

1.1.a High School Graduation Rates

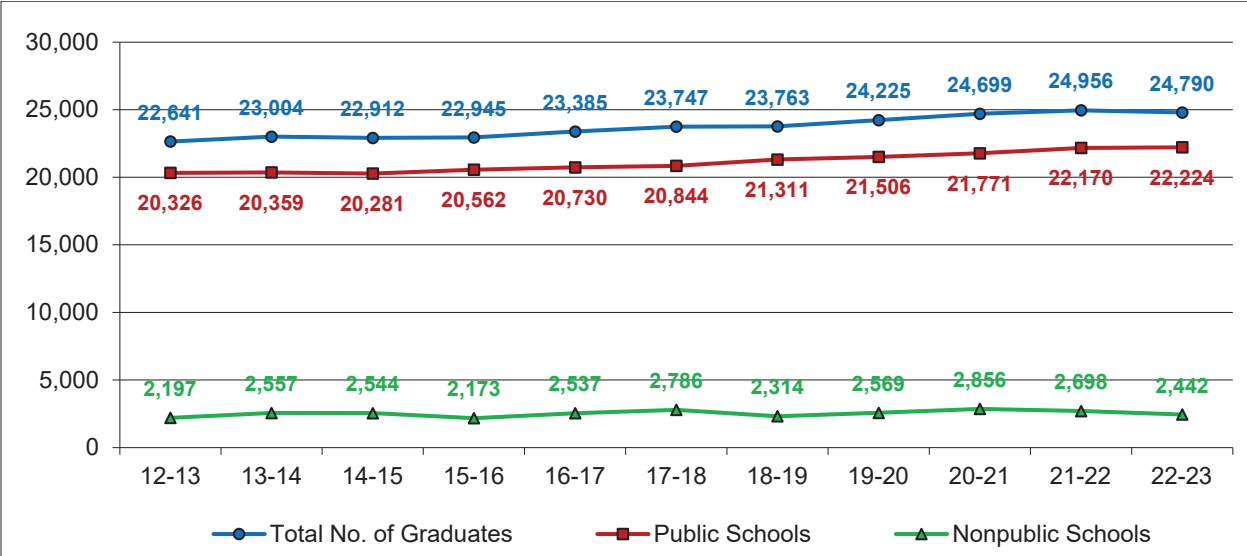
Increase the proportion of students who graduate from Nebraska high schools.

One strategic approach to increasing the number of students who enter postsecondary education in Nebraska is to increase the proportion of students who graduate from the state’s high schools. In other words, increase Nebraska’s high school graduation rate and, in the process, increase the pool of high school students who could potentially attend college.

Past and Present Trends in the Number of Nebraska High School Graduates

- As shown in Figure 1.1.a.1, 24,790 students graduated from Nebraska high schools in 2022-2023, an increase of 9.5% (2,149 students) since 2012-2013.
- The number of students who graduated from Nebraska high schools decreased 0.7% (166 students) between 2021-2022 and 2022-2023.
- Between 2012-2013 and 2022-2023, the number of public high school graduates increased 9.3% to 22,224, while the number graduating from nonpublic (private) high schools increased 11.2% to 2,442.
- Notably, between 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, the number of public high school graduates increased 0.2% (54 students) while the number of nonpublic high school graduates decreased 9.5% (256 students).

**Figure 1.1.a.1
Numbers of Nebraska Public and Nonpublic High School Graduates
2012-2013 through 2022-2023**



Note. Graduates do not include GED recipients or completers who did not receive regular diplomas. The total number of graduates includes graduates of public schools, nonpublic (private) schools, educational service units, and state-operated schools. See Table A2.1 in Appendix 2 for supporting data. Data source: Nebraska Department of Education, January 2014 (2012-13 data), January 2015 (2013-14 data), January 2016 (2014-15 data), December 2016 (2015-16 data), December 2017 (2016-17 data), December 2018 (2017-18 data), December 2019 (2018-19 data), December 2020 (2019-20 data), February 2022 (2020-21 data), January 2023 (2021-22 data), and December 2023 (2022-23 data).

- As shown in [Table 1.1.a.1](#), since 2012-2013, about 9 out of 10 Nebraska high school graduates have received their diplomas from public schools.

Type of School	2012-2013		2021-2022		2022-2023	
	No. of Graduates	% of Graduates	No. of Graduates	% of Graduates	No. of Graduates	% of Graduates
Public	20,326	90.2%	22,170	89.2%	22,224	90.1%
Nonpublic	2,197	9.8%	2,698	10.8%	2,442	9.9%
Subtotal	22,523	100.0%	24,868	100.0%	24,666	100.0%
ESU & SO	118		88		124	
State Total	22,641		24,956		24,790	

Note. Graduates do not include GED recipients or completers who did not receive regular diplomas. ESU = Educational service units; SO = State-operated schools. Data source: Nebraska Department of Education, January 2014 (2012-13 data), January 2023 (2021-22 data), and December 2023 (2022-23 data).

