

Delaware Secondary School Dropouts

2003-2004

Delaware Department of Education

April 2005

STATE OF DELAWARE

OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Introduction

This report on secondary schools dropouts is from data collected annually by the Delaware Department of Education. The data, provided by the school districts to the Department of Education, is sent back to the districts for verification before publication. Delaware collects data from all public schools including grades 7 through 12, but calculates the yearly dropout rate from grades 9 through 12, as is prescribed by the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES). Information is gathered from families that home school their children as well as from private schools. The data from private and home schools are only used to verify the transfers from public to private and home schools. This report does not contain data reflecting private, parochial or home schooled students in Delaware.

Delaware complies with the National Center for Educational Statistics requirements for reporting and uses the *Event Rate* method for our reporting. Event Rate reporting is a snapshot which reflects the total number of students (grades 9-12) who dropped out of school in a single year divided by the fall enrollment of the same year.

Definition of Dropout: A 2003-2004 *dropout* is an individual who:

Was enrolled at the end of the 2002-2003 school year; or was enrolled at any time during the 2003-2004 school year; and has not graduated from high school or completed a state or district-approved educational program; **and**

Does not meet any of the following exclusionary conditions:

- Documentation proving transfer to another public school district, private school, or state-or district-approved education program;
- Temporary absence due to suspension or school-approved illness; or
- Death.

Codes for Reasons for Withdrawal:

Academic	Employment	Marriage	Pregnancy
Behavior	Curriculum	Military	Religion
Dislike experience	Childcare	Needed at home	Substance Abuse
Economic	Transportation	Language	

Criteria for being reported as a dropout:

1. Grades included are 9 through 12. This range has been consistently used for reporting purposes since the 1979-1980 school-year. Information is also collected on dropouts from grades 7 and 8, enabling the reporting of supplemental statistics concerning these grades.
2. Summer 2004 dropouts are included (i.e., students who were expected to enroll in grades 7 -12 in the fall of 2004, but did not do so).
3. Special schools and special students are included.
- 4. If a student has moved and there is no evidence that he/she has transferred to another school, he/she is counted as a dropout.**
5. Students who transfer to James H. Groves Adult High School, and subsequently drop out during the current school year are counted as dropouts from the home school.
6. Expelled students are counted as dropouts unless they have the option to return to school at the end of the disciplinary period. Those students who have the option to return but do not do so are counted as dropouts.
7. School leavers who are in correctional institutions are **NOT** counted as dropouts.
8. School leavers who have joined the Armed Forces are counted as dropouts.

*Criteria for **not** being included in the dropout figures:*

1. Students receiving a diploma or a “Certificate of Performance” are **not** reported as dropouts.

2. Transfers to James H. Groves Adult High School or the Groves Alternative Secondary Education Programs, or DAPI, are **not** reported as dropouts.
3. Transfers to another public or private school are **not** reported as dropouts.
4. Students enrolled in alternative education programs are **not** counted as dropouts if the program is administered or approved by the district, considered a grade 7-12 program, and leads to a recognized secondary completion credential.
5. Students who die are **not** reported as dropouts.

During the 2003-2004 school-year, 2103 of the 34,785 students enrolled in grades 9-12 dropped out of school. The 2003-2004 dropout rate was 6.0% (up from 5.4% in 2002-2003). Of the 2103 dropouts, 58.0% were males, (a *decrease* of 2.1 percentage points from 2002-2003) and 42.0% were females, (an increase of 2.1 percentage points from 2002-2003). African American drop out rate was 7.4% (a *decrease* of 0.6 percentage points from 2002-2003); Hispanic dropout rate was 12.1% (an increase of 2.5% percentage points from the 2002-2003 year); Whites/Others drop out rate was 4.9% (an increase of 0.9 percentage point from the 2002-2003 year).

The greatest number of dropouts exited school in 9th or 10th grade (63.7%). Of the students who exited school in the 2003-2004 school-year, 559 stated that they were going to enroll in James H. Groves Adult High School. Only 307 actually enrolled. These students attending Groves are not tabulated in the dropout number. The remaining 252 students are counted as dropouts.

When comparing students from **all** secondary schools in grades 11 and 12 programs, those in the Career and Technical Education Career Pathways have a 3.8% dropout rate as compared to a 5.1% dropout rate of students in other 11th and 12th grade programs. These years were used to compare completion of career pathways.

Table 1
Delaware Dropouts 2003-2004
Summary Statistics
Grades 9-12
(N = 2117)

	Annual Dropout Rate (%)	Percent of All Dropouts (%)
TOTAL	6.0%	100
SEX		
Male	6.9%	58.0
Female	5.2%	42.0
RACE / ETHNICITY		
American Indian	9.1	0.5
African American	7.4	35.6
Asian	5.2	2.3
Hispanic	12.1	11.0
White	4.9	50.5
AGE		
Less than 15	1.9	7.8
Age 15	4.5	19.9
Age 16	6.8	27.9
Greater than 16	11.3	44.4

