



Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Chris Reykdal, State Superintendent

*All students prepared  
for post-secondary pathways,  
careers, & civic engagement.*

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

# Graduation and Dropout Statistics

2019

Authorizing legislation: [RCW 28A.175.010](#)

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## Executive Summary

Graduation and dropout rates are important indicators of the status of K–12 education in Washington. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) reports annually on rates for all students and student groups in the [online state Report Card](#).

OSPI uses the “adjusted cohort rate” methodology as required by the U.S. Department of Education. A student's cohort is based on the year they enter 9th grade for the first time. The calculation adjusts for students who transfer into a Washington public high school for the first time and join a cohort. Students are removed from the cohort if they transfer out of public school in Washington.

The adjusted cohort method tracks individual students over time and does not rely on estimates. It generally aligns with what most people think of as a graduation rate: Among a group of students who started high school together, what percent graduated in four (or five, or six, or seven) years?

Washington’s 4-year graduation rate is 80.9% for the Class of 2018; students who entered 9th grade for the first time in 2014–15. The rate is an increase of 1.6% from the Class of 2017, which had a 4-year graduation rate of 79.3%.

The 5-year graduation rate for students who entered 9th grade for the first time in 2013–14 is 82.7%. This is a slight increase from the previous year’s 5-year rate, which was 82.4%.

Both the 6- and 7-year cohorts increased from the previous school year. The 6-year graduation rate for students who entered 9th grade for the first time in 2012–13 is 83.6% and the 7-year graduation rate for students who entered 9th grade for the first time in 2011–12 is 84%.

# Introduction

## Purpose

Under the guidelines of state law, Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 28A.175.010, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) is required to report annually on the educational progress of public school students in grades 7–12. [Federal guidelines](#) provided by the U.S. Department of Education, issued under No Child Left Behind (NCLB), require all states to determine adjusted cohort graduation results for students. To meet the state and federal reporting requirements, OSPI prepares an annual report summarizing the enrollment activity of students in school grades 7–12 and adjusted cohort results for students.

## Definitions

### Adjusted Cohort

A group of students identified as beginning 9th grade in a specified year. Students are included in the cohort based on when they first enter 9th grade, regardless of their expected graduation year. The cohort of entering 9th grade students is “adjusted” for transfers in and out of high school through the next four and five years.

### Graduate

A student who earns a high school diploma, a high school diploma with modifications allowed under a student’s Individualized Education Program, or an associate degree from a community or technical college.

### Dropout

A student who leaves school for any reason, except death, before completing school with a high school diploma or transferring to another school with a known exit reason. A student is considered a dropout regardless of when dropping out occurs (i.e., during or between regular school terms). A student who leaves during the year but returns during the reporting period is not considered a dropout. The dropout counts include students who provide a reason for dropping out and those for whom a dropout reason is unknown or not provided.

# Graduation Rates

## Results for Adjusted 4-Year Cohort

The adjusted 4-year cohort graduation rate is calculated using the group of students identified as entering 9th grade for the first time in 2014–15 and who are reported as graduates by the end of 2017–18.

