

Cohort 2010 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. In addition, reporting graduation rates is required under Title I of the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

The 2010 four-year cohort graduation rate is calculated as follows:

of students in cohort (denominator) who graduate in 4 years or less
[# of 1st time entering 9th graders in 2006-07] - transfers out/deaths + transfers in

The 2010 four-year cohort graduation rate for Massachusetts public high schools increased by 0.6 percentage points to 82.1 percent from 81.5 percent for the 2009 cohort. This increase represented the fourth consecutive year of an increase in the four-year rate and the largest increase since the ESE began calculating a graduation rate in 2006. Many student subgroups also had an increased four-year rate as compared to the 2009 cohort including both Hispanic and low income students, who had increases of 1.4 and 1.0 percentage points respectively. However, there are significant gaps in the graduation rates among different subgroups. Specifically, among the race and ethnicity subgroups, there is a 26.6 percentage point difference between the highest and lowest groups, White and Hispanic students.

Additional critical findings of the report include:

- The dropout rate for the 2010 cohort was 8.2%, the lowest since the ESE began calculating cohort dropout rates in 2006.
- 6.6 percent of the 2010 cohort are still enrolled in high school. This is the highest percentage after four years for any cohort since 2007.
- Hispanic females graduated at a rate that was 1.9 percentage points higher than the 2009 cohort and represented the largest increase among the ten largest race and gender combinations.
- Students who attended more than one Massachusetts public high school graduated at a rate much lower than those students who attended only one public high school in Massachusetts.
- 56 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)¹.
- 77 percent of school districts and 65 percent of high schools had a higher graduation rate than the state average of 82.1 percent.²

¹ Students starting with the graduating class of 2010 are required to meet new standards to receive their Competency Determination (CD). A full explanation of the CD standards can be found at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr30.html?section=03>.

² Graduation rates for all districts and schools can be found at: http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/state_report/gradrates.aspx

The following tables and graphs further summarize the results for the 2010 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 Subgroups³

	2010 Cohort # ⁵	Graduates		Non-Graduates ⁴				
		4-Year Rate	Difference from 2009	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer ⁶	GED	Dropped Out	Expelled
All Students	76,308	82.1%	+0.6	6.6%	0.9%	2.0%	8.2%	0.1%
Female	37,399	85.1%	+0.5	5.1%	1.0%	1.9%	6.9%	0.0%
Male	38,909	79.2%	+0.6	8.1%	0.9%	2.1%	9.5%	0.2%
LEP ⁷	4,324	57.8%	+0.3	15.0%	4.8%	0.7%	21.5%	0.2%
Special Education	14,699	64.0%	-0.9	17.0%	2.2%	2.1%	14.7%	0.1%
Low Income	29,357	67.9%	+1.0	11.7%	1.8%	3.1%	15.3%	0.2%
African American	6,942	68.5%	-0.6	13.5%	1.9%	2.0%	13.8%	0.2%
Asian	3,595	86.9%	+0.8	5.4%	1.3%	1.3%	4.9%	0.1%
Hispanic	10,445	61.1%	+1.4	13.2%	2.4%	2.9%	20.2%	0.2%
Multi-race, Non-Hisp.	1,169	79.7%	-0.8	7.8%	0.9%	2.7%	8.8%	0.0%
Native American	218	76.1%	+0.2	9.6%	0.5%	1.8%	11.9%	0.0%
Pacific Islander	107	72.0%	+2.6	11.2%	3.7%	0.9%	12.1%	0.0%
White	53,790	87.7%	+0.8	4.5%	0.5%	1.9%	5.4%	0.1%
Urban	25,837	67.2%	+0.1	12.0%	1.9%	2.9%	15.8%	0.2%

³ Due to rounding, row percentages may not equal 100 percent.

⁴ 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.

⁵ The cohort count is as of the end of 2009-10 school year. The status (e.g. graduate, enrolled) is updated as of October 1, 2010.

⁶ 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.

⁷ The limited English proficient, 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.