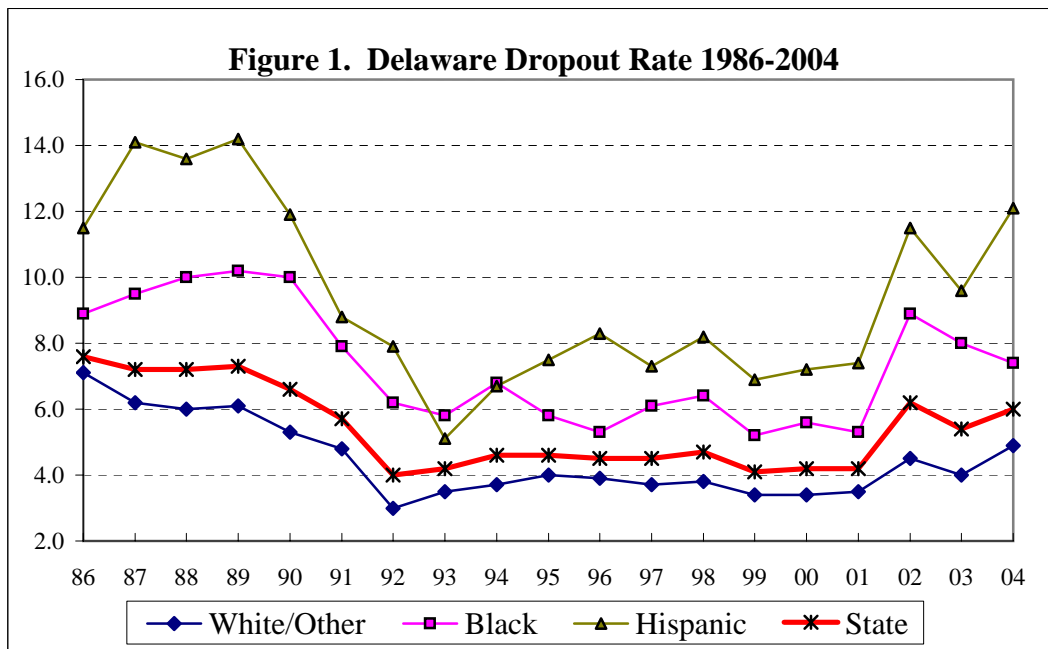


Table 2
Delaware Dropouts and Student Enrollments, 2003-2004
Grade by Race

Grade	<u>Number of Enrolled Students</u>				<u>Number of Dropouts</u>			
	Black	Hispanic	White/Other	All	Black	Hispanic	White/Other	All
9	3,543	742	6,731	11,016	284	107	391	782
10	2,539	504	5,743	8,786	204	67	286	557
11	2,183	363	5,144	7,690	163	35	241	439
12	1,921	308	5,064	7,293	98	23	204	325
Total	10,186	1,917	22,682	34,785	749	232	1122	2103

Table 3
Dropout Rate and Percent of All Dropouts, 2003-2004
Grade by Race

Grade	<u>Annual Dropout Rate</u>				<u>Percent of All Dropouts</u>			
	Black	Hispanic	White/Other	All	Black	Hispanic	White/Other	All
Grade 9	8.0%	14.4%	5.8%	7.1%	13.5%	5.1%	18.6%	37.2%
Grade 10	8.0%	13.3%	5.0%	6.3%	9.7%	3.2%	13.6%	26.5%
Grade 11	7.5%	9.6%	4.7%	5.7%	7.8%	1.7%	11.5%	20.9%
Grade 12	5.1%	7.5%	4.0%	4.5%	4.7%	1.1%	9.7%	15.5%
Total	7.4%	12.1%	4.9%	6.0%	35.6%	11.0%	53.4%	100.0%

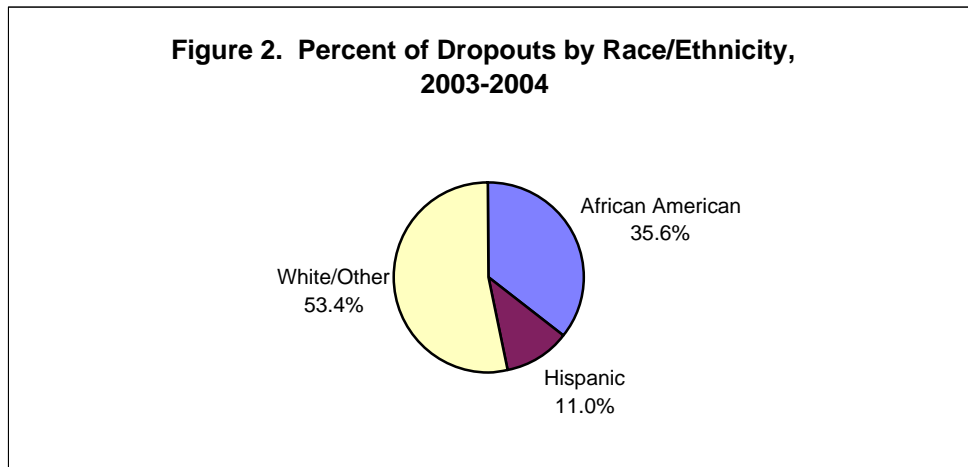


Table 4
Delaware Dropouts and Student Enrollments, 2003-2004
Gender by Race (Grades 9-12)

Gender	<u>Number of Enrolled Students</u>				<u>Number of Dropouts</u>			
	Black	Hispanic	White/Other	All	Black	Hispanic	White/Other	All
Male	5,084	975	11,678	17,737	467	130	623	1220
Female	5,102	942	11,004	17,048	282	102	499	883
Total	10,186	1,917	22,682	34,785	749	232	1122	2103

Table 5
Dropout Rate and Percent of All Dropouts, 2003-2004
Gender by Race (Grades 9-12)

Gender	<u>Annual Dropout Rate</u>				<u>Percent of All Dropouts</u>			
	Black	Hispanic	White/Other	All	Black	Hispanic	White/Other	All
Male	9.2%	13.3%	5.3%	6.9%	22.2%	6.2%	29.6%	58.0%
Female	5.5%	10.8%	4.5%	5.2%	13.4%	4.9%	23.7%	42.0%
Total	7.4%	12.1%	4.9%	6.0%	35.6%	11.0%	53.4%	100.0%

