

# Florida’s High School Cohort

## 2021-22 Graduation Rate

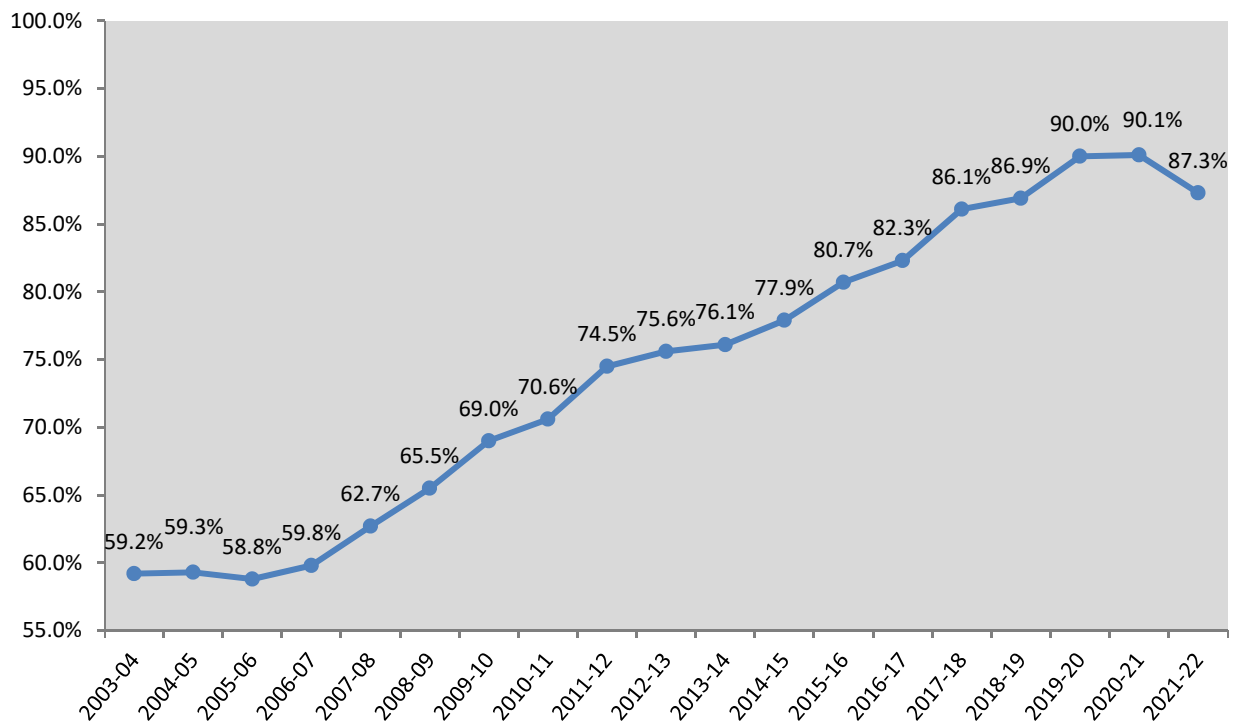
January 2023

### Florida’s Graduation Rate

Florida’s high school graduation rate decreased by 2.8 percentage points over the last year but still exceeds the pre-pandemic rate and has increased significantly over the past eighteen years. The rate rose from 59.2 percent in 2003-04 to 87.3 percent in 2021-22, which is a 28.1 percentage-point increase. Figure 1 below shows the trend in graduation rates from 2003-04 through 2021-22. When comparing to the 2019-20 and 2020-21 graduation rates, it is important to note that pursuant to [Florida Department of Education Emergency Order No. 2020-EO-1](#) and [Florida Department of Education Emergency Order No. 2021-EO-02](#), students in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 graduating classes were exempt from statewide, standardized assessment requirements stipulated in s. 1003.4282, F.S. Though the graduation rate declined by 2.8 percentage points compared to last year, it is up by 0.4 percentage points compared to 2018-19, which is the last year the statewide, standardized assessment requirements for graduation were in place.

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 2021-22**



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 2019-20 federal graduation rates available at [https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/tables/ACGR\\_RE\\_and\\_characteristics\\_2019-20.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/tables/ACGR_RE_and_characteristics_2019-20.asp). Florida's federal graduation rate in 2019-20 was ranked #9 in the nation.<sup>1</sup>
- 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 and gender, but seven of the nine subgroups have increased their graduation rates from 2018-19, the last year prior to the pandemic. The subgroups with the largest percentage point increases over 2018-19 include American Indian or Alaska Native students (8.9 percentage points), Male students (0.8 percentage points), Asian students (0.6 percentage points), and Black or African American students (0.5 percentage points).

