

# Florida’s High School Cohort 2018-19 Graduation Rate

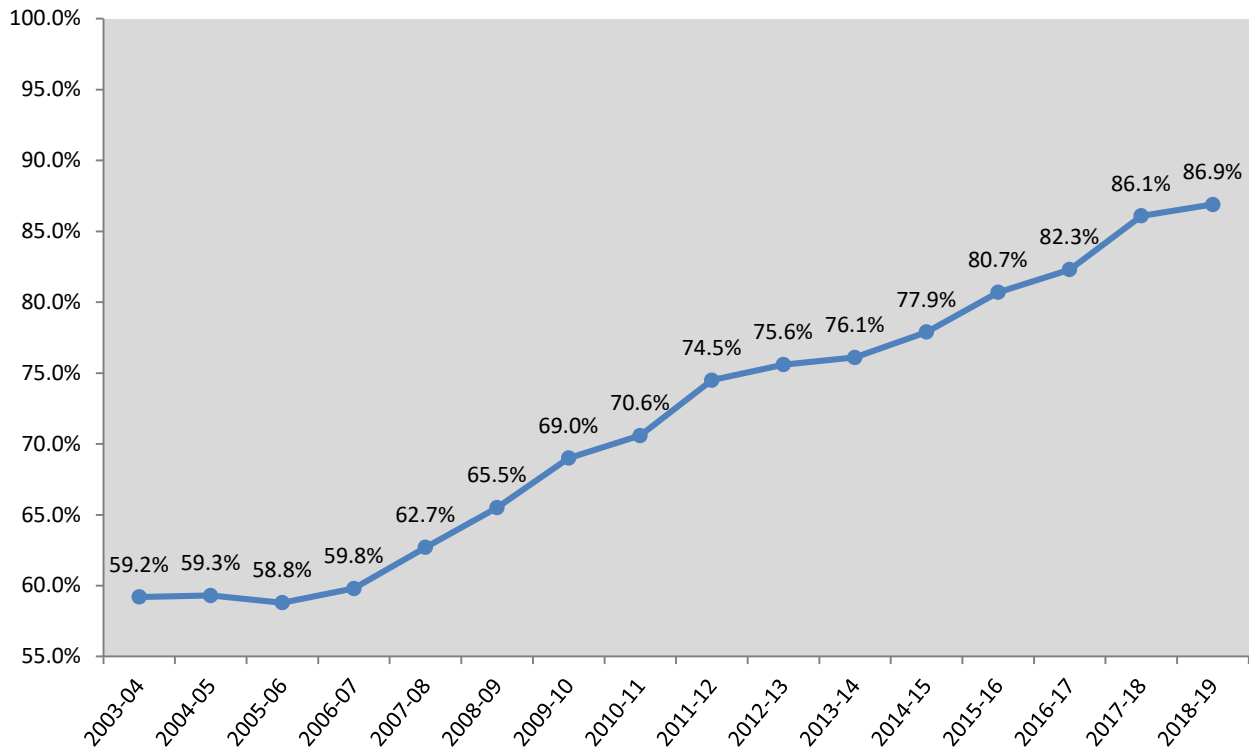
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## Florida’s Graduation Rate

Florida’s high school graduation rate increased by 0.8 percentage points over the last year and has increased significantly during the past fifteen years. The rate rose from 59.2 percent in 2003-04 to 86.9 percent in 2018-19, which is a 26.7 percentage point increase. Figure 1 below shows the trend in graduation rates from 2003-04 through 2018-19.

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 2018-19**



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 Florida public 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 2016-17 federal graduation rates available at [https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/tables/ACGR\\_RE\\_and\\_characteristics\\_2016-17.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/tables/ACGR_RE_and_characteristics_2016-17.asp). Florida's federal graduation rate in 2016-17 was 82.3 percent which placed twelve states and the District of Columbia below it.
- However, subsequent to the 2016-17 release, Florida has increased its graduation rate by 4.6 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 more than half have increased their graduation rates. The subgroups with the largest percentage point increases over 2017-18 include White students (1.2 percentage points), and students with Two or More Races (1.2 percentage points).

**Table 1: Graduation Rates by Race/Ethnicity, 2014-15 through 2018-19**

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
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	89.0%	80.9%	85.1%	95.8%	80.1%	87.0%	89.2%	86.1%
2018-19	90.2%	81.5%	85.9%	95.6%	77.5%	88.2%	86.7%	86.9%

**Table 2: Graduation Rates by Gender within Race/Ethnicity, 2014-15 through 2018-19**

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
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%	95.0%
2018-19	92.6%	87.9%	86.1%	77.0%	88.9%	82.9%	96.9%	94.4%

**Table 2 Continued: Graduation Rates by Gender within Race/Ethnicity, 2014-15 through 2018-19**

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
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	85.7%	74.9%	88.7%	85.2%	89.9%	88.1%	89.3%	82.9%
2018-19	83.5%	72.5%	90.7%	85.4%	91.0%	82.6%	90.0%	83.9%