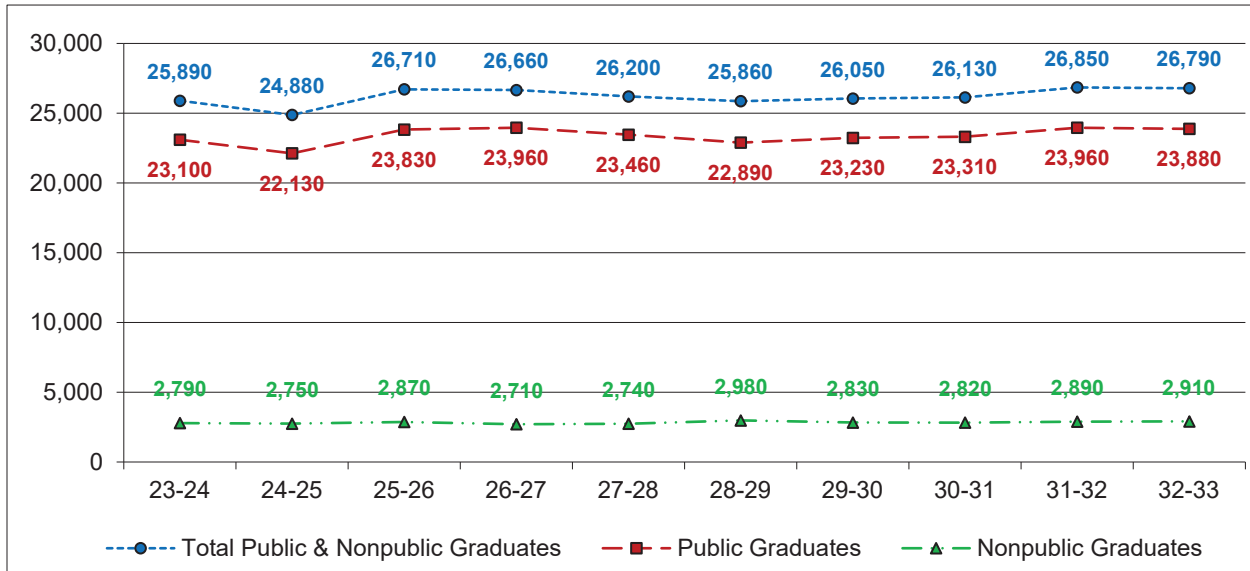
Projected Trends in the Number of Nebraska High School Graduates³

- As shown in [Figure 1.1.a.2](#), 26,790 students are forecast to graduate from Nebraska public and nonpublic high schools in 2032-2033. In addition, an estimated 100 students are projected to graduate from educational service units and state-operated schools, resulting in a total projected increase of 8.5% (2,100 students) over the next decade.
- Public schools are projected to account for 89% to 90% of Nebraska’s high school graduates through the 2032-2033 school year.
- The numbers of graduates from Nebraska’s public high schools are projected to increase 3.9% between 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 and then increase 3.4% from 2023-2024 to 2032-2033.
- The numbers of graduates from the state’s nonpublic (private) high schools are projected to increase 14.3% from 2022-2023 to 2023-2024 and then increase 4.3% from 2023-2024 to 2032-2033.
- The latest projections of high school graduates were released during the COVID-19 pandemic and do not account for the impact of the pandemic on enrollments and graduations.

³ Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, *Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates, 2020*. See [Table A2.2](#) in [Appendix 2](#) for supporting data. For 2022-2023, the actual number of public school graduates (22,224) was 2.1% lower than WICHE predicted (22,700).

