



# Florida Information Note

## Education Information & Accountability Services

### 2006-07 Five-Year District Graduation Rates as Follow-up to the 2005-06 Four-Year Rates

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#### Background

The four-year graduation rate has traditionally been viewed as an important indicator of educational effectiveness and school performance. However, for many public education systems nationwide, problems in accounting for student mobility between schools and districts have limited the accuracy of published graduation rates. Fortunately, the Florida Department of Education's integrated information database accommodates the tracking of students by individual student identification numbers. Such tracking increases the accuracy of Florida's published four-year graduation rates for schools and school districts.

Beginning with the 1998-99 school year, Florida implemented its revised calculation of the four-year graduation rate to account for the movement of students into and out of school populations during the tracking period. In 1999, the new calculation was first used in publishing graduation rates on annual printed reports, such as the School Advisory Council Reports ([http://data.fldoe.org/school\\_reports/](http://data.fldoe.org/school_reports/)), and online publications such as the Florida School Indicators Report (<http://data.fldoe.org/fsir/>). The Department of Education also calculates and publishes a five-year cohort graduation rate. The five-year graduation rate for 2006-07 represents an extension of the 2005-06 four-year graduation rate. As with the 2005-06 four-year rate, the first year of the cohort for the 2006-07 five-year graduation rate is 2002-03. As a supplement to the four-year rate, the five-year graduation rate allows us to see if a given cohort of students has a higher rate of graduation when followed a year past the typical four-year period.

#### Rate Calculation Basics

The four-year graduation rate and the five-year graduation rate can be calculated according to the same basic method.

- To determine the four-year graduation rate as of a given year (e.g., 2005-06), we begin with the count of all students entering ninth grade in the fall term four years prior to the scheduled year of graduation. Consequently, for the 2005-06 four-year rate, we begin by counting all the students who entered ninth grade in fall 2002.
- Next, because the schools and districts are also accountable for the progress of students who have transferred into the system after the start of the ninth grade, we add students who transferred in as ninth grade students in the first year of tracking, as tenth grade students in the second year of tracking, as eleventh grade students in the third year of tracking, and as twelfth grade students in the fourth year of tracking.
- After compiling this combined cohort, we remove students who repeated ninth grade; those who transferred out of the school system to attend public school elsewhere; students who withdrew to attend private school, an approved home education program, or an adult education program; and deceased students.

The resulting group is the adjusted cohort for the calculation, which also forms the denominator. The numerator consists of the students from the adjusted cohort who graduated within the four-year period. Non-graduates include dropouts as well as students who remain enrolled and continue working toward graduation.

#### Five-Year Rate Calculation

The five-year graduation rate takes the adjusted cohort from the four-year rate and applies the same process used for the four-year rate to account for students transferring out of the population during a fifth year of tracking, resulting in a revised adjusted cohort. The numerator then becomes the number of students from the revised adjusted cohort who have graduated within the five-year tracking period (including all graduates from the four-year adjusted cohort).

Results comparing the 2005-06 four-year rate and the follow-up 2006-07 five-year rate by district are shown on the following page.

