

# The Condition of Education 2009

## Indicator 19

### *Public High School Graduation Rates*

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2009*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2009*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2009081>) or contact ED PUBS at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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# Public High School Graduation Rates

*In 2005–06, about three-quarters of the 2002–03 freshman class graduated from high school with a regular diploma.*

This indicator examines the percentage of public high school students who graduate on time with a regular diploma. To do so, it uses the *averaged freshman graduation rate*—an estimate of the percentage of an incoming freshman class that graduates 4 years later. For each year, the averaged freshman enrollment count is the sum of the number of 8th-graders 5 years earlier, the number of 9th-graders 4 years earlier (when current-year seniors were freshmen), and the number of 10th-graders 3 years earlier, divided by 3. The intent of this averaging is to account for the high rate of grade retention in the freshman year, which adds 9th-grade repeaters from the previous year to the number of students in the incoming freshman class each year.

Among public high school students in the class of 2005–06, the averaged freshman graduation rate was 73.2 percent in the 48 reporting states; that is, 2.6 million students graduated on time (see table A-19-1). Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and the District of Columbia did not report graduation counts in this year. Among the states that reported the 2005–06 graduation counts, Wisconsin had the highest graduation rate, at 87.5 percent. Thirteen other states had rates of 80 percent or more (ordered from high to low): Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, New Jersey, South Dakota, Vermont, North Dakota, Montana, New Hampshire, Missouri, Connecticut, Idaho, and Arkansas. Nevada had the lowest rate, at 55.8 percent. Nine other states had graduation rates below 70 percent (ordered from high to low): California, New York, New Mexico, Alaska, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Georgia, and Louisiana.

In order to compare rates across years, the averaged freshman graduation rates for the District of Columbia and the two states that did not report in 2005–06 were estimated. When these estimates are included with the reported 2005–06 data, the estimated rate for the nation is 73.4 percent. Using these estimates, the overall averaged freshman graduation rate among public school students increased from 71.7 percent for the graduating class of 2000–01 to 73.4 percent for the graduating class of 2005–06. However, between 2004–05 and 2005–06, the overall averaged freshman graduation rate decreased from 74.7 percent to 73.4 percent. Overall, between school years 2000–01 and 2005–06, there was an increase in the graduation rate in 40 states and the District of Columbia; 9 of these states (Arkansas, Delaware, Hawaii, Kentucky, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, South Dakota, and Tennessee) and the District of Columbia (2004–05 data) had an increase of greater than 5 percentage points. The graduation rate decreased in 10 states (Alaska, Arizona, California, Louisiana, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey, North Dakota, Utah, and Virginia), with Nevada being the only state experiencing a decline of greater than 5 percentage points.



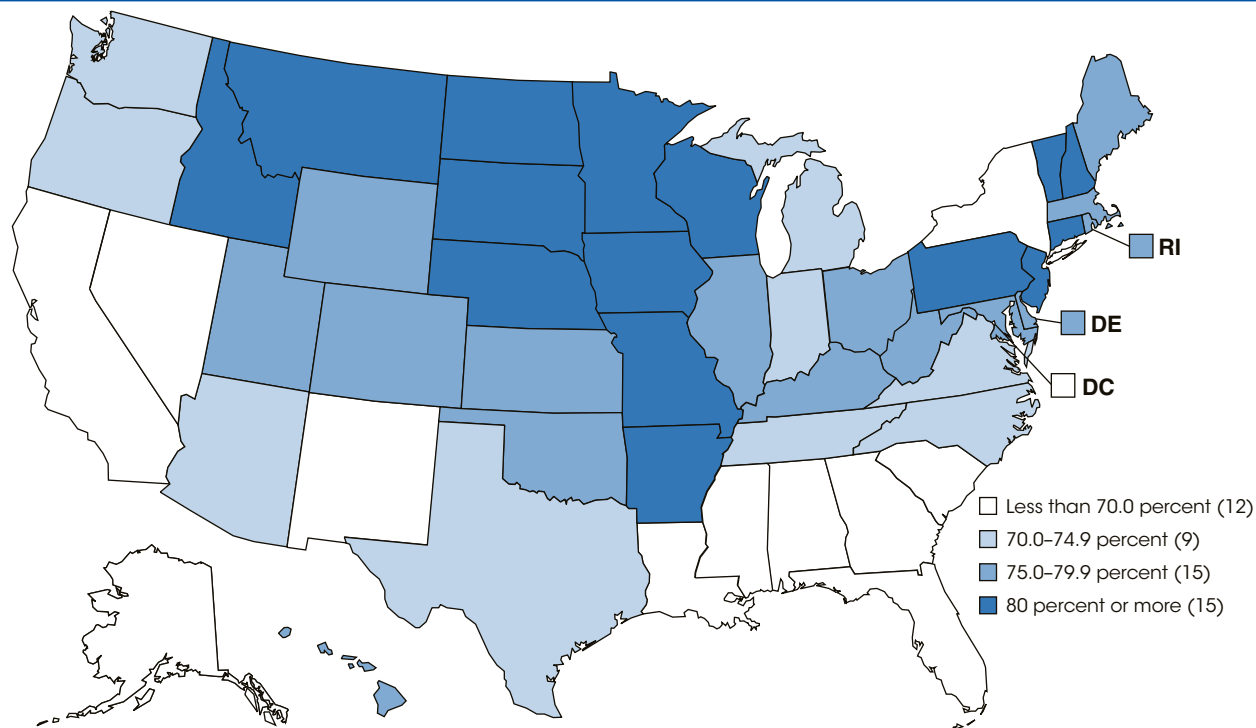
For more information: *Table A-19-1; Indicators 20, 21, and 23*  
 Glossary: *Public school*