**Table 1: Adjusted 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate (Class of 2018)**

Student Group	Received High School Diploma	Graduated w/ Associates Degree	Total All Graduates	Adjusted Cohort	Adjusted 4-Year Cohort
<b>All Students</b>	67,034	932	67,966	84,048	80.9%
<b>Am. Indian/AK Native</b>	725	3	728	1,206	60.4%
<b>Asian</b>	5,786	81	5,867	6,519	90.0%
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	674	2	676	913	74.0%
<b>Black</b>	2,924	12	2,936	3,948	74.4%
<b>Hispanic</b>	12,858	99	12,957	17,240	75.2%
<b>White</b>	39,549	678	40,227	48,543	82.9%
<b>Two or More Races</b>	4,516	57	4,573	5,668	80.7%
<b>Students with Disabilities</b>	6,341	2	6,343	10,279	61.7%
<b>Students w/out Disabilities</b>	60,693	930	61,623	73,769	83.5%
<b>English Learner</b>	3,958	12	3,970	6,190	64.1%
<b>Non English Learner</b>	63,076	920	63,996	77,858	82.2%
<b>Low Income</b>	30,604	267	30,871	42,831	72.1%
<b>Non Low Income</b>	36,430	665	37,095	41,217	90.0%
<b>Migrant</b>	1,605	2	1,607	2,270	70.8%
<b>Non Migrant</b>	65,429	930	66,359	81,778	81.2%
<b>Section 504</b>	4,143	26	4,169	5,346	78.0%
<b>Non Section 504</b>	62,891	906	63,797	78,702	81.1%
<b>Homeless</b>	3,411	6	3,417	6,154	55.5%
<b>Non Homeless</b>	63,623	926	64,549	77,894	82.9%

Student Group	Received High School Diploma	Graduated w/ Associates Degree	Total All Graduates	Adjusted Cohort	Adjusted 4-Year Cohort
Foster Care			307	666	46.1%
Non Foster Care			67,659	83,382	81.1%
Female	33,885	617	34,502	41,056	84.0%
Male	33,149	315	33,464	42,992	77.8%

Of the 67,966 students reported as graduates in the 4-year cohort, 521 students were reported as graduating in fewer than four years<sup>1</sup>

### Results for Adjusted 5-Year Cohort

The adjusted 5-year cohort graduation rate is calculated using the group of students identified as entering 9th grade for the first time in 2013–14 and who are reported as graduates by the end of 2017–18. The table below shows the adjusted 5-year rate as well as the 4-year rate for the same cohort. The difference between the two columns represents the percentage of the cohort who graduated in their fifth year of high school.

**Table 2: Adjusted 5-Year Cohort Graduation Rate (Class of 2017)**

Student Group	Received High School Diploma	Graduated w/ Associates	Total All Gradu	Adjusted Cohort	Adjusted 5-Year Cohort	Adjusted 4-Year Cohort
All Students	67,837	782	68,619	83,022	82.7%	79.3%
Am. Indian/AK Native	801	3	804	1,254	64.1%	60.3%
Asian	5,476	65	5,541	6,117	90.6%	87.5%
Pacific Islander	584	4	588	799	73.6%	68.1%
Black	2,977	10	2,987	3,963	75.4%	71.5%
Hispanic	12,740	55	12,795	16,606	77.1%	72.7%
White	40,835	600	41,435	48,866	84.8%	81.9%
Two or More Races	4,423	45	4,468	5,399	82.8%	79.7%

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<sup>1</sup> Students who graduate prior to February of the fourth year are defined as graduating in fewer than four years.

<b>Student Group</b>	<b>Received High School Diploma</b>	<b>Graduated w/ Associates</b>	<b>Total All Gradu</b>	<b>Adjusted Cohort</b>	<b>Adjusted 5-Year Cohort</b>	<b>Adjusted 4-Year Cohort</b>
<b>Students with Disabilities</b>	7,001	3	7,004	10,499	66.7%	59.4%
<b>Students w/out Disabilities</b>	60,836	779	61,615	75,523	85.0%	N/A <sup>2</sup>
<b>English Learner</b>	3,558	8	3,566	5,353	66.6%	57.8%
<b>Non English Learner</b>	64,279	774	65,053	77,669	83.8%	N/A
<b>Low Income</b>	32,147	252	32,399	43,505	74.5%	70.0%
<b>Non Low Income</b>	35,690	530	36,220	39,517	91.7%	N/A
<b>Migrant</b>	1,558	1	1,559	2,129	73.2%	68.2%
<b>Non Migrant</b>	66,279	781	67,060	80,891	82.9%	N/A
<b>Section 504</b>	4,219	16	4,235	5,159	82.1%	78.3%
<b>Non Section 504</b>	63,618	766	64,384	77,863	82.7%	N/A
<b>Homeless</b>	3,586	10	3,596	6,109	58.9%	53.9%
<b>Non Homeless</b>	63,618	766	64,384	77,863	82.7%	N/A
<b>Foster Care</b>	--	--	348	727	47.9%	42.2%
<b>Non Foster Care</b>	--	--	68,271	82,295	83.0%	N/A
<b>Female</b>	34,054	478	34,532	40,410	85.5%	82.6%
<b>Male</b>	33,783	304	34,087	42,612	80.0%	76.3%

