

High School Dropouts 2005-06 Massachusetts Public Schools

The annual high school dropout report represents a snapshot of those students who dropped out of school in any given year. The intention of this report is to provide annual dropout data to education leaders to develop and strengthen dropout prevention programs in the state. Please note that the Department calculated and released the first cohort graduation rate (2006 cohort) which helped to portray a more complete picture of the outcomes of high school students in Massachusetts. The report can be viewed at:

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/infoservices/reports/gradrates/06state.html>.

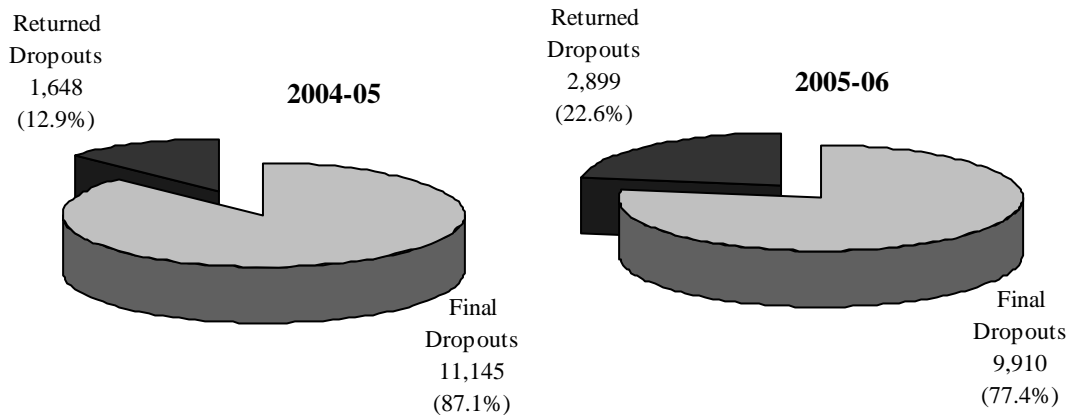
In the 2005-06 school year, 3.3 percent (9,910 dropouts) of students in grades nine through twelve dropped out of school. This rate was a half of a percentage point lower than the rate for the 2004-05 school year.

Table 1: State Dropout Trends: 1998-99 to 2005-06

	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Total HS Enrollment	258,026	265,795	271,700	273,912	281,939	288,329	293,399	296,511
Number of Dropouts	9,188	9,199	9,380	8,422 ¹	9,389	10,633	11,145	9,910
Dropout Rate	3.6%	3.5%	3.5%	3.1%	3.3%	3.7%	3.8%	3.3%

In the 2005-06 school year, 22.6 percent (2,899 students) of students who dropped out returned to school, graduated or received a GED by October 1, 2006. In the 2005-06 school year the number of returned dropouts increased because the Department was able to identify students who passed the GED exam by October 1, 2006 through the GED completion database. In prior school years, the Department relied solely on district notification regarding students who received their GED. In comparison to the 2004-05 school year, the number of Returned Dropouts increased by 75.9 percent.

**Figure 1: Comparison of the Returned and Final Dropout Counts
in the 2004-05 and 2005-06 School Years**



¹ Due to changes in the Student Information Management System (SIMS) summer dropouts were not included in the dropout count, therefore resulting in an underreported rate.

The projected four-year rate is an estimation of the cumulative effect of four years of students dropping out of school. The projected four-year rate for the class of 2009 was 12.8 percent, almost a two percentage point decrease compared to the projected four-year rate for the previous class.

Table 2: State Projected Dropout Rates: Class of 2002 to Class of 2009

	Class of 2002	Class of 2003	Class of 2004	Class of 2005	Class of 2006	Class of 2007	Class of 2008	Class of 2009
Projected Dropout Rates	13.3%	13.1%	13.4%	11.7%	12.8%	14.3%	14.7%	12.8%

Beginning with the class of 2003, the Department required students to meet or exceed the “Needs Improvement” threshold of both the ELA and Math sections of the grade ten MCAS to receive a Competency Determination (CD) in order to graduate from high school with a diploma. Students who did not pass the grade ten MCAS had the opportunity to pass the MCAS through re-test opportunities before their scheduled graduation date.

Table 3: Dropout Rates and Percent of Dropouts Among Competency Determination (CD) Earners and Students without a CD

Grade	CD Status	Number of Enrolled Students	Number of Dropouts	Dropout Rate	Percent of Dropouts
11	With CD	65,400	1,121	1.7%	47.6%
	Without CD	5,927	1,234	20.8%	52.4%
12	With CD	62,953	1,742	2.8%	67.4%
	Without CD	2,682	842	31.4%	32.6%

Table 4: Annual Dropout Data for Selected Demographics: 2005-06

		Total HS Enrollment	Number of Dropouts	Annual Dropout Rates	Percent of all Dropouts
Grade	9 th	82,861	2,465	3.0%	24.9%
	10 th	76,688	2,506	3.3%	25.3%
	11 th	71,327	2,355	3.3%	23.8%
	12 th	65,635	2,584	3.9%	26.1%
Race/Ethnicity	Asian	13,069	291	2.2%	2.9%
	Black	25,956	1,755	6.8%	18.0%
	Hispanic	35,296	2,785	7.9%	28.1%
	Native American	803	43	5.4%	0.4%
	Native Hawaiian	271	19	7.0%	0.2%
	Multi-Race, Non-Hispanic	3,143	88	2.8%	0.9%
	White	217,973	4,929	2.3%	50.0%
Gender	Female	146,337	4,138	2.8%	41.8%
	Male	150,174	5,772	3.8%	58.2%

