## Cohort 2011 Five-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 2011 five-year cohort graduation rate is calculated as follows:

# of students in cohort (denominator) who graduate in 5 years or less
[# of 1st time entering 9th graders in 2007-08] - transfers out/deaths + transfers in

The 2011 five-year cohort graduation rate for Massachusetts public high schools was 86.3 percent which represented a increase of 2.9 percentage points from the four-year rate for the 2011 cohort and is the highest five-year graduation rate since 2007. The 2011 five-year rate increased by 1.6 percentage points when compared to the 2010 cohort five-year rate of 84.7. This increase as compared to the 2010 cohort five-year rate is the largest since the ESE began to calculate five-year graduation rates in 2007.[[1]](#footnote-1)

All student subgroups had higher 2011 five-year rates as compared to the 2011 four-year rates, including students with limited English proficiency and Hispanic students, who achieved the largest gains of 8.0 and 6.0 percentage points respectively. While significant gaps in the graduation rates among different subgroups remain, the additional year narrowed the margin between the highest and lowest racial and ethnic subgroups (White and Hispanic) from 27.2 percentage points at the end of four years to 23.2 percentage points after five years.

Additional critical findings of the report include:

* Hispanic males graduated at a rate that was 6.8 percentage points higher than their four-year rate and represented the largest increase of the major race/gender combinations.
* Students with limited English proficiency increased their five-year rate by 8.0 percentage points as compared to their four-year rate.
* Students receiving special education services had a five-year rate that was 5.2 percentage points higher than their four-year rate.

The following tables further summarize the five-year 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[[2]](#footnote-2)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Graduates** | Non-Graduates[[3]](#footnote-3) |
|  | 2011Cohort #[[4]](#footnote-4) | 5-Year Rate | 2011 4-Yr Difference | Still in School | Non-Grad Completer[[5]](#footnote-5) | GED | Dropped Out | Expelled |
| All Students | 74,307 | 86.3% | +2.9 | 2.1% | 1.7% | 2.3% | 7.5% | 0.1% |
| Female | 36,325 | 88.7% | +2.2 | 1.5% | 1.5% | 2.0% | 6.2% | 0.0% |
| Male | 37,982 | 84.1% | +3.6 | 2.6% | 1.8% | 2.5% | 8.8% | 0.1% |
| LEP[[6]](#footnote-6) | 4,371 | 64.2% | +8.0 | 5.0% | 9.0% | 1.0% | 20.4% | 0.3% |
| Special Education | 14,514 | 70.8% | +5.2 | 8.3% | 4.2% | 2.5% | 14.1% | 0.1% |
| Low Income | 29,406 | 75.0% | +5.2 | 3.4% | 3.3% | 3.7% | 14.3% | 0.2% |
| High Needs[[7]](#footnote-7) | 37,148 | 76.5% | +5.0 | 4.1% | 3.1% | 3.3% | 12.8% | 0.1% |
| African American | 6,768 | 76.4% | +5.7 | 4.3% | 3.6% | 2.2% | 13.2% | 0.2% |
| Asian | 3,565 | 90.4% | +2.7 | 1.6% | 1.8% | 1.0% | 5.2% | 0.0% |
| Hispanic | 10,364 | 67.9% | +6.0 | 4.3% | 4.8% | 3.7% | 19.1% | 0.2% |
| Multi-race, Non-Hisp. | 1,227 | 85.2% | +4.0 | 2.6% | 1.5% | 2.8% | 7.7% | 0.2% |
| Native American | 194 | 79.9% | +3.7 | 3.2% | 1.5% | 4.6% | 9.8% | 1.0% |
| Pacific Islander | 82 | 84.1% | +3.6 | 3.7% | 2.4% | 2.4% | 7.3% | 0.0% |
| White | 52,107 | 91.1% | +2.0 | 1.4% | 0.8% | 2.0% | 4.6% | 0.0% |
| Urban | 25,220 | 73.9% | +5.0 | 4.1% | 3.5% | 3.5% | 14.8% | 0.2% |

