

## **Cohort 2011 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 2011 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 2007-08] - transfers out/deaths + transfers in

The 2011 four-year cohort graduation rate for Massachusetts public high schools increased by 1.3 percentage points to 83.4 percent from 82.1 percent for the 2010 cohort. This increase represented the fifth 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 increased four-year rates as compared to the 2010 cohort including both African American and low income students, who had increases of 2.2 and 1.9 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 27.2 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 2011 cohort was 7.2%, the lowest since the ESE began calculating cohort dropout rates in 2006.
- 6.6 percent of the 2011 cohort are still enrolled in high school. This is the highest percentage after four years for any cohort since 2007.
- African American females graduated at a rate that was 3.2 percentage points higher than the 2010 cohort and represented the largest increase among the ten largest race and gender combinations.
- Students receiving special education services graduated at a rate that was 1.6 percentage points higher than the 2010 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)<sup>1</sup>.
- 72 percent of school districts and 62 percent of high schools had a higher graduation rate than the state average of 83.4 percent.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 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>.

<sup>2</sup> Graduation rates for all districts and schools can be found at: [http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/state\\_report/gradrates.aspx](http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/state_report/gradrates.aspx)

The following tables and graphs further summarize the results for the 2011 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 Subgroups<sup>3</sup>**

	2011 Cohort # <sup>5</sup>	Graduates		Non-Graduates <sup>4</sup>				
		4-Year Rate	Difference from 2010	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer <sup>6</sup>	GED	Dropped Out	Expelled
All Students	74,307	83.4%	+1.3	6.6%	1.0%	1.7%	7.2%	0.1%
Female	36,325	86.5%	+1.4	5.0%	1.0%	1.5%	6.0%	0.0%
Male	37,982	80.5%	+1.3	8.1%	1.0%	1.9%	8.3%	0.1%
LEP <sup>7</sup>	4,373	56.2%	-1.6	17.4%	6.5%	0.7%	19.0%	0.2%
Special Education	14,521	65.6%	+1.6	16.8%	2.4%	1.8%	13.2%	0.1%
Low Income	29,402	69.8%	+1.9	11.7%	2.1%	2.7%	13.5%	0.2%
African American	6,767	70.7%	+2.2	13.0%	2.3%	1.7%	12.2%	0.2%
Asian	3,565	87.7%	+0.8	5.4%	1.3%	0.6%	4.9%	0.0%
Hispanic	10,364	61.9%	+0.8	13.8%	3.2%	2.6%	18.3%	0.2%
Multi-race, Non-Hisp.	1,229	81.2%	+1.5	8.1%	1.0%	2.1%	7.4%	0.2%
Native American	193	76.2%	+0.1	10.4%	1.0%	4.1%	7.3%	1.0%
Pacific Islander	82	80.5%	+8.5	11.0%	0.0%	1.2%	7.3%	0.0%
White	52,107	89.1%	+1.4	4.4%	0.4%	1.5%	4.5%	0.1%
Urban	25,220	68.9%	+1.7	12.0%	2.3%	2.5%	14.2%	0.2%

<sup>3</sup> Due to rounding, row percentages may not equal 100 percent.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> The cohort count is as of the end of 2010-11 school year. The status (e.g. graduate, enrolled) is updated as of October 1, 2011.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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**

	2011 Cohort #	Graduates		Non-Graduates				
		4-Year Rate	Difference from 2010	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer	GED	Dropped Out	Expelled
African American Female	3,307	76.9%	+3.2	9.2%	2.1%	1.5%	10.2%	0.1%
African American Male	3,460	64.8%	+1.5	16.6%	2.5%	1.8%	14.1%	0.2%
Asian Female	1,737	89.3%	-0.7	4.3%	1.4%	0.5%	4.4%	0.0%
Asian Male	1,828	86.2%	+2.3	6.4%	1.3%	0.8%	5.4%	0.0%
Hispanic Female	5,094	66.9%	+0.2	11.8%	3.4%	2.3%	15.5%	0.1%
Hispanic Male	5,270	57.1%	+1.3	15.7%	3.0%	2.9%	20.9%	0.4%
Multi-race Female	627	84.8%	+0.7	6.1%	1.0%	2.4%	5.7%	0.0%
Multi-race Male	602	77.4%	+2.1	10.1%	1.0%	1.8%	9.1%	0.5%
Native American Female	111	82.0%	+0.6	7.2%	0.9%	6.3%	3.6%	0.0%
Native American Male	82	68.3%	-2.2	14.6%	1.2%	1.2%	12.2%	2.4%
Pacific Islander Female	40	85.0%	+14.1	7.5%	0.0%	0.0%	7.5%	0.0%
Pacific Islander Male	42	76.2%	+3.1	14.3%	0.0%	2.4%	7.1%	0.0%
White Female	25,409	91.5%	+1.6	3.1%	0.4%	1.3%	3.6%	0.0%
White Male	26,698	86.9%	+1.3	5.6%	0.4%	1.8%	5.3%	0.1%

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

	2011 Cohort #	Graduates		Non-Graduates				
		4-Year Rate	Difference from 2010	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer	GED	Dropped Out	Expelled
Special Ed. Female	5,417	68.6%	+2.3	15.0%	2.7%	1.9%	11.8%	0.0%
Special Ed. Male	9,104	63.7%	+1.1	17.9%	2.3%	1.8%	14.1%	0.1%

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

	2011 Cohort #	Graduates		Non-Graduates				
		4-Year Rate	Difference from 2010	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer	GED	Dropped Out	Expelled
Low-Income Female	14,427	74.4%	+1.9	9.4%	2.1%	2.5%	11.4%	0.0%
Low-Income Male	14,975	65.3%	+1.9	14.0%	2.1%	2.9%	15.5%	0.3%