**Table 3: Graduation Rates by District, 2014-15 through 2018-19**

District	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
FLORIDA	77.9%	80.7%	82.3%	86.1%	86.9%
01 Alachua	74.3%	78.4%	82.7%	88.0%	88.5%
02 Baker	81.8%	79.4%	81.0%	75.5%	78.8%
03 Bay	70.6%	81.0%	78.0%	81.1%	82.5%
04 Bradford	76.9%	83.7%	78.9%	89.0%	87.7%
05 Brevard	86.2%	87.5%	85.9%	88.1%	88.3%
06 Broward	76.6%	78.7%	81.0%	84.3%	86.2%
07 Calhoun	84.0%	82.9%	80.9%	86.9%	87.9%
08 Charlotte	75.5%	77.4%	81.0%	87.6%	86.4%
09 Citrus	77.4%	79.0%	78.9%	84.1%	86.0%
10 Clay	83.7%	84.7%	88.4%	91.1%	91.9%
11 Collier	84.3%	86.7%	88.2%	91.9%	91.9%
12 Columbia	71.0%	75.0%	70.7%	88.4%	92.4%
13 Miami-Dade	78.1%	80.4%	80.7%	85.4%	85.6%
14 DeSoto	62.2%	61.6%	63.8%	60.9%	71.3%
15 Dixie	96.9%	96.1%	89.5%	96.9%	90.6%
16 Duval	76.6%	78.8%	80.8%	85.1%	86.5%
17 Escambia	72.7%	76.1%	79.5%	80.7%	84.8%
18 Flagler	77.5%	80.4%	81.1%	88.0%	88.7%
19 Franklin	49.0%	72.6%	74.6%	77.3%	70.6%
20 Gadsden	65.4%	68.4%	50.0%	66.1%	60.4%
21 Gilchrist	94.0%	97.7%	93.4%	87.3%	89.4%
22 Glades	80.7%	78.3%	81.5%	93.4%	91.4%
23 Gulf	83.6%	81.5%	84.7%	82.1%	83.6%
24 Hamilton	73.7%	83.0%	67.0%	73.5%	73.1%
25 Hardee	59.7%	67.3%	72.1%	80.2%	81.2%
26 Hendry	76.8%	78.1%	84.4%	83.8%	83.7%
27 Hernando	78.0%	81.1%	82.6%	87.6%	88.4%
28 Highlands	64.5%	68.1%	71.6%	77.2%	81.2%
29 Hillsborough	76.0%	79.1%	82.9%	85.8%	86.2%
30 Holmes	80.5%	72.4%	68.7%	77.1%	85.5%
31 Indian River	81.2%	87.2%	87.1%	92.0%	88.5%
32 Jackson	69.7%	72.6%	71.8%	79.2%	84.7%
33 Jefferson	73.3%	70.0%	53.7%	73.4%	62.7%
34 Lafayette	87.0%	93.2%	88.2%	97.4%	98.8%
35 Lake	75.8%	78.1%	77.8%	84.1%	86.8%
36 Lee	74.7%	77.8%	78.7%	82.8%	83.7%
37 Leon	87.2%	92.3%	88.6%	93.0%	92.4%

	District	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
	FLORIDA	77.9%	80.7%	82.3%	86.1%	86.9%
38	Levy	81.6%	81.4%	79.7%	87.0%	88.1%
39	Liberty	77.7%	75.0%	81.9%	77.0%	84.2%
40	Madison	58.1%	80.1%	76.7%	81.3%	82.5%
41	Manatee	77.9%	83.5%	81.1%	85.4%	83.2%
42	Marion	80.7%	81.8%	78.5%	81.8%	83.8%
43	Martin	88.9%	88.7%	83.9%	87.9%	87.4%
44	Monroe	76.9%	77.9%	79.2%	86.4%	86.0%
45	Nassau	90.9%	91.4%	90.9%	92.8%	92.3%
46	Okaloosa	82.4%	84.4%	86.2%	88.1%	87.9%
47	Okeechobee	65.9%	70.5%	71.7%	76.9%	75.8%
48	Orange	77.6%	81.3%	84.7%	88.9%	88.4%
49	Osceola	80.6%	82.0%	86.3%	89.3%	90.0%
50	Palm Beach	79.4%	82.3%	85.0%	87.2%	87.1%
51	Pasco	78.6%	79.1%	81.4%	86.7%	88.3%
52	Pinellas	78.3%	80.1%	82.9%	86.0%	88.4%
53	Polk	69.4%	71.8%	75.4%	80.4%	81.2%
54	Putnam	54.9%	63.6%	72.2%	84.8%	86.3%
55	St. Johns	90.5%	91.2%	90.9%	93.3%	94.3%
56	St. Lucie	75.5%	86.8%	90.1%	91.8%	90.4%
57	Santa Rosa	83.2%	85.7%	86.4%	88.7%	88.9%
58	Sarasota	79.2%	85.4%	85.7%	89.8%	89.4%
59	Seminole	86.4%	88.3%	88.6%	91.7%	92.8%
60	Sumter	80.4%	84.6%	85.3%	87.8%	87.2%
61	Suwannee	67.5%	89.6%	90.5%	96.2%	93.7%
62	Taylor	64.7%	70.7%	70.3%	87.7%	83.9%
63	Union	77.7%	72.4%	81.0%	84.1%	84.4%
64	Volusia	71.6%	76.0%	76.6%	78.7%	84.5%
65	Wakulla	78.1%	86.9%	86.7%	90.1%	91.6%
66	Walton	74.4%	77.3%	82.2%	86.8%	88.9%
67	Washington	70.5%	76.3%	77.8%	80.2%	80.5%
68	Deaf/Blind	46.3%	47.1%	48.3%	69.7%	84.1%
71	FL Virtual	70.9%	66.6%	67.3%	81.4%	87.7%
72	FAU Lab School	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
73	FSU Lab School	97.1%	98.6%	98.7%	96.6%	99.3%
74	FAMU Lab School	97.1%	94.9%	89.3%	94.3%	89.7%
75	UF Lab School	97.3%	96.4%	98.2%	99.1%	98.1%

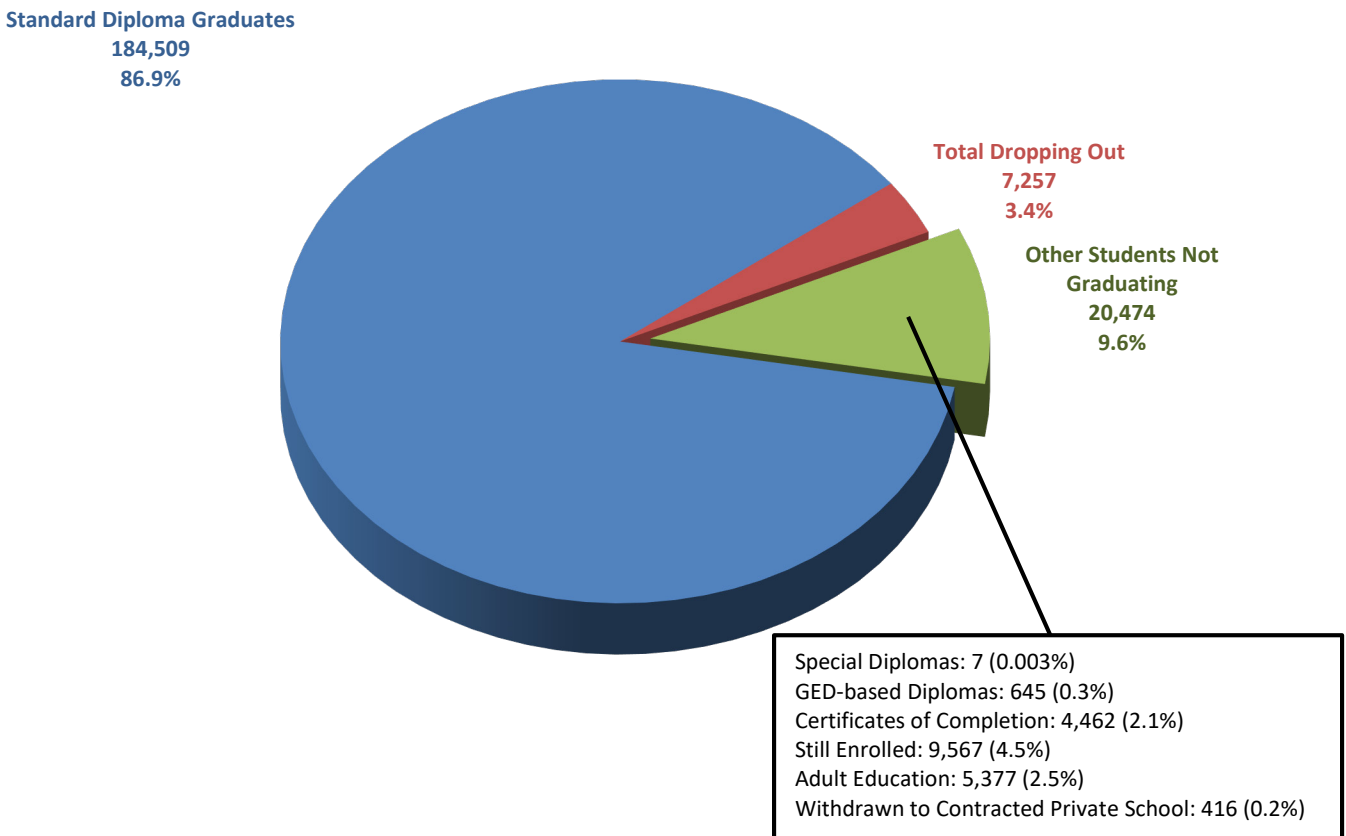
**Notes:**

Source: 2018-19 Florida Department of Education (FDOE) cohort graduation data as of 12/11/19.

## Withdrawal Status of All Students in the Graduation Cohort

Florida’s graduation rate is 86.9 percent, but that does not mean that 13.1 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 2018-19 cohort, 3.4 percent of the students dropped out and 9.6 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 2018-19 cohort who graduated, dropped out, or did not graduate.

**Figure 2: 2018-19 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  
Richard Corcoran, Commissioner

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

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