

# Florida's High School Cohort 2016-17 Graduation Rate

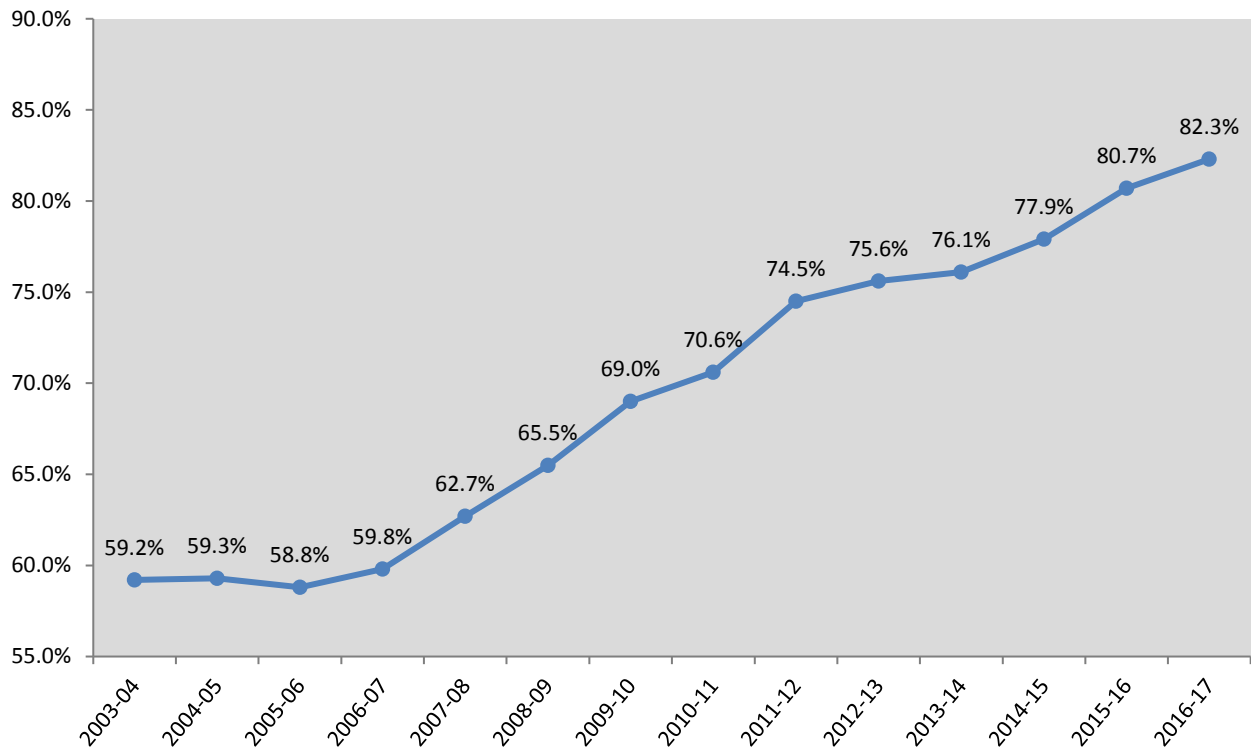
January 2018

## Florida's Graduation Rate

Florida's high school graduation rate increased by 1.6 percentage points over the last year and has increased significantly during the past thirteen years. The rate rose from 59.2 percent in 2003-04 to 82.3 percent in 2016-17. Figure 1 below shows the trend in graduation rates from 2003-04 through 2016-17.

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 adjusted cohort graduation rate in 2010-11. This graduation rate is currently used in Florida's school accountability system in the school grades calculation.

**Figure 1: Florida's Graduation Rates, 2003-04 through 2016-17**



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 or pass away 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 grade level when they enroll in the public school system. District-level graduation rates are provided in Table 3. School-level graduation rates are available online at <https://edstats.fldoe.org/SASPortal/public>.

