

# Florida's High School Cohort 2015-16 Graduation Rate

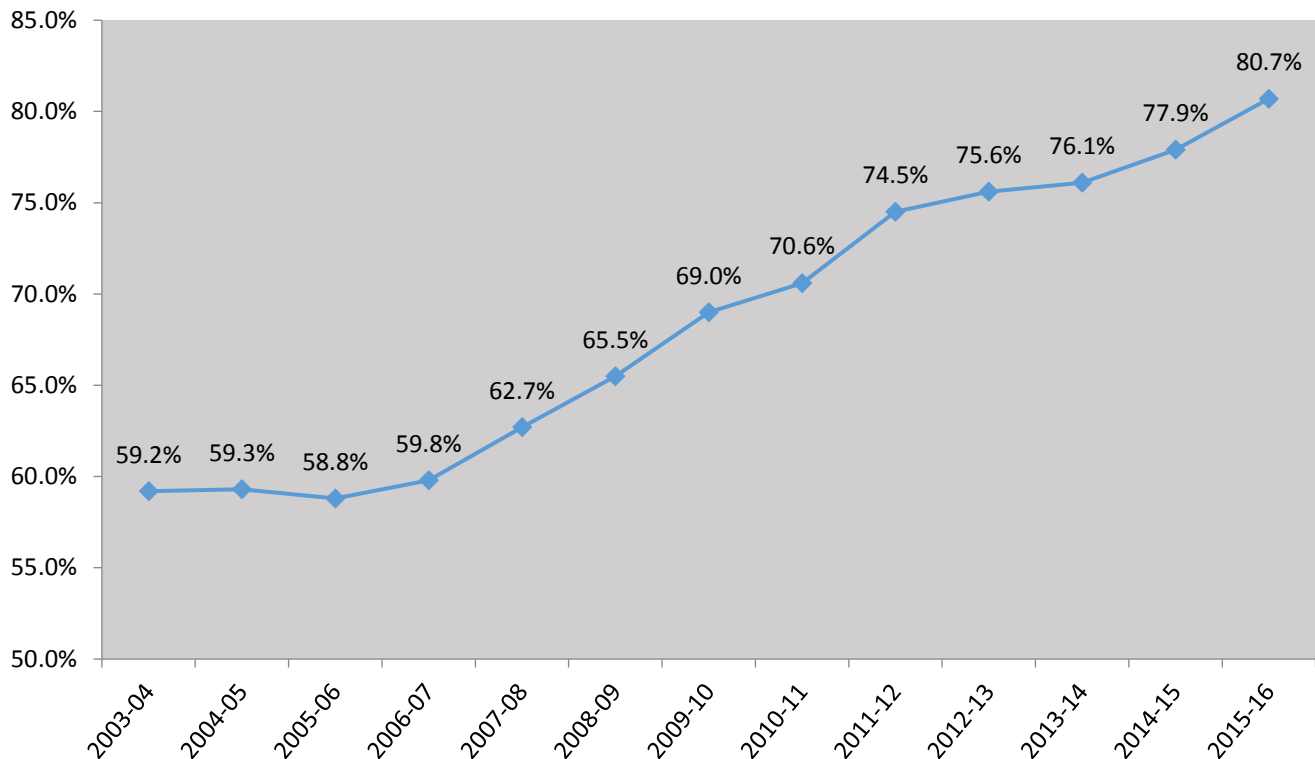
December 2016

## Florida's Graduation Rate

Florida's high school graduation rate increased by 2.8 percentage points over the last year and has increased significantly during the past eleven years. The rate rose from 59.2 percent in 2003-04 to 80.7 percent in 2015-16. Figure 1 below shows the trend in graduation rates from 2003-04 through 2015-16.

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

**Figure 1: Florida's Graduation Rates, 2003-04 through 2015-16**



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 and deceased students 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 date of enrollment. 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 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' 2014-15 federal graduation rates at [https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/tables/ACGR\\_RE\\_and\\_characteristics\\_2014-15.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/tables/ACGR_RE_and_characteristics_2014-15.asp). Florida's federal graduation rate in 2014-15 was 77.9 percent which placed nine states (including the District of Columbia) below it.
- However, subsequent to this release, Florida has increased its graduation rate by 2.8 percentage points in 2015-16.
- 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 since 2011-12. The subgroup with the largest percentage point increases over 2014-15 include African Americans (4.3 percentage points) and Hispanic (2.8 percentage points).

**Table 1: Graduation Rates by Race/Ethnicity, 2011-12 through 2015-16**

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
2011-12	79.5%	63.7%	73.0%	88.5%	69.7%	78.7%	62.5%	74.5%
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%

**Note:** Beginning with the 2010-11 school year, Florida implemented new data elements for collecting and reporting student demographic data in compliance with changes made by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. For race, students select one or more of the following: American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, White. Students who select more than one racial category, but do not indicate that they are Hispanic or Latino, are included in the Two or More Races category in this report. All students who indicated that they are Hispanic or Latino are included only in the Hispanic/Latino ethnicity rates in this report; they are not included in the racial categories they have selected.