**Table 1: Graduation Rates by Race/Ethnicity and Gender, 2017-18 through 2021-22**

Year	White	Black or African American	Hispanic/Latino	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Two or More Races	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Male	Female	Total
2017-18	89.0%	80.9%	85.1%	95.8%	80.1%	87.0%	89.2%	82.9%	89.3%	86.1%
2018-19	90.2%	81.5%	85.9%	95.6%	77.5%	88.2%	86.7%	83.9%	90.0%	86.9%
2019-20*	91.7%	86.6%	89.5%	98.0%	84.1%	90.5%	90.5%	87.1%	92.9%	90.0%
2020-21*	91.8%	87.1%	89.4%	97.5%	89.0%	89.9%	89.5%	87.4%	92.9%	90.1%
2021-22	90.6%	82.0%	85.9%	96.2%	86.4%	88.4%	86.8%	84.7%	89.9%	87.3%

<sup>1</sup> The graduation rate reported by the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) may vary slightly from the rate reported by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) because the rate reported by FDOE accounts for students who attended schools that have closed during the 4-year tracking period, whereas the rate reported to NCES does not. In 2019-20, this represented a 0.2% difference (90.0% reported by FDOE vs. 90.2% reported by NCES).

**Table 2: Graduation Rates by Gender within Race/Ethnicity, 2017-18 through 2021-22**

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
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%
2019-20*	94.1%	89.4%	90.7%	82.5%	92.5%	86.6%	98.7%	97.3%
2020-21*	94.0%	89.7%	90.8%	83.4%	92.4%	86.4%	98.3%	96.8%
2021-22	92.6%	88.6%	86.0%	78.1%	88.5%	83.3%	97.2%	95.3%

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
2017-18	85.7%	74.9%	88.7%	85.2%	89.9%	88.1%
2018-19	83.5%	72.5%	90.7%	85.4%	91.0%	82.6%
2019-20*	88.2%	80.0%	92.9%	87.9%	92.6%	88.4%
2020-21*	93.2%	85.5%	93.0%	86.8%	95.5%	84.8%
2021-22	90.0%	83.2%	90.4%	86.3%	87.8%	85.8%

**Table 3: Graduation Rates by District, 2017-18 through 2021-22**

District	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20*	2020-21*	2021-22
FLORIDA	86.1%	86.9%	90.0%	90.1%	87.3%
01 Alachua	88.0%	88.5%	90.4%	86.6%	85.8%
02 Baker	75.5%	78.8%	84.5%	85.7%	81.5%
03 Bay	81.1%	82.5%	88.5%	90.2%	85.3%
04 Bradford	89.0%	87.7%	88.2%	85.0%	76.1%
05 Brevard	88.1%	88.3%	90.3%	90.6%	87.2%
06 Broward	84.3%	86.2%	89.4%	89.1%	87.2%
07 Calhoun	86.9%	87.9%	89.9%	93.1%	93.6%
08 Charlotte	87.6%	86.4%	90.4%	90.9%	87.9%
09 Citrus	84.1%	86.0%	87.1%	88.1%	86.5%
10 Clay	91.1%	91.9%	93.4%	92.7%	89.9%
11 Collier	91.9%	91.9%	92.2%	92.7%	91.5%
12 Columbia	88.4%	92.4%	95.4%	95.6%	89.6%
13 Miami-Dade	85.4%	85.6%	89.6%	90.1%	88.2%
14 DeSoto	60.9%	71.3%	84.6%	82.0%	75.1%
15 Dixie	96.9%	90.6%	89.8%	84.0%	82.7%
16 Duval	85.1%	86.5%	90.2%	89.6%	85.6%
17 Escambia	80.7%	84.8%	86.5%	87.0%	78.4%
18 Flagler	88.0%	88.7%	92.3%	91.2%	90.5%
19 Franklin	77.3%	70.6%	73.1%	74.4%	82.7%
20 Gadsden	66.1%	60.4%	77.1%	82.7%	75.9%
21 Gilchrist	87.3%	89.4%	90.1%	86.7%	87.6%

