

Cohort 2013 Four-Year Graduation Rates – State Results

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) calculates and reports graduation rates as part of overall efforts to improve educational outcomes for all students.

The 2013 four-year cohort graduation rate is calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{\# of students in cohort (denominator) who graduate in 4 years or less}}{\text{\# of 1st time entering 9th graders in 2009-10] - transfers out/deaths + transfers in}}$$

The 2013 four-year cohort graduation rate for Massachusetts public high schools increased by 0.3 percentage points to 85.0 percent from 84.7 percent for the 2012 cohort. This represents the seventh consecutive year of increase in the four-year rate. Many student subgroups showed increased four-year rates as compared to the 2012 cohort, including the English language learner and Hispanic subgroups, with increases of 2.4 and 1.3 percentage points respectively. There are, however, significant gaps in the graduation rates among subgroups. Among the race and ethnicity subgroup rates, there is a 23.8 percentage point difference between the highest and lowest, belonging to Asian and Hispanic students, though this gap was reduced by 0.2 percentage points as compared to the 2012 cohort. The gap between White and Hispanic students was reduced by 0.9 percentage points from 24.2 percentage points for the 2012 cohort to 23.3 percentage points for the 2013 cohort.

Additional critical findings of the report include:

- The dropout rate for the 2013 cohort was 6.5 percent, the lowest since the ESE began calculating cohort dropout rates in 2006 and was 0.4 percentage points lower than the 2012 rate.
- 6.1 percent of the 2013 cohort is still enrolled in high school.
- Hispanic students graduated at a rate that was 1.3 percentage points higher than the 2012 cohort
- English language learners graduated at a rate that was 2.4 percentage points higher than the 2012 cohort.
- 59 percent of the students in the cohort who are still enrolled in a Massachusetts public school have met the requirements for their Competency Determination (CD).
- 75 percent of school districts and 65 percent of high schools had a higher graduation rate than the state average of 85.0 percent.

The following tables and graphs further summarize the results for the 2013 cohort. The results are based on data submitted by school districts through the Department's Student Information Management System.

Table 1. Graduation Results for All Students and Student Subgroups¹

	2013 Cohort # ¹	Graduates		Non-Graduates ²				
		4-Year Rate	Difference from 2012	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer ³	GED	Dropped Out	Expelled
All Students	74,537	85.0%	+0.3	6.1%	0.8%	1.5%	6.5%	0.1%
Female	36,541	88.1%	+0.4	4.5%	0.8%	1.3%	5.2%	0.0%
Male	37,996	82.1%	+0.3	7.6%	0.9%	1.6%	7.7%	0.1%
ELL ⁴	4,701	63.5%	+2.4	14.9%	5.2%	0.5%	15.7%	0.1%
Low Income	30,952	73.6%	+1.2	10.6%	1.6%	2.2%	11.8%	0.1%
Students w/ Disabilities	14,597	67.8%	-0.8	16.3%	2.1%	1.6%	12.1%	0.0%
High Needs ⁵	38,283	74.7%	+0.6	10.9%	1.5%	2.1%	10.7%	0.1%
African American	7,112	73.8%	+0.4	13.1%	1.7%	1.0%	10.2%	0.2%
Asian	4,045	90.6%	+1.1	4.1%	0.9%	0.8%	3.7%	0.0%
Hispanic	10,745	66.8%	+1.3	11.7%	2.6%	2.4%	16.3%	0.1%
Multi-race, Non-Hisp.	1,420	83.8%	+1.0	6.1%	0.4%	1.6%	8.0%	0.1%
Native American	200	73.0%	+2.7	7.0%	2.5%	3.0%	14.5%	0.0%
Pacific Islander	95	74.7%	+3.6	10.5%	2.1%	0.0%	12.6%	0.0%
White	50,920	90.1%	+0.4	4.1%	0.4%	1.4%	4.0%	0.0%
Urban	25,037	71.9%	+0.5	11.2%	1.8%	2.1%	12.8%	0.1%

¹ Due to rounding, row percentages may not equal 100 percent.

² In the reporting of aggregate results, students are included in the first column (from left to right) for which they qualify. For example, students who dropped out or were expelled, but earned a GED, are included in the GED category. Students are only reported in one category.

³ Non-Grad Completer includes 1) students who earned a certificate of attainment, 2) students who met local graduation requirements but the district does not offer certificates of attainment, and 3) students with special needs who reached the maximum age (22) but did not graduate.

⁴ The English language learner, special education, and low income subgroups include all students that were reported in those categories at least once in high school. Students can be counted in more than one group.