DISTRICT	2005-06 Four-Year Graduation Rate			2006-07 Five-Year Graduation Rate			Yr. 4 to 5 % Increase
	Adj. Cohort	Graduates	Rate	Adj. Cohort	Graduates	Rate	
ALACHUA	2,569	1,793	69.8%	2,527	1,900	75.2%	5.4%
BAKER	334	244	73.1%	332	246	74.1%	1.0%
BAY	1,991	1,543	77.5%	1,985	1,580	79.6%	2.1%
BRADFORD	256	178	69.5%	254	181	71.3%	1.7%
BREVARD	5,296	4,804	90.7%	5,276	4,885	92.6%	1.9%
BROWARD	19,862	13,468	67.8%	19,647	13,847	70.5%	2.7%
CALHOUN	173	155	89.6%	173	157	90.8%	1.2%
CHARLOTTE	1,623	1,266	78.0%	1,618	1,303	80.5%	2.5%
CITRUS	1,318	965	73.2%	1,316	970	73.7%	0.5%
CLAY	2,905	2,144	73.8%	2,900	2,165	74.7%	0.9%
COLLIER	3,071	2,294	74.7%	3,026	2,401	79.3%	4.6%
COLUMBIA	715	482	67.4%	712	493	69.2%	1.8%
DADE	27,724	16,421	59.2%	27,358	17,007	62.2%	2.9%
DESOTO	327	229	70.0%	325	232	71.4%	1.4%
DIXIE	135	95	70.4%	134	96	71.6%	1.3%
DUVAL	9,387	5,681	60.5%	9,157	5,820	63.6%	3.0%
ESCAMBIA	2,840	2,125	74.8%	2,828	2,169	76.7%	1.9%
FLAGLER	656	514	78.4%	650	524	80.6%	2.3%
FRANKLIN	107	65	60.7%	107	65	60.7%	0.0%
GADSDEN	378	166	43.9%	363	176	48.5%	4.6%
GILCHRIST	188	148	78.7%	185	148	80.0%	1.3%
GLADES	82	52	63.4%	80	52	65.0%	1.6%
GULF	148	124	83.8%	148	124	83.8%	0.0%
HAMILTON	125	79	63.2%	124	83	66.9%	3.7%
HARDEE	283	199	70.3%	275	205	74.5%	4.2%
HENDRY	552	398	72.1%	552	407	73.7%	1.6%
HERNANDO	1,582	1,173	74.1%	1,573	1,236	78.6%	4.4%
HIGHLANDS	883	615	69.6%	878	647	73.7%	4.0%
HILLSBOROUGH	13,060	10,098	77.3%	12,847	10,286	80.1%	2.7%
HOLMES	240	171	71.3%	240	177	73.8%	2.5%
INDIAN RIVER	1,136	962	84.7%	1,125	977	86.8%	2.2%
JACKSON	483	424	87.8%	481	428	89.0%	1.2%
JEFFERSON	114	61	53.5%	112	65	58.0%	4.5%
LAFAYETTE	82	67	81.7%	81	67	82.7%	1.0%
LAKE	2,673	1,874	70.1%	2,649	1,913	72.2%	2.1%
LEE	4,997	3,574	71.5%	4,891	3,682	75.3%	3.8%
LEON	2,432	1,852	76.2%	2,409	1,986	82.4%	6.3%
LEVY	427	280	65.6%	421	292	69.4%	3.8%
LIBERTY	126	113	89.7%	125	114	91.2%	1.5%
MADISON	258	151	58.5%	249	160	64.3%	5.7%
MANATEE	2,860	2,199	76.9%	2,758	2,264	82.1%	5.2%
MARION	3,229	2,320	71.8%	3,189	2,414	75.7%	3.8%
MARTIN	1,192	1,111	93.2%	1,184	1,126	95.1%	1.9%
MONROE	678	512	75.5%	666	524	78.7%	3.2%
NASSAU	829	678	81.8%	829	695	83.8%	2.1%
OKALOOSA	2,322	1,996	86.0%	2,298	2,051	89.3%	3.3%
OKEECHOBEE	516	324	62.8%	505	352	69.7%	6.9%
ORANGE	11,689	8,437	72.2%	11,484	8,673	75.5%	3.3%
OSCEOLA	3,643	2,349	64.5%	3,586	2,531	70.6%	6.1%
PALM BEACH	12,215	8,459	69.3%	11,989	8,800	73.4%	4.1%
PASCO	4,438	3,302	74.4%	4,357	3,464	79.5%	5.1%
PINELLAS	8,452	5,666	67.0%	8,278	5,877	71.0%	4.0%
POLK	6,153	4,234	68.8%	6,101	4,404	72.2%	3.4%
PUTNAM	826	631	76.4%	822	640	77.9%	1.5%
ST. JOHNS	1,987	1,525	76.7%	1,977	1,549	78.4%	1.6%
ST. LUCIE	2,051	1,492	72.7%	1,960	1,542	78.7%	5.9%
SANTA ROSA	1,826	1,561	85.5%	1,815	1,608	88.6%	3.1%
SARASOTA	3,114	2,489	79.9%	3,083	2,595	84.2%	4.2%
SEMINOLE	4,554	3,799	83.4%	4,472	3,893	87.1%	3.6%
SUMTER	439	335	76.3%	438	339	77.4%	1.1%
SUWANNEE	436	284	65.1%	430	298	69.3%	4.2%
TAYLOR	240	188	78.3%	240	195	81.3%	2.9%
UNION	159	122	76.7%	158	125	79.1%	2.4%
VOLUSIA	4,682	3,834	81.9%	4,567	3,973	87.0%	5.1%
WAKULLA	312	242	77.6%	310	247	79.7%	2.1%
WALTON	439	334	76.1%	435	339	77.9%	1.8%
WASHINGTON	255	178	69.8%	255	180	70.6%	0.8%
DEAF/BLIND	86	76	88.4%	85	80	94.1%	5.7%
DOZIER	134	78	58.2%	124	96	77.4%	19.2%
FAU	4	4	100.0%	4	4	100.0%	0.0%
FSU	141	134	95.0%	141	135	95.7%	0.7%
FAMU	38	34	89.5%	36	34	94.4%	5.0%
UF	98	96	98.0%	98	96	98.0%	0.0%
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>	<b>191,575</b>	<b>136,070</b>	<b>71.0%</b>	<b>188,807</b>	<b>140,409</b>	<b>74.4%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>

\*Source: 2006-07 FL DOE Cohort Graduation Data as of 03/19/08

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