

2020–21 Cohort Graduation Rate

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 2020–21 cohort, first-time grade-nine students were identified in 2017–18. The cohort was then adjusted by adding any students who transferred into the cohort after grade nine and subtracting any students who transferred to a diploma granting institution, emigrated to another county, transferred to a prison or juvenile facility, or are deceased.

The disaggregated cohort graduation rates by school and by district are available online on the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction website. Also, on the website are supplementary documents that explain the calculations used for the four-year and five-year cohort graduation rates and a longitudinal cohort graduation rate spreadsheet for the 2005–06 to 2020–21 school years.

Table 1. 2020–21 Four-year cohort graduation rate results by student group (2017–18 entering grade-nine students)

State of North Carolina

Subgroup	Denominator	Numerator	Percent
All Students	120,479	104,724	86.9
Male	61,779	51,789	83.8
Female	58,700	52,935	90.2
American Indian	1,362	1,135	83.3
Asian	3,831	3,639	95.0
Black	29,651	24,803	83.6
Hispanic	20,927	17,065	81.5
Two or More Races	5,250	4,462	85.0
White	59,322	53,505	90.2
Economically Disadvantaged	36,028	28,805	80.0
Not Economically Disadvantaged	84,451	75,919	89.9
English Learner	6,776	4,658	68.7
Not English Learner	113,703	100,066	88.0
Students with Disabilities	15,060	10,710	71.1
Not Student with Disabilities	105,419	94,014	89.2
Academically Gifted	19,397	*	>95

* Data not displayed in accordance with data privacy rules

Table 2. 2019–20 Four-year cohort graduation rate results by student group (2016–17 entering grade-nine students)

State of North Carolina

Subgroup	Denominator	Numerator	Percent
All Students	120,599	105,674	87.6
Male	61,554	52,288	84.9
Female	59,045	53,386	90.4
American Indian	1,434	1,220	85.1
Asian	3,660	3,455	94.4
Black	30,510	25,992	85.2
Hispanic	20,446	16,701	81.7
Two or More Races	4,943	4,217	85.3
White	59,444	53,952	90.8
Economically Disadvantaged	41,986	34,540	82.3
Not Economically Disadvantaged	78,613	71,134	90.5
English Learner	7,109	5,079	71.4
Not English Learner	113,490	100,595	88.6
Students with Disabilities	15,094	10,885	72.1
Not Students with Disabilities	105,505	94,789	89.8
Academically Gifted	19,264	*	>95

* Data not displayed in accordance with data privacy rules

Table 3. 2020–21 Five-year cohort graduation rate results by student group (2016–17 entering grade-nine students)

State of North Carolina

Subgroup	Denominator	Numerator	Percent
All Students	120,591	106,903	88.6
Male	61,550	53,034	86.2
Female	59,041	53,869	91.2
American Indian	1,433	1,229	85.8
Asian	3,660	*	>95
Black	30,510	26,420	86.6
Hispanic	20,445	17,039	83.3
Two or More Races	4,942	4,275	86.5
White	59,439	54,316	91.4
Economically Disadvantaged	41,984	35,220	83.9
Not Economically Disadvantaged	78,607	71,683	91.2
English Learner	7,109	5,278	74.2
Not English Learner	113,482	101,625	89.6
Students with Disabilities	15,090	11,242	74.5
Not Students with Disabilities	105,501	95,661	90.7
Academically Gifted	19,264	*	>95

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Student group information is based on data collected when a student was last enrolled in a North Carolina school during the cohort.

The 2020–21 data is as of August 23, 2021.