⁵ High Needs subgroup includes students categorized as any of the following as of October 1, 2012: 1) Low Income, 2) English language learner, 3) Students with disabilities, as well as students categorized as an English language learner during the prior two school years (2011-12 and/or 2010-11).

Table 2. Graduation Results for Race/Ethnicity Groups by Gender

	2013 Cohort #	Graduates		Non-Graduates				
		4-Year Rate	Difference from 2012	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer	GED	Dropped Out	Expelled
African American Female	3,450	80.3%	+1.3	9.6%	1.6%	0.7%	7.8%	0.1%
African American Male	3,662	67.7%	-0.5	16.4%	1.8%	1.3%	12.5%	0.3%
Asian Female	2,006	92.0%	+1.1	3.0%	0.9%	0.7%	3.4%	0.0%
Asian Male	2,039	89.2%	+1.1	5.1%	0.8%	0.8%	3.9%	0.1%
Hispanic Female	5,154	71.4%	+1.5	9.9%	2.6%	2.4%	13.6%	0.0%
Hispanic Male	5,591	62.5%	+1.2	13.4%	2.6%	2.5%	18.8%	0.2%
Multi-race Female	735	86.1%	+0.4	5.3%	0.7%	1.8%	6.1%	0.0%
Multi-race Male	685	81.3%	+1.7	7.0%	0.1%	1.5%	9.9%	0.1%
Native American Female	100	71.0%	-5.6	7.0%	2.0%	3.0%	17.0%	0.0%
Native American Male	100	75.0%	+10.7	7.0%	3.0%	3.0%	12.0%	0.0%
Pacific Islander Female	40	77.5%	+1.2	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%	0.0%
Pacific Islander Male	55	72.7%	+6.9	10.9%	3.6%	0.0%	12.7%	0.0%
White Female	25,056	92.5%	+0.2	2.8%	0.3%	1.3%	3.1%	0.0%
White Male	25,864	87.8%	+0.5	5.4%	0.4%	1.5%	4.9%	0.1%

Table 3. Graduation Results for Students Receiving Special Education Services by Gender

	2013 Cohort #	Graduates		Non-Graduates				
		4-Year Rate	Difference from 2012	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer	GED	Dropped Out	Expelled
Students w/ Disabilities Female	5,394	70.8%	-1.1	15.1%	2.2%	1.7%	10.2%	0.0%
Students w/ Disabilities Male	9,203	66.0%	-0.7	17.0%	2.0%	1.6%	13.3%	0.1%

Table 4. Graduation Results for Low-Income Students by Gender

	2013 Cohort #	Graduates		Non-Graduates				
		4-Year Rate	Difference from 2012	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer	GED	Dropped Out	Expelled
Low-Income Female	15,008	78.6%	+1.6	8.1%	1.6%	2.1%	9.6%	0.0%
Low-Income Male	15,944	69.0%	+0.9	12.9%	1.7%	2.4%	13.9%	0.2%

Table 5. Graduation Results for High Needs Students by Gender

	2013 Cohort #	Graduates		Non-Graduates				
		4-Year Rate	Difference from 2012	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer	GED	Dropped Out	Expelled
High Needs Female	17,737	78.8%	+0.7	8.6%	1.5%	2.0%	9.1%	0.0%
High Needs Male	20,546	71.2%	+0.6	12.8%	1.5%	2.1%	12.1%	0.1%

Table 6. Graduation Results for English Language Learner Students by Gender

	2013 Cohort #	Graduates		Non-Graduates				
		4-Year Rate	Difference from 2012	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer	GED	Dropped Out	Expelled
ELL Female	2,174	67.9%	+4.4	13.2%	5.6%	0.5%	12.8%	0.0%
ELL Male	2,527	59.8%	+1.0	16.4%	4.9%	0.5%	18.2%	0.2%
ELL in Original Cohort	2,824	67.0%	+2.1	12.5%	3.8%	0.7%	15.8%	0.1%
ELL Entered Cohort after 10/1/09	1,877	58.3%	+3.8	18.5%	7.4%	0.2%	15.6%	0.2%

Table 7. Graduation Results for Race/Ethnicity by English Language Learner Status