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Graduates** | Non-Graduates |
|  | 2011Cohort # | 5-Year Rate | 2011 4-Yr Difference | Still in School | Non-Grad Completer | GED | Dropped Out | Expelled |
| African American Female | 3,308 | 81.5% | +4.6 | 2.7% | 2.9% | 2.1% | 10.6% | 0.1% |
| African American Male | 3,460 | 71.5% | +6.7 | 5.7% | 4.2% | 2.4% | 15.8% | 0.3% |
| Asian Female | 1,738 | 91.1% | +1.8 | 1.7% | 1.8% | 0.8% | 4.5% | 0.0% |
| Asian Male | 1,827 | 89.7% | +3.5 | 1.5% | 1.8% | 1.2% | 5.7% | 0.0% |
| Hispanic Female | 5,092 | 72.0% | +5.1 | 3.2% | 4.8% | 3.3% | 16.5% | 0.1% |
| Hispanic Male | 5,272 | 63.9% | +6.8 | 4.9% | 4.8% | 4.1% | 21.7% | 0.4% |
| Multi-race Female | 625 | 87.8% | +3.0 | 2.7% | 1.4% | 2.9% | 5.1% | 0.0% |
| Multi-race Male | 602 | 82.4% | +5.0 | 2.5% | 1.5% | 2.7% | 10.5% | 0.5% |
| Native American Female | 112 | 84.8% | +2.8 | 2.6% | 0.9% | 6.3% | 5.4% | 0.0% |
| Native American Male | 82 | 73.2% | +4.9 | 3.7% | 2.4% | 2.4% | 15.9% | 2.4% |
| Pacific Islander Female | 40 | 87.5% | +2.5 | 2.5% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 10.0% | 0.0% |
| Pacific IslanderMale | 42 | 81.0% | +4.8 | 4.7% | 4.8% | 4.8% | 4.84% | 0.0% |
| White Female | 25,410 | 92.8% | +1.3 | 1.0% | 0.7% | 1.8% | 3.7% | 0.0% |
| White Male | 26,697 | 89.4% | +2.5 | 1.8% | 0.9% | 2.3% | 5.5% | 0.1% |

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Graduates** | Non-Graduates |
|  | 2011Cohort # | 5-Year Rate | 2011 4-Yr Difference | Still in School | Non-Grad Completer | GED | Dropped Out | Expelled |
| Special Ed. Female | 5,414 | 73.3% | +4.7 | 7.2% | 4.2% | 2.5% | 12.7% | 0.1% |
| Special Ed. Male | 9,100 | 69.3% | +5.6 | 9.0% | 4.1% | 2.5% | 15.0% | 0.1% |

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Graduates** | Non-Graduates |
|  | 2011Cohort # | 5-Year Rate | 2011 4-Yr Difference | Still in School | Non-Grad Completer | GED | Dropped Out | Expelled |
| Low-Income Female | 14,431 | 78.7% | +4.3 | 2.6% | 3.1% | 3.5% | 12.0% | 0.1% |
| Low-Income Male | 14,975 | 71.5% | +6.2 | 3.9% | 3.6% | 4.0% | 16.6% | 0.3% |

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Graduates** | Non-Graduates |
|  | 2011Cohort # | 5-Year Rate | 2011 4-Yr Difference | Still in School | Non-Grad Completer | GED | Dropped Out | Expelled |
| LEPFemale | 2,024 | 68.3% | +7.9 | 4.8% | 8.4% | 0.8% | 17.5% | 0.0% |
| LEPMale | 2,347 | 60.7% | +8.2 | 5.1% | 9.5% | 1.1% | 22.9% | 0.5% |
| LEP in Original Cohort | 2,463 | 63.9% | +4.5 | 5.3% | 7.2% | 1.2% | 21.9% | 0.3% |
| LEP Entered Cohort after 10/1/07 | 1,908 | 64.8% | +12.8 | 4.6% | 11.7% | 0.6% | 18.1% | 0.2% |

**Table 6. Graduation Results for High Needs Students**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Graduates** | Non-Graduates |
|  | 2011Cohort # | 5-Year Rate | 2011 4-Yr Difference | Still in School | Non-Grad Completer | GED | Dropped Out | Expelled |
| High Needs Female | 17,263 | 79.6% | +4.1 | 3.l% | 2.9% | 3.2% | 11.0% | 0.1% |
| High Needs Male | 19,885 | 73.8% | +5.7 | 5.0% | 3.3% | 3.4% | 14.3% | 0.2% |

**Table 7. Graduation Results for Race/Ethnicity by Limited English Proficient Status**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Graduates** | Non-Graduates |
|  | 2011Cohort # | 5-Year Rate | 2011 4-Yr Difference | Still in School | Non-Grad Completer | GED | Dropped Out | Expelled |
| African American LEP | 986 | 73.1% | +10.8 | 5.2% | 8.4% | 0.6% | 12.5% | 0.2% |
| African American Non-LEP | 5,782 | 76.9% | +4.8 | 4.4% | 2.7% | 2.5% | 13.3% | 0.2% |
| Asian LEP | 732 | 80.3% | +7.3 | 3.1% | 5.5% | 0.7% | 10.4% | 0.0% |
| Asian Non-LEP | 2,833 | 93.0% | +1.4 | 1.2% | 0.8% | 1.1% | 3.8% | 0.0% |
| Hispanic LEP | 2,164 | 52.8% | +7.3 | 6.4% | 11.2% | 1.2% | 28.0% | 0.4% |
| Hispanic Non-LEP | 8,200 | 71.8% | +5.5 | 3.7% | 3.1% | 4.4% | 16.8% | 0.2% |
| Multi-race LEP | 36 | 61.1% | +5.5 | 5.6% | 11.1% | 0.0% | 22.2% | 0.0% |
| Multi-race Non-LEP | 1,191 | 85.9% | +3.9 | 2.5% | 1.2% | 2.9% | 7.3% | 0.3% |
| Native American LEP | 7 | 71.4% | +14.3 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 28.6% | 0.0% |
| Native American Non-LEP | 187 | 80.2% | +3.3 | 3.2% | 1.6% | 4.8% | 9.1% | 1.1% |
| Pacific-Islander LEP | 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pacific Islander Non-LEP | 77 | 84.4% | +2.6 | 3.9% | 2.6% | 2.6% | 6.5% | 0.0% |
| White LEP | 441 | 73.7% | +6.7 | 3.2% | 5.4% | 0.9% | 16.8% | 0.0% |
| White Non-LEP | 51,666 | 91.2% | +1.9 | 1.5% | 0.7% | 2.0% | 4.5% | 0.0% |

**Table 8. Graduation Results for Non-Mobile and Mobile Students**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Graduates** | Non-Graduates |
| High Schools Attended | 2011Cohort # | 5-Year Rate | 2011 4-Yr Difference | Still in School | Non-Grad Completer | GED | Dropped Out | Expelled |
| One School | 62,452 | 89.3% | +2.1 | 1.4% | 1.8% | 1.6% | 5.8% | 0.1% |
| Two Schools | 10,091 | 74.1% | +6.3 | 2.2% | 4.0% | 4.9% | 14.7% | 0.1% |
| ThreeSchools | 1,466 | 51.8% | +10.2 | 5.2% | 6.5% | 10.4% | 25.6% | 0.5% |
| Four or More Schools | 298 | 49.0% | +16.8 | 8.4% | 6.4% | 8.4% | 27.5% | 0.3% |

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Still in School**  | **Dropped Out** |
|  | Number | CD | No CD | Number | CD | No CD |
| All Students | 1,529 | 31.3% | 68.7% | 7,228 | 31.4% | 68.6% |
| Female | 549 | 30.6% | 69.4% | 2,958 | 31.2% | 68.8% |
| Male | 980 | 31.6% | 68.4% | 4,270 | 31.5% | 68.5% |
| LEP | 216 | 28.2% | 71.8% | 931 | 14.7% | 85.3% |
| Low Income | 956 | 36.8% | 63.2% | 5,924 | 27.8% | 72.2% |
| Special Education | 1,147 | 19.7% | 80.3% | 2,418 | 23.9% | 76.1% |
| High Needs | 1,482 | 30.0% | 70.0% | 5,951 | 28.2% | 71.8% |
| African American | 285 | 34.0% | 66.0% | 1,041 | 21.3% | 78.7% |
| Asian | 58 | 31.0% | 69.0% | 219 | 34.2% | 65.8% |
| Hispanic | 414 | 39.1% | 60.9% | 2,363 | 19.8% | 80.2% |
| Multi-race, Non-Hisp. | 32 | 40.6% | 59.4% | 128 | 32.0% | 68.0% |
| Native American | 4 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pacific Islander |  3 |  |  |  |  |  |
| White | 733 | 25.2% | 74.8% | 3,441 | 31.4% | 68.6% |

##### Table 10. Distribution of Graduation Rates in the Aggregate for Districts[[8]](#footnote-8)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **2011 Five-Year****Graduation Rate** | **Number of Districts** | **Percentage of Districts** |
| < 50% | 3 | 1.0 |
| 50 - <60% | 4 | 1.4 |
| 60 - <70% | 2 | 0.7 |
| 70 - <80% | 29 | 10.1 |
| 80 - <85% | 29 | 10.1 |
| 85 - <90% | 58 | 20.1 |
| 90 - <95% | 79 | 27.4 |
| 95 – 100% | 84 | 29.2 |
| Total | 288 | 100 |

##### Table 11. Distribution of Graduation Rates in the Aggregate for Schools[[9]](#footnote-9)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **2011 Five-Year****Graduation Rate** | **Number of Schools** | **Percentage of Schools** |
| < 50% | 30 | 8.1 |
| 50 - <60% | 9 | 2.4 |
| 60 - <70% | 16 | 4.3 |
| 70 - <80% | 35 | 9.5 |
| 80 - <85% | 39 | 10.5 |
| 85 - <90% | 48 | 13.0 |
| 90 - <95% | 85 | 23.0 |
| 95 – 100% | 108 | 29.2 |
| Total | 370 | 100 |

1. The decrease in the five-year graduation rate for the 2009 cohort is partially attributable to a change in the Competency Determination standards for all 2010 graduates. The new standard included reaching the proficiency threshold of the English Language Arts and Mathematics sections and the Needs Improvement threshold of the Science section of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System. Additional information on the new standards can be found at http://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr30.html?section=03. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Due to rounding, row percentages may not equal 100 percent. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. 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. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. 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, 2012. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. 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. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. 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. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. High Needs subgroup includes students categorized as any of the following as of October 1, 2011:1) Low Income, 2) Limited English Proficient, 3) Students with Disabilities, as well as students categorized as Limited English Proficient during the prior two school years (2010-11 and/or 2009-10). [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Includes districts with at least six students in the cohort. District analyses include charter schools, regional school districts and vocational/technical high schools. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Includes schools with at least six students in the cohort [↑](#footnote-ref-9)