Figure 1.1.a.2

**Projected Numbers of Graduates from Nebraska Public and Nonpublic High Schools
2023-2024 through 2032-2033**

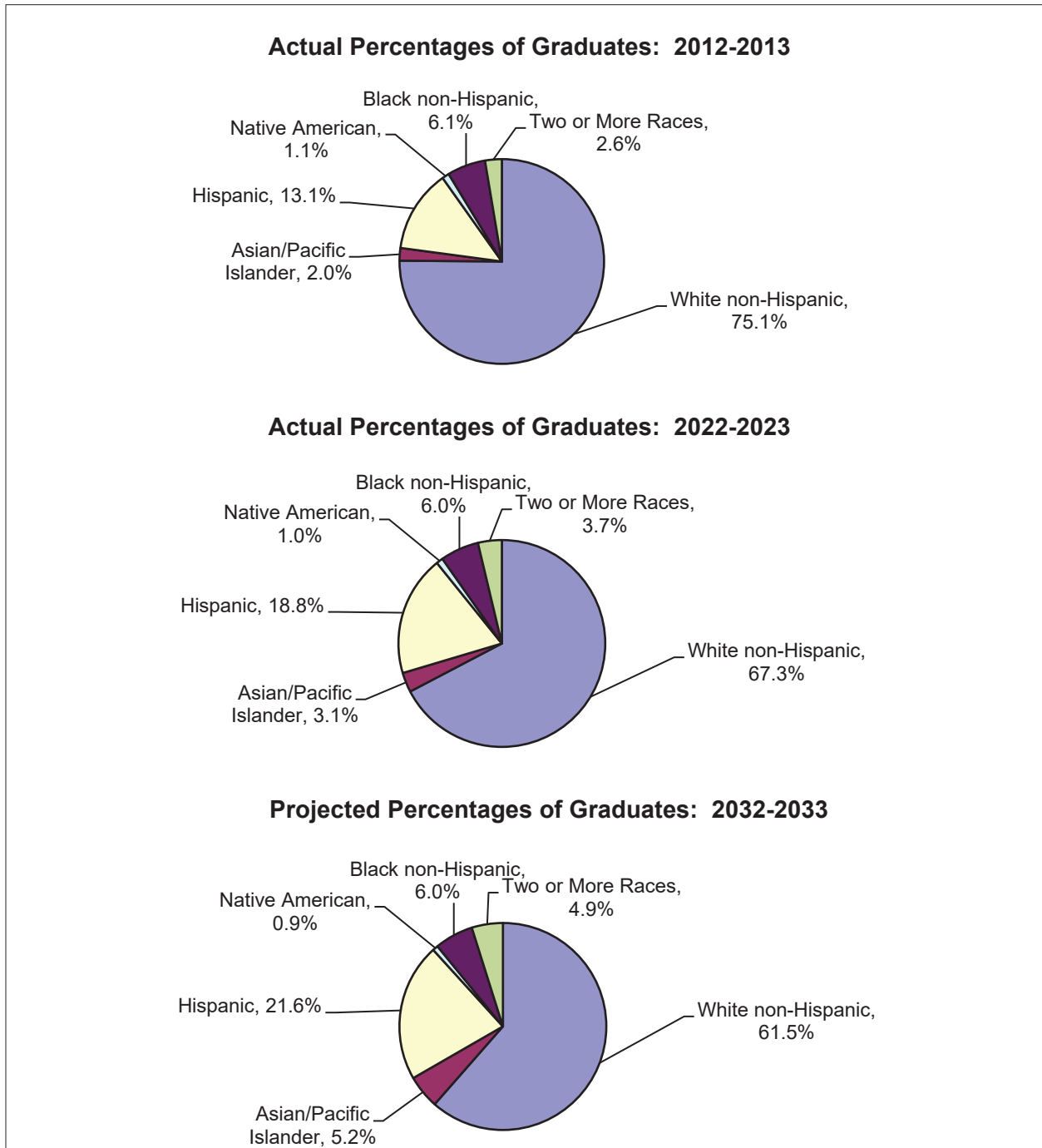


Note. Projections above do not include graduates of educational service units or state-operated schools. An estimated 100 students per year are projected to graduate from these schools. Graduates do not include GED recipients or completers who did not receive regular diplomas. See [Table A2.2](#) in [Appendix 2](#) for supporting data. Data source: Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, *Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates, 2020*.

Projected and Recent Changes in Nebraska Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

- As illustrated in [Figure 1.1.a.3](#), White non-Hispanic students and Native American students are projected to account for lower percentages of the state’s public high school graduates in 2032-2033 than they did in 2022-2023.
- Actual changes in the racial/ethnic distribution of Nebraska’s public high school graduates over the decade have generally been in the direction of the projected trend. Between 2012-2013 and 2022-2023, the number of public high school graduates in each of the major racial/ethnic groups changed as follows:
 - White non-Hispanics decreased 2.0% (from 15,268 to 14,962 graduates)
 - Asian/Pacific Islanders increased 67.6% (from 408 to 684 graduates)
 - Hispanics increased 57.5% (from 2,654 to 4,179 graduates)
 - Native Americans increased 2.6% (from 227 to 233 graduates)
 - Black non-Hispanics increased 8.6% (from 1,233 to 1,339 graduates)
 - Two or more races increased 54.3% (from 536 to 827 graduates)

Figure 1.1.a.3
By Race/Ethnicity: Actual and Projected
Percentages of Nebraska Public High School Graduates



Note. Graduates do not include GED recipients or completers who did not receive regular diplomas. Actual counts and projections do not include graduates of educational service units or state-operated schools. See [Table A2.3](#) in [Appendix 2](#) for supporting data. Data sources: Nebraska Department of Education, December 2014, and December 2024 (actual number of graduates). Projection data obtained from Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, *Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates, 2020*.

Nebraska Public High School Graduation Rates

The Coordinating Commission monitors Nebraska high school graduation rates to determine if the proportion of Nebraska's high school students who graduate from high school is increasing, thereby potentially increasing the pool of students who are prepared to go on to college.

