

Appendix 3

Nebraska High School Graduation Rates

Explanatory Note A3.1 The Cohort Four-Year High School Graduation Rate

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.

Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) started using the **cohort four-year graduation rate** or, more simply, the **cohort graduation rate**, to measure the proportion of Nebraska's public high school students who receive regular diplomas. The cohort graduation rate is not currently calculated for nonpublic schools in Nebraska.

The cohort four-year graduation rate is calculated by dividing the number of students in a cohort who graduate with a regular high school diploma in four years or less by the number of students in the graduation cohort, including students who graduate in the summer following the expected graduation year.

A student belongs to a graduation cohort based on school enrollment status. The demographic subgroups for a graduation cohort are determined by data submitted by the school district and reported at the student's final status.

A graduation cohort represents the group of students sharing an expected graduation year. The expected graduation year is determined by adding four years to the school year when the student reaches 9th grade for the first time and remains unchanged. For example, the 2017 graduation cohort is the group of students who entered 9th grade for the first time at the beginning of or during the 2013-2014 school year. The expected graduation year for this cohort was the 2016-2017 school year.

A graduation cohort is adjusted by adding any students transferring into the cohort and by subtracting any students who transfer out, emigrate to another country, or die during the four-year cohort period.

Only students who earn and receive regular diplomas are counted as completers in calculating the cohort graduation rate. Students who receive certificates of achievement or attendance, alternative awards, or General Education Diplomas (GED) remain in the cohort, but they are not counted as completers for the purposes of calculating the cohort graduate rate. Instead, they remain only in the denominator. The cohort graduation rate is computed using the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{High school diploma recipients (Year X)}}{\text{1st time 9th graders (Year X - 4) + Students who transfer in - (Students who transfer out, emigrate to another country, or die)}}$$

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Explanatory Note A3.1 (Continued)

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. Consequently, **the 2011 cohort four-year graduation rate established a new baseline for future comparisons.**

Data source: Nebraska Department of Education, *2016-2017 Education Profile for State of Nebraska*, Definitions.

**Table A3.1
Cohort Graduation Rates for Nebraska Public High Schools
By Gender, Race/Ethnicity, and Other Student Groups
2010-2011 through 2016-2017**

Student Group	Cohort Four-Year		Cohort Five-Year		Cohort Six-Year	
	N	Grad Rate	N	Grad Rate	N	Grad Rate
2010-2011						
Total Cohort Graduates	19,313	86%	19,957	89%	20,210	90%
Gender						
Male	9,560	83%	9,979	87%	10,129	88%
Female	9,753	89%	9,978	91%	10,081	92%
Race/Ethnicity						
White non-Hispanic	15,246	90%	15,566	92%	15,701	93%
Asian	327	81%	358	88%	364	90%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Islander	27	90%	29	97%	29	97%
Hispanic	2,113	75%	2,264	79%	2,317	81%
Native American	210	61%	236	68%	239	69%
Black non-Hispanic	939	67%	1,038	73%	1,086	76%
Two or More Races	451	89%	466	91%	474	92%
Other Groups						
Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch	5,711	78%	6,087	83%	6,226	85%
Special Education Students	1,725	69%	1,874	75%	1,980	80%
English Language Learners	485	62%	569	72%	589	75%
2011-2012						
Total Cohort Graduates	19,317	88%	19,945	90%	20,136	91%
Gender						
Male	9,607	85%	9,984	88%	10,100	89%
Female	9,710	90%	9,961	92%	10,036	93%
Race/Ethnicity						
White non-Hispanic	14,849	91%	15,161	93%	15,260	94%
Asian	375	84%	400	89%	417	92%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Islander	29	85%	30	88%	30	88%
Hispanic	2,276	78%	2,430	83%	2,469	84%
Native American	232	67%	261	73%	276	77%
Black non-Hispanic	1,066	73%	1,148	79%	1,165	80%
Two or More Races	490	85%	515	89%	519	90%
Other Groups						
Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch	6,150	79%	6,540	86%	6,660	88%
Special Education Students	1,824	71%	1,980	79%	2,071	83%
English Language Learners	566	64%	643	75%	669	79%