Figure 3. Percent of Dropouts by Gender, 2003-2004

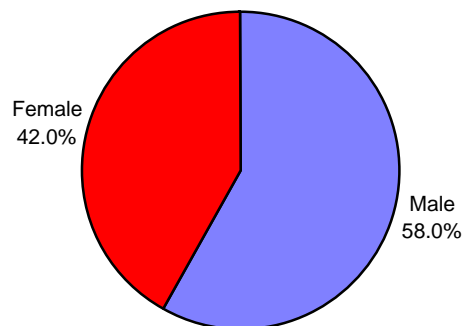


Figure 4. Percent of All Dropouts by Grade, 2003-2004

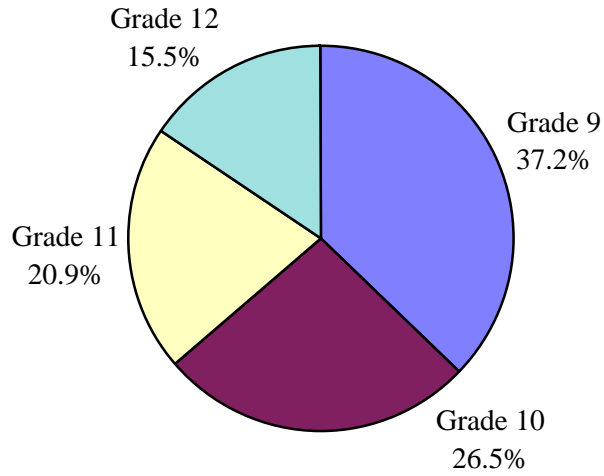


Figure 5. Dropout Rate by Gender by Race, 2003-2004

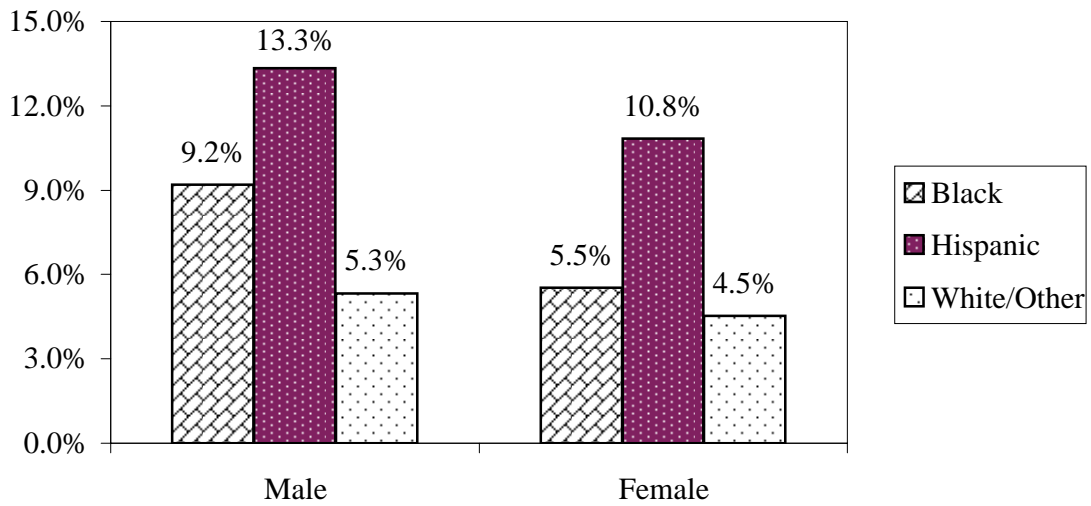
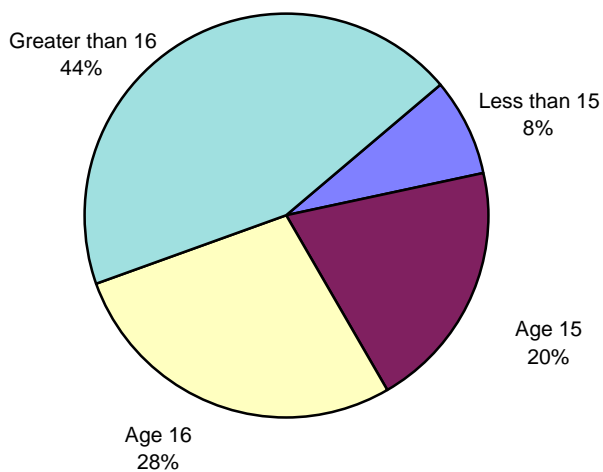


Table 6
Over-Age, Age-Appropriate, or Under-Age Dropouts, 2003-2004
Grade Level

Age	Grade 9 (14-15)*		Grade 10 (15-16)		Grade 11 (16-17)		Grade 12 (17-18)		All Grades	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Over-Age	636	81.3%	404	72.5%	266	60.6%	162	49.8%	1,468	69.8%
Age-Appropriate	127	16.2%	136	24.4%	142	32.3%	132	40.6%	537	25.5%
Under Age	19	2.4%	17	3.1%	31	7.1%	31	9.5%	98	4.7%
Total	782	100%	557	100%	439	100%	325	100%	2,103	100%

*For grade 9, "Age-Appropriate" is 14-15 years, "Over-Age" is 16 and over years, "Under-Age" is under 14 years of age. Grades 10-12 show age-appropriate ranges in parentheses and follow the same pattern.

Figure 6. Percent of Dropouts by Age, 2003-2004



**Table 8
Delaware Dropouts, 2003-2004
Grades 7-8**

	Grade 7			Grade 8*		
	No. of Dropouts	Students Enrolled	Rate	No. of Dropouts	Students Enrolled	Rate
New Castle	6	5,707	0.1%	104	6,099	1.7%
Kent	3	2,164	0.1%	48	2,171	2.2%
Sussex	7	1,859	0.4%	43	1,952	2.2%
State	16	9,730	0.2%	195	10,222	1.9%

