

DELAWARE DROP OUT RATE DOWN, GRADUATION RATE UP

More students than ever are staying in school as the number of high school dropouts continues to decline in Delaware public schools. The annual Delaware Department of Education reports, presented to the State Board of Education today, show 547 of 40,287 public school students enrolled in grades 9 to 12 dropped out of school last year, a rate of 1.4 percent. That is a decrease from the previous year's rate of 2.2 percent and the lowest rate in more than 30 years.

The statewide graduation rate also is up slightly. The 2016 rate of 84.66 percent is an increase from 84.3 percent in 2015 and 84.4 percent in 2014.

"I am proud of the families, educators and community partners who work together throughout the year to provide students -- especially those identified as being at risk for leaving school -- with the supports they need in and out of the school day so they can complete their educations," Secretary of Education Susan Bunting said. "That said, we recognize we still have work to do. Too many of our children still are choosing to leave before earning their diplomas, setting themselves up for great challenges in life."

Dropout rate

The annual dropout rate is calculated from grades 9 to 12, as prescribed by the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES), which provides data to the federal reporting system. The rate represents the total number of students (grades 9-12) who dropped out in a single year, divided by the total enrollment of the same school year. Data also is collected from private schools and families who homeschool their children. That information is only used to verify whether students transferred from public to private and home schools.

The annual report also looks at dropouts by student demographic. Statewide in the 2015-2016 school year, of the 547 who dropped out, 239 were black (43.6 percent), 189 were white/other (34.5 percent) and 119 were Hispanic (21.7 percent). Looking at the total student enrollment by demographics for 2015-16, 2.2 percent of Hispanic, 1.9 percent of black and 0.9 percent of white/other students dropped out.

The majority of the 547 dropouts were male (336 or 61.4 percent). And the largest number were enrolled in the 9th grade (188 students or 34.4 percent). Students cited academic, personal and economic reasons for why they left school.

The state report provides analysis based on demographics and geographic breakdowns, including by county and districts/charter schools. For 2015-16, Kent and New Castle counties had the lowest percentage of dropouts (1.3 percent). Sussex's rate was 1.6 percent.

Annual Dropout Rate by School

High Schools	2013-2014			2014-2015			2015-2016		
	Total Enrollment	Total Dropout	Dropout Rate	Total Enrollment	Total Dropout	Dropout Rate	Total Enrollment	Total Dropout	Dropout Rate
New Castle County	21,950	454	2.1%	22,521	457	2.0%	22,441	225	1.0%
Middletown HS	1,281	11	0.9%	1,361	12	0.9%	1,446	3	0.2%
Appoquinimink HS	1,539	11	0.7%	1,552	12	0.8%	1,589	7	0.4%
Howard Tech HS	899	6	0.7%	940	11	1.2%	935	3	0.3%
St Georges Tech HS	1,022	0	0.0%	1,043	0	0.0%	1,069	1	0.1%
Paul M. Hodgson	1,048	7	0.7%	1,058	5	0.5%	1,090	4	0.4%
Delcastle Tech HS	1,519	11	0.7%	1,588	3	0.2%	1,604	4	0.2%
Brandywine HS	905	45	5.0%	906	26	2.9%	824	18	2.2%
Concord HS	1,099	20	1.8%	1,086	20	1.8%	1,126	29	2.6%
Mt Pleasant HS	1,032	14	1.4%	1,120	35	3.1%	1,108	8	0.7%
Conrad School of Science	638	1	0.2%	670	0	0.0%	667	0	0.0%
Cab Callaway School of Arts	488	0	0.0%	499	0	0.0%	508	0	0.0%
John Dickinson HS	765	33	4.3%	702	40	5.7%	660	23	3.5%
A. I. duPont HS	1,110	37	3.3%	1,108	17	1.5%	1,093	10	0.9%
Thomas McKean HS	873	26	3.0%	796	24	3.0%	800	10	1.3%
Charter Sch of Wilm	970	5	0.5%	972	2	0.2%	972	1	0.1%
Christiana HS	839	29	3.5%	843	48	5.7%	835	12	1.4%
Glasgow HS	997	30	3.0%	992	26	2.6%	864	21	2.4%
Newark HS	1,549	30	1.9%	1,555	46	3.0%	1,317	16	1.2%
William Penn HS	2,187	79	3.6%	2,173	58	2.7%	2,048	51	2.5%
Delaware Acad of Public Safety	330	17	5.2%	363	30	8.3%	303	3	1.0%
Delaware Mil. Acad.	568	1	0.2%	569	5	0.9%	564	1	0.2%
MOT Charter School	---	---	---	166	2	0	312	0	0
Newark Charter	161	0	0.0%	321	1	0.3%	474	0	0.0%
Kent County	8,415	131	1.6%	8,707	169	1.9%	8,668	84	1.0%
Positive Outcomes	85	1	1.2%	98	5	5.1%	97	3	3.1%
Caesar Rodney HS	2,037	28	1.4%	2,011	37	1.8%	2,003	19	0.9%
Dover HS	1,696	26	1.5%	1,866	39	2.1%	1,800	27	1.5%
ECHS at DSU	---	---	---	129	13	0	209	0	0
Polytech HS	1,206	1	0.1%	1,192	13	1.1%	1,194	1	0.1%
Lake Forest HS	890	19	2.1%	934	16	1.7%	952	8	0.8%
Milford SR HS	1,049	26	2.5%	1,043	23	2.2%	1,008	11	1.1%