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Table A3.1 (Continued)						
Student Group	Cohort Four-Year		Cohort Five-Year		Cohort Six-Year	
	N	Grad Rate	N	Grad Rate	N	Grad Rate
2012-2013						
Total Cohort Graduates	19,389	88%	19,977	91%	20,222	92%
Gender						
Male	9,711	86%	10,075	89%	10,218	91%
Female	9,678	91%	9,902	93%	10,004	94%
Race/Ethnicity						
White non-Hispanic	14,772	92%	15,049	94%	15,169	95%
Asian	365	77%	408	84%	425	88%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Islander	18	100%	19	100%	19	100%
Hispanic	2,435	79%	2,579	83%	2,647	85%
Native American	194	72%	206	76%	208	77%
Black non-Hispanic	1,098	77%	1,182	82%	1,211	84%
Two or More Races	507	85%	534	88%	543	90%
Other Groups						
Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch	6,388	81%	6,735	87%	6,857	89%
Special Education Students	1,820	72%	2,000	80%	2,132	86%
English Language Learners	468	60%	557	72%	588	76%
2013-2014						
Total Cohort Graduates	19,493	90%	19,987	92%	20,215	93%
Gender						
Male	9,655	87%	9,960	90%	10,108	91%
Female	9,838	92%	10,027	94%	10,107	95%
Race/Ethnicity						
White non-Hispanic	14,526	93%	14,777	94%	14,893	95%
Asian	418	78%	447	83%	481	89%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Islander	24	77%	26	84%	27	84%
Hispanic	2,695	83%	2,824	87%	2,860	88%
Native American	187	69%	204	76%	208	77%
Black non-Hispanic	1,085	81%	1,136	84%	1,166	86%
Two or More Races	558	87%	573	90%	580	91%
Other Groups						
Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch	6,550	82%	6,842	88%	6,967	90%
Special Education Students	1,801	72%	1,956	80%	2,069	85%
English Language Learners	449	60%	510	70%	550	75%

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Table A3.1 (Continued)						
Student Group	Cohort Four-Year		Cohort Five-Year		Cohort Six-Year	
	N	Grad Rate	N	Grad Rate	N	Grad Rate
2014-2015						
Total Cohort Graduates	19,430	89%	20,036	92%	20,250	92%
Gender						
Male	9,619	86%	10,008	89%	10,136	90%
Female	9,811	92%	10,028	94%	10,114	95%
Race/Ethnicity						
White non-Hispanic	14,374	93%	14,656	94%	14,775	95%
Asian	434	78%	475	86%	502	89%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Islander	23	96%	23	96%	23	96%
Hispanic	2,804	82%	2,953	86%	2,989	87%
Native American	207	76%	215	79%	219	80%
Black non-Hispanic	1,020	75%	1,116	83%	1,135	84%
Two or More Races	568	84%	598	88%	607	89%
Other Groups						
Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch	6,530	81%	6,880	88%	6,994	90%
Special Education Students	1,803	71%	1,975	79%	2,087	84%
English Language Learners	410	55%	505	68%	541	72%
2015-2016						
Total Cohort Graduates	19,668	89%	20,149	91%		
Gender						
Male	9,850	87%	10,153	89%		
Female	9,818	92%	9,996	94%		
Race/Ethnicity						
White non-Hispanic	14,536	93%	14,776	94%		
Asian	410	81%	428	83%		
Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Islander	27	77%	31	89%		
Hispanic	2,883	82%	3,022	85%		
Native American	197	74%	204	77%		
Black non-Hispanic	1,094	79%	1,152	82%		
Two or More Races	521	84%	536	87%		
Other Groups						
Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch	6,631	82%	6,910	87%		
Special Education Students	1,837	70%	1,992	77%		
English Language Learners	348	55%	408	63%		

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Table A3.1 (Continued)						
Student Group	Cohort Four-Year		Cohort Five-Year		Cohort Six-Year	
	N	Grad Rate	N	Grad Rate	N	Grad Rate
2016-2017						
Total Cohort Graduates	19,931	89%				
Gender						
Male	10,030	87%				
Female	9,901	92%				
Race/Ethnicity						
White non-Hispanic	14,345	92%				
Asian	499	82%				
Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Islander	35	85%				
Hispanic	3,130	82%				
Native American	227	70%				
Black non-Hispanic	1,100	81%				
Two or More Races	595	86%				
Other Groups						
Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch	7,099	82%				
Special Education Students	1,768	71%				
English Language Learners	411	50%				
<i>Note.</i> Graduates do not include GED recipients or completers who did not receive regular diplomas. Data source: Nebraska Department of Education, <i>2016-2017 Education Profile for State of Nebraska</i> , Cohort Graduation Data.						