District	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20*	2020-21*	2021-22
FLORIDA	86.1%	86.9%	90.0%	90.1%	87.3%
22 Glades	93.4%	91.4%	89.6%	78.5%	89.2%
23 Gulf	82.1%	83.6%	85.3%	86.5%	90.5%
24 Hamilton	73.5%	73.1%	87.0%	83.8%	75.4%
25 Hardee	80.2%	81.2%	91.4%	88.3%	84.5%
26 Hendry	83.8%	83.7%	90.4%	86.6%	75.7%
27 Hernando	87.6%	88.4%	91.7%	91.0%	89.0%
28 Highlands	77.2%	81.2%	83.3%	84.4%	82.6%
29 Hillsborough	85.8%	86.2%	88.8%	89.2%	87.9%
30 Holmes	77.1%	85.5%	93.4%	90.8%	85.0%
31 Indian River	92.0%	88.5%	93.4%	95.0%	94.6%
32 Jackson	79.2%	84.7%	91.0%	84.1%	82.6%
33 Jefferson	73.4%	62.7%	85.4%	81.8%	76.5%
34 Lafayette	97.4%	98.8%	97.7%	97.5%	97.6%
35 Lake	84.1%	86.8%	91.2%	90.6%	88.6%
36 Lee	82.8%	83.7%	88.5%	85.1%	82.5%
37 Leon	93.0%	92.4%	94.4%	94.0%	86.8%
38 Levy	87.0%	88.1%	89.6%	93.8%	92.8%
39 Liberty	77.0%	84.2%	87.2%	82.6%	76.7%
40 Madison	81.3%	82.5%	87.2%	88.2%	78.6%
41 Manatee	85.4%	83.2%	85.8%	85.1%	80.3%
42 Marion	81.8%	83.8%	87.1%	86.5%	83.5%
43 Martin	87.9%	87.4%	90.2%	94.1%	90.7%
44 Monroe	86.4%	86.0%	92.0%	91.5%	88.2%
45 Nassau	92.8%	92.3%	91.6%	93.4%	93.3%
46 Okaloosa	88.1%	87.9%	90.0%	92.2%	87.5%
47 Okeechobee	76.9%	75.8%	84.2%	85.1%	75.3%
48 Orange	88.9%	88.4%	90.4%	90.4%	87.0%
49 Osceola	89.3%	90.0%	90.7%	89.7%	85.2%
50 Palm Beach	87.2%	87.1%	90.2%	91.0%	89.0%
51 Pasco	86.7%	88.3%	89.9%	91.0%	90.2%
52 Pinellas	86.0%	88.4%	91.5%	92.0%	88.1%
53 Polk	80.4%	81.2%	86.5%	85.3%	78.3%
54 Putnam	84.8%	86.3%	90.1%	92.5%	88.5%
55 St. Johns	93.3%	94.3%	94.8%	95.0%	93.3%
56 St. Lucie	91.8%	90.4%	93.2%	94.5%	90.8%
57 Santa Rosa	88.7%	88.9%	90.3%	90.3%	89.9%
58 Sarasota	89.8%	89.4%	92.5%	91.0%	88.9%
59 Seminole	91.7%	92.8%	94.5%	95.5%	93.0%
60 Sumter	87.8%	87.2%	88.0%	91.0%	93.1%
61 Suwannee	96.2%	93.7%	91.3%	94.1%	91.5%
62 Taylor	87.7%	83.9%	92.8%	86.9%	87.4%
63 Union	84.1%	84.4%	79.6%	88.3%	77.8%
64 Volusia	78.7%	84.5%	87.7%	91.9%	88.9%
65 Wakulla	90.1%	91.6%	93.8%	95.5%	97.0%
66 Walton	86.8%	88.9%	91.5%	91.4%	96.7%
67 Washington	80.2%	80.5%	89.6%	87.9%	88.4%
68 Deaf/Blind	69.7%	84.1%	90.6%	96.8%	90.3%
71 FL Virtual	81.4%	87.7%	95.4%	95.9%	90.0%

District		2017-18	2018-19	2019-20*	2020-21*	2021-22
	FLORIDA	86.1%	86.9%	90.0%	90.1%	87.3%
72	FAU Lab School	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100%	100%
73	FSU Lab School	96.6%	99.3%	96.4%	98.7%	99.4%
74	FAMU Lab School	94.3%	89.7%	100.0%	98.0%	94.7%
75	UF Lab School	99.1%	98.1%	97.3%	100%	97.4%

**Notes:**

Source: 2021-22 Florida Department of Education (FDOE) cohort graduation data as of 12/09/22.

