

Below is information on State-by-State public high school graduation rates for the four years ending in 2007. The information comes from the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics and is based on an averaged freshman graduation rate (AFGR).

AFGR is an estimate of the percentage of public high school students who graduate with a regular diploma four years after starting 9th grade. Other high school completers awarded alternate credentials such as a certificate of completion or GED are not included in AFGR calculations.

AFGR uses aggregate student enrollment data to estimate the size of an incoming freshman class and aggregate counts of the number of diplomas awarded 4 years later. The United States' public school student AFGR for the class of 2008–09 was 75.5%.

The below chart seems to indicate that many low-income limited English proficient (LEP) Hispanics do better if they do not concentrate together. A child in a low income family has a better chance of staying in school if the family does not live surrounded by other LEP low income people speaking the same language. For example, Missouri, which has relatively few Hispanics, has a 2007 Hispanic four-year graduation rate that is 20% higher than white, non-Hispanics. Vermont is another extreme case. That State appears to have had a 100% Hispanic four-year graduation rate in 2007.

But no finding is conclusive. Please also remember that these figures do not evaluate the quality of the education provided in each State and that the information is complicated. For example, although there's only a .5% graduation rate difference between Hispanics and non-Hispanic whites in Mississippi, both sets of numbers are low. Florida is another example of that pattern.

2007 4-yr HS Graduation Rate		American Indian/ Alaska Native		Asian/Pacific Islander		Hispanic		Black, non-Hispanic		White, non-Hispanic		DIF Hispanic & White, non-Hisp
		29,724	61.3	138,589	91.4	376,396	62.3	374,075	60.3	1,723,915	80.3	
1	Vermont	96	92.3	92	92.9	63	100	91	82	6,325	80.2	19.8
2	West Virginia	16	66.7	114	100	87	93.5	715	73.9	16,475	78.2	15.3
3	Maine	76	73.1	184	100	103	87.3	227	85.3	12,561	78.1	9.2
4	Missouri	222	90.6	1,035	100	1,371	86.7	8,970	68.8	48,677	84.2	2.5

5	Montana	786	56.4	144	100	206	85.5	49	69	8,937	84.5	1
6	Maryland	179	71.6	3,311	99.6	3,130	76.8	19,779	72.4	31,165	84.3	-7.5
7	Oklahoma	6,730	77.3	856	100	2,385	75	3,599	70.7	23,530	78.6	-3.6
8	New Jersey	197	91.2	7,243	100	13,507	74.3	14,359	72.9	57,416	88.4	-14.1
9	Wisconsin	776	69.8	2,202	92.3	2,580	72.1	4,332	58.4	54,078	93.6	-21.5
10	Rhode Island	43	56.6	322	78	1,485	71.1	871	75.2	7,663	80.6	-9.5
11	Tennessee	94	68.6	934	94.1	1,146	71.1	12,188	64.4	40,140	75.2	-4.1
12	Iowa	152	59.4	610	94.7	1,156	70.9	1,190	70	31,019	88.1	-17.2
13	Arkansas	154	72.6	449	100	1,121	70.6	5,534	65.8	19,449	75.2	-4.6
14	Hawaii	44	62	8,301	76.7	450	69.7	197	68.6	2,071	72.7	-3
15	Idaho	202	68.2	279	100	1,446	68.9	129	82.2	14,186	81.6	-12.7
16	Indiana	123	66.1	821	98.8	2,161	68.8	5,279	52.7	50,578	75.7	-6.9
17	Pennsylvania	132	64.1	3,173	98.7	5,566	68.4	15,515	64.6	104,217	87.3	-18.9
18	Nebraska	211	56.4	346	97.5	1,290	66.9	1,226	72.9	16,800	89.9	-23
19	Oregon	681	61.1	1,687	90.9	3,242	66.9	806	61.3	26,227	74.4	-7.5
20	Virginia	181	58	4,310	97.4	3,916	66.8	16,982	63.1	47,804	79.8	-13
21	Minnesota	890	56.8	3,060	86.4	1,690	66.6	3,323	65.5	50,534	90.1	-23.5
22	Mississippi	39	57.4	243	84.1	227	66.4	11,437	60	12,240	66.9	-0.5
23	Ohio	137	68.2	1,652	95.7	1,899	65.7	14,058	55.1	98,390	83.9	-18.2
24	Arizona	3,154	46.9	1,699	99.4	17,593	65.6	2,930	76.3	30,578	74	-8.4
25	South Dakota	491	46.8	111	100	116	65.5	93	75	7,535	87.1	-21.6
26	Illinois	422	100	5,963	100	16,128	65	21,116	61.2	85,552	87.3	-22.3
27	Massachusetts	141	62.4	3,004	84	5,918	64.8	4,791	65.9	49,287	83.8	-19
28	Delaware	27	77.1	237	100	424	64.7	2,034	64	4,483	75.8	-11.1
29	Alaska	1,693	57.1	520	78.2	250	64.4	282	60.6	4,921	74.3	-9.9
30	Connecticut	102	62.6	1,227	96.7	4,139	64.1	4,689	71.1	27,384	87.4	-23.3
31	Washington	1,273	53.6	5,696	88.1	5,625	64.1	2,749	60.8	46,996	76.1	-12
32	Wyoming	119	44.7	59	90.8	328	63.6	53	52	4,882	78.3	-14.7
33	Texas	882	85.4	9,625	99	86,332	63.1	32,139	64.7	112,215	81.1	-18
34	Louisiana	242	59.5	658	82.8	556	63	13,051	49.9	19,767	71.3	-8.3
35	Michigan	949	54.1	2,711	96.4	3,213	63	17,945	60	86,495	82.2	-19.2