**Table 5: Annual Dropout Rates for Selected Demographics:
1998-99 to 2005-06**

		1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Grade	9th	3.1%	3.1%	3.3%	2.9%	2.6%	2.6% ²	3.0%	3.0%
	10th	3.8%	3.7%	3.5%	3.1%	3.6%	3.7%	3.7%	3.3%
	11th	4.3%	3.9%	4.0%	3.3%	3.7%	4.0%	4.1%	3.3%
	12th	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	2.9%	3.5%	4.8%	4.7%	3.9%
Race/Ethnicity	Asian	3.6%	4.0%	3.9%	2.3%	2.5%	2.7%	2.6%	2.2%
	Black	6.7%	6.1%	6.1%	4.9%	5.7%	6.3%	6.3%	6.8%
	Hispanic	9.8%	8.2%	8.0%	7.3%	7.4%	8.2%	9.1%	7.9%
	Native American	4.0%	4.2%	3.2%	3.7%	4.8%	6.4%	5.4%	5.4%
	Native Hawaiian	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.0%
	Multi-Race, Non-Hispanic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.8%
	White	2.5%	2.6%	2.6%	2.4%	2.6%	2.8%	2.8%	2.3%
Gender	Female	3.1%	2.9%	2.8%	2.6%	2.8%	3.1%	3.2%	2.8%
	Male	4.0%	4.0%	4.1%	3.5%	3.9%	4.3%	4.4%	3.8%

Table 6: Annual Dropout Data for Special Populations: 2005-06

		Total HS Enrollment	Number of Dropouts	Annual Dropout Rates	Percent of all Dropouts
Special Education	Special Education	43,508	2,237	5.1%	22.6%
	General Education	253,003	7,673	3.0%	77.4%
Limited English Proficient (LEP)	LEP	10,728	1,019	9.5%	10.3%
	Non LEP	285,783	8,891	3.1%	89.7%
Low-Income	Low-Income	72,942	4,021	5.5%	40.6%
	Non Low-Income	223,569	5,889	2.6%	59.4%

² In the 2003-04 school year, the Department removed the data for students expected to enroll in grade nine due to an incomplete data collection. The Department presumes that if the grade eight missing students were included in the summer dropout count, the grade nine dropout rate in 2003-04 might be slightly higher.

Table 7: Annual Dropout Rates for Special Populations: 2002-03 to 2005-06

		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Special Education	Special Education	4.6%	5.4%	5.6%	5.1%
	General Education	3.1%	3.4%	3.5%	3.0%
LEP	LEP	6.1%	7.6%	9.3%	9.5%
	Non LEP	3.2%	3.5%	3.6%	3.1%
Low-Income	Low-Income	5.1%	5.7%	6.4%	5.5%
	Non Low-Income	2.8%	3.1%	3.0%	2.6%

Table 8: Annual Dropout Rates by School Type 2001-02 to 2005-06

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Regular/Comprehensive Academic Schools (295)³	4.9%	3.4%	3.7%	3.7%	3.4%
Vocational-Technical Total (39)	2.6%	3.1%	3.2%	3.0%	2.2%
City/Town (10)	5.4%	6.8%	7.2%	6.0%	4.7%
Regional/County/Independent (29)	1.7%	2.0%	2.1%	2.3%	1.5%
Charter Schools (28)	3.1%	4.3%	5.6%	6.1%	4.2%
Schools Located in Cities⁴ (143)	4.8%	5.2%	5.7%	6.1%	5.5%
Schools Located in Towns⁴ (219)	1.7%	1.9%	2.0%	2.0%	1.6%

The state dropout rate masks the wide disparity in individual school annual dropout rates, specifically the number of schools that have dropout rates below the state rate. Therefore, including a chart within the report was important to illustrate the distribution of school dropout rates.

Table 9: Annual Dropout Rates Among Schools: 1999-00 to 2005-06⁵

	1999-00		2000-01		2001-02		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
<i>Number of Schools Included</i>	317		319		324		321		330		336		339	
Annual Rate	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
0	18	6	16	5	29	9	38	12	17	5	11	3	20	6
0.1 – 1.0	67	21	67	21	73	23	65	20	70	21	74	22	88	26
1.1 – 2.5	103	32	92	29	93	29	82	26	81	25	90	27	97	29
2.6 – 5.0	72	23	93	29	85	26	80	25	85	26	94	28	71	21
5.1 – 7.5	30	10	21	7	23	7	23	7	37	11	23	7	26	8
7.6 – 10.0	9	3	9	3	9	3	15	5	17	5	15	4	8	2
10.1 and above	18	6	21	7	12	4	18	6	23	7	29	9	29	9

³ Represents the number of schools in the category in the 2005-06 school year.

⁴ As defined by the incorporation status within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

⁵ Only includes schools with enrollment of 75 students or more as dropout rates for schools with low enrollments are overly sensitive to small variations.