* 156 students were 9th grade no-shows and are counted as 8th Grade dropouts

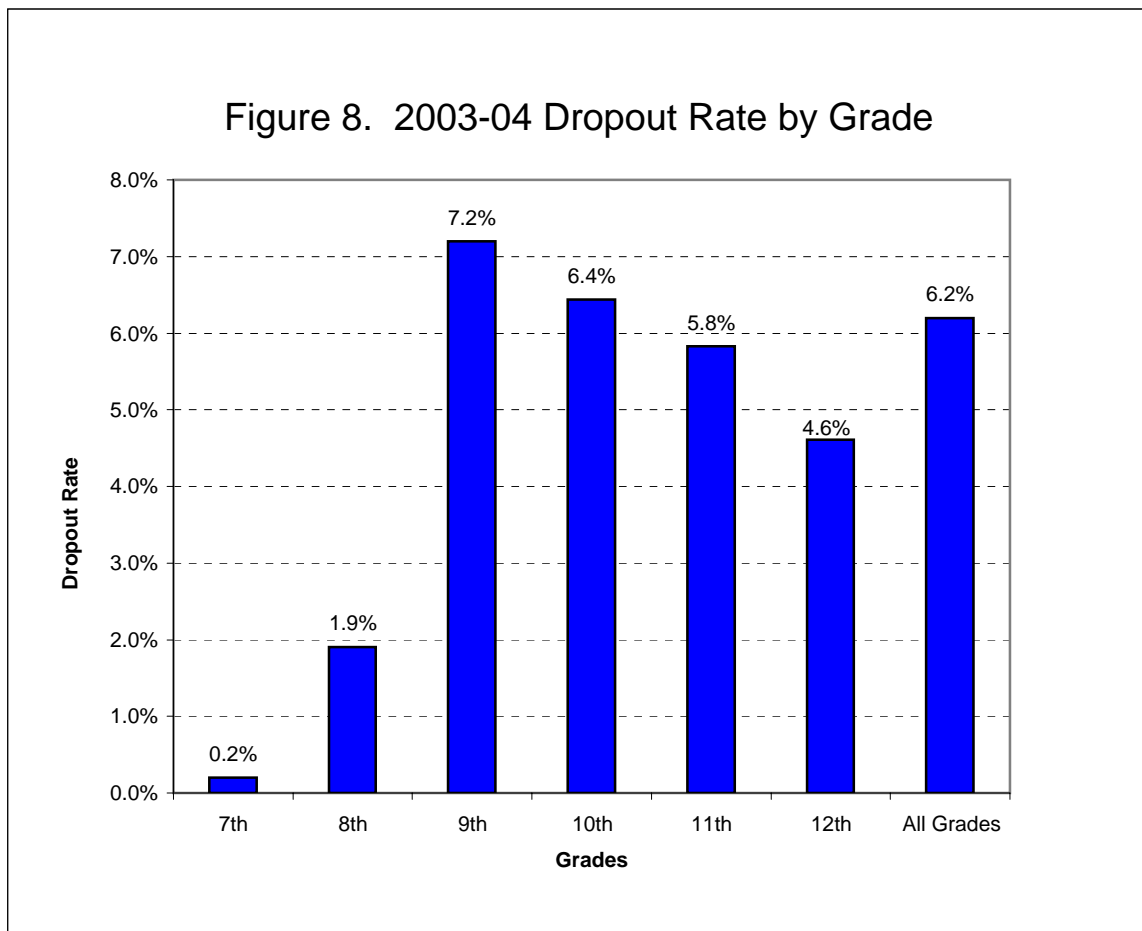


Table 9
Delaware Dropouts and Student Enrollments, 2003-2004
County by Race (Grades 9-12)

County	<u>Number of Enrolled Students</u>				<u>Number of Dropouts</u>			
	Black	Hispanic	White/Other	All	Black	Hispanic	White/Other	All
New Castle	6574	1356	12526	20,456	486	172	595	1253
Kent	2048	266	5267	7,581	149	28	258	435
Sussex	1564	295	4889	6,748	114	32	269	415
Total	10,186	1,917	22,682	34,785	749	232	1122	2103

Table 10
Dropout Rate and Percent of All Dropouts, 2003-2004
County by Race (Grades 9-12)

County	<u>Annual Dropout rate</u>				<u>Percent of All Dropouts</u>			
	Black	Hispanic	White/Other	All	Black	Hispanic	White/Other	All
New Castle	7.4%	12.7%	4.8%	6.1%	23.1%	8.2%	28.3%	59.6%
Kent	7.3%	10.5%	4.9%	5.7%	7.1%	1.3%	12.3%	20.7%
Sussex	7.3%	10.8%	5.5%	6.1%	5.4%	1.5%	12.8%	19.7%
Total	7.4%	12.1%	4.9%	6.0%	35.6%	11.0%	53.4%	100.0%

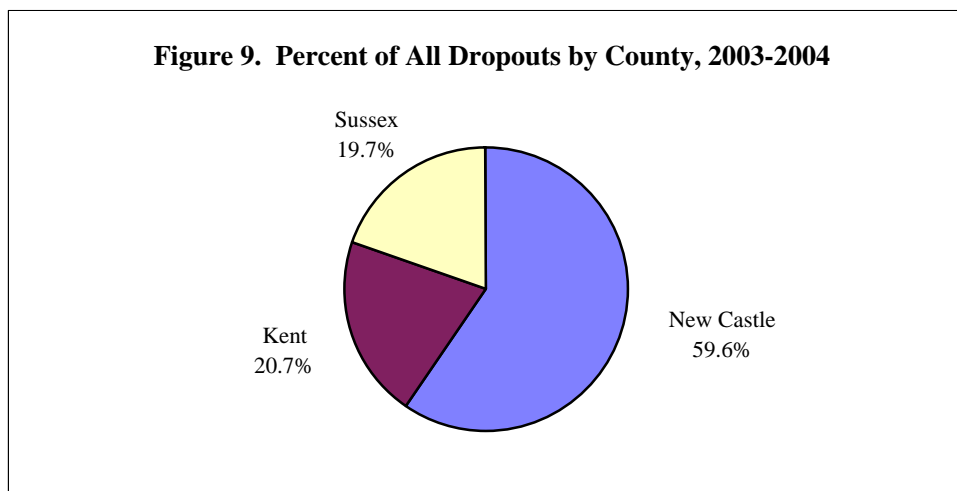


Table 11
Delaware Dropouts and Student Enrollments, 2003-2004
County by Grade

County	Number of Enrolled Students					Number of Dropouts				
	9	10	11	12	All	9	10	11	12	All
New Castle	6480	5317	4428	4231	20,456	482	317	253	201	1253
Kent	2442	1850	1693	1596	7,581	154	125	92	64	435
Sussex	2094	1619	1569	1466	6,748	146	115	94	60	415
Total	11,016	8,786	7,690	7,293	34,785	782	557	439	325	2103

