77.8 percent, but that does not mean that 22.2 percent of students in the cohort are dropouts. Students in a cohort can be classified as graduates, dropouts and nongraduates. Nongraduates include students who have been retained and are still in school, received certificates of completion or received GED-based diplomas. In Florida’s 2014-15 cohort, 4.1 percent of the students dropped out and 18.1 percent are still enrolled in school, earned a certificate of completion, special diploma or GED-based diploma. Figure 2 illustrates the proportions of students in the 2014-15 cohort who graduated, dropped out and did not graduate.

**Figure 2: 2014-15 Cohort Outcomes by Withdrawal Code Categories**



**Note:**

Nongraduates include special diplomas, certificates of completion, GED recipients and students who are still enrolled.



Florida Department of Education  
Pam Stewart, Commissioner

For questions regarding Florida's High School Cohort Graduation Rate, contact:

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