

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 of 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 2025 graduation cohort is the group of students who entered 9th grade for the first time at the beginning of or during the 2021-2022 school year. The expected graduation year for this cohort was the 2024-2025 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.

Data source: Nebraska Department of Education, *2024-2025 Nebraska Education Profile*, Definitions.

**Table A3.1
Cohort Graduation Rates for Nebraska Public High Schools
By Sex, Race/Ethnicity, and Other Student Groups
2014-2015 through 2024-2025**

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%
Sex						
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%	20,380	92%
Sex						
Male	9,850	87%	10,153	89%	10,297	90%
Female	9,818	92%	9,996	94%	10,083	94%
Race/Ethnicity						
White non-Hispanic	14,536	93%	14,776	94%	14,884	95%
Asian	410	81%	428	83%	449	87%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Islander	27	77%	31	89%	32	91%
Hispanic	2,883	82%	3,022	85%	3,083	87%
Native American	197	74%	204	77%	211	79%
Black non-Hispanic	1,094	79%	1,152	82%	1,181	84%
Two or More Races	521	84%	536	87%	540	87%
Other Groups						
Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch	6,631	82%	6,910	87%	7,038	89%
Special Education Students	1,837	70%	1,992	77%	2,127	83%
English Language Learners	348	55%	408	63%	431	69%

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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%	20,502	92%	20,715	92%
Sex						
Male	10,030	87%	10,378	90%	10,491	90%
Female	9,901	92%	10,124	94%	10,224	94%
Race/Ethnicity						
White non-Hispanic	14,345	92%	14,627	94%	14,731	95%
Asian	499	82%	539	88%	557	91%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Islander	35	85%	37	93%	38	95%
Hispanic	3,130	82%	3,282	85%	3,334	87%
Native American	227	70%	245	75%	248	75%
Black non-Hispanic	1,100	81%	1,157	85%	1,184	86%
Two or More Races	595	86%	615	88%	621	89%
Other Groups						
Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch	7,099	82%	7,432	87%	7,494	89%
Special Education Students	1,768	71%	1,925	79%	2,023	83%
English Language Learners	411	50%	501	62%	538	67%
2017-2018						
Total Cohort Graduates	20,546	89%	21,053	91%	21,247	92%
Sex						
Male	10,331	87%	10,620	89%	10,739	90%
Female	10,215	91%	10,433	93%	10,508	94%
Race/Ethnicity						
White non-Hispanic	14,658	93%	14,905	95%	15,003	95%
Asian	483	82%	506	86%	520	88%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Islander	20	95%	20	95%	20	95%
Hispanic	3,385	81%	3,535	85%	3,585	86%
Native American	217	72%	227	75%	232	77%
Black non-Hispanic	1,193	78%	1,258	82%	1,283	84%
Two or More Races	590	85%	601	87%	604	88%
Other Groups						
Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch	7,291	81%	7,559	87%	7,661	88%
Special Education Students	1,819	70%	1,948	75%	2,030	79%
English Language Learners	432	48%	535	61%	567	65%

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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
2018-2019						
Total Cohort Graduates	20,491	88%	21,000	90%	21,141	91%
Sex						
Male	10,122	85%	10,458	88%	10,536	89%
Female	10,369	92%	10,542	93%	10,605	94%
Race/Ethnicity						
White non-Hispanic	14,500	92%	14,750	94%	14,822	94%
Asian	528	84%	553	88%	558	89%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Islander	21	75%	23	82%	24	86%
Hispanic	3,432	80%	3,570	84%	3,612	85%
Native American	235	71%	254	76%	260	79%
Black non-Hispanic	1,212	78%	1,269	82%	1,281	83%
Two or More Races	558	82%	581	85%	584	85%
Other Groups						
Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch	7,553	81%	7,882	85%	7,963	86%
Special Education Students	1,890	69%	2,006	74%	2,075	77%
English Language Learners	466	49%	560	60%	573	62%
2019-2020						
Total Cohort Graduates	20,690	88%	21,188	90%	21,377	90%
Sex						
Male	10,229	84%	10,512	87%	10,618	88%
Female	10,461	91%	10,676	93%	10,759	93%
Race/Ethnicity						
White non-Hispanic	14,518	92%	14,734	94%	14,824	94%
Asian	567	87%	585	90%	593	91%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Islander	24	73%	26	76%	26	76%
Hispanic	3,639	78%	3,809	82%	3,869	83%
Native American	186	72%	202	77%	206	78%
Black non-Hispanic	1,118	75%	1,177	80%	1,195	80%
Two or More Races	638	83%	655	85%	664	86%
Other Groups						
Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch	8,014	80%	8,383	84%	8,499	85%
Special Education Students	1,858	65%	2,006	72%	2,085	76%
English Language Learners	609	52%	711	61%	743	64%