Smyrna HS	1,452	28	1.9%	1,434	23	1.6%	1,405	15	1.1%
Sussex County	7,334	135	1.8%	7,650	154	2.0%	7,902	130	1.6%
Sussex Academy	52	1	1.9%	113	5	4.4%	205	1	0.5%
Cape Henlopen HS	1,283	10	0.8%	1,351	9	0.7%	1,382	8	0.6%
Delmar Sr HS	624	5	0.8%	639	8	1.3%	649	7	1.1%
Indian River HS	910	15	1.6%	859	6	0.7%	884	6	0.7%
Sussex Central Sr HS	1,228	27	2.2%	1,316	65	4.9%	1,450	51	3.5%
Laurel Sr HS	479	24	5.0%	502	20	4.0%	481	19	4.0%
Seaford Sr HS	697	39	5.6%	719	20	2.8%	751	14	1.9%
Sussex Tech HS	1,491	2	0.1%	1,545	8	0.5%	1,444	1	0.1%
Woodbridge HS	570	12	2.1%	606	13	2.1%	656	23	3.5%

Note: Special Schools and ILCs are **NOT** included in this table. All schools include grades 9 to 12.

Graduation rate

The graduation rate tracks the percentage of 9th students who graduate within four years.

While the annual *dropout rate* provides information about one particular school year and all students enrolled in high school in that year, the *graduation rate* provides information about a particular group of students followed over the course of high school. It looks at all students who started high school at the 9th grade and how many graduated within four years. For this year's data, that means students who started 9th grade in the 2012/13 school year.

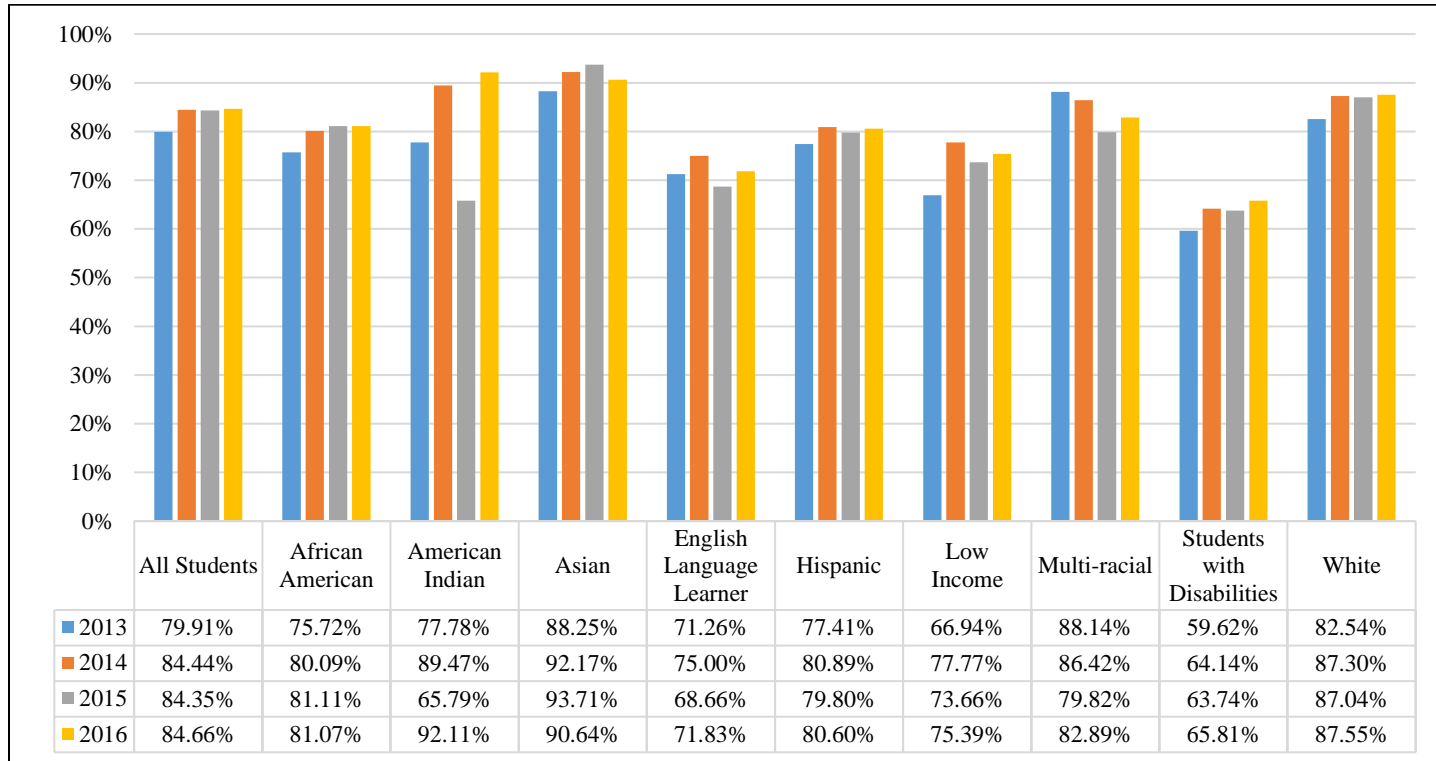
This year's rate is the highest since the state changed how it calculates graduation rates in 2010-11.

