

PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

DEFINITION: Number of public school graduates, disaggregated by race.



SIGNIFICANCE

A high school diploma offers students a foundation for future success. On average, high school graduates realize significantly better outcomes than their peers who leave high school before graduating. In Louisiana, high school graduates (including those earning equivalency diplomas) typically earn about \$7,000 more than workers who have not completed high school.¹ Not only are graduates' annual earnings higher, high school graduates are also much more likely to participate in the labor force. According to the Census' 2007 American Community Survey, 47% of Louisianans of working age without a high school diploma were not in the labor force, compared to 29% of those with a high school diploma.² When a school system successfully graduates a student, the benefits extend beyond the individual student to the larger society. Because high school graduates' earnings are higher, local and state economies benefit from higher tax collections, as well as higher consumer spending.³

Louisiana recently began reporting cohort graduation rates, which show the percentage of students who enroll in high school as ninth graders and graduate with a diploma four years later. For the class of 2007, Louisiana's cohort graduation rate was 65.9%. Of the group of students who were expected to graduate in 2007, but did not do so, 19% dropped out, 9% returned to high school for a fifth year, 4% earned a GED, and 2% earned a certificate of achievement. Louisiana's cohort graduation rate lags behind the national average (estimated to be 74.7%).⁴

DATA SOURCE

Department of Education, Division of Planning, Analysis, and Information Resources

DATA NOTE

A graduate is defined as a student who successfully completes a SBESE-approved education program, passes the Graduation Exit Examination (GEE), and thus earns a State-approved diploma. Students who earn GEDs are not included. Note that the percentages refer to the percentage of all graduates that identify as a given race.

Data for City of Baker and City of Zachary school districts are reflected in East Baton Rouge data. Data for the City of Monroe are reflected in data for Ouachita Parish. Data for City of Bogalusa are reflected in data for Washington Parish. Data for Lab Schools and all other charters are not included in the parish-level data, but are included in the statewide data.

RATE CALCULATION

$100 * (\text{number of black high school graduates} \div \text{total number of high school graduates})$

$100 * (\text{number of white high school graduates} \div \text{total number of high school graduates})$

¹ U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, "B20004: Median Earnings In The Past 12 Months (In 2007 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars) by sex by Educational Attainment For The Population 25 Years And Over," U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2007, retrieved from www.census.gov on 6/1/2009.

² U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, "Table B23006: Educational Attainment by Employment Status for the Population 25 to 64 Years," U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2007, retrieved from www.census.gov on 6/1/2009.

³ Alliance for Excellent Education, "The High Cost of High School Dropouts: What the Nation Pays for Inadequate High Schools," Alliance for Excellent Education, June 2008, retrieved from <http://www.all4ed.org/files/HighCost.pdf> on 6/16/2009.

⁴ Laura Boudreaux, M.S., Merry Jane Bourgeois, Ed.D., Bobby Franklin, Ph.D., Sam Pernici, M.Ed., & George Noell, Ph.D. "Understanding Louisiana's Graduation and Dropout Rates," Louisiana Department of Education, Office of Strategic Research and Analysis, 2009, retrieved from <http://www.louisianaschools.net/> on 6/16/2009.

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SY 2005	TOTAL	BLACK		WHITE	
	No.	No.	%	No.	%
LOUISIANA	33,275	12,396	37	19,483	59
Acadia	415	93	22	320	77
Allen	246	56	23	183	74
Ascension	882	212	24	651	74
Assumption	182	56	31	126	69
Avoyelles	346	105	30	237	68
Beauregard	360	53	15	298	83
Bienville	153	102	67	49	32
Bossier	1,086	286	26	754	69
Caddo	2,034	1,101	54	874	43
Calcasieu	1,640	453	28	1,153	70
Caldwell	76	11	14	65	86
Cameron	105	3	3	101	96
Catahoula	75	22	29	52	69
Claiborne	139	85	61	53	38
Concordia	175	93	53	82	47
De Soto	265	129	49	133	50
East Baton Rouge	2,715	1,726	64	876	32
East Carroll	73	71	97	2	3
East Feliciana	123	109	89	14	11
Evangeline	258	75	29	180	70
Franklin	167	67	40	98	59
Grant	183	33	18	145	79
Iberia	654	229	35	400	61
Iberville	184	130	71	53	29
Jackson	150	62	41	86	57
Jefferson	1,918	805	42	760	40
Jefferson Davis	337	81	24	247	73
Lafayette	1,608	447	28	1,107	69
Lafourche	785	127	16	626	80
La Salle	159	22	14	135	85
Lincoln	383	172	45	203	53
Livingston	1,060	47	4	1,004	95
Madison	61	59	97	2	3
Morehouse	219	133	61	82	37
Natchitoches	302	141	47	155	51
Orleans	731	589	81	81	11
Ouachita	1,334	567	43	745	56
Plaquemines	201	68	34	126	63
Pointe Coupee	130	81	62	49	38
Rapides	1,193	441	37	700	59
Red River	70	53	76	17	24
Richland	137	74	54	62	45
Sabine	249	61	24	133	53
St. Bernard	173	15	9	147	85
St. Charles	576	188	33	367	64
St. Helena	59	58	98	0	0
St. James	210	134	64	75	36
St. John the Baptist	291	216	74	60	21
St. Landry	752	370	49	375	50
St. Martin	420	192	46	223	53
St. Mary	605	235	39	340	56
St. Tammany	1,994	251	13	1,669	84
Tangipahoa	974	358	37	597	61
Tensas	42	42	100	0	0
Terrebonne	945	216	23	643	68
Union	173	61	35	106	61
Vermilion	442	58	13	364	82
Vernon	452	87	19	330	73
Washington	385	152	39	230	60
Webster	380	168	44	207	54
West Baton Rouge	181	80	44	100	55
West Carroll	102	20	20	79	77
West Feliciana	127	42	33	84	66
Winn	144	53	37	87	60