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

	2011 Cohort #	Graduates		Non-Graduates				
		4-Year Rate	Difference from 2010	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer	GED	Dropped Out	Expelled
LEP Female	2,024	60.4%	-2.6	16.3%	6.6%	0.6%	16.2%	0.0%
LEP Male	2,349	52.5%	-0.9	18.5%	6.4%	0.7%	21.5%	0.4%
LEP in Original Cohort	2,465	59.4%	-1.1	14.2%	5.1%	0.7%	20.4%	0.2%
LEP Entered Cohort after 10/1/07	1,908	52.0%	-0.6	21.7%	8.3%	0.6%	17.3%	0.2%

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

	2011 Cohort #	Graduates		Non-Graduates				
		4-Year Rate	Difference from 2010	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer	GED	Dropped Out	Expelled
African American LEP	986	62.3%	+2.1	19.5%	6.4%	0.6%	11.2%	0.1%
African American Non-LEP	5,781	72.1%	+2.5	11.9%	1.6%	1.8%	12.4%	0.2%
Asian LEP	732	73.0%	-3.1	12.6%	4.2%	0.1%	10.1%	0.0%
Asian Non-LEP	2,833	91.6%	+2.0	3.5%	0.6%	0.8%	3.5%	0.0%
Hispanic LEP	2,168	45.5%	-3.2	19.5%	7.8%	0.9%	25.9%	0.4%
Hispanic Non-LEP	8,196	66.3%	+1.8	12.3%	2.0%	3.1%	16.2%	0.2%
Multi-race LEP	36	55.6%	-1.1	5.6%	11.1%	0.0%	27.8%	0.0%
Multi-race Non-LEP	1,193	82.0%	+1.7	8.1%	0.7%	2.2%	6.8%	0.3%
Native American LEP	7	57.1%	+0.0	14.3%	0.0%	0.0%	28.6%	0.0%
Native American Non-LEP	186	76.9%	+0.1	10.2%	1.1%	4.3%	6.5%	1.1%
Pacific-Islander LEP	5 <sup>8</sup>							
Pacific Islander Non-LEP	77	81.8%	+10.4	10.4%	0.0%	1.3%	6.5%	0.0%
White LEP	439	67.0%	-2.2	12.1%	3.6%	0.7%	16.6%	0.0%
White Non-LEP	51,668	89.3%	+1.4	4.3%	0.4%	1.6%	4.4%	0.1%

<sup>8</sup> Data have been suppressed due to enrollment less than six

**Table 7. Graduation Results for Non-Mobile and Mobile Students<sup>9</sup>**

High Schools Attended	2011 Cohort #	Graduates		Non-Graduates				
		4-Year Rate	Difference from 2010	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer	GED	Dropped Out	Expelled
One School	62,452	87.2%	+1.4	4.9%	1.0%	1.2%	5.7%	0.1%
Two Schools	10,091	67.8%	+1.4	13.5%	1.5%	3.5%	13.6%	0.1%
Three Schools	1,466	41.6%	+1.9	25.3%	1.4%	7.5%	23.7%	0.5%
Four or More Schools	298	32.2%	+3.7	36.2%	0.7%	5.4%	25.2%	0.3%

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

	Still in School			Dropped Out <sup>10</sup>		
	Number	CD	No CD	Number	CD	No CD
All Students	4,910	58.6%	41.4%	6,554	27.3%	72.7%
Female	1,827	56.0%	44.0%	2,693	27.4%	72.6%
Male	3,083	60.0%	40.0%	3,861	27.3%	72.7%
LEP	763	43.3%	56.7%	860	12.0%	88.0%
Special Education	2,442	41.0%	59.0%	2,189	21.1%	78.9%
Low Income	3,453	58.8%	41.2%	4,762	23.5%	76.5%
African American	879	51.2%	48.8%	935	17.6%	82.4%
Asian	192	62.0%	38.0%	197	29.9%	70.1%
Hispanic	1,429	54.7%	45.3%	2,157	16.1%	83.9%
Multi-race, Non-Hisp.	99	70.7%	29.3%	116	24.1%	75.9%
Native American	20	80.0%	20.0%	22	18.2%	81.8%
Pacific Islander	9	55.6%	44.4%	7	28.6%	71.4%
White	2,282	62.8%	37.2%	3,120	38.0%	62.0%

<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> Includes students that dropped out prior to the administration of the 10<sup>th</sup> grade MCAS.

**Table 9. Distribution of Graduation Rates in the Aggregate for Districts<sup>11</sup>**

<b>2011 Four-Year Graduation Rate</b>	<b>Number of Districts</b>	<b>Percentage of Districts</b>
< 50%	5	1.7
50 - <60%	4	1.4
60 - <70%	17	5.9
70 - <80%	32	11.1
80 - <85%	37	12.8
85 - <90%	54	18.8
90 - <95%	76	26.4
95 – 100%	63	21.9
Total	288	100

**Table 10. Distribution of Graduation Rates in the Aggregate for Schools<sup>12</sup>**

<b>2011 Four-Year Graduation Rate</b>	<b>Number of Schools</b>	<b>Percentage of Schools</b>
< 50%	37	10.0
50 - <60%	17	4.6
60 - <70%	19	5.1
70 - <80%	40	10.8
80 - <85%	37	10.0
85 - <90%	58	15.7
90 - <95%	78	21.1
95 – 100%	84	22.7
Total	370	100

<sup>11</sup> Includes districts with at least six students in the cohort. District analyses include charter schools, regional school districts and vocational/technical high schools.

<sup>12</sup> Includes schools with at least six students in the cohort