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

	2010 Cohort #	Graduates		Non-Graduates				
		4-Year Rate	Difference from 2009	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer	GED	Dropped Out	Expelled
African American Female	3,469	73.7%	-0.8	11.0%	1.9%	1.8%	11.5%	0.1%
African American Male	3,473	63.3%	-0.5	16.0%	1.8%	2.3%	16.1%	0.3%
Asian Female	1,777	90.0%	+1.6	3.7%	1.4%	1.1%	3.8%	0.1%
Asian Male	1,818	83.9%	-0.1	7.2%	1.3%	1.5%	6.1%	0.2%
Hispanic Female	5,088	66.7%	+1.9	10.5%	2.7%	2.9%	17.2%	0.1%
Hispanic Male	5,357	55.8%	+1.0	15.7%	2.2%	2.8%	23.1%	0.4%
Multi-race Female	586	84.1%	+0.4	7.0%	0.7%	1.9%	6.3%	0.0%
Multi-race Male	583	75.3%	-1.7	8.6%	1.2%	3.6%	11.3%	0.0%
Native American Female	113	81.4%	-0.5	4.4%	0.0%	1.8%	12.4%	0.0%
Native American Male	105	70.5%	+1.7	15.2%	1.0%	1.9%	11.4%	0.0%
Pacific Islander Female	55	70.9%	-1.0	14.5%	3.6%	1.8%	9.1%	0.0%
Pacific Islander Male	52	73.1%	+5.6	7.7%	3.8%	0.0%	15.4%	0.0%
White Female	26,291	89.9%	+0.5	3.3%	0.5%	1.8%	4.5%	0.0%
White Male	27,499	85.6%	+1.0	5.6%	0.5%	2.0%	6.1%	0.1%

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

	2010 Cohort #	Graduates		Non-Graduates				
		4-Year Rate	Difference from 2009	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer	GED	Dropped Out	Expelled
Special Ed. Female	5,472	66.3%	-0.9	15.7%	2.3%	2.0%	13.6%	0.0%
Special Ed. Male	9,227	62.6%	-0.9	17.7%	2.2%	2.1%	15.3%	0.1%

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

	2010 Cohort #	Graduates		Non-Graduates				
		4-Year Rate	Difference from 2009	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer	GED	Dropped Out	Expelled
Low-Income Female	14,369	72.5%	+0.7	9.4%	1.9%	2.9%	13.1%	0.1%
Low-Income Male	14,988	63.4%	+1.3	13.9%	1.7%	3.2%	17.5%	0.3%

Table 5. Graduation Results for Limited English Proficient Students by Gender

	2010 Cohort #	Graduates		Non-Graduates				
		4-Year Rate	Difference from 2009	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer	GED	Dropped Out	Expelled
LEP Female	1,962	63.0%	+1.5	13.2%	5.2%	0.6%	17.9%	0.0%
LEP Male	2,358	53.4%	-0.5	16.5%	4.5%	0.9%	24.5%	0.3%
LEP in Original Cohort	2,808	60.5%	-0.9	13.6%	3.1%	0.9%	21.7%	0.2%
LEP Entered Cohort after 10/1/06	1,512	52.6%	+2.1	17.5%	8.0%	0.5%	21.2%	0.2%

Table 6. Graduation Results for Race/Ethnicity by Limited English Proficient Status