Of the 68,619 students reported as graduates in the 5-year cohort, 3,021 students were reported as graduating in the fifth year of the cohort.

### **Results for Adjusted 6-Year Cohort**

The adjusted 6-year cohort graduation rate is calculated using the group of students identified as entering 9th grade for the first time in 2012–13 and who are reported as graduates by the end of 2017–18. The table below shows the adjusted 6-year rate as well as the 4-year rate for the same cohort.

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<sup>2</sup> Prior to the class of 2018 OSPI did not include the “non” student group rates in this report. These rates are available on [OSPI’s Washington State Report Card](#)

**Table 3: Adjusted 6-Year Cohort Graduation Rate (Class of 2016)**

<b>Student Group</b>	<b>Received High School Diploma</b>	<b>Graduated w/ Associates Degree</b>	<b>Total All Graduates</b>	<b>Adjusted Cohort</b>	<b>Adjusted 6-Year Cohort</b>	<b>Adjusted 4-Year Cohort</b>
<b>All Students</b>	67,691	716	68,407	81,859	83.6%	79.1%
<b>Am. Indian/AK Native</b>	867	6	873	1,293	67.5%	60.6%
<b>Asian</b>	5,586	63	5,649	6,156	91.8%	88.6%
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	550	1	551	747	73.8%	68.2%
<b>Black</b>	2,928	11	2,939	3,802	77.3%	70.7%
<b>Hispanic</b>	12,073	67	12,140	15,576	77.9%	72.3%
<b>White</b>	41,667	519	42,186	49,353	85.5%	81.5%
<b>Two or More Races</b>	4,018	49	4,067	4,899	83.0%	77.9%
<b>Students with Disabilities</b>	6,924	5	6,929	9,880	70.1%	58.1%
<b>Students w/out Disabilities</b>	60,767	711	61,478	71,979	85.4%	N/A
<b>English Learner</b>	3,148	7	3,155	4,682	67.4%	57.6%
<b>Non English Learner</b>	64,543	709	65,252	77,177	84.6%	N/A
<b>Low Income</b>	31,701	230	31,931	42,395	75.3%	69.4%
<b>Non Low Income</b>	35,990	486	36,476	39,464	92.4%	N/A
<b>Migrant</b>	1,576	9	1,585	2,137	74.2%	67.4%
<b>Non Migrant</b>	66,115	707	66,822	79,722	83.8%	N/A
<b>Section 504</b>	3,911	24	3,935	4,709	83.6%	77.5%
<b>Non Section 504</b>	63,780	692	64,472	77,150	83.6%	N/A
<b>Homeless</b>	3,257	2	3,259	5,428	60.0%	53.2%
<b>Non Homeless</b>	64,434	714	65,148	76,431	85.2%	N/A
<b>Foster</b>	--	--	363	738	49.2%	39.8%
<b>Non Foster Care</b>	--	--	68,044	81,121	83.9%	N/A
<b>Female</b>	34,019	480	34,499	39,976	86.3%	82.4%
<b>Male</b>	33,672	236	33,908	41,883	81.0%	76.0%

Of the 68,407 students reported as graduates in the 6-year cohort, 1,138 students were reported as graduating in the sixth year of the cohort.