**Table 2: Graduation Rates by Gender within Race/Ethnicity, 2011-12 through 2015-16**

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
2011-12	83.4%	75.7%	70.0%	57.4%	77.2%	68.9%	90.5%	86.5%
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%

**Table 2 Continued: Graduation Rates by Gender within Race/Ethnicity, 2011-12 through 2015-16**

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
2011-12	73.6%	65.6%	81.6%	75.8%	61.5%	63.2%	78.9%	70.3%
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%

**Table 3: Graduation Rates by District, 2011-12 through 2015-16**

District	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
FLORIDA	74.5%	75.6%	76.1%	77.9%	80.7%
01 Alachua	68.7%	72.6%	72.2%	74.3%	78.4%
02 Baker	72.8%	72.1%	75.2%	81.8%	79.4%
03 Bay	73.7%	73.0%	70.8%	70.6%	81.0%
04 Bradford	64.2%	67.5%	71.3%	76.9%	83.7%
05 Brevard	85.2%	87.4%	85.8%	86.2%	87.5%
06 Broward	76.4%	75.3%	74.2%	76.6%	78.7%
07 Calhoun	77.3%	80.6%	80.8%	84.0%	82.9%
08 Charlotte	79.2%	75.5%	76.2%	75.5%	77.4%
09 Citrus	78.0%	80.1%	77.0%	77.4%	79.0%
10 Clay	74.2%	77.9%	80.1%	83.7%	84.7%
11 Collier	78.4%	81.3%	82.1%	84.3%	86.7%
12 Columbia	64.8%	65.7%	61.0%	71.0%	75.0%
13 Miami-Dade	76.0%	77.2%	76.6%	78.1%	80.4%
14 DeSoto	67.9%	61.6%	61.0%	62.2%	61.6%
15 Dixie	77.1%	82.4%	87.8%	96.9%	96.1%
16 Duval	67.7%	72.1%	74.0%	76.6%	78.8%
17 Escambia	62.1%	64.2%	66.1%	72.7%	76.1%
18 Flagler	74.8%	76.9%	77.8%	77.5%	80.4%
19 Franklin	59.0%	58.8%	69.9%	49.0%	72.6%
20 Gadsden	61.4%	58.3%	56.0%	65.4%	68.4%
21 Gilchrist	85.9%	89.7%	95.4%	94.0%	97.7%
22 Glades	64.8%	61.8%	60.8%	80.7%	78.3%
23 Gulf	84.7%	85.7%	77.8%	83.6%	81.5%
24 Hamilton	55.0%	55.5%	78.6%	73.7%	83.0%
25 Hardee	63.6%	65.2%	64.3%	59.7%	67.3%
26 Hendry	73.5%	67.8%	67.5%	76.8%	78.1%
27 Hernando	74.2%	74.1%	76.7%	78.0%	81.1%
28 Highlands	62.1%	61.8%	63.6%	64.5%	68.1%
29 Hillsborough	72.6%	74.1%	73.5%	76.0%	79.1%
30 Holmes	72.8%	78.1%	71.6%	80.5%	72.4%
31 Indian River	80.9%	80.1%	79.1%	81.2%	87.2%
32 Jackson	69.2%	72.1%	70.2%	69.7%	72.6%
33 Jefferson	42.6%	35.1%	56.7%	73.3%	70.0%
34 Lafayette	65.8%	87.5%	80.0%	87.0%	93.2%
35 Lake	78.2%	78.3%	76.6%	75.8%	78.1%
36 Lee	71.9%	74.4%	75.2%	74.7%	77.8%
37 Leon	71.3%	77.0%	83.5%	87.2%	92.3%
38 Levy	72.2%	77.8%	69.1%	81.6%	81.4%