Table 12
Dropout Rate and Percent of All Dropouts, 2003-2004
County by Grade

County	Annual Dropout rate					Percent of All Dropouts				
	9	10	11	12	All	9	10	11	12	All
New Castle	7.4%	6.0%	5.7%	4.8%	6.1%	22.9%	15.1%	12.0%	9.6%	59.6%
Kent	6.3%	6.8%	5.4%	4.0%	5.7%	7.3%	5.9%	4.4%	3.0%	20.7%
Sussex	7.0%	7.1%	6.0%	4.1%	6.1%	6.9%	5.5%	4.5%	2.9%	19.7%
Total	7.1%	6.3%	5.7%	4.5%	6.0%	37.2%	26.5%	20.9%	15.5%	100%

Figure 10. Dropout Rate by County by Grade, 2003-2004

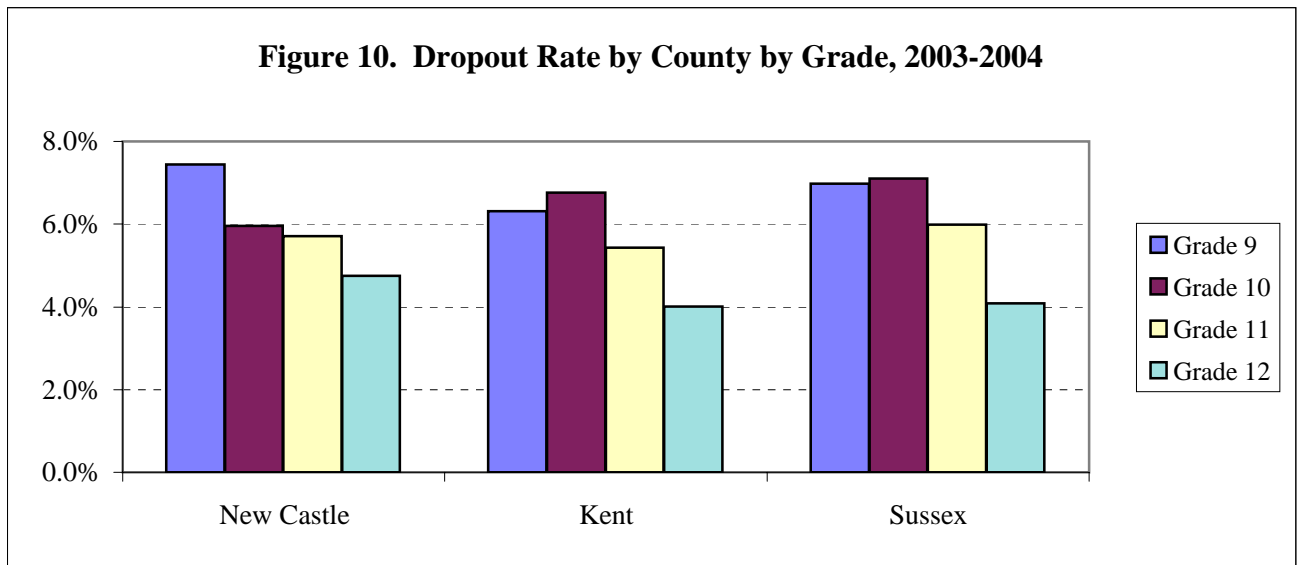


Table 13
ANNUAL DROPOUT RATES BY DISTRICT, 2001-2002 to 2003-2004
Grades 9-12

CODE	DISTRICT	2001-2002			2002-2003			2003-2004		
		TOTAL ENROLLMENT	TOTAL DROPOUTS	DROPOUT RATE	TOTAL ENROLLMENT	TOTAL DROPOUTS	DROPOUT RATE	TOTAL ENROLLMENT	TOTAL DROPOUTS	DROPOUT RATE
New Castle County		20,109	1,482	7.4	19,987	1,178	5.9	20,456	1,253	6.1
29	Appoquinimink	1,435	85	5.9	1533	20	1.3	1706	49	2.9
31	Brandywine	3,363	194	5.8	3309	121	3.7	3341	156	4.7
70	Charter School of Wilmington	890	2	0.2	937	21	2.2	918	24	2.6
33	Christina	4,719	492	10.4	4919	443	9.0	4834	423	8.8
34	Colonial	2,330	319	13.7	2304	185	8.0	2293	166	7.2
79	Delaware Military Academy							305	9	3.0
38	NCC Voc Tech	3,353	75	2.2	3126	61	2.0	3248	60	1.8
32	Red Clay	4,019	315	7.8	3859	327	8.5	3811	366	9.6
Kent County		7,388	297	4.0	7,446	322	4.3	7,581	435	5.7
10	Caesar Rodney	1,787	45	2.5	1794	31	1.7	1818	99	5.4
74	Campus Community				119	3	2.5	162	8	4.9
13	Capital	1,643	93	5.7	1568	107	6.8	1607	151	9.4
15	Lake Forest	872	47	5.4	863	65	7.5	840	39	4.6
18	Milford	1,039	60	5.8	1028	62	6.0	1023	63	6.2
39	Polytech	1,067	12	1.1	1127	15	1.3	1137	10	0.9
71	Positive Outcomes	52	4	7.7	53	3	5.7	82	13	15.9
24	Smyrna	928	36	3.9	894	36	4.0	912	52	5.7
Sussex County		6,924	340	4.9	6,779	344	5.1	6,748	415	6.1
17	Cape Henlopen	1,185	67	5.7	1197	82	6.9	1191	93	7.8
37	Delmar	542	13	2.4	550	40	7.3	556	36	6.5
36	Indian River	1,960	113	5.8	1932	68	3.5	1888	133	7.0
16	Laurel	522	18	3.4	472	22	4.7	496	36	7.3
23	Seaford	1,038	47	4.5	989	84	8.5	927	58	6.3
40	Sussex Voc Tech	1,200	18	1.5	1181	20	1.7	1194	10	0.8
35	Woodbridge	477	64	13.4	458	28	6.1	496	49	9.9
STATE		34,421	2,119	6.2	34,212	1,844	5.4	34,785	2,103	6.0

Note: Special Schools and ILC's are included in district dropout summary statistics.

Table 14. GRADE 9-12 ANNUAL DROPOUT RATES BY SCHOOL, 2000-2001 THRU 2003-2004

CODE	HIGH SCHOOLS	2000-2001			2001-2002			2002-2003			2003-2004		
		TOTAL ENROLLMENT	TOTAL DROPOUTS	DROPOUT RATE	TOTAL ENROLLMENT	TOTAL DROPOUTS	DROPOUT RATE	TOTAL ENROLLMENT	TOTAL DROPOUTS	DROPOUT RATE	TOTAL ENROLLMENT	TOTAL DROPOUTS	DROPOUT RATE
New Castle County		19,145	754	3.9	19,630	1,380	7.0	19,682	1,087	5.5	20,150	1,192	5.9
18	Middletown HS	1,287	22	1.7	1,435	85	5.9	1,533	20	1.3	1,706	49	2.9
26	HowardTech HS	808	4	0.5	826	14	1.7	692	9	1.3	754	19	2.5
66	Paul M. Hodgson	1,000	13	1.3	999	14	1.4	945	2	0.2	1,077	7	0.6
80	Delcastle Tech HS	1,422	8	0.6	1,440	22	1.5	1,489	10	0.7	1,417	24	1.7
190	Brandywine HS	1,285	33	2.6	1,256	53	4.2	1,183	39	3.3	1,272	61	4.8
194	Concord HS	1,098	47	4.3	1,098	60	5.5	1,125	42	3.7	1,126	42	3.7
196	Mt Pleasant HS	1,014	55	5.4	967	79	8.2	953	40	4.2	942	52	5.5
286	Calloway Arts Sch				324	4	1.2	349	9	2.6	364	3	0.8
290	John Dickinson HS	1,044	54	5.2	1,026	45	4.4	1,038	115	11.1	991	134	13.5
292	A. I. duPont HS	1,267	33	2.6	1,182	123	10.4	1,183	96	8.1	1,215	85	7.0
294	Thomas McKean HS	1,300	75	5.8	1,357	113	8.3	1,217	82	6.7	1,149	126	11.0
295	Charter Sch of Wilm	798	0	0.0	890	2	0.2	937	21	2.2	918	24	2.6
390	Christiana HS	1,484	67	4.5	1,413	80	5.7	1,404	120	8.5	1,332	135	10.1
392	Glasgow HS	1,365	79	5.8	1,341	172	12.8	1,437	129	9.0	1,409	141	10.0
394	Newark HS	1,706	97	5.7	1,804	205	11.4	1,908	178	9.3	1,894	125	6.6
490	William Penn HS	2,267	167	7.4	2,272	309	13.6	2,240	174	7.8	2,232	155	6.9
540	Margaret S. Sterck							49	1	2.0	47	1	2.1
578	Delaware Mil. Acad.										305	9	3.0
Kent County		7,094	239	3.4	7,212	274	3.8	7,149	303	4.2	7,208	397	5.5
570	Positive Outcomes	49	5	10.2	52	4	7.7	53	3	5.7	82	13	15.9
573	Campus Community							119	2	1.7	162	8	4.9
626	Caesar Rodney HS	1,785	13	0.7	1,714	36	2.1	1,719	29	1.7	1,738	94	5.4
648	Dover HS	1,497	69	4.6	1,592	83	5.2	1,518	96	6.3	1,558	139	8.9
652	POLYTECH HS	1,040	12	1.2	1,067	12	1.1	1,127	15	1.3	1,137	10	0.9
665	Lake Forest HS	862	62	7.2	872	47	5.4	863	65	7.5	840	39	4.6
678	Milford SR HS	1,031	40	3.9	1,039	60	5.8	1,028	62	6.0	1,023	63	6.2
688	Smyrna HS	879	43	4.9	928	36	3.9	894	36	4.0	912	52	5.7
Sussex County		6,640	323	4.9	6,766	319	4.7	6,624	341	5.1	6,118	346	5.7
726	Cape Henlopen HS	1,096	37	3.4	1,137	66	5.8	1,161	82	7.1	1,155	90	7.8
730	Delmar Sr HS	522	26	5.0	542	13	2.4	550	40	7.3	556	36	6.5
746	Indian River HS	737	54	7.3	747	32	4.3	734	32	4.4	730	39	5.3
748	Sussex Central Sr HS	1,079	45	4.2	1,125	62	5.5	1,112	34	3.1	1,075	81	7.5
756	Laurel Sr HS	527	13	2.5	519	18	3.5	460	21	4.6	481	32	6.7
766	Seaford SR HS	1,047	94	9.0	1,019	46	4.5	968	84	8.7	927	58	6.3
770	Sussex Tech HS	1,158	19	1.6	1,200	18	1.5	1,181	20	1.7	1,194	10	0.8
780	Woodbridge HS	474	35	7.4	477	64	13.4	458	28	6.1	496	49	9.9

Note: Special Schools and ILC's are not included in this table. All schools include grades 9 thru 12.