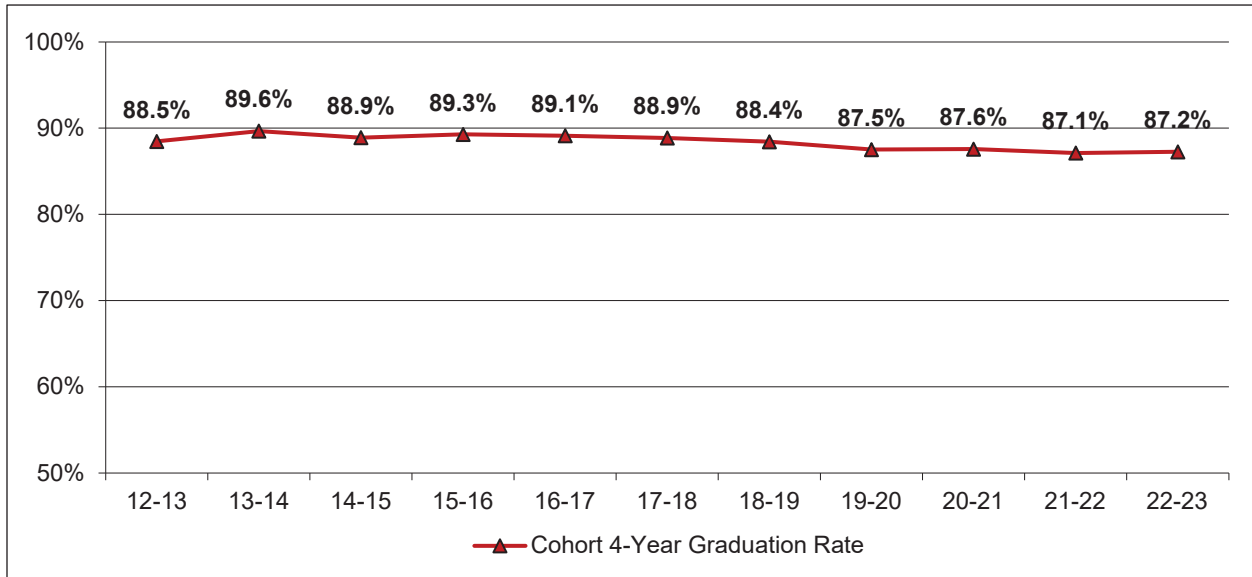
- Prior to the 2010-2011 school year, the Nebraska Department of Education used the **four-year high school graduation rate** to measure the proportion of high school students who receive regular diplomas.
- With the 2010-2011 school year, the Nebraska Department of Education began using the **cohort four-year graduation rate** to measure the proportion of Nebraska's *public* high school students who earn regular diplomas. The cohort four-year graduation rate is calculated using an entirely different methodology than the four-year graduation rate; therefore, it is not comparable to the four-year graduation rates for previous school years.
- See Explanatory Note A3.1 in Appendix 3 for information on how the cohort four-year graduation rates are calculated and see Table A3.1 in Appendix 3 for supporting data.

Cohort Four-Year High School Graduation Rates

- Currently, data are not available to calculate a cohort four-year graduation rate for the nonpublic (private) high schools in Nebraska. Consequently, a statewide cohort four-year graduation rate for all public and nonpublic schools in Nebraska is not available.
- As shown in Figure 1.1.a.4, the **cohort four-year graduation rate for Nebraska's public schools was 88.5% in 2013 (2012-2013) and 87.2% in 2023 (2022-2023)**, or 1.3 percentage points lower than the cohort rate for 2013. Since 2022, the cohort graduation rate increased 0.1 points.

Figure 1.1.a.4

**Nebraska Public High School Cohort Four-Year Graduation Rates
2012-2013 through 2022-2023**



Note. See Table A3.1 in Appendix 3 for additional data. Data source: Nebraska Department of Education, December 2023.

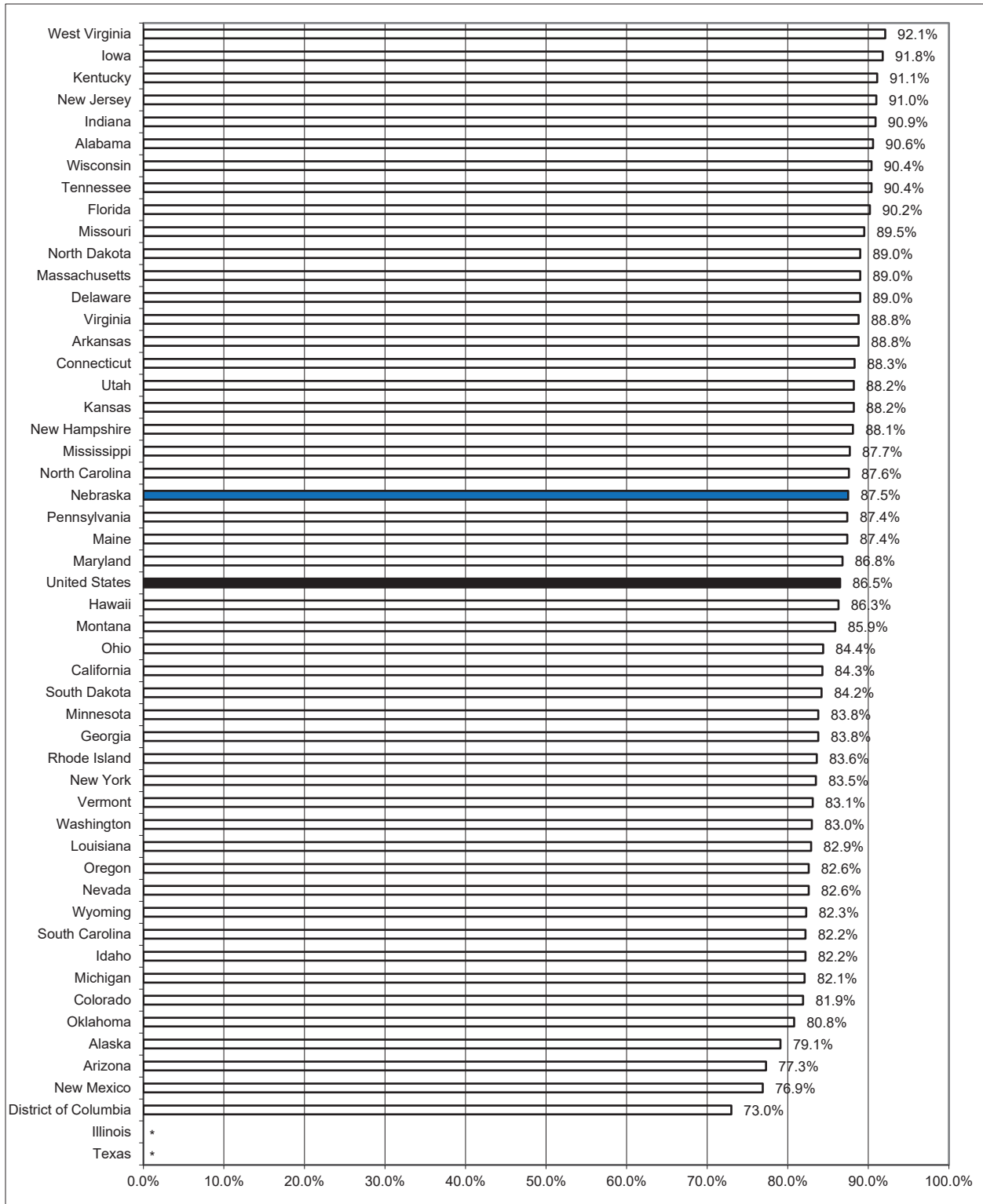
Public High School Graduation Rates by State