## Results for Adjusted 7-Year Cohort

The adjusted 7-year cohort graduation rate is calculated using the group of students identified as entering 9th grade for the first time in 2011–12 and who are reported as graduates by the end of 2017–18. The table below shows the adjusted 7-year rate as well as the 4-year rate for the same cohort.

**Table 4: Adjusted 7-Year Cohort Graduation Rate (Class of 2015)**

<b>Student Group</b>	<b>Received High School Diploma</b>	<b>Graduated w/ Associates Degree</b>	<b>Total All Graduates</b>	<b>Adjusted Cohort</b>	<b>Adjusted 7-Year Cohort</b>	<b>Adjusted 4-Year Cohort</b>
<b>All Students</b>	67,449	502	67,951	80,853	84.0%	78.1%
<b>Am. Indian/AK Native</b>	846	3	849	1,296	65.5%	56.4%
<b>Asian</b>	5,638	21	5,659	6,102	92.7%	87.8%
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	546	2	548	741	74.0%	67.0%
<b>Black</b>	2,963	2	2,965	3,813	77.8%	68.8%
<b>Hispanic</b>	11,528	46	11,574	14,907	77.6%	69.6%
<b>White</b>	42,004	401	42,405	49,294	86.0%	80.9%
<b>Two or More Races</b>	3,921	27	3,948	4,668	84.6%	77.9%
<b>Students with Disabilities</b>	7,251	4	7,255	9,729	74.6%	57.9%
<b>Students w/out Disabilities</b>	60,198	498	60,696	71,124	85.3%	N/A
<b>English Learner</b>	3,208	7	3,215	4,645	69.2%	55.8%
<b>Non English Learner</b>	64,241	495	64,736	76,28	85.0%	N/A
<b>Low Income</b>	31,652	155	31,807	41,876	76.0%	68.0%
<b>Non Low Income</b>	35,797	347	36,144	38,977	92.7%	N/A
<b>Migrant</b>	1,675	10	1,685	2,305	73.1%	64.4%
<b>Non Migrant</b>	65,774	492	66,266	78,548	84.4%	N/A
<b>Section 504</b>	3,459	12	3,471	4,151	83.6%	76.3%
<b>Non Section 504</b>	63,990	490	64,480	76,702	84.1%	N/A
<b>Homeless</b>	2,820	3	2,823	4,785	59.0%	51.9%
<b>Non Homeless</b>	64,629	499	65,128	76,068	85.6%	N/A
<b>Foster Care</b>	--	--	365	716	51.0%	41.2%
<b>Non Foster Care</b>	--	--	67,586	80,137	84.3%	N/A

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Student Group	Received High School Diploma	Graduated w/ Associates Degree	Total All Graduates	Adjusted Cohort	Adjusted 7-Year Cohort	Adjusted 4-Year Cohort
Female	34,035	317	34,352	39,549	86.9%	81.6%
Male	33,414	185	33,599	41,304	81.3%	74.7%

Of the 67,951 students reported as graduates in the 7-year cohort, 754 students were reported as graduating in the seventh year of the cohort.

## Dropout Rates

Students in an adjusted cohort may be in one of three categories: graduate, dropout, or still enrolled. In other words, a student who didn't graduate may still be enrolled in school and thus wouldn't be reflected in the dropout rate.

### Results for Adjusted 4-Year Cohort

For students who entered 9th grade for the first time in 2014–15 and who are reported as dropouts within the 4-year timeframe, the table below shows the year in which they dropped out. For all students, the 2018 4-year adjusted cohort dropout rate was 11.2 percent. This is a decrease of 0.3 percent from the 2017 4-year rate of 11.5 percent.

Across the various student groups, American Indian/Alaskan Native students had the highest 4-year dropout rate, 26.6 percent. Asian students had the lowest 4-year dropout rate, 5.0 percent.

