

Each of these rates shows a noticeable decrease from last year's rates of 9.8 percent and 6.7 percent, respectively. Native American students had a 4.2 percent dropout rate; Asian students, a rate of 4.0 percent; and white students, a rate of 2.6 percent – all slight increases from the prior year.

- **Vocational-Technical Schools** The annual dropout rate for students enrolled in vocational-technical schools was 3.2 percent, somewhat lower than the statewide rate. The rate for city/town vocational-technical schools was 5.5 percent, and the rate for regional, independent and county vocational-technical schools was 3.2 percent. All three of these rates represent increases from last year's values.

Thank you for your interest in this report. If you have any questions, please contact:

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. P. Driscoll". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "Driscoll" clearly distinguishable.

David P. Driscoll
Commissioner of Education

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The statewide dropout rate masks the wide disparity in individual school rates and the persistently high rates at some schools. Among individual schools the dropout rate ranged from a low of zero percent to a high of 79 percent¹. Eighteen schools reported no dropouts in 1999-00 and another 65 schools reported dropout rates of one percent or less. Eighteen schools reported dropout rates greater than ten percent. These 18 schools comprised 6.5 percent of the state's grade nine through twelve enrollment, but accounted for 26.5 percent of the state's dropouts.

	Enrollment	Number of Dropouts	Annual Rate	Projected Four-year Rate*	Returns as % of Dropouts**
Total, Grade 9-12	265,795	9,199	3.5%		15.4%
Grade					
Grade 9	77,857	2,430	3.1%	13%	12.8%
Grade 10	68,746	2,564	3.7%		15.9%
Grade 11	62,589	2,444	3.9%		16.6%
Grade 12	56,603	1,761	3.1%		16.5%
Gender					
Male	134,906	5,362	4.0%	15%	15.1%
Female	130,889	3,837	2.9%	11%	15.9%
Race/Ethnic Group					
African-American	22,349	1,359	6.1%	22%	14.1%
Asian	11,763	471	4.0%	15%	20.4%
Hispanic	23,507	1,935	8.2%	29%	13.0%
Native American	712	30	4.2%	16%	6.3%
White	207,464	5,404	2.6%	10%	16.1%
Vocational-Technical Schools***	32,392	1,052	3.2%	13%	9.5%
City/Town	7,403	409	5.5%	21%	8.3%
Regional/County/Independent	24,989	643	2.6%	14%	8.9%
* Percentage of ninth graders (class of 2003) projected to drop out over a four-year period					
** Percentage of 1999-00 dropouts who returned to school by October 1, 2000					
*** Figures do not include vocational-technical students enrolled in comprehensive high schools					

¹ Because dropout rates for schools with low enrollments are overly sensitive to small variations in the number of dropouts, the analysis of the distribution of dropout rates excludes schools with a grade 9-12 enrollment of fewer than 75 (27 schools in 1999-00).

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
Total Dropout Rate, Grade 9-12	3.4%	3.4%	3.4%	3.6%	3.5%
Total Number of Dropouts	8,177	8,453	8,582	9,188	9,199
Grade 9-12 Enrollment	240,347	246,757	252,633	258,026	265,795
Grade					
Grade 9	2.8%	2.8%	2.7%	3.1%	3.1%
Grade 10	3.7%	3.8%	3.6%	3.8%	3.7%
Grade 11	3.9%	4.0%	4.2%	4.3%	3.9%
Grade 12	3.3%	3.2%	3.3%	3.1%	3.1%
Gender					
Male	3.9%	3.9%	3.9%	4.0%	4.0%
Female	2.9%	3.0%	2.9%	3.1%	2.9%
Race/Ethnic Group					
African-American	5.9%	5.6%	6.1%	6.7%	6.1%
Asian	2.3%	2.7%	3.5%	3.6%	4.0%
Hispanic	7.9%	8.2%	8.2%	9.8%	8.2%
Native American	4.5%	6.0%	5.3%	4.0%	4.2%
White	2.7%	2.7%	2.6%	2.5%	2.6%
Vocational-Technical Schools*					
City/Town	5.7%	6.1%	4.9%	4.9%	5.5%
Regional/County/Independent	2.9%	2.6%	2.4%	2.4%	2.6%

* Figures do not include vocational-technical students enrolled in comprehensive high schools

	Class of 1999	Class of 2000	Class of 2001	Class of 2002	Class of 2003
Total	13%	13%	13%	14%	13%
Gender					
Male	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%
Female	11%	11%	11%	12%	11%
Race/Ethnic Group					
African-American	22%	21%	22%	24%	22%
Asian	9%	11%	13%	14%	15%
Hispanic	28%	28%	29%	33%	29%
Native American	17%	23%	21%	17%	16%
White	11%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Vocational-Technical Schools*					
City/Town	21%	22%	19%	19%	21%
Regional/County/Independent	11%	10%	10%	9%	14%

* Figures do not include vocational-technical students enrolled in comprehensive high schools

Table 4. Distribution of Annual Dropout Rates: 1997-2000

Annual Rate (%)	Number and Percent of Schools*							
	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
0	12	4	13	4	19	6	18	6
0.1 – 1.0	53	17	69	22	63	20	67	21
1.1 – 2.5	101	33	89	29	93	30	103	32
2.6 – 5.0	84	27	93	30	83	26	72	23
5.1 – 7.5	32	10	26	8	28	9	30	10
7.6 – 10.0	11	4	7	2	12	4	9	3
10.1 and above	15	5	14	5	19	6	18	6
Total Number of Schools	302		311		317		317	

*Excludes schools with enrollments fewer than 75. Percent of schools may not total to 100 percent due to rounding.

Results for Selected Student Populations

Because the dropout rate varies among specific student populations, examining the rate for specific populations is important in developing and targeting dropout prevention efforts. The data collected allow for an analysis by grade level, gender, race/ethnicity, and certain types of schools.

Grade

- Students in grade eleven dropped out at a higher rate than did students in other grades. The 1999-00 dropout rate for eleventh-graders was 3.9 percent, followed by 3.7 percent for tenth-graders, and 3.1 percent for ninth and twelfth-graders. Each grade level has neither consistently decreased nor increased, but instead has fluctuated slightly from year to year.