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 are placed in jails/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’ 2015-16 federal graduation rates at [https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/tables/ACGR\\_RE\\_and\\_characteristics\\_2015-16.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/tables/ACGR_RE_and_characteristics_2015-16.asp). Florida’s federal graduation rate in 2015-16 was 80.7 percent which placed fourteen states (including the District of Columbia) below it. This is an improvement over 2014-15 when Florida’s federal graduation rate was higher than nine states (including the District of Columbia).
- However, subsequent to this release, Florida increased its graduation rate by 1.6 percentage points in 2016-17.
- Although the federal uniform graduation rate is calculated 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 Gender

Florida’s graduation rates vary by race/ethnicity, but all groups have increased their graduation rates. The subgroup with the largest percentage point increases over 2015-16 include American Indian or Alaska Native (3.5 percentage points), Black or African Americans (2.5 percentage points), and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (2.5 percentage points).

**Table 1: Graduation Rates by Race/Ethnicity, 2012-13 through 2016-17**

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
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	82.8%	68.0%	76.7%	90.9%	75.7%	81.5%	82.6%	77.9%
2015-16	85.1%	72.3%	79.5%	91.9%	76.5%	82.7%	84.7%	80.7%
2016-17	86.2%	74.8%	81.3%	93.2%	80.0%	83.1%	87.2%	82.3%

**Table 2: Graduation Rates by Gender within Race/Ethnicity, 2012-13 through 2016-17**

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
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	86.3%	79.4%	73.1%	62.9%	80.4%	73.1%	92.1%	89.6%
2015-16	88.3%	82.0%	77.7%	67.0%	83.2%	75.8%	93.2%	90.6%
2016-17	89.4%	83.1%	80.3%	69.4%	84.9%	77.8%	94.9%	91.4%

**Table 2 Continued: Graduation Rates by Gender within Race/Ethnicity, 2012-13 through 2016-17**

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
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%
2015-16	79.8%	73.4%	86.2%	78.9%	89.7%	78.8%	84.5%	77.0%
2016-17	82.3%	77.6%	86.1%	79.8%	88.5%	85.6%	86.0%	78.6%

**Table 3: Graduation Rates by District, 2012-13 through 2016-17**

District	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
FLORIDA	75.6%	76.1%	77.9%	80.7%	82.3%
01 Alachua	72.6%	72.2%	74.3%	78.4%	82.7%
02 Baker	72.1%	75.2%	81.8%	79.4%	81.0%
03 Bay	73.0%	70.8%	70.6%	81.0%	78.0%
04 Bradford	67.5%	71.3%	76.9%	83.7%	78.9%
05 Brevard	87.4%	85.8%	86.2%	87.5%	85.9%
06 Broward	75.3%	74.2%	76.6%	78.7%	81.0%
07 Calhoun	80.6%	80.8%	84.0%	82.9%	80.9%
08 Charlotte	75.5%	76.2%	75.5%	77.4%	81.0%
09 Citrus	80.1%	77.0%	77.4%	79.0%	78.9%
10 Clay	77.9%	80.1%	83.7%	84.7%	88.4%
11 Collier	81.3%	82.1%	84.3%	86.7%	88.2%
12 Columbia	65.7%	61.0%	71.0%	75.0%	70.7%
13 Miami-Dade	77.2%	76.6%	78.1%	80.4%	80.7%
14 DeSoto	61.6%	61.0%	62.2%	61.6%	63.8%
15 Dixie	82.4%	87.8%	96.9%	96.1%	89.5%
16 Duval	72.1%	74.0%	76.6%	78.8%	80.8%
17 Escambia	64.2%	66.1%	72.7%	76.1%	79.5%
18 Flagler	76.9%	77.8%	77.5%	80.4%	81.1%
19 Franklin	58.8%	69.9%	49.0%	72.6%	74.6%
20 Gadsden	58.3%	56.0%	65.4%	68.4%	50.0%
21 Gilchrist	89.7%	95.4%	94.0%	97.7%	93.4%
22 Glades	61.8%	60.8%	80.7%	78.3%	81.5%
23 Gulf	85.7%	77.8%	83.6%	81.5%	84.7%
24 Hamilton	55.5%	78.6%	73.7%	83.0%	67.0%
25 Hardee	65.2%	64.3%	59.7%	67.3%	72.1%
26 Hendry	67.8%	67.5%	76.8%	78.1%	84.4%
27 Hernando	74.1%	76.7%	78.0%	81.1%	82.6%
28 Highlands	61.8%	63.6%	64.5%	68.1%	71.6%
29 Hillsborough	74.1%	73.5%	76.0%	79.1%	82.9%
30 Holmes	78.1%	71.6%	80.5%	72.4%	68.7%
31 Indian River	80.1%	79.1%	81.2%	87.2%	87.1%
32 Jackson	72.1%	70.2%	69.7%	72.6%	71.8%
33 Jefferson	35.1%	56.7%	73.3%	70.0%	53.7%
34 Lafayette	87.5%	80.0%	87.0%	93.2%	88.2%
35 Lake	78.3%	76.6%	75.8%	78.1%	77.8%
36 Lee	74.4%	75.2%	74.7%	77.8%	78.7%

**Table 3: Graduation Rates by District, 2012-13 through 2016-17**

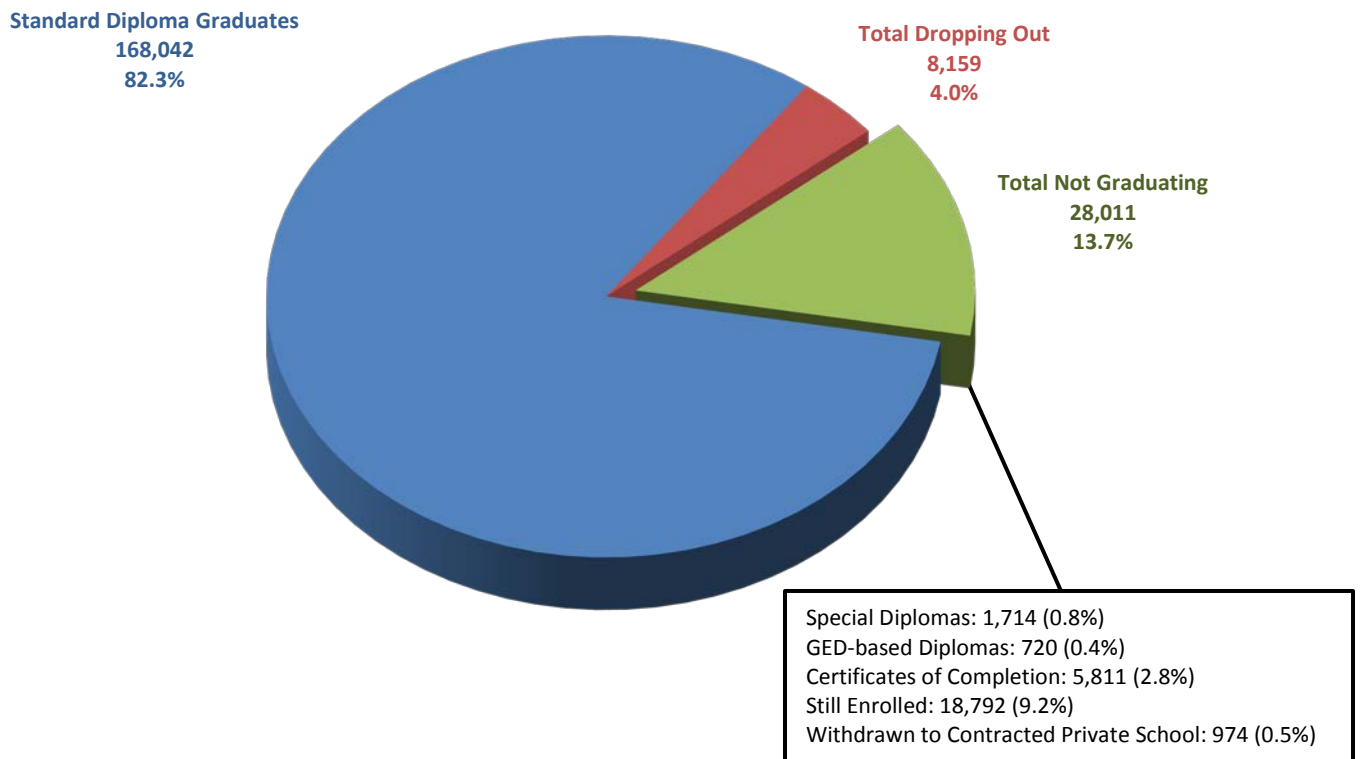
District	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
FLORIDA	75.6%	76.1%	77.9%	80.7%	82.3%
37 Leon	77.0%	83.5%	87.2%	92.3%	88.6%
38 Levy	77.8%	69.1%	81.6%	81.4%	79.7%
39 Liberty	68.9%	71.3%	77.7%	75.0%	81.9%
40 Madison	64.0%	75.7%	58.1%	80.1%	76.7%
41 Manatee	76.8%	75.7%	77.9%	83.5%	81.1%
42 Marion	76.7%	77.9%	80.7%	81.8%	78.5%
43 Martin	87.7%	88.8%	88.9%	88.7%	83.9%
44 Monroe	71.3%	72.8%	76.9%	77.9%	79.2%
45 Nassau	90.9%	89.9%	90.9%	91.4%	90.9%
46 Okaloosa	82.7%	82.5%	82.4%	84.4%	86.2%
47 Okeechobee	63.0%	61.2%	65.9%	70.5%	71.7%
48 Orange	75.9%	74.6%	77.6%	81.3%	84.7%
49 Osceola	78.1%	78.0%	80.6%	82.0%	86.3%
50 Palm Beach	76.3%	77.9%	79.4%	82.3%	85.0%
51 Pasco	75.9%	79.4%	78.6%	79.1%	81.4%
52 Pinellas	71.9%	76.2%	78.3%	80.1%	82.9%
53 Polk	69.4%	69.0%	69.4%	71.8%	75.4%
54 Putnam	58.2%	58.2%	54.9%	63.6%	72.2%
55 St. Johns	86.7%	87.8%	90.5%	91.2%	90.9%
56 St. Lucie	67.7%	73.2%	75.5%	86.8%	90.1%
57 Santa Rosa	78.9%	82.8%	83.2%	85.7%	86.4%
58 Sarasota	76.2%	81.3%	79.2%	85.4%	85.7%
59 Seminole	83.8%	85.1%	86.4%	88.3%	88.6%
60 Sumter	78.5%	83.4%	80.4%	84.6%	85.3%
61 Suwannee	59.5%	76.6%	67.5%	89.6%	90.5%
62 Taylor	62.4%	49.5%	64.7%	70.7%	70.3%
63 Union	79.0%	82.8%	77.7%	72.4%	81.0%
64 Volusia	68.0%	70.6%	71.6%	76.0%	76.6%
65 Wakulla	78.9%	75.1%	78.1%	86.9%	86.7%
66 Walton	77.6%	68.4%	74.4%	77.3%	82.2%
67 Washington	71.0%	66.2%	70.5%	76.3%	77.8%
68 Deaf/Blind	44.0%	51.8%	46.3%	47.1%	48.3%
69 Wash. Special	*	*	*	*	*
71 FL Virtual	*	74.9%	70.9%	66.6%	67.3%
72 FAU Lab School	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
73 FSU Charter School	97.6%	88.0%	97.1%	98.6%	98.7%
74 FAMU Lab School	92.9%	76.7%	97.1%	94.9%	89.3%
75 UF Lab School	95.0%	97.3%	97.3%	96.4%	98.2%

**Notes:**  
 Source: 2016-17 Florida Department of Education (FDOE) cohort graduation data as of 12/18/17.  
 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.

## Withdrawal Status of All Students in the Graduation Cohort

Florida’s graduation rate is 82.3 percent, but that does not mean that 17.7 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. Florida’s 2017 Legislature amended section 1008.34, Florida Statutes, so that high school students who transfer to a private school with which the school district has a contractual relationship are included in the 4-year adjusted graduation rate cohort of the last public high school they attended. These students are included in the percentage of nongraduates. In Florida’s 2016-17 cohort, 4.0 percent of the students dropped out and 13.7 percent are still enrolled in school, earned a certificate of completion, special diploma, GED-based diploma, or withdrew to a contracted private school. Figure 2 illustrates the proportions of students in the 2016-17 cohort who graduated, dropped out, or did not graduate.

**Figure 2: 2016-17 Cohort Outcomes by Withdrawal Categories**



**Note:** Nongraduates include still enrolled in school, earned a certificate of completion, special diploma, GED-based diploma, or withdrew to a contracted private school.



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

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