National public high school graduation data for the 2020-2021 through 2022-2023 cohorts has not yet been released by the National Center for Education Statistics. The latest available data are for the 2019-2020 cohort. [Figure 1.1.a.5](#) shows the state-to-state comparisons of the cohort four-year graduation rates calculated for the 2019-2020 cohort.

- As shown in [Figure 1.1.a.5](#), Nebraska’s 2019-2020 cohort four-year graduation rate was the 22nd highest among the rates reported by 48 states and the District of Columbia.⁴

⁴ Data for Illinois were suppressed due to concerns with data quality. Data for Texas were not submitted by the National Center for Education Statistics’ due date.

Figure 1.1.a.5
By State: 2019-2020 Public High School
Cohort Four-Year Graduation Rates



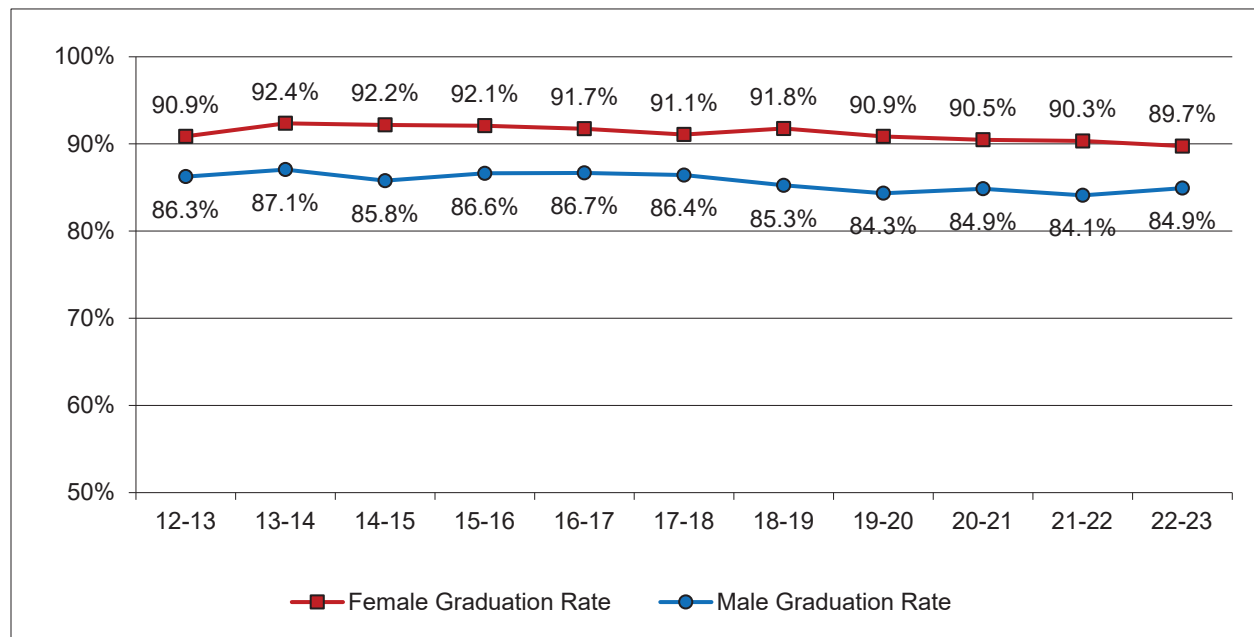
Note. Data for Illinois were suppressed due to concerns with data quality. Data for Texas were not submitted by the National Center for Education Statistics' due date. Data source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Common Core of Data*, school year 2019-20.

Nebraska Public High School Graduation Rates by Gender

An analysis of the high school graduation rate data obtained from the Nebraska Department of Education reveals that females continue to have higher graduation rates than males who attend Nebraska’s public high schools.

- As evidenced in [Figure 1.1.a.6](#), the cohort four-year graduation rates for females were higher than the rates for males from 2012-2013 to 2022-2023. The gap between males and females was 4.6 percentage points in 2012-2013 and 4.8 percentage points in 2022-2023.
- **The cohort graduation rate for females in 2022-2023 was 89.7%**, 1.2 percentage points lower than the rate for 2012-2013. **The cohort graduation rate for males in 2022-2023 was 84.9%**, 1.4 percentage points lower than the rate for 2012-2013.

