



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
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Nearly 1 in 5 Connecticut students does not complete high school in four years

Connecticut's graduation rate showed a slight improvement in 2010, but nearly 1 in 5 students still failed to complete high school in four years, according to data released today by the State Department of Education.

The numbers were worse for Hispanic, black, poor (i.e., eligible for free or reduced-price lunch), special education and English language learner students, with about 1 in 3 not receiving a standard diploma within four years. In contrast, the rates for white, Asian and students not eligible for free or reduced-price lunch were much better. Table 1 shows the numbers for each student subgroup in more detail.

Table 1: Connecticut 2010 Cohort Graduation Rates*

Category	2010 Cohort #	Graduates	Non-Graduates		
		Four-Year Graduation Rate	Still Enrolled	Non-Completers (Certificate of Attendance)	Other
All Students	44,461	81.8	6.1	0.4	11.7
Hispanic	6,917	64.0	11.4	0.5	24.1
Non-Hispanic	37,544	85.2	5.1	0.4	9.3
Indian	146	72.9	6.9	0.0	20.2
Asian	1,562	88.8	3.3	0.1	7.8
Black	6,431	68.7	10.5	1.2	19.6
White	29,405	88.7	4.0	0.2	7.1
Male	22,835	78.5	7.9	0.7	12.9
Female	21,626	85.4	4.1	0.1	10.4
ELL	1,938	60.1	11.0	0.0	28.9
Non-ELL	42,523	82.7	5.8	0.4	11.1
Eligible For Lunch	11,368	62.7	12.0	1.3	24.0
Not Eligible For Lunch	33,093	88.4	4.0	0.1	7.5
Special Education	5,091	62.5	21.3	0.8	15.4
Non-Special Education	39,370	84.3	4.0	0.4	11.3

“The statewide graduation rate gap in Connecticut subgroup populations mandates that we begin identifying exemplary schools that model preparation and success for students in our lower-performing communities,” Commissioner of Education Stefan Pryor said. “From the local level to the state level, we must redouble our efforts to graduate the next generation of leaders on time all of the time.”

To determine the 2010 four-year graduation rate, the Department analyzed individual data from 44,461 students. The analysis revealed that, 8,092 students, or 18.2 percent, failed to complete high school in four years. That is down from a preliminary rate of 20.7 percent in 2009, a difference of about 1,000 students.

This was the second year the rate has been calculated using a more accurate method prescribed under the No Child Left Behind/Elementary and Secondary Education Act four-year cohort graduation rate calculation rules. Before 2009, the Department had to estimate the rate from dropout data and self-reported aggregate graduate data. Now, by using student-level data from the state’s public school information system, the Department is able to track individual students longitudinally from the time they enter ninth-grade through to graduation. This method is more accurate for calculating the school, district and state graduation rates and provides a uniform system across the state.

The 18.2 percent of students who missed the four-year graduation target in 2010 includes 6.1 percent who are still enrolled and 0.4 percent who were “non-completers” and received a certificate of attendance. The remaining 11.7 percent did not graduate, were not still enrolled, or did not receive a certificate of attendance. It should also be noted that about one-fifth of all students with disabilities ages 18-21 remain enrolled in public education even though they have completed the requirements for a high school diploma within four years. These students continue their enrollment to maintain eligibility for transition services designed to help students move from high school into postsecondary activities.

"These numbers underscore the importance of creating the pathways and partnerships needed to make being ready for college possible for a greater number of our state's students," said Board of Regents of Higher Education President Robert Kennedy. "This won't happen overnight, but reviewing this data enables us to drill down and see where we need to do more to prepare our students for a college degree or a trade. I'm eager to work with Commissioner Pryor to make this a reality."

The four-year graduation rate varies widely across the state. Ten districts—Bolton, Cromwell, Guilford, Madison, Monroe, New Canaan, Ridgefield, Weston, and Regional School Districts 17 and 18—exceeded 95 percent in 2010. Six districts—Bridgeport, Hartford, New Britain, New Haven, New London and Norwich—had rates lower than 65 percent.

“We refuse to accept the notion that some students will not graduate from high school prepared for college and career.” Commissioner Pryor said. “The economic and social costs are too great. We can and must do better.”

For details on four-year graduation rates by district and school, please visit the following Web sites:

- District: <http://www.csde.state.ct.us/public/cedar/GraduationRates/byDistrict.xls>
- School: <http://www.csde.state.ct.us/public/cedar/GraduationRates/BySchool.xls>

*Notes:

- ELL stands for English Language Learner.
- With the exception of the cohort column which is a count, the rest of the columns are in percentages. Row percentages may not add up to 100 percent because of rounding.
- A student is included in the ELL, special education, or free/reduced lunch subgroup, or any combination of them, if he/she was reported in that subgroup in at least one of the Public School Information System data collections over the course of his/her high school career.
- In reporting race/ethnicity, student's last reported category is used.
- Special education students who are still in school after four years but have earned the academic credits to graduate are included in the "still enrolled" column for this calculation because of **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act** (IDEA) restrictions.
- **The Cohort Count** is determined at the end of the 2009-10 school year.
- **Four-year Graduation Rate** is percentage of students who received a standard diploma within four years, including early and summer graduates out of the cohort.
- **Still Enrolled** means students were still in school after four years.
- **Other category** includes students who dropped out (including those who enrolled in a GED program), transferred to postsecondary education or have an unknown status.
- The Connecticut Technical High School System's rate of 91.6 percent exceeded the state average by nearly 10 percentage points.

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