**Table 5: Adjusted 4-Year Cohort Dropouts (Class of 2018)**

Student Group	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total Dropouts	Dropout Rate Adjusted 4-Year Cohort
All Students	421	915	2,167	5,879	9,382	11.2%
Am. Indian/AK Native	17	33	63	208	321	26.6%
Asian	22	33	61	207	323	5.0%
Pacific Islander	4	15	30	99	148	16.2%

(Continued on next page)

<b>Student Group</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Total Dropouts</b>	<b>Dropout Rate Adjusted 4-Year Cohort</b>
<b>Black</b>	20	48	110	358	536	13.6%
<b>Hispanic</b>	160	272	602	1,556	2,590	15.0%
<b>White</b>	175	454	1,150	3,047	4,826	9.9%
<b>Two or More Races</b>	23	60	145	402	630	11.1%
<b>Students with Disabilities</b>	43	145	400	1,109	1,697	16.5%
<b>Students w/out Disabilities</b>	378	770	1,767	4,770	7,685	10.4%
<b>English Learner</b>	84	161	338	694	1,277	20.6%
<b>Non English Learner</b>	337	754	1,829	5,185	8,115	10.4%
<b>Low Income</b>	277	658	1,662	4,524	7,121	16.6%
<b>Non Low Income</b>	144	257	505	1,355	2,261	5.5%
<b>Migrant</b>	36	42	102	245	425	18.7%
<b>Non Migrant</b>	385	873	2,065	5,634	8,957	11.0%
<b>Section 504</b>	8	47	173	446	674	12.6%
<b>Non Section 504</b>	413	868	1,994	5,433	8,708	11.1%
<b>Homeless</b>	30	122	378	1,207	1,737	28.2%
<b>Non Homeless</b>	391	793	1,789	4,672	7,645	9.8%
<b>Foster Care</b>	--	--	--	--	235	35.3%
<b>Non Foster Care</b>	--	--	--	--	9,147	11.0%
<b>Female</b>	214	395	880	2,323	3,812	9.3%
<b>Male</b>	207	520	1,287	3,556	5,570	13.0%

### **Results for Adjusted 5-Year Cohort**

For students who entered 9th grade for the first time in 2013–14 and who are reported as dropouts within the 5-year timeframe, the table below shows the year in which they dropped out. The 2018 5-year adjusted cohort dropout rate was 14.0 percent. This is a slight decrease from the 2017 5-year rate of 14.2 percent. Females had a 5-year dropout rate of 11.7 percent. Males had a 5-year dropout rate of 16.1 percent.

**Table 6: Adjusted 5-Year Cohort Dropouts (Class of 2017)**

<b>Student Group</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Total Dropouts</b>	<b>Dropout Rate Adjusted 5-Year Cohort</b>
<b>All Students</b>	429	863	2,005	4,757	3,528	11,582	14.2%
<b>Am. Indian/AK Native</b>	14	31	70	150	126	391	31.2%
<b>Asian</b>	33	42	60	173	114	422	6.9%
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	9	13	36	62	53	173	21.7%
<b>Black</b>	25	50	95	302	283	755	19.1%
<b>Hispanic</b>	118	247	540	1,265	967	3,137	18.9%
<b>White</b>	204	436	1,076	2,462	1,754	5,932	12.1%
<b>Two or More Races</b>	26	44	128	327	230	755	14.0%
<b>Students with Disabilities</b>	49	137	381	868	752	2,187	20.8%
<b>Students w/out Disabilities</b>	380	726	1,624	3,889	2,776	9,395	13.0%
<b>English Learner</b>	80	169	272	557	401	1,479	27.6%
<b>Non English Learner</b>	349	694	1,733	4,200	3,127	10,103	13.0%
<b>Low Income</b>	290	633	1,577	3,657	2,887	9,044	20.8%
<b>Non Low Income</b>	139	230	428	1,100	641	2,538	6.4%
<b>Migrant</b>	38	47	101	193	107	486	22.8%
<b>Non Migrant</b>	391	816	1,904	4,564	3,421	11,096	13.7%
<b>Section 504</b>	8	32	101	329	246	716	13.9%
<b>Non Section 504</b>	421	831	1,904	4,428	3,282	10,866	14.0%
<b>Homeless</b>	39	82	312	800	823	2,056	33.7%
<b>Non Homeless</b>	390	781	1,693	3,957	2,705	9,526	12.4%
<b>Foster Care</b>	--	--	--	--	--	314	43.2%
<b>Non Foster Care</b>	--	--	--	--	--	11268	13.7%
<b>Female</b>	190	384	785	1,901	1,449	4,709	11.7%
<b>Male</b>	239	479	1,220	2,856	2,079	6,873	16.1%