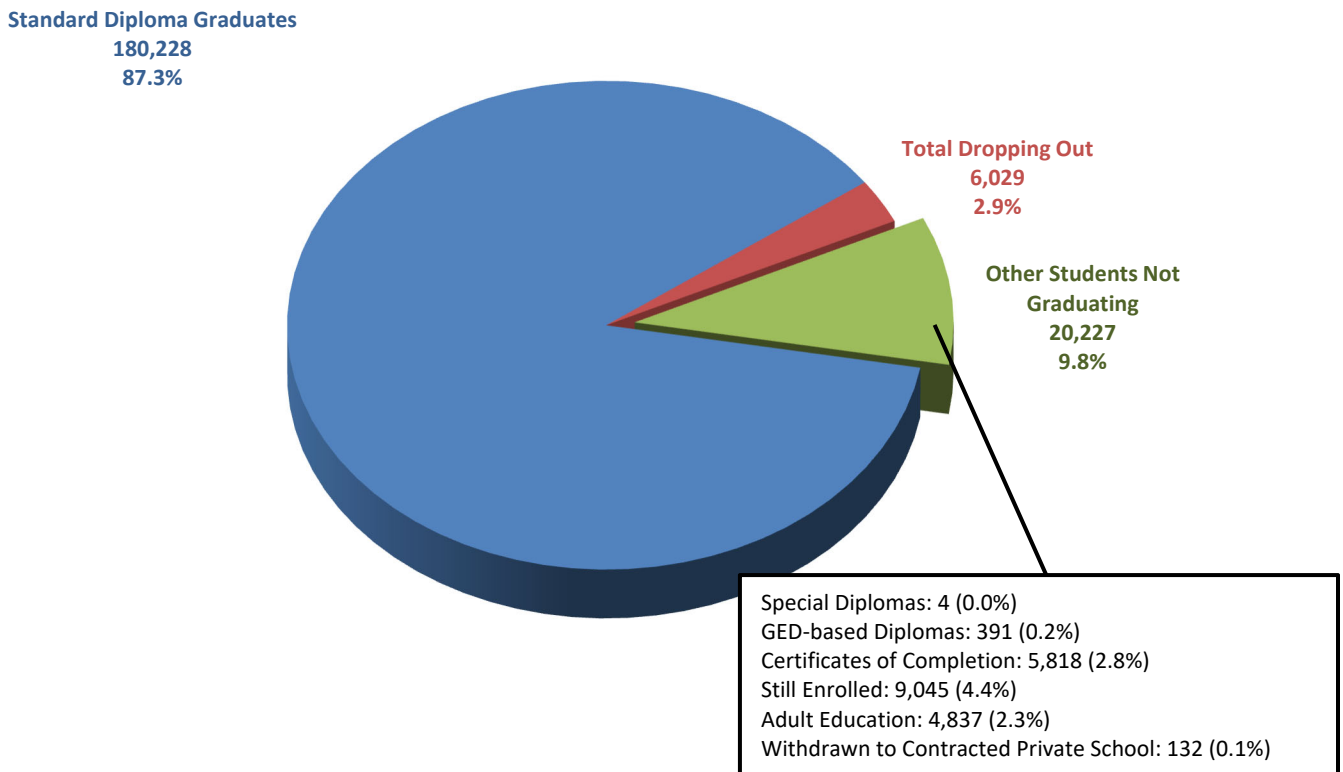
\* When comparing to the 2019-20 and 2020-21 graduation rates, it is important to note that pursuant to [Florida Department of Education Emergency Order No. 2020-EO-1](#) and [Florida Department of Education Emergency Order No. 2021-EO-2](#), students in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 graduating class were exempt from statewide, standardized assessment requirements stipulated in s. 1003.4282, F.S.

## Withdrawal Status of All Students in the Graduation Cohort

Florida’s graduation rate is 87.3 percent, but that does not mean that 12.7 percent of students in the cohort are dropouts. Students in a cohort can be classified as graduates, non-graduates, or dropouts. Non-graduates 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 remain 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 non-graduates.

In Florida’s 2021-22 cohort, 2.9 percent of the students dropped out and 9.8 percent are classified as non-graduates who are still enrolled in school, are 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 2021-22 cohort who graduated, dropped out, or did not graduate.

**Figure 2: 2021-22 Cohort Outcomes by Withdrawal Categories**



**Note:** Non-graduates 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.



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