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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
2020-2021						
Total Cohort Graduates	20,914	88%	21,446	90%	21,610	90%
Sex						
Male	10,505	85%	10,831	87%	10,963	88%
Female	10,409	90%	10,615	92%	10,687	93%
Race/Ethnicity						
White non-Hispanic	14,613	92%	14,823	93%	14,891	94%
Asian	569	89%	591	92%	595	93%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Islander	29	83%	30	86%	30	86%
Hispanic	3,654	79%	3,824	83%	3,884	84%
Native American	228	73%	253	81%	254	81%
Black non-Hispanic	1,159	75%	1,233	79%	1,256	80%
Two or More Races	662	81%	692	86%	700	87%
Other Groups						
Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch	8,429	80%	8,799	84%	8,885	85%
Special Education Students	1,931	65%	2,078	71%	2,141	74%
English Language Learners	596	58%	682	67%	706	70%
2021-2022						
Total Cohort Graduates	21,274	87%	21,779	89%	21,956	90%
Sex						
Male	10,611	84%	10,931	87%	11,044	88%
Female	10,663	90%	10,848	92%	10,912	92%
Race/Ethnicity						
White non-Hispanic	14,771	92%	15,006	94%	15,084	94%
Asian	604	90%	616	92%	618	92%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Islander	28	90%	30	100%	30	100%
Hispanic	3,795	77%	3,940	80%	4,005	81%
Native American	208	70%	221	74%	226	76%
Black non-Hispanic	1,154	74%	1,230	79%	1,250	80%
Two or More Races	714	82%	736	84%	743	85%
Other Groups						
Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch	8,260	79%	8,547	83%	8,657	84%
Special Education Students	1,978	66%	2,129	72%	2,211	75%
English Language Learners	616	53%	701	61%	731	64%

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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
2022-2023						
Total Cohort Graduates	21,232	87%	21,799	90%	21,999	90%
Sex						
Male	10,702	85%	11,017	87%	11,132	88%
Female	10,530	90%	10,782	92%	10,867	93%
Race/Ethnicity						
White non-Hispanic	14,486	92%	14,703	94%	14,811	95%
Asian	623	88%	645	92%	650	92%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Islander	35	85%	36	84%	36	84%
Hispanic	3,898	77%	4,098	81%	4,155	82%
Native American	212	74%	225	78%	229	80%
Black non-Hispanic	1,214	76%	1,300	81%	1,315	82%
Two or More Races	764	81%	792	84%	803	85%
Other Groups						
Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch	7,990	79%	8,378	84%	8,479	85%
Special Education Students	2,019	67%	2,160	73%	2,269	78%
English Language Learners	693	53%	803	62%	827	64%
2023-2024						
Total Cohort Graduates	21,444	88%	22,024	91%		
Sex						
Male	10,726	86%	11,081	89%		
Female	10,718	90%	10,943	92%		
Race/Ethnicity						
White non-Hispanic	14,281	93%	14,488	94%		
Asian	619	90%	638	93%		
Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Islander	29	73%	31	78%		
Hispanic	4,259	80%	4,481	84%		
Native American	233	74%	253	81%		
Black non-Hispanic	1,247	76%	1,325	81%		
Two or More Races	776	84%	808	87%		
Other Groups						
Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch	8,543	82%	8,914	87%		
Special Education Students	2,108	69%	2,281	76%		
English Language Learners	779	61%	889	70%		

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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
2024-2025						
Total Cohort Graduates	21,243	88%				
Sex						
Male	10,898	86%				
Female	10,345	90%				
Race/Ethnicity						
White non-Hispanic	14,044	94%				
Asian	560	85%				
Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Islander	30	77%				
Hispanic	4,312	77%				
Native American	226	74%				
Black non-Hispanic	1,263	79%				
Two or More Races	808	85%				
Other Groups						
Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch	8,148	82%				
Special Education Students	1,978	70%				
English Language Learners	983	52%				
<p><i>Note.</i> Graduates do not include GED recipients or completers who did not receive regular diplomas. Data source: Nebraska Department of Education, 2024-2025 Data Downloads, Graduation Cohort Data, supplemented with cohort graduation data from the Nebraska Department of Education, December 2025.</p>						