## Results for Adjusted 6-Year Cohort

The Adjusted Cohort Dropout Rates for both the 6- and 7-year cohorts are summarized below. Data displaying the number of dropouts by year and category can be found on the OSPI [Data and Reports](#) webpage.

The table below shows the dropout rate for students who entered 9th grade for the first time in 2012–13 and who are reported as dropouts within the 6-year timeframe. For all students, the 2018 6-year adjusted cohort dropout rate was 14.9 percent which is a decrease of 0.4 percent from the 2017 6-year cohort.

**Table 7: Adjusted 6-Year Cohort Dropouts (Class of 2016)**

Student Group	Total Dropouts	Total Adjusted Cohort	Adjusted 6-Year Cohort Dropout Rate	Adjusted 4-Year Cohort Dropout Rate
<b>All Students</b>	12,171	81,859	14.9%	11.7%
<b>Am. Indian/AK Native</b>	391	1,293	30.2%	24.9%
<b>Asian</b>	443	6,156	7.2%	5.7%
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	182	747	24.4%	16.1%
<b>Black</b>	747	3,802	19.6%	13.9%
<b>Hispanic</b>	3,193	15,576	20.5%	16.3%
<b>White</b>	6,439	49,353	13.0%	10.3%
<b>Two or More Races</b>	747	4,899	15.2%	12.2%
<b>Students with Disabilities</b>	2,301	9,880	23.3%	17.5%
<b>Students w/out Disabilities</b>	9,870	71,979	13.7%	N/A
<b>English Learner</b>	1,404	4,682	30.0%	22.7%
<b>Non English Learner</b>	10,767	77,177	14.0%	N/A
<b>Low Income</b>	9,540	42,395	22.5%	17.4%
<b>Non Low Income</b>	2,631	39,464	6.7%	N/A
<b>Migrant</b>	533	2,137	24.9%	20.0%
<b>Non Migrant</b>	11,638	79,722	14.6%	N/A
<b>Section 504</b>	687	4,709	14.6%	10.5%
<b>Non Section 504</b>	11,484	77,150	14.9%	N/A
<b>Homeless</b>	1,985	5,428	36.6%	27.3%
<b>Non Homeless</b>	10,186	76,431	13.3%	N/A
<b>Foster Care</b>	339	738	45.9%	32.9%

Student Group	Total Dropouts	Total Adjusted Cohort	Adjusted 6-Year Cohort Dropout Rate	Adjusted 4-Year Cohort Dropout Rate
Non Foster Care	11,832	81,121	14.6%	N/A
Female	4,917	39,976	12.3%	9.9%
Male	7,254	41,883	17.3%	13.4%

### Results for Adjusted 7-Year Cohort

The table below shows the dropout rate for students who entered 9th grade for the first time in 2011–12 and who are reported as dropouts within the 7-year timeframe. For all students, the 2018 7-year adjusted cohort dropout rate was 15.8 percent, which is a decrease of over one percent from the 2017 7-year cohort.