Figure 1.1.a.6
By Gender: Nebraska Public High School
Cohort Four-Year Graduation Rates
2012-2013 through 2022-2023



Note. See [Table A3.1](#) in [Appendix 3](#) for additional data. Data source: Nebraska Department of Education, December 2023.

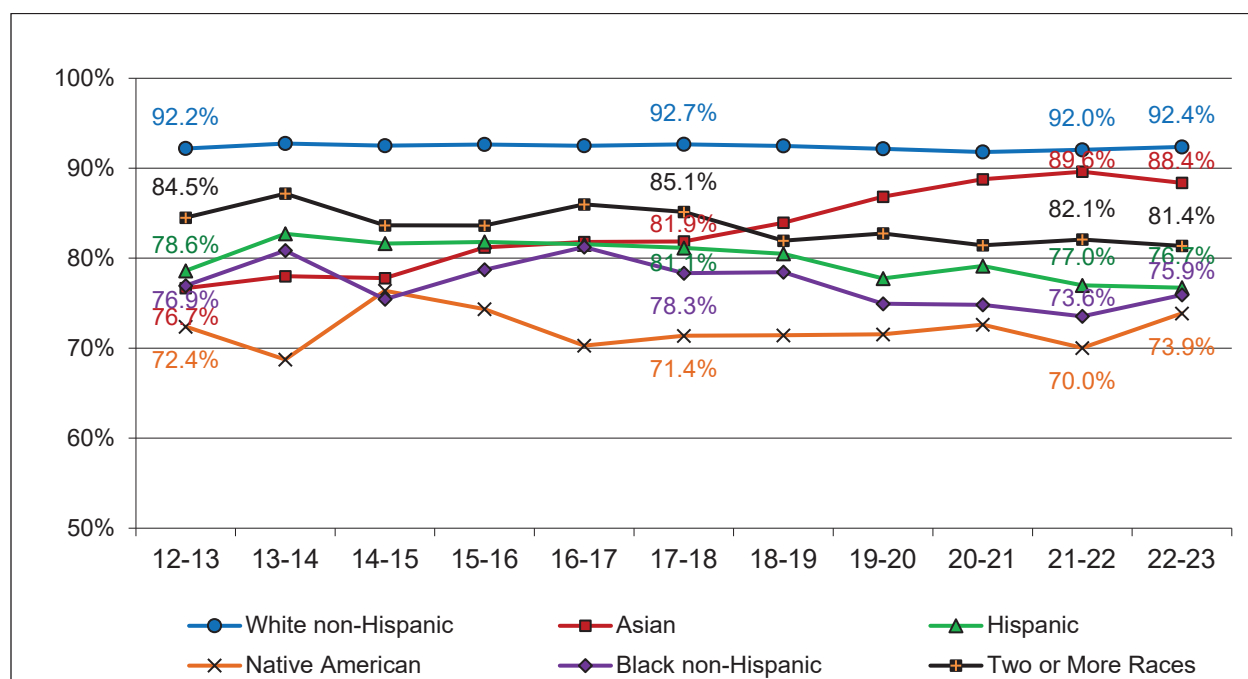
Nebraska Public High School Graduation Rates by Race/Ethnicity

As illustrated in [Figure 1.1.a.7](#), high school graduation rates vary considerably by race/ethnicity.

- Between 2012-2013 and 2022-2023, the cohort four-year graduation rate decreased 3.1 percentage points for multiracial individuals, 1.9 percentage points for Hispanics, and 1.0 percentage point for Black non-Hispanics. During this time, cohort four-year graduation rates increased 11.7 percentage points for Asians, 1.5 percentage points for Native Americans, and 0.2 percentage points for White non-Hispanics.
- Since 2021-2022, cohort four-year graduation rates fell 1.2 percentage points for Asians, 0.7 percentage points for multiracial students, and 0.3 percentage points for Hispanics. Graduation rates increased 3.9 percentage points for Native Americans, 2.3 percentage points for Black non-Hispanics, and 0.4 percentage points for White non-Hispanics.

Figure 1.1.a.7

By Race/Ethnicity: Nebraska Public High School Cohort Four-Year Graduation Rates 2012-2013 through 2022-2023



Note. Cohort graduation rates are not shown for Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders. See [Table A3.1](#) in [Appendix 3](#) for additional data. Data source: Nebraska Department of Education, December 2023.

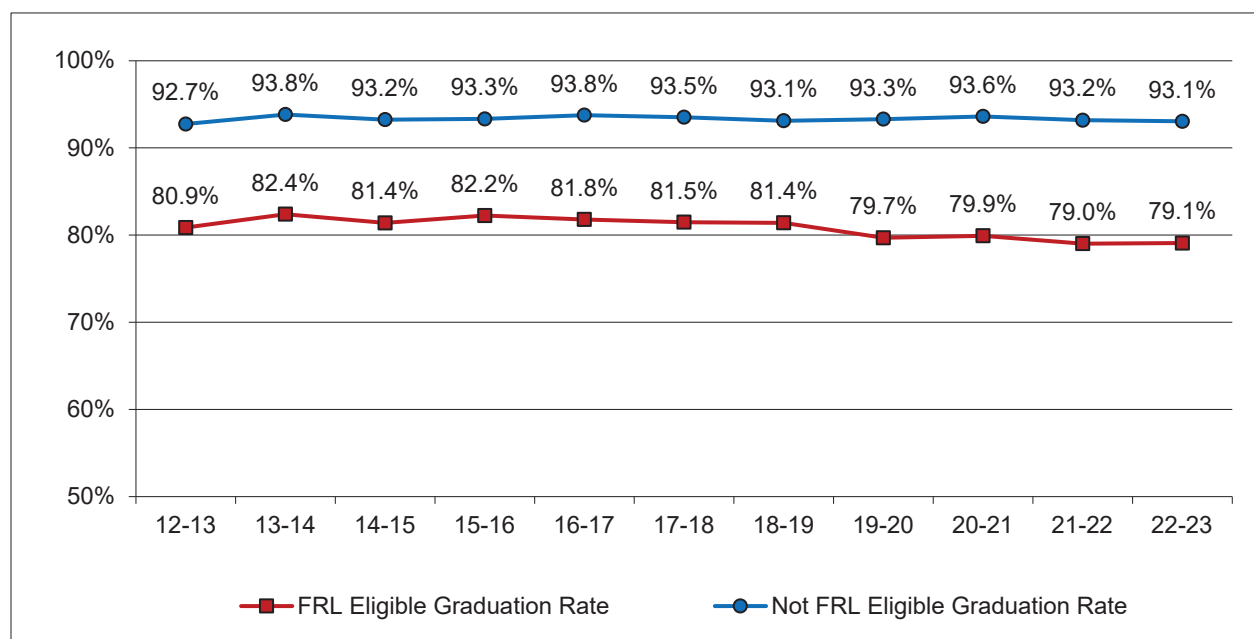
Nebraska Public High School Graduation Rates by Free or Reduced-Priced Lunch Eligibility

As illustrated in [Figure 1.1.a.8](#), high school graduation rates vary considerably by free or reduced-priced lunch (FRL) eligibility.

- Students eligible for FRL are less likely to graduate from high school in four years. For the 2022-2023 cohort, there was a 14.0 percentage point difference in on-time graduation rates between FRL and non-FRL students.
- Between 2012-2013 and 2022-2023, the cohort four-year graduation rate increased 0.4 percentage points for students not eligible for FRL. Meanwhile, the cohort four-year graduate rate decreased 1.8 percentage points for students eligible for FRL.

Figure 1.1.a.8

By Free or Reduced-Priced Lunch Eligibility: Nebraska Public High School Cohort Four-Year Graduation Rates 2012-2013 through 2022-2023



Note. See [Table A3.1](#) in [Appendix 3](#) for additional data. Data source: Nebraska Department of Education, December 2023.

District-Level Analysis of Graduation Rates

The distribution of the 2022-2023 cohort four-year graduation rates for Nebraska’s 249 public school districts is shown in [Table 1.1.a.2](#).

- 71 (28.5%) of Nebraska’s public school districts had cohort four-year graduation rates of 100%, and 207 districts (83.1%) had graduation rates equal to or higher than the statewide rate in 2022-2023.
- 42 (16.9%) districts had graduation rates that were lower than the statewide rate for public schools in 2022-2023, 10 of which (4.0%) had rates of less than 75.0%.
- The three districts with the largest number of cohort graduates were Omaha Public Schools with a graduation rate of 70.5% (2,707 graduates), Lincoln Public Schools with a graduation rate of 82.4% (2,615 graduates), and Millard Public Schools with a graduation rate of 92.1% (1,649 graduates).

Table 1.1.a.2 Distribution of the Cohort Four-Year High School Graduation Rates for Nebraska <u>Public</u> High School Districts 2022-2023			
Cohort Four-Year High School Graduation Rate	No. of School Districts	% of School Districts	Cumulative % of School Districts
100.00%	71	28.5%	28.5%
97.00% - 99.99%	22	8.8%	37.3%
94.00% - 96.99%	40	16.1%	53.4%
91.00% - 93.99%	41	16.5%	69.9%
87.25% - 90.99%	33	13.3%	83.1%
87.25% Nebraska Public High School Rate			
85.00% - 87.24%	14	5.6%	88.8%
75.00% - 84.99%	18	7.2%	96.0%
Less than 75.00%	10	4.0%	100.0%
All Public Districts	249		
Data source: Nebraska Department of Education, December 2023.			

Nebraska Public High School Cohort Extended Graduation Rates

Figure 1.1.a.9 shows extended five- and six-year graduation rates for the 2020-2021 cohort (Part A) and extended five-year graduation rates for the 2021-2022 cohort (Part B).

- As evidenced in Part A of Figure 1.1.a.9, the 2020-2021 cohort **six-year** graduation rate for Nebraska's public school was 90%, two percentage points higher than the cohort four-year graduation rate.
- As shown in Part B of Figure 1.1.a.9, the overall **five-year** graduation rate for the 2021-2022 cohort was 89%, two percentage points higher than the cohort four-year graduation rate.

Extended Graduation Rates by Gender

Extending cohort graduation rates to five and six years often narrows the gap between graduation rates for males and females. In other words, males are more likely than females to take five or six years to graduate from high school.

- For the 2020-2021 cohort, the four-year graduation rate was 85% for males and 90% for females, a gap of five percentage points. Extending the graduation rate out to six years reveals the gap remained at five percentage points (88% for males and 93% for females).
- For the 2021-2022 cohort, the five-year graduation rate was 92% for females (up from 90% for four years) and 87% for males (up from 84% for four years).