	2010 Cohort #	Graduates		Non-Graduates				
		4-Year Rate	Difference from 2009	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer	GED	Dropped Out	Expelled
African American LEP	824	60.2%	-6.4	20.5%	5.2%	0.2%	13.7%	0.1%
African American Non-LEP	6,118	69.6%	+0.2	12.6%	1.4%	2.3%	13.8%	0.2%
Asian LEP	710	76.1%	+3.0	10.6%	4.6%	0.3%	8.5%	0.0%
Asian Non-LEP	2,885	89.6%	-0.3	4.2%	0.5%	1.5%	4.1%	0.1%
Hispanic LEP	2,266	48.7%	+1.4	15.8%	5.2%	0.9%	29.2%	0.3%
Hispanic Non-LEP	8,179	64.5%	+0.6	12.4%	1.7%	3.4%	17.8%	0.2%
Multi-race LEP	30	56.7%	+1.1	10.0%	6.7%	0.0%	26.7%	0.0%
Multi-race Non-LEP	1,139	80.3%	-0.8	7.7%	0.8%	2.8%	8.3%	0.0%
Native American LEP	7	57.1%	-5.4	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	42.9%	0.0%
Native American Non-LEP	211	76.8%	+0.3	10.0%	0.5%	1.9%	10.9%	0.0%
Pacific-Islander LEP	9	77.8%	+34.9	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%	0.0%
Pacific Islander Non-LEP	98	71.4%	-0.9	11.2%	4.1%	1.0%	12.2%	0.0%
White LEP	474	69.2%	+2.8	8.6%	3.0%	1.7%	17.5%	0.0%
White Non-LEP	53,316	87.9%	+0.7	4.4%	0.5%	1.9%	5.2%	0.1%

Table 7. Graduation Results for Non-Mobile and Mobile Students⁸

High Schools Attended	2010 Cohort #	Graduates 2009		Non-Graduates				
		4-Year Rate	Difference from 2009	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer	GED	Dropped Out	Expelled
One School	64,271	85.8%	-0.1	5.0%	0.9%	1.6%	6.7%	0.1%
Two Schools	10,302	66.4%	+2.0	13.4%	1.2%	4.2%	14.6%	0.2%
Three Schools	1,349	39.7%	-0.1	25.8%	1.5%	6.1%	26.5%	0.4%
Four or More Schools	344	28.5%	+3.6	30.5%	1.2%	7.0%	32.0%	0.9%

Table 8. Competency Determination (CD) Status for Select Non-Graduate Groups

	Still in School			Dropped Out		
	Number	CD	No CD	Number	CD	No CD
All Students	5,043	55.9%	44.1%	7,785	23.1%	76.9%
Female	1,898	52.4%	47.6%	3,290	23.7%	76.3%
Male	3,145	58.1%	41.9%	4,495	22.7%	77.3%
LEP	647	38.9%	61.1%	960	6.6%	93.4%
Special Education	2,492	37.4%	62.6%	2,460	18.3%	81.7%
Low Income	3,430	54.7%	45.3%	5,382	19.0%	81.0%
African American	939	47.1%	52.9%	1,099	15.6%	84.4%
Asian	195	64.6%	35.4%	222	20.7%	79.3%
Hispanic	1,376	49.8%	50.2%	2,404	12.6%	87.4%
Multi-race, Non-Hisp.	91	51.6%	48.4%	134	24.6%	75.4%
Native American	21	61.9%	38.1%	30	20.0%	80.0%
Pacific Islander	12	41.7%	58.3%	14	42.9%	57.1%
White	2,409	62.4%	37.6%	3,882	31.9%	68.1%

⁸ 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. Distribution of Graduation Rates in the Aggregate for Districts⁹

2010 Four-Year Graduation Rate	Number of Districts	Percentage of Districts
< 50%	4	1.4
50 - <60%	7	2.5
60 - <70%	17	6.0
70 - <80%	31	10.9
80 - <85%	44	15.5
85 - <90%	53	18.7
90 - <95%	75	26.4
95 – 100%	53	18.7
Total	284	100

Table 10. Distribution of Graduation Rates in the Aggregate for Schools¹⁰

2010 Four-Year Graduation Rate	Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools
< 50%	35	9.7
50 - <60%	18	5.0
60 - <70%	21	5.8
70 - <80%	39	10.7
80 - <85%	45	12.4
85 - <90%	55	15.2
90 - <95%	75	20.7
95 – 100%	74	20.4
Total	362	100

⁹ Includes districts with at least six students in the cohort. District analyses include charter schools, regional school districts and vocational/technical high schools.

¹⁰ Includes schools with at least six students in the cohort