**Table 8: Adjusted 7-Year Cohort Dropouts (Class of 2015)**

Student Group	Total Dropouts	Total Adjusted Cohort	Adjusted 7-Year Cohort Dropout Rate	Adjusted 4-Year Cohort Dropout Rate
All Students	12,812	80,853	15.8%	11.9%
Am. Indian/AK Native	444	1,296	34.3%	24.5%
Asian	437	6,102	7.2%	5.3%
Pacific Islander	192	741	25.9%	18.3%
Black	844	3,813	22.1%	14.8%
Hispanic	3,311	14,907	22.2%	16.4%
White	6,841	49,294	13.9%	10.7%
Two or More Races	715	4,668	15.3%	11.4%
Students with Disabilities	2,439	9,729	25.1%	17.9%
Students w/out Disabilities	10,373	71,124	14.6%	N/A
English Learner	1,422	4,645	30.6%	22.7%
Non English Learner	11,390	76,208	15.0%	N/A
Low Income	10,009	41,876	23.9%	17.6%
Non Low Income	2,803	38,977	7.2%	N/A
Migrant	618	2,305	26.8%	19.9%
Non Migrant	12,194	78,548	15.5%	N/A
Section 504	674	4,151	16.2%	10.6%
Non Section 504	12,138	76,702	15.8%	N/A

Student Group	Total Dropouts	Total Adjusted Cohort	Adjusted 7-Year Cohort Dropout Rate	Adjusted 4-Year Cohort Dropout Rate
Homeless	1,953	4,785	40.8%	28.9%
Non Homeless	10,859	76,068	14.3%	N/A
Foster Care	347	716	48.5%	34.8%
Non Foster Care	12,465	80,137	15.6%	N/A
Female	5,164	39,549	13.1%	10.0%
Male	7,648	41,304	18.5%	13.7%

## Results for Annual Dropouts Grades 7–12

The table below represents students who were enrolled in grades 7–12 during the 2017–18 school year and whose final status after that year was dropout. Note the annual dropout data below is based on students' reported grade levels and not on graduation cohorts since those are not established until students enter 9th grade for the first time. This dropout rate is an annual snapshot for the 2017–18 school year for all students, rather than a look over multiple years for a specific group of students. Students reported in grades 7–12 with an expected year of graduation of 2018 or later, are included in this dropout rate.

**Table 9: Annual Dropout Rates**

Student Group	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
All Students	2.2%	3.0%	2.2%	3.5%	4.9%	7.4%
Am. Indian/AK Native	3.2%	4.4%	6.2%	8.3%	11.2%	20.0%
Asian	1.6%	2.7%	1.2%	1.8%	1.9%	3.5%
Pacific Islander	5.5%	3.8%	2.4%	5.4%	6.0%	11.6%
Black	5.9%	7.0%	3.6%	4.9%	6.3%	10.0%
Hispanic	2.3%	3.2%	2.9%	4.5%	6.7%	9.8%
White	1.8%	2.5%	1.9%	3.0%	4.3%	6.5%
Two or More Races	2.7%	3.3%	2.7%	3.8%	5.3%	7.8%
Students with Disabilities	2.8%	3.2%	2.8%	4.4%	6.4%	10.7%
English Learner	2.5%	3.1%	3.7%	5.7%	8.9%	13.2%
Low Income	2.8%	3.4%	3.2%	5.1%	7.3%	11.0%
Migrant	2.1%	2.9%	4.1%	4.7%	7.9%	11.9%
Section 504	1.5%	2.2%	1.5%	2.6%	3.4%	5.6%
Homeless	6.8%	10.0%	6.9%	9.9%	13.2%	19.1%

Student Group	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Female	2.2%	3.0%	2.2%	3.2%	4.4%	6.0%
Male	2.2%	2.9%	2.3%	3.7%	5.3%	8.8%

Table 10 shows the number of students associated with each dropout reason, by grade. It also shows the percent of dropouts overall with that given reason code. The most common categories associated with dropouts are unknown and unconfirmed transfers.

