

2019–20 Cohort Graduation Rate Executive Summary

Background Information

The rules for calculating the cohort graduation rate meet the requirements of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The cohort graduation rate is defined as the percentage of students in the adjusted cohort who graduate within four years with a regular high school diploma. To generate the 2019–20 cohort, first-time 9th graders were identified in 2016–17. The cohort was then adjusted by adding any students who transferred into the cohort after 9th grade and subtracting any students who transferred out, migrated to another county, transferred to a prison or juvenile facility, or are deceased.

The disaggregated cohort graduation rate results are presented online on the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction website. The results are available by individual school and school district. There are also links to supplementary documents that explain the calculations used for the four-year and five-year cohort graduation rates and a longitudinal cohort graduation rate spreadsheet is available for the 2005–06 to 2019–20 school years.

Table 1. 2020 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate Results by Student Group
(2016–17 Entering Ninth Graders)

State of North Carolina			
Subgroup	Denominator	Numerator	Percent
All Students	120,629	105,649	87.6
Male	61,569	52,276	84.9
Female	59,060	53,373	90.4
American Indian	1,434	1,220	85.1
Asian	3,660	3,455	94.4
Black	30,518	25,988	85.2
Hispanic	20,454	16,701	81.7
Two or More Races	4,945	4,216	85.3
White	59,456	53,932	90.7
Economically Disadvantaged	42,004	34,531	82.2
English Learner	7,109	5,078	71.4
Students with Disabilities	15,097	10,883	72.1
Academically Gifted	19,264	-	>95

Table 2. 2019 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate Results by Student Group
(2015–16 Entering Ninth Graders)

State of North Carolina

Subgroup	Denominator	Numerator	Percent
All Students	121,943	105,534	86.5
Male	62,453	52,171	83.5
Female	59,490	53,363	89.7
American Indian	1,523	1,236	81.2
Asian	3,493	3,301	94.5
Black	31,524	26,376	83.7
Hispanic	19,203	15,574	81.1
Two or More Races	4,776	4,009	83.9
White	61,297	54,933	89.6
Economically Disadvantaged	47,428	38,796	81.8
English Learner	6,832	4,876	71.4
Students with Disabilities	15,364	10,725	69.8
Academically Gifted	19,734	-	>95

Table 3. 2020 5-Year Cohort Graduation Rate Results by Student Group
(2015–16 Entering Ninth Graders)

State of North Carolina

Subgroup	Denominator	Numerator	Percent
All Students	121,909	107,312	88.0
Male	62,438	53,355	85.5
Female	59,471	53,957	90.7
American Indian	1,522	1,255	82.5
Asian	3,493	-	>95
Black	31,494	26,992	85.7
Hispanic	19,202	15,996	83.3
Two or More Races	4,775	4,100	85.9
White	61,296	55,519	90.6
Economically Disadvantaged	47,416	39,852	84.0
English Learner	6,832	5,145	75.3
Students with Disabilities	15,359	11,228	73.1
Academically Gifted	19,734	-	>95

Student Group information is based on data collected when a student was last enrolled in a North Carolina school during the cohort. The 2019–20 data is as of August 30, 2020.