Last year, out of 9,867 students in the Class of 2016, 8,353 students graduated with a regular diploma. The Class of 2016 graduation rate was 80.6 percent for Hispanic, 81.1 percent for black students and 87.6 percent for white students.

The Class of 2016 four-year graduation rate was 65.81 percent for students with disabilities and 71.83 percent for English learner students, an increase from last year (63.7 percent and 68.7 percent respectively).

The state also looks at five- and six-year graduation rates. The graduation rate for the Class of 2014 was 84.4% at the end of four years, 85.8% at the end of five years and 86.0% at the end of six years. For the Class of 2014, English learner students and students with disabilities showed the greatest gains from their four-year graduation rate to their six-year graduation rate, going from 75.0 percent to 78.8 percent and 64.1 percent to 68.2 percent, respectively.

**Four-Year Graduation Rates by Student Group
Class of 2013-2016**



**Four-Year Graduation Rates by District/Charter
Class of 2014, 2015 and 2016**

District/Charter	2014	2015	2016
Appoquinimink	94.7%	94.2%	89.8%
Brandywine	84.6%	85.4%	89.7%
Caesar Rodney	88.5%	84.5%	84.8%
Cape Henlopen	91.0%	85.8%	88.9%
Capital	83.1%	83.4%	80.7%
Christina	74.5%	71.5%	69.4%
Colonial	80.8%	77.6%	70.2%
Delaware Academy of Public Safety and Security	---	76.9%	81.6%
Delmar	92.3%	88.4%	82.2%
Indian River	89.0%	84.9%	82.9%
Lake Forest	82.1%	82.2%	82.3%
Laurel	76.7%	80.5%	75.0%
Milford	84.2%	83.0%	88.7%
New Castle County Vocational-Technical	93.6%	94.1%	>95%

Polytech	>95%	>95%	>95%
Positive Outcomes	54.6%	73.7%	91.3%
Red Clay (includes Charter School of Wilmington and Delaware Military Academy)	90.3%	89.3%	88.8%
Seaford	79.7%	79.8%	78.1%
Smyrna	77.6%	86.5%	88.6%
Sussex Technical	>95%	>95%	>95%
Woodbridge	82.7%	81.6%	79.3%

*Note: Districts/Charters with 15 or fewer students are not included in the table above.
Graduation rates include all accountability schools within the local education agency..*

Four-Year Graduation Rates by School Class of 2014, 2015 and 2016

School	2014	2015	2016
A I duPont High	88.3%	87.0%	83.7%
Appoquinimink High	>95%	>95%	88.1%
Brandywine High	82.6%	83.0%	83.6%
Caesar Rodney High	90.3%	86.6%	86.5%
Calloway School of the Arts	>95%	>95%	>95%
Cape Henlopen High	94.0%	87.6%	91.1%
Charter School of Wilmington	>95%	>95%	>95%
Christiana High	75.9%	67.3%	65.0%
Concord High	89.0%	85.6%	89.9%
Conrad Schools of Science	>95%	>95%	>95%
Delaware Academy of Public Safety and Security	---	76.9%	81.6%
Delaware Military Academy	>95%	>95%	>95%
Delcastle Technical High	94.1%	91.6%	94.6%
Delmar High	92.3%	88.4%	82.2%
Dickinson High	81.0%	75.9%	73.8%
Dover High	86.7%	87.4%	83.8%
Glasgow High	76.6%	73.6%	72.1%
Hodgson Vocational Technical High	>95%	>95%	>95%
Howard High School of Technology	89.7%	91.1%	93.8%
Indian River High	93.7%	88.0%	90.4%
Lake Forest High	82.5%	82.6%	82.3%
Laurel Senior High	76.7%	81.6%	75.0%
McKean High	85.2%	80.2%	84.2%
Middletown High	93.9%	92.1%	91.8%
Milford High	85.7%	84.9%	>95%

Mount Pleasant High	79.0%	87.7%	94.4%
Newark High	80.2%	75.6%	71.4%
Polytech High	>95%	>95%	>95%
Positive Outcomes	54.6%	73.7%	91.3%
Seaford High	80.1%	79.8%	78.1%
Smyrna High	77.6%	86.5%	88.6%
St. Georges Technical High	>95%	>95%	>95%
Sussex Central High	88.5%	87.1%	80.5%
Sussex Technical High	>95%	>95%	>95%
William Penn High	84.2%	80.4%	73.9%
Woodbridge High	82.7%	81.6%	79.3%