**Table 10: Annual Dropouts—Reasons for Dropping Out**

	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	Total Dropouts	Percent of Total
<b>Attended School 4 Years, Did Not Graduate</b>	0	0	0	2	20	619	641	3.5%
<b>Lacked Progress or Poor Grades</b>	5	9	42	116	334	542	1,048	5.6%
<b>School Not for Me, Chose to Stay Home</b>	37	44	87	161	318	496	1,143	6.2%
<b>Married, Family Support, or Child Related</b>	0	0	1	4	18	21	44	0.2%
<b>Offered Training or Chose to Work</b>	0	0	7	26	46	90	169	0.9%
<b>Left to Take GED</b>	0	0	6	40	201	272	519	2.8%
<b>Expelled or Suspended</b>	6	12	20	19	23	30	110	0.6%
<b>Drug or Alcohol Related</b>	1	1	6	8	1	9	26	0.1%
<b>Unconfirmed</b>	814	1,056	661	851	879	702	4,963	26.7%
<b>Dropped for Other or Unknown Reason</b>	929	1,145	993	1,551	2,238	3,037	9,893	53.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,792</b>	<b>2,267</b>	<b>1,823</b>	<b>2,778</b>	<b>4,078</b>	<b>5,818</b>	<b>18,556</b>	



## Conclusion and Next Steps

At the direction of the U.S. Department of Education, Washington uses the adjusted cohort graduation calculation to track a single cohort of students over time. This report summarizes the graduation rates as of the 2017–18 school year for the four, five, six, and seven year graduation cohorts.

For the Class of 2018 (students who first began 9th grade in 2014–15), the 4-year adjusted cohort graduation rate is 80.9 percent, which is 1.6 percentage points higher than the Class of 2017 graduation rate (79.3 percent). An additional 3,128 students from the Class of 2017 graduated during their fifth year of high school (2017–18) for a total 5-year rate of 82.7 percent.

With an adjusted cohort rate of 83.6 percent, the Class of 2016 had an increase of 1.2 percent in their sixth year (2017–18), or 4.5 percent more students graduating after the four-year timeframe. The Class of 2015 had a rate of 84.0 percent graduating after seven years (2017–18), which is a total of 5.9 percent of students graduating in the extended timeframe.

**Table 11: Summary of 4-Year and Extended Graduation Rates**

Class	First Time 9th Grade	4-Year	5-Year	6-Year	7-Year
<b>2018</b>	2014–15	80.9% (67,966)	Avail 2019–20	Avail 2020–20	Avail 2019–21
<b>2017</b>	2013–14	79.3% (65,491)	82.7% (68,619)	Avail 2019–20	Avail 2020–21
<b>2016</b>	2012–13	79.1% (64,126)	82.4% (67,188)	83.6% (68,407)	Avail 2019–20
<b>2015</b>	2011–12	78.1% (62,598)	81.9% (65,959)	83.1% (67,143)	84.0% 67,951

# APPENDICES

## **Appendix A: State, School, and District Level (2018 Adjusted Cohort 4-, 5-, 6-, and 7-year)**

Appendix A is available as an electronic file under *Graduation and Dropout Statistics* on OSPI's [Data and Reports](#) webpage.

- Appendix A: State, School and District Level (2018 Adjusted Cohort data 4-, 5-, 6- and 7-Year)
- Includes student groups including group vs non-group

## **Appendix B: Estimated Benefits from Changes in Washington's High School Graduation Rate**

This appendix was prepared by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) in December 2018.

The 2010 Legislature directed WSIPP to "calculate an annual estimate of the savings resulting from any change compared to the prior school year in the extended graduation rate."<sup>3</sup>

To produce this estimate, WSIPP uses its economic model that assesses benefits and costs of public policies and outcomes. Monetary estimates are calculated for three perspectives:

1) benefits that accrue solely to high school graduates, 2) benefits received by taxpayers from having other people graduate from high school, and 3) any other measurable (non- graduate and non-taxpayer) monetary benefits. For technical details about the WSIPP model, visit the [WSIPP Benefit Cost Technical Documentation](#).

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<sup>3</sup> RