

# Florida's High School Cohort 2017-18 Graduation Rate

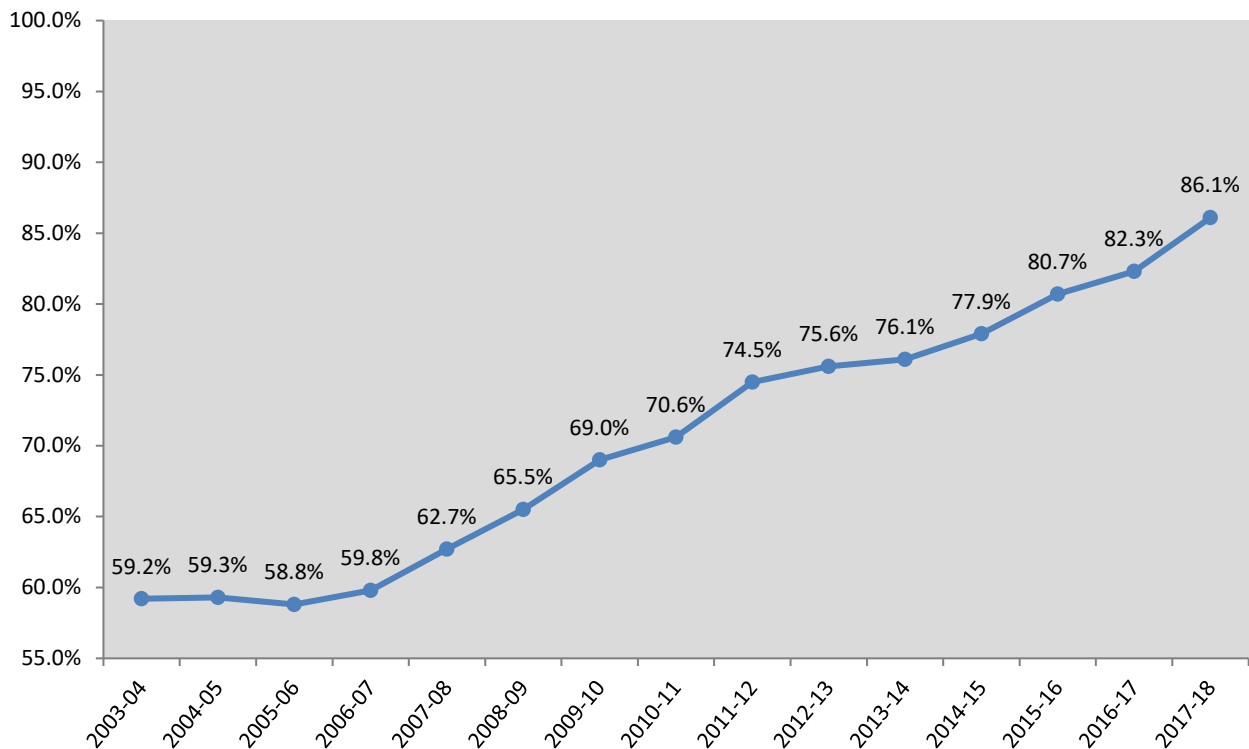
December 2018

## Florida's Graduation Rate

Florida's high school graduation rate increased by 3.8 percentage points over the last year and has increased significantly during the past fourteen years. The rate rose from 59.2 percent in 2003-04 to 86.1 percent in 2017-18, which is a 26.9 percentage point increase. Figure 1 below shows the trend in graduation rates from 2003-04 through 2017-18.

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 2017-18**



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 <http://fldoe.org/accountability/data-sys/edu-info-accountability-services/pk-12-public-school-data-pubs-reports/students.stml>.

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 most recent graduation rates released on all states by USED are the 2015-16 federal graduation rates available 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 was an improvement over 2014-15 when Florida's federal graduation rate was higher than nine states (including the District of Columbia).
- However, subsequent to the 2015-16 release, Florida has increased its graduation rate by 5.4 percentage points.
- 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 almost all groups have increased their graduation rates. The subgroups with the largest percentage point increases over 2016-17 include Black or African Americans (6.1 percentage points), Two or More Races (3.9 percentage points), and Hispanic/Latino students (3.8 percentage points).

**Table 1: Graduation Rates by Race/Ethnicity, 2013-14 through 2017-18**

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
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%
2017-18	89%	80.9%	85.1%	95.8%	79.8%	87%	89.2%	86.1%

**Table 2: Graduation Rates by Gender within Race/Ethnicity, 2013-14 through 2017-18**

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
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%
2017-18	91.4%	86.7%	86.1%	75.7%	88.4%	81.9%	96.6%	95%

**Table 2 Continued: Graduation Rates by Gender within Race/Ethnicity, 2013-14 through 2017-18**

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
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%
2017-18	85.5%	74.5%	88.7%	85.2%	89.9%	88.1%	89.3%	82.9%

**Table 3: Graduation Rates by District, 2013-14 through 2017-18**

District	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
FLORIDA	76.1%	77.9%	80.7%	82.3%	86.1%
01 Alachua	72.2%	74.3%	78.4%	82.7%	88.0%
02 Baker	75.2%	81.8%	79.4%	81.0%	75.5%
03 Bay	70.8%	70.6%	81.0%	78.0%	81.1%
04 Bradford	71.3%	76.9%	83.7%	78.9%	89.0%
05 Brevard	85.8%	86.2%	87.5%	85.9%	88.1%
06 Broward	74.2%	76.6%	78.7%	81.0%	84.3%
07 Calhoun	80.8%	84.0%	82.9%	80.9%	86.9%
08 Charlotte	76.2%	75.5%	77.4%	81.0%	87.6%
09 Citrus	77.0%	77.4%	79.0%	78.9%	84.1%
10 Clay	80.1%	83.7%	84.7%	88.4%	90.7%
11 Collier	82.1%	84.3%	86.7%	88.2%	91.9%
12 Columbia	61.0%	71.0%	75.0%	70.7%	88.4%
13 Miami-Dade	76.6%	78.1%	80.4%	80.7%	85.4%
14 DeSoto	61.0%	62.2%	61.6%	63.8%	60.9%
15 Dixie	87.8%	96.9%	96.1%	89.5%	96.9%
16 Duval	74.0%	76.6%	78.8%	80.8%	85.1%
17 Escambia	66.1%	72.7%	76.1%	79.5%	80.7%
18 Flagler	77.8%	77.5%	80.4%	81.1%	88.0%
19 Franklin	69.9%	49.0%	72.6%	74.6%	77.3%
20 Gadsden	56.0%	65.4%	68.4%	50.0%	66.1%
21 Gilchrist	95.4%	94.0%	97.7%	93.4%	87.3%
22 Glades	60.8%	80.7%	78.3%	81.5%	70.9%
23 Gulf	77.8%	83.6%	81.5%	84.7%	82.1%
24 Hamilton	78.6%	73.7%	83.0%	67.0%	73.5%
25 Hardee	64.3%	59.7%	67.3%	72.1%	80.2%
26 Hendry	67.5%	76.8%	78.1%	84.4%	83.8%
27 Hernando	76.7%	78.0%	81.1%	82.6%	87.6%
28 Highlands	63.6%	64.5%	68.1%	71.6%	77.2%
29 Hillsborough	73.5%	76.0%	79.1%	82.9%	85.8%
30 Holmes	71.6%	80.5%	72.4%	68.7%	77.1%
31 Indian River	79.1%	81.2%	87.2%	87.1%	92.0%
32 Jackson	70.2%	69.7%	72.6%	71.8%	78.1%
33 Jefferson	56.7%	73.3%	70.0%	53.7%	73.4%
34 Lafayette	80.0%	87.0%	93.2%	88.2%	97.4%
35 Lake	76.6%	75.8%	78.1%	77.8%	84.1%

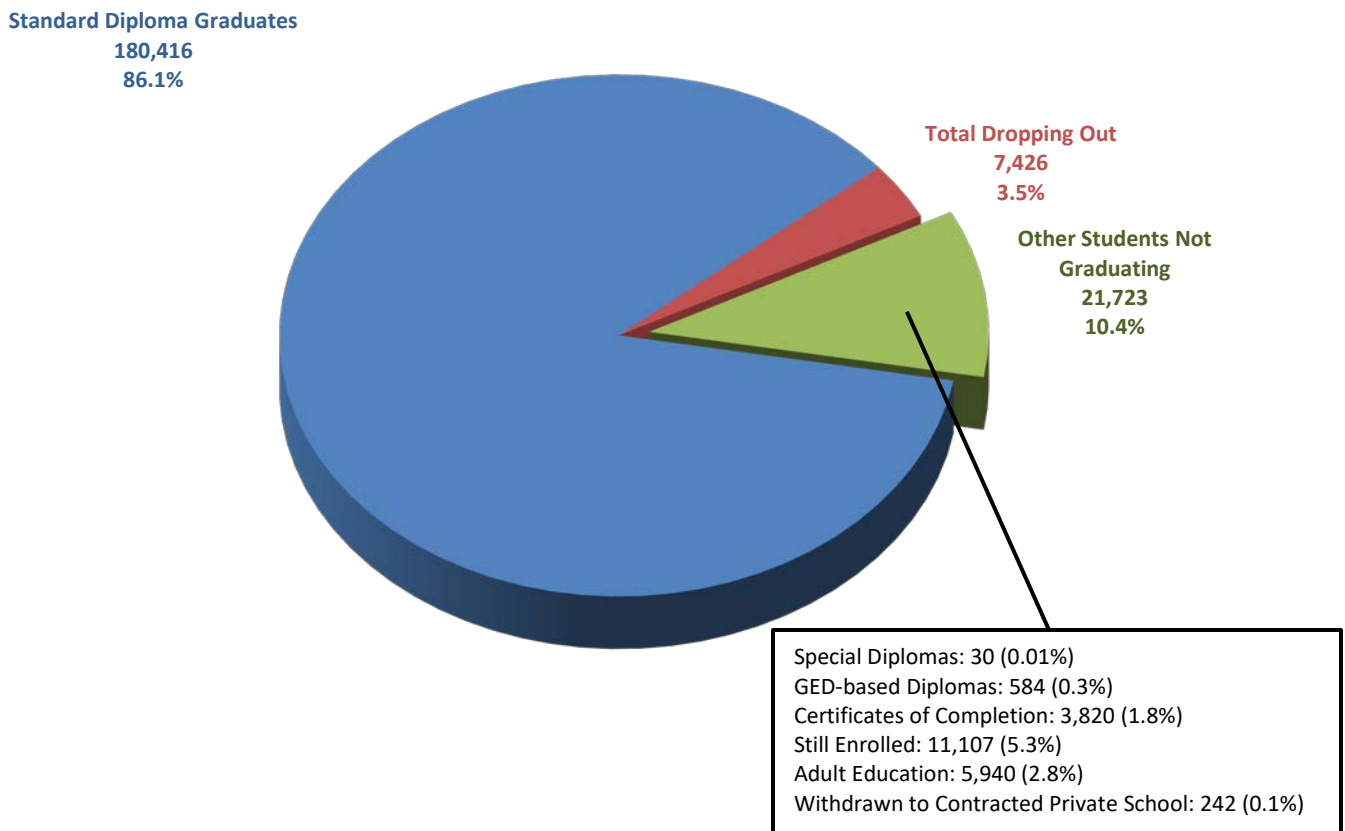
	District	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
	FLORIDA	76.1%	77.9%	80.7%	82.3%	86.1%
36	Lee	75.2%	74.7%	77.8%	78.7%	82.8%
37	Leon	83.5%	87.2%	92.3%	88.6%	93.0%
38	Levy	69.1%	81.6%	81.4%	79.7%	87.0%
39	Liberty	71.3%	77.7%	75.0%	81.9%	77.0%
40	Madison	75.7%	58.1%	80.1%	76.7%	81.3%
41	Manatee	75.7%	77.9%	83.5%	81.1%	85.4%
42	Marion	77.9%	80.7%	81.8%	78.5%	81.8%
43	Martin	88.8%	88.9%	88.7%	83.9%	87.9%
44	Monroe	72.8%	76.9%	77.9%	79.2%	86.4%
45	Nassau	89.9%	90.9%	91.4%	90.9%	92.8%
46	Okaloosa	82.5%	82.4%	84.4%	86.2%	88.1%
47	Okeechobee	61.2%	65.9%	70.5%	71.7%	76.9%
48	Orange	74.6%	77.6%	81.3%	84.7%	88.9%
49	Osceola	78.0%	80.6%	82.0%	86.3%	89.3%
50	Palm Beach	77.9%	79.4%	82.3%	85.0%	87.2%
51	Pasco	79.4%	78.6%	79.1%	81.4%	86.7%
52	Pinellas	76.2%	78.3%	80.1%	82.9%	86.0%
53	Polk	69.0%	69.4%	71.8%	75.4%	80.4%
54	Putnam	58.2%	54.9%	63.6%	72.2%	84.8%
55	St. Johns	87.8%	90.5%	91.2%	90.9%	93.3%
56	St. Lucie	73.2%	75.5%	86.8%	90.1%	91.8%
57	Santa Rosa	82.8%	83.2%	85.7%	86.4%	88.7%
58	Sarasota	81.3%	79.2%	85.4%	85.7%	89.8%
59	Seminole	85.1%	86.4%	88.3%	88.6%	91.7%
60	Sumter	83.4%	80.4%	84.6%	85.3%	87.8%
61	Suwannee	76.6%	67.5%	89.6%	90.5%	96.2%
62	Taylor	49.5%	64.7%	70.7%	70.3%	87.7%
63	Union	82.8%	77.7%	72.4%	81.0%	84.1%
64	Volusia	70.6%	71.6%	76.0%	76.6%	78.7%
65	Wakulla	75.1%	78.1%	86.9%	86.7%	90.1%
66	Walton	68.4%	74.4%	77.3%	82.2%	86.8%
67	Washington	66.2%	70.5%	76.3%	77.8%	80.2%
68	Deaf/Blind	51.8%	46.3%	47.1%	48.3%	69.7%
71	FL Virtual	74.9%	70.9%	66.6%	67.3%	81.4%
72	FAU Lab School	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
73	FSU Lab School	88.0%	97.1%	98.6%	98.7%	96.6%
74	FAMU Lab School	76.7%	97.1%	94.9%	89.3%	94.3%
75	UF Lab School	97.3%	97.3%	96.4%	98.2%	99.1%

**Notes:**  
Source: 2017-18 Florida Department of Education (FDOE) cohort graduation data as of 12/18/18.  
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 86.1 percent, but that does not mean that 13.9 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, attending adult education, 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 2017-18 cohort, 3.5 percent of the students dropped out and 10.4 percent are still enrolled in school, attending adult education, earned a certificate of completion, earned a special diploma, earned a GED-based diploma, or withdrew to a contracted private school. Figure 2 illustrates the proportions of students in the 2017-18 cohort who graduated, dropped out, or did not graduate.

**Figure 2: 2017-18 Cohort Outcomes by Withdrawal Categories**



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



Florida Department of Education  
Pam Stewart, Commissioner

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

Florida Department of Education  
Division of Accountability, Research, and Measurement  
Bureau of Accountability Reporting

850-245-0411

[evalnrpt@fldoe.org](mailto:evalnrpt@fldoe.org)