	2013 Cohort #	Graduates		Non-Graduates				
		4-Year Rate	Difference from 2012	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer	GED	Dropped Out	Expelled
African American ELL	1,068	67.9%	+1.5	18.0%	5.4%	0.0%	8.4%	0.3%
African American Non-ELL	6,044	74.9%	+0.2	12.2%	1.0%	1.2%	10.5%	0.1%
Asian ELL	771	81.5%	+4.2	8.4%	3.1%	0.3%	6.6%	0.1%
Asian Non-ELL	3,274	92.7%	0.0	3.0%	0.3%	0.9%	3.0%	0.0%
Hispanic ELL	2,407	54.0%	+2.0	16.4%	6.3%	0.6%	22.6%	0.1%
Hispanic Non-ELL	8,338	70.5%	+ 0.7	10.4%	1.5%	3.0%	14.5%	0.1%
Multi-race ELL	23	82.6%	+42.0	13.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.3%	0.0%
Multi-race Non-ELL	1,397	83.8%	-0.1	6.0%	0.4%	1.6%	8.0%	0.1%
Native American ELL	9	66.7%	-3.3	0.0%	11.1%	0.0%	22.2%	0.0%
Native American Non-ELL	191	73.3%	+3.0	7.3%	2.1%	3.1%	14.1%	0.0%
Pacific-Islander ELL	15	40.0%	-26.7	33.3%	6.7%	0.0%	20.0%	0.0%
Pacific Islander Non-ELL	80	81.3%	+9.9	6.3%	1.3%	0.0%	11.3%	0.0%
White ELL	408	74.3%	+3.6	10.3%	2.7%	1.2%	11.5%	0.0%
White Non-ELL	50,512	90.3%	+0.4	4.0%	0.3%	1.4%	4.0%	0.0%

Table 8. Graduation Results for Non-Mobile and Mobile Students⁶

High Schools Attended	2013 Cohort #	Graduates		Non-Graduates				
		4-Year Rate	Difference from 2012	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer	GED	Dropped Out	Expelled
One School	54,795	89.3%	+0.1	3.7%	0.8%	1.1%	5.0%	0.0%
Two Schools	16,183	78.3%	+6.3	10.1%	1.0%	1.9%	8.6%	0.1%
Three Schools	2,723	53.1%	+3.5	23.8%	1.4%	4.1%	17.5%	0.1%
Four or More Schools	836	39.1%	+6.9	30.6%	0.7%	4.9%	24.5%	0.1%

⁶ Mobility refers to the number of different high schools that the student attended within the Commonwealth. Students who never moved or moved in from another state or a private school and attended one public high school in Massachusetts are represented in the “One School” row.

Table 9. Competency Determination (CD) Status for Select Non-Graduate Groups

	Still in School			Dropped Out ⁷		
	Number	CD	No CD	Number	CD	No CD
All Students	4,552	58.5%	41.5%	5,903	29.7%	70.3%
Female	1,651	55.2%	44.8%	2,379	30.9%	69.1%
Male	2,901	60.3%	39.7%	3,524	28.9%	71.1%
English Language Learner	701	42.5%	57.5%	761	10.4%	89.6%
Low Income	3,267	57.9%	42.1%	4,531	26.6%	73.4%
Students w/ Disabilities	2,383	43.0%	57.0%	2,013	24.7%	75.3%
High Needs	4,166	55.2%	44.8%	4,889	27.4%	72.6%
African American	932	56.1%	43.9%	798	21.3%	78.7%
Asian	164	62.2%	37.8%	179	34.6%	65.4%
Hispanic	1,261	51.5%	48.5%	2,015	17.9%	82.1%
Multi-race, Non-Hisp.	87	63.2%	36.8%	136	40.4%	59.6%
Native American	14	50.0%	50.0%	35	40.0%	60.0%
Pacific Islander	10	60.0%	40.0%	12	16.6%	83.4%
White	2,084	63.3%	36.7%	2,728	29.7%	70.3%

Table 10. Distribution of Graduation Rates in the Aggregate for Districts⁸

2013 Four-Year Graduation Rate	Number of Districts	Percentage of Districts
< 50%	4	1.4%
50 - <60%	4	1.4%
60 - <70%	5	1.7%
70 - <80%	32	11.0%
80 - <85%	29	10.0%
85 - <90%	59	20.3%
90 - <95%	89	30.6%
95 – 100%	69	23.7%
Total	291	100%

⁷ Includes students that dropped out prior to the administration of the 10th grade MCAS.

⁸ Includes districts with at least six students in the cohort. District analyses include charter schools, regional school districts and vocational/technical high schools.

Table 11. Distribution of Graduation Rates in the Aggregate for Schools⁹

2013 Four-Year Graduation Rate	Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools
< 50%	42	11.0%
50 - <60%	7	1.8%
60 - <70%	17	4.5%
70 - <80%	29	7.6%
80 - <85%	38	10.0%
85 - <90%	60	15.7%
90 - <95%	95	24.9%
95 – 100%	93	24.4%
Total	381	100%

⁹ Includes schools with at least six students in the cohort