## Technical Notes

Ungraded students were allocated to individual grades proportional to each state's enrollment in those grades. Graduates include only those who earned regular diplomas or diplomas for advanced academic achievement (e.g., honors diploma) as defined by the state or jurisdiction. Totals for reporting states include any of the 50 states and the District of Columbia that reported data for a given year. The 2003–04 national estimates

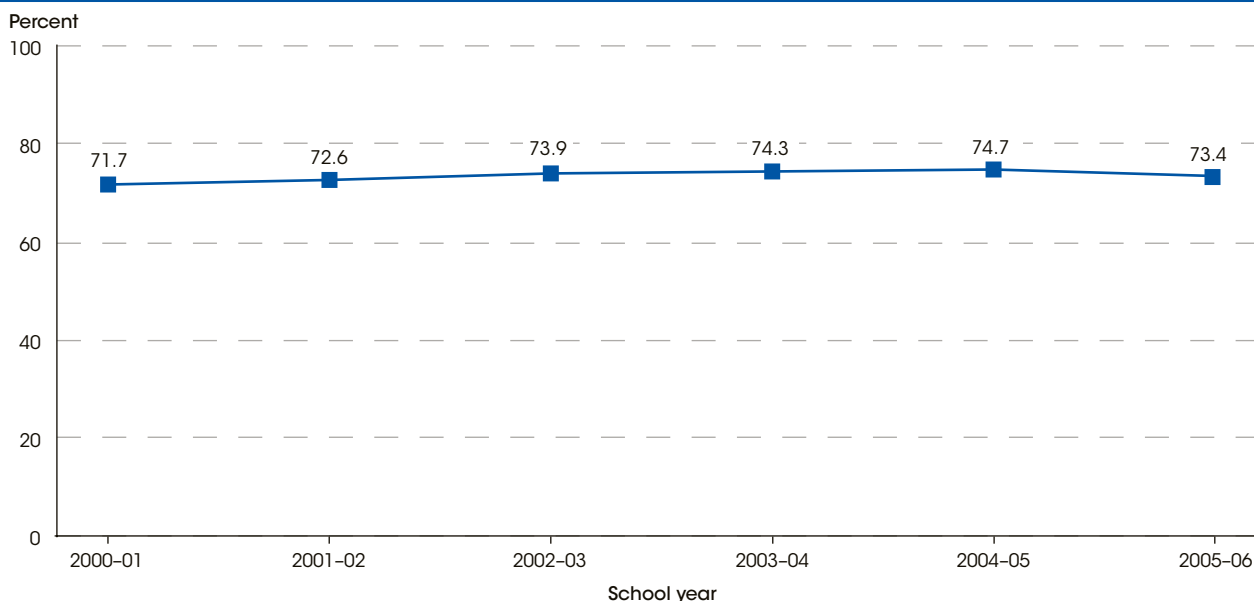
are based on imputed data for New York and Wisconsin. The 2005–06 national estimates are based on imputed data for the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina. For more information on the Common Core of Data (CCD), see *supplemental note 3*; for more information on measures of student progress and persistence, see *supplemental note 6*.

**Figure 19-1. Averaged freshman graduation rate for public high school students, by state: School year 2005-06**



NOTE: The rate is the number of graduates divided by the estimated count of freshmen 4 years earlier. The freshman enrollment count is the sum of the number of 8th-graders 5 years earlier, the number of 9th-graders 4 years earlier, and the number of 10th-graders 3 years earlier, divided by 3. Ungraded students were allocated to individual grades proportional to each state's enrollment in those grades. Estimates for the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina are based on imputed data.  
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "NCES Common Core of Data State Dropout and Completion Data File," school year 2005-06, version 1a; and "State Nonfiscal Survey of Public Elementary/Secondary Education," 2001-02, Version 1c, 2002-03, Version 1b, 2003-04, Version 1b, and 2004-05, Version 1b.

**Figure 19-2. Averaged freshman graduation rate for public high school students: School years 2000-01 through 2005-06**



NOTE: The rate is the number of graduates divided by the estimated count of freshmen 4 years earlier. The freshman enrollment count is the sum of the number of 8th-graders 5 years earlier, the number of 9th-graders 4 years earlier, and the number of 10th-graders 3 years earlier, divided by 3. Ungraded students were allocated to individual grades proportional to each state's enrollment in those grades. The 2003-04 national estimates are based on imputed data for New York and Wisconsin. The 2005-06 national estimates are based on imputed data for the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina.  
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "NCES Common Core of Data State Dropout and Completion Data File," school year 2005-06, version 1a; and "State Nonfiscal Survey of Public Elementary/Secondary Education," 2001-02, Version 1c, 2002-03, Version 1b, 2003-04, Version 1b, and 2004-05, Version 1b.

## Public High School Graduation Rates by State

Table A-19-1. Averaged freshman graduation rate for public high school students and number of graduates, by state: School years 2000-01 through 2005-06

State	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03	
	Averaged freshman graduation rate	Total number of graduates	Averaged freshman graduation rate	Total number of graduates	Averaged freshman graduation rate	Total number of graduates
<b>United States Reporting 48 states and D.C.</b>	<b>71.7</b>	<b>2,569,200</b>	<b>72.6</b>	<b>2,621,534</b>	<b>73.9</b>	<b>2,719,947</b>
	†	†	†	†	†	†
Alabama	63.7	37,082	62.1	35,887	64.7	36,741
Alaska	68.0	6,812	65.9	6,945	68.0	7,297
Arizona	74.2	46,733	74.7	47,175	75.9	49,986
Arkansas	73.9	27,100	74.8	26,984	76.6	27,555
California	71.6	315,189	72.7	325,895	74.1	341,097
Colorado	73.2	39,241	74.7	40,760	76.4	42,379
Connecticut	77.5	30,388	79.7	32,327	80.9	33,667
Delaware	71.0	6,614	69.5	6,482	73.0	6,817
District of Columbia	60.2	2,808	68.4	3,090	59.6	2,725
Florida	61.2	111,112	63.4	119,537	66.7	127,484
Georgia	58.7	62,499	61.1	65,983	60.8	66,890
Hawaii	68.3	10,102	72.1	10,452	71.3	10,013
Idaho	79.6	15,941	79.3	15,874	81.4	15,858
Illinois	75.6	110,624	77.1	116,657	75.9	117,507
Indiana	72.1	56,172	73.1	56,722	75.5	57,897
Iowa	82.8	33,774	84.1	33,789	85.3	34,860
Kansas	76.5	29,360	77.1	29,541	76.9	29,963
Kentucky	69.8	36,957	69.8	36,337	71.7	37,654
Louisiana	63.7	38,314	64.4	37,905	64.1	37,610
Maine	76.4	12,654	75.6	12,593	76.3	12,947
Maryland	78.7	49,222	79.7	50,881	79.2	51,864
Massachusetts	78.9	54,393	77.6	55,272	75.7	55,987
Michigan	75.4	96,515	72.9	95,001	74.0	100,301
Minnesota	83.6	56,581	83.9	57,440	84.8	59,432
Mississippi	59.7	23,748	61.2	23,740	62.7	23,810
Missouri	75.5	54,138	76.8	54,487	78.3	56,925
Montana	80.0	10,628	79.8	10,554	81.0	10,657
Nebraska	83.8	19,658	83.9	19,910	85.2	20,161
Nevada	70.0	15,127	71.9	16,270	72.3	16,378
New Hampshire	77.8	12,294	77.8	12,452	78.2	13,210

See notes at end of table.

**Table A-19-1. Averaged freshman graduation rate for public high school students and number of graduates, by state: School years 2000-01 through 2005-06—Continued**

State	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
	Averaged freshman graduation rate	Total number of graduates	Averaged freshman graduation rate	Total number of graduates	Averaged freshman graduation rate	Total number of graduates
<b>United States Reporting 48 states and D.C.</b>	<b>74.3<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2,753,438<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>74.7</b>	<b>2,799,250</b>	<b>73.4<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2,815,544<sup>1</sup></b>
	<b>75.0</b>	<b>2,548,128</b>	†	†	<b>73.2</b>	<b>2,649,594</b>
Alabama	65.0	36,464	65.9	37,453	66.2	37,918
Alaska	67.2	7,236	64.1	6,909	66.5	7,361
Arizona	66.8	45,508	84.7	59,498	70.5	54,091
Arkansas	76.8	27,181	75.7	26,621	80.4	28,790
California	73.9	343,480	74.6	355,217	69.2	343,515
Colorado	78.7	44,777	76.7	44,532	75.5	44,424
Connecticut	80.7	34,573	80.9	35,515	80.9	36,222
Delaware	72.9	6,951	73.1	6,934	76.3	7,275
District of Columbia	68.2	3,031	68.8	2,781	65.4	3,150 <sup>2</sup>
Florida	66.4	131,418	64.6	133,318	63.6	134,686
Georgia	61.2	68,550	61.7	70,834	62.4	73,498
Hawaii	72.6	10,324	75.1	10,813	75.5	10,922
Idaho	81.5	15,547	81.0	15,768	80.5	16,096
Illinois	80.3	124,763	79.4	123,615	79.7	126,817
Indiana	73.5	56,008	73.2	55,444	73.3	57,920
Iowa	85.8	34,339	86.6	33,547	86.9	33,693
Kansas	77.9	30,155	79.2	30,355	77.6	29,818
Kentucky	73.0	37,787	75.9	38,399	77.2	38,449
Louisiana	69.4	37,019	63.9	36,009	59.5	33,275
Maine	77.6	13,278	78.6	13,077	76.3	12,950
Maryland	79.5	52,870	79.3	54,170	79.9	55,536
Massachusetts	79.3	58,326	78.7	59,665	79.5	61,272
Michigan	72.5	98,823	73.0	101,582	72.2	102,582
Minnesota	84.7	59,096	85.9	58,391	86.2	58,898
Mississippi	62.7	23,735	63.3	23,523	63.5	23,848
Missouri	80.4	57,983	80.6	57,841	81.0	58,417
Montana	80.4	10,500	81.5	10,335	81.9	10,283
Nebraska	87.6	20,309	87.8	19,940	87.0	19,764
Nevada	57.4	15,201	55.8	15,740	55.8	16,455
New Hampshire	78.7	13,309	80.1	13,775	81.1	13,988

See notes at end of table.

## Public High School Graduation Rates by State

Table A-19-1. Averaged freshman graduation rate for public high school students and number of graduates, by state: School years 2000-01 through 2005-06—Continued

State	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03	
	Averaged freshman graduation rate	Total number of graduates	Averaged freshman graduation rate	Total number of graduates	Averaged freshman graduation rate	Total number of graduates
<b>United States Reporting 48 states and D.C.</b>	<b>71.7</b>	<b>2,569,200</b>	<b>72.6</b>	<b>2,621,534</b>	<b>73.9</b>	<b>2,719,947</b>
	†	†	†	†	†	†
New Jersey	85.4	76,130	85.8	77,664	87.0	81,391
New Mexico	65.9	18,199	67.4	18,094	63.1	16,923
New York	61.5	141,884	60.5	140,139	60.9	143,818
North Carolina	66.5	63,288	68.2	65,955	70.1	69,696
North Dakota	85.4	8,445	85.0	8,114	86.4	8,169
Ohio	76.5	111,281	77.5	110,608	79.0	115,762
Oklahoma	75.8	37,458	76.0	36,852	76.0	36,694
Oregon	68.3	29,939	71.0	31,153	73.7	32,587
Pennsylvania	79.0	114,436	80.2	114,943	81.7	119,933
Rhode Island	73.5	8,603	75.7	9,006	77.7	9,318
South Carolina	56.5	30,026	57.9	31,302	59.7	32,482
South Dakota	77.4	8,881	79.0	8,796	83.0	8,999
Tennessee	59.0	40,642	59.6	40,894	63.4	44,113
Texas	70.8	215,316	73.5	225,167	75.5	238,111
Utah	81.6	31,036	80.5	30,183	80.2	29,527
Vermont	80.2	6,856	82.0	7,083	83.6	6,970
Virginia	77.5	66,067	76.7	66,519	80.6	72,943
Washington	69.2	55,081	72.2	58,311	74.2	60,435
West Virginia	75.9	18,440	74.2	17,128	75.7	17,287
Wisconsin	83.3	59,341	84.8	60,575	85.8	63,272
Wyoming	73.4	6,071	74.4	6,106	73.9	5,845

See notes at end of table.

**Table A-19-1. Averaged freshman graduation rate for public high school students and number of graduates, by state: School years 2000-01 through 2005-06—Continued**

State	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
	Averaged freshman graduation rate	Total number of graduates	Averaged freshman graduation rate	Total number of graduates	Averaged freshman graduation rate	Total number of graduates
<b>United States Reporting 48 states and D.C.</b>	<b>74.3<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2,753,438<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>74.7</b>	<b>2,799,250</b>	<b>73.4<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2,815,544<sup>1</sup></b>
New Jersey	86.3	83,826	85.1	86,502	84.8	90,049
New Mexico	67.0	17,892	65.4	17,353	67.3	17,822
New York	60.9 <sup>3</sup>	142,526 <sup>3</sup>	65.3	153,203	67.4	161,817
North Carolina	71.4	72,126	72.6	75,010	71.8	76,710
North Dakota	86.1	7,888	86.3	7,555	82.1	7,192
Ohio	81.3	119,029	80.2	116,702	79.2	117,356
Oklahoma	77.0	36,799	76.9	36,227	77.8	36,497
Oregon	74.2	32,958	74.2	32,602	73.0	32,394
Pennsylvania	82.2	123,474	82.5	124,758	83.5	127,830 <sup>2</sup>
Rhode Island	75.9	9,258	78.4	9,881	77.8	10,108
South Carolina	60.6	33,235	60.1	33,439	61.0	34,970 <sup>2</sup>
South Dakota	83.7	9,001	82.3	8,585	84.5	8,589
Tennessee	66.1	46,096	68.5	47,967	70.6	50,880
Texas	76.7	244,165	74.0	239,717	72.5	240,485
Utah	83.0	30,252	84.4	30,253	78.6	29,050
Vermont	85.4	7,100	86.5	7,152	82.3	6,779
Virginia	79.3	72,042	79.6	73,667	74.5	69,597
Washington	74.6	61,274	75.0	61,094	72.9	60,213
West Virginia	76.9	17,339	77.3	17,137	76.9	16,763
Wisconsin	85.8 <sup>3</sup>	62,784 <sup>3</sup>	86.7	63,229	87.5	63,003
Wyoming	76.0	5,833	76.7	5,616	76.1	5,527

† Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> The 2003-04 national estimates are based on imputed data for New York and Wisconsin. The 2005-06 national estimates are based on imputed data for the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina.

<sup>2</sup> Projected high school graduates from NCES 2008-078, Projections of Education Statistics to 2017.

<sup>3</sup> To impute the number of graduates in these states in 2003-04, the 2002-03 averaged freshman graduation rates for Wisconsin and New York were applied to the average of the grade-specific enrollment data in the state for grade 8 in 1999-2000, grade 9 in 2000-01, and grade 10 in 2001-02.

NOTE: The averaged freshman graduation rate is the number of graduates divided by the estimated count of freshmen 4 years earlier. The estimated averaged freshman enrollment count is the sum of the number of 8th-graders 5 years earlier, the number of 9th-graders 4 years earlier (when current-year seniors were freshmen), and the number of 10th-graders 3 years earlier, divided by 3. Enrollment counts include a proportional distribution of students not enrolled in a specific grade. Graduates include only those who earned regular diplomas or diplomas for advanced academic achievement (e.g., honors diploma) as defined by the state or jurisdiction. Totals for reporting states include any of the 50 states and the District of Columbia that reported data for a given year. For more information on the Common Core of Data (CCD), see *supplemental note 3*; for more information on measures of student progress and persistence, see *supplemental note 6*. SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "NCES Common Core of Data State Dropout and Completion Data File," school year 2005-06, version 1a; and "State Nonfiscal Survey of Public Elementary/Secondary Education," 2001-02, Version 1c, 2002-03, Version 1b, 2003-04, Version 1b, and 2004-05, Version 1b.