Extended Graduation Rates by Race/Ethnicity

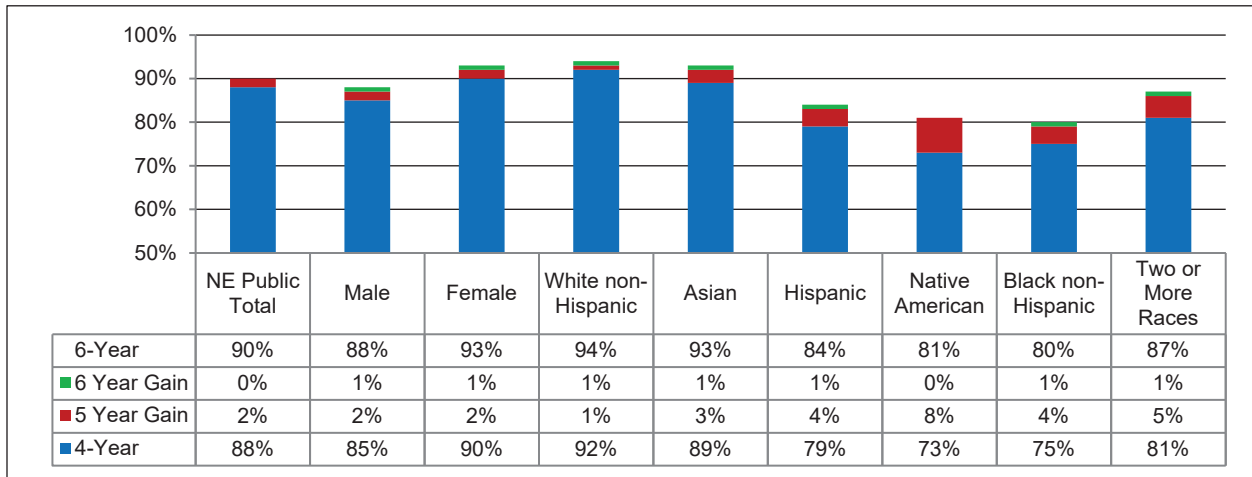
Extending cohort graduation rates to five and six years narrows the gaps between graduation rates for various racial/ethnic groups.

- The 2020-2021 cohort graduation rates for Native Americans increased eight percentage points when extended from four to six years, while the cohort graduation rate for White non-Hispanics increased two percentage points when extended from four to six years.
- For the 2021-2022 cohort, the graduation rates for Black non-Hispanics increased five percentage points when extended from four to five years, while the cohort graduation rate for White non-Hispanics, Asians, and multiracial students increased two percentage points.

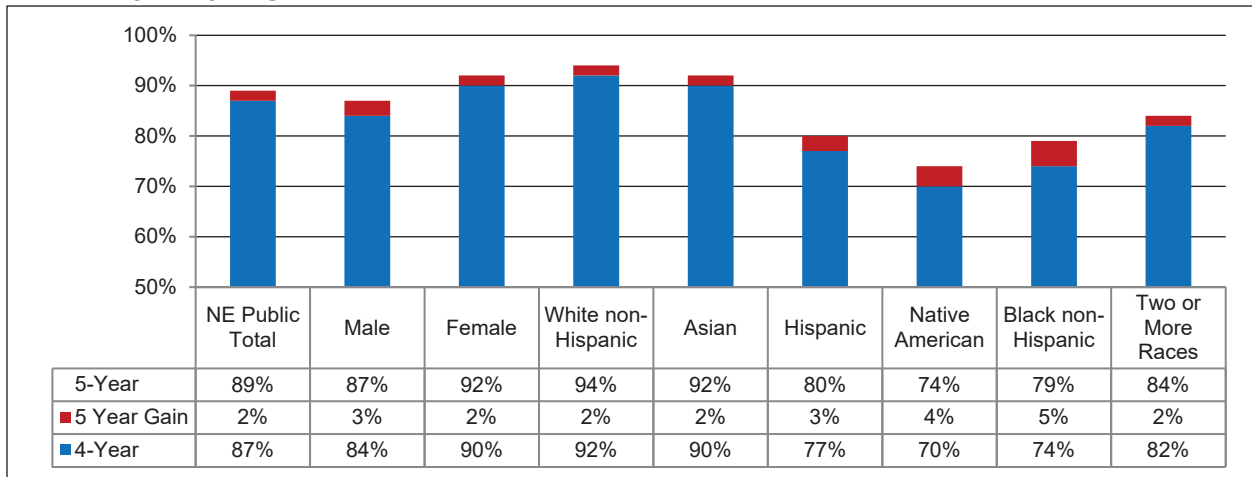
Figure 1.1.a.9

By Gender and By Race/Ethnicity: Nebraska Public High School Cohort Extended Graduation Rates for 2020-2021 and 2021-2022

Part A: 2020-2021 Cohort



Part B: 2021-2022 Cohort



Note. Graduates do not include GED recipients or completers who did not receive regular diplomas. Cohort graduation rates are not shown for Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders. See Table A3.1 in Appendix 3 for supporting data. Data source: Nebraska Department of Education, 2022-2023 Data Downloads, Cohort Graduation Data.