**Table 3: Graduation Rates by District, 2011-12 through 2015-16**

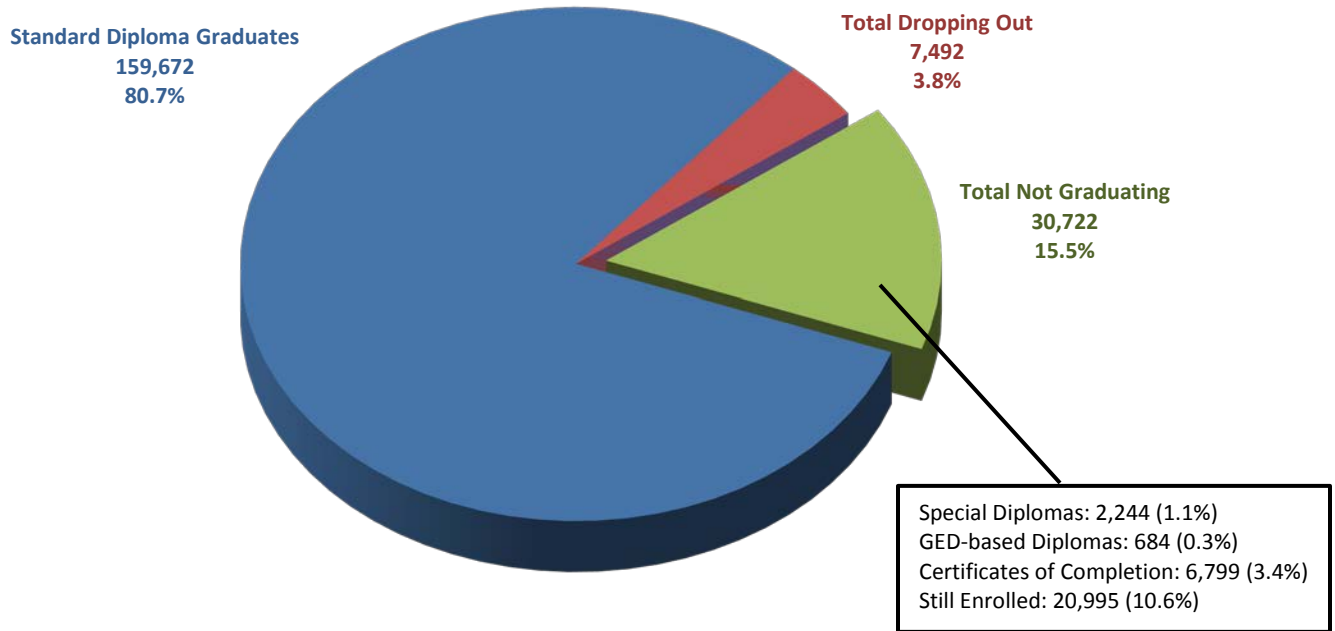
District	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
FLORIDA	74.5%	75.6%	76.1%	77.9%	80.7%
39 Liberty	64.2%	68.9%	71.3%	77.7%	75.0%
40 Madison	66.3%	64.0%	75.7%	58.1%	80.1%
41 Manatee	76.2%	76.8%	75.7%	77.9%	83.5%
42 Marion	75.2%	76.7%	77.9%	80.7%	81.8%
43 Martin	84.9%	87.7%	88.8%	88.9%	88.7%
44 Monroe	68.6%	71.3%	72.8%	76.9%	77.9%
45 Nassau	89.0%	90.9%	89.9%	90.9%	91.4%
46 Okaloosa	83.3%	82.7%	82.5%	82.4%	84.4%
47 Okeechobee	58.9%	63.0%	61.2%	65.9%	70.5%
48 Orange	73.9%	75.9%	74.6%	77.6%	81.3%
49 Osceola	77.5%	78.1%	78.0%	80.6%	82.0%
50 Palm Beach	77.0%	76.3%	77.9%	79.4%	82.3%
51 Pasco	76.6%	75.9%	79.4%	78.6%	79.1%
52 Pinellas	72.0%	71.9%	76.2%	78.3%	80.1%
53 Polk	67.6%	69.4%	69.0%	69.4%	71.8%
54 Putnam	58.9%	58.2%	58.2%	54.9%	63.6%
55 St. Johns	86.0%	86.7%	87.8%	90.5%	91.2%
56 St. Lucie	70.6%	67.7%	73.2%	75.5%	86.8%
57 Santa Rosa	77.2%	78.9%	82.8%	83.2%	85.7%
58 Sarasota	78.0%	76.2%	81.3%	79.2%	85.4%
59 Seminole	80.3%	83.8%	85.1%	86.4%	88.3%
60 Sumter	77.7%	78.5%	83.4%	80.4%	84.6%
61 Suwannee	59.5%	59.5%	76.6%	67.5%	89.6%
62 Taylor	63.5%	62.4%	49.5%	64.7%	70.7%
63 Union	70.4%	79.0%	82.8%	77.7%	72.4%
64 Volusia	66.8%	68.0%	70.6%	71.6%	76.0%
65 Wakulla	70.4%	78.9%	75.1%	78.1%	86.9%
66 Walton	74.5%	77.6%	68.4%	74.4%	77.3%
67 Washington	71.1%	71.0%	66.2%	70.5%	76.3%
68 Deaf/Blind	36.9%	44.0%	51.8%	46.3%	47.1%
69 Wash. Special	0.0%	*	*	*	*
71 FL Virtual	*	*	74.9%	70.9%	66.6%
72 FAU Lab School	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
73 FSU Charter School	98.5%	97.6%	88.0%	97.1%	98.6%
74 FAMU Lab School	81.8%	92.9%	76.7%	97.1%	94.9%
75 UF Lab School	94.8%	95.0%	97.3%	97.3%	96.4%

**Notes:**  
 Source: 2015-16 Florida Department of Education (FDOE) cohort graduation data as of 12/12/16  
 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 80.7 percent, but that does not mean that 19.3 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. In Florida’s 2015-16 cohort, 3.8 percent of the students dropped out and 15.5 percent are still enrolled in school, earned a certificate of completion, special diploma or GED-based diploma. Figure 2 illustrates the proportions of students in the 2015-16 cohort who graduated, dropped out and did not graduate.

**Figure 2: 2015-16 Cohort Outcomes by Withdrawal Code Categories**



**Note:**

Nongraduates include special diplomas, certificates of completion, GED recipients and students who are still enrolled.



Florida Department of Education  
Pam Stewart, Commissioner

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

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