Figure 11. Dropout Rate by District, 2003-2004

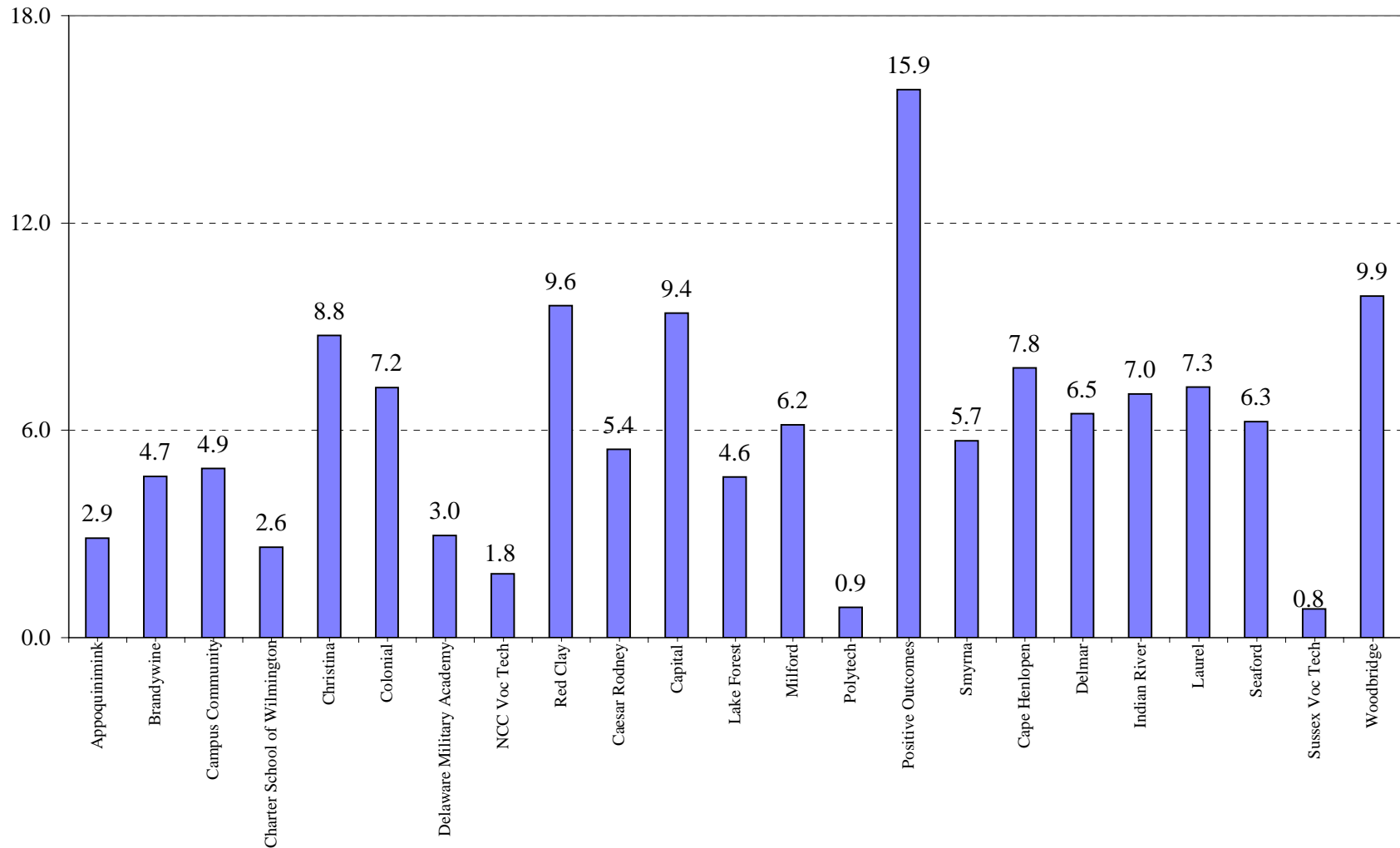


Table 15
Delaware Dropouts and Student Enrollments, 2003-2004
County by Special-Ed (Grades 9-12)

County	<u>Number of Enrolled Students</u>			<u>Number of Dropouts</u>		
	Special-Ed	Regular-Ed	All	Special-Ed	Regular-Ed	All
New Castle	2,542	17,914	20,456	210	1,043	1253
Kent	1,139	6,442	7,581	105	330	435
Sussex	922	5,826	6,748	79	336	415
Total	4,603	30,182	34,785	394	1,709	2,103

Table 16
Dropout Rate and Percent of All Dropouts, 2003-2004
County by Special-Ed (Grades 9-12)

County	<u>Annual Dropout rate</u>			<u>Percent of All Dropouts</u>		
	Special-Ed	Regular-Ed	All	Special-Ed	Regular-Ed	All
New Castle	8.3%	5.8%	6.1%	10.0%	49.6%	59.6%
Kent	9.2%	5.1%	5.7%	5.0%	15.7%	20.7%
Sussex	8.6%	5.8%	6.1%	3.8%	16.0%	19.7%
Total	8.6%	5.7%	6.0%	18.7%	81.3%	100.0%

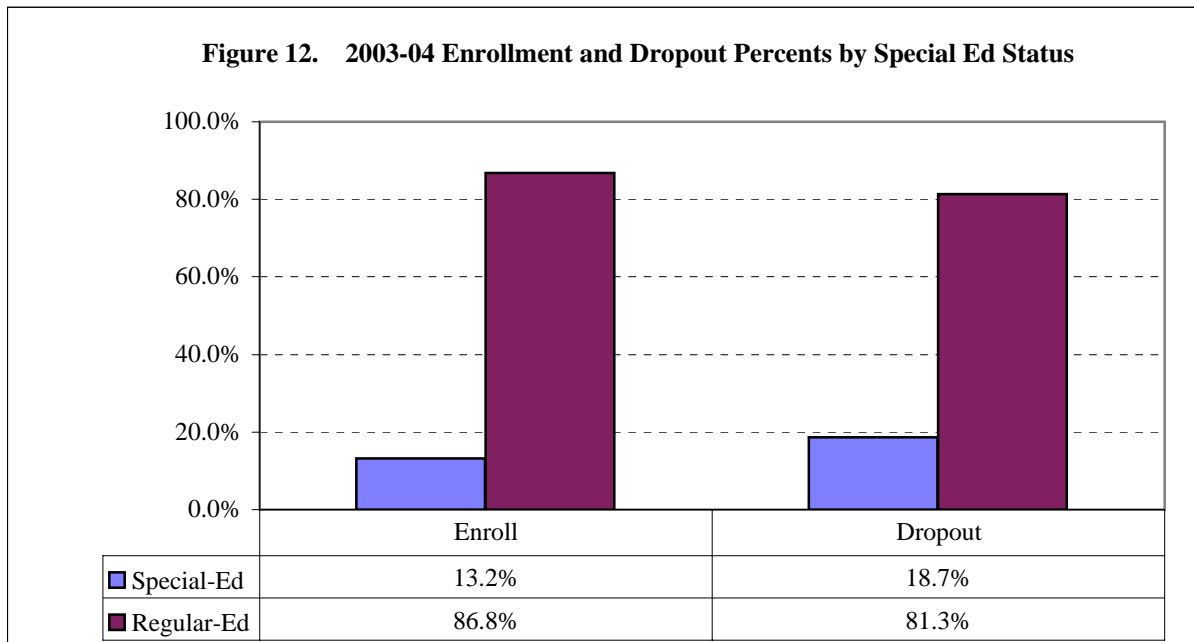


Table 17
Delaware Dropouts and Student Enrollments, 2003-2004
Race by Special-Ed (Grades 9-12)

Group	<u>Number of Enrolled Students</u>				<u>Number of Dropouts</u>			
	Black	Hispanic	White/Other	All	Black	Hispanic	White/Other	All
Special-ED	1,951	240	2,412	4,603	163	34	197	394
Regular-ED	8,237	1,676	20,300	30,213	586	198	925	1709
Total	10,188	1,916	22,712	34,816	749	232	1122	2103

Table 18
Dropout Rate and Percent of All Dropouts, 2003-2004
Race by Special-Ed (Grades 9-12)

Group	<u>Annual Dropout Rate</u>				<u>Percent of All Dropouts</u>			
	Black	Hispanic	White/Other	All	Black	Hispanic	White/Other	All
Special-ED	8.4%	14.2%	8.2%	8.6%	7.8%	1.6%	9.4%	18.7%
Regular-ED	7.1%	11.8%	4.6%	5.7%	27.9%	9.4%	44.0%	81.3%
Total	7.4%	12.1%	4.9%	6.0%	35.6%	11.0%	53.4%	100.0%

Table 19
Delaware Special Education Enrollments and Dropouts by Race
2001-2004

Year		Black	Hispanic	White/Other	All
2001	Enrolled	1,615	173	2,144	3,932
	Dropouts	76	13	113	202
	Annual Dropout Rate	4.7%	7.5%	5.3%	5.1%
	Percent of All Dropouts	5.4%	0.9%	8.0%	14.2%
2002	Enrolled	1,831	218	2,277	4,326
	Dropouts	128	13	83	224
	Annual Dropout Rate	7.0%	6.0%	3.6%	5.2%
	Percent of All Dropouts	6.0%	0.6%	3.9%	10.6%
2003	Enrolled	1,839	212	2,280	4,331
	Dropouts	161	19	134	314
	Annual Dropout Rate	8.8%	9.0%	5.9%	7.3%
	Percent of All Dropouts	8.7%	1.0%	7.2%	16.9%
2004	Enrolled	1,951	240	2,412	4,603
	Dropouts	163	34	197	394
	Annual Dropout Rate	8.4%	14.2%	8.2%	8.6%
	Percent of All Dropouts	7.8%	1.6%	9.4%	18.7%

Table 20
Annual Delaware Dropout Rates
1979-80 Through 2003-2004

Year	White/Other	Black	Hispanic	State
1979-80	7.0	12.1	14.6	7.9
1980-81	6.9	10.7	13.7	7.8
1981-82	8.1	10.8	22.0	8.1
1982- 83	6.2	9.2	15.5	6.9
1983-84	6.2	9.2	17.2	7.2
1984-85	7.3	8.7	12.3	7.6
1985-86	7.1	8.9	11.5	7.6
1986-87	6.2	9.5	14.1	7.2
1987-88	6.0	10.0	13.6	7.2
1988-89	6.1	10.2	14.2	7.3
1989-90	5.3	10.0	11.9	6.6
1990-91	4.8	7.9	8.8	5.7
1991-92	3.0	6.2	7.9	4.0
1992-93	3.5	5.8	5.1	4.2
1993-94	3.7	6.8	6.7	4.6
1994-95	4.0	5.8	7.5	4.6
1995-96	3.9	5.3	8.3	4.5
1996-97	3.7	6.1	7.3	4.5
1997-98	3.8	6.4	8.2	4.7
1998-99	3.4	5.2	6.9	4.1
1999-00	3.4	5.6	7.2	4.2
2000-01	3.5	5.3	7.4	4.2
2001-02	4.5	8.9	11.5	6.2
2002-03	4.0	8.0	9.6	5.4
2003-04	4.9	7.4	12.1	6.0

Delaware Secondary School Dropout Report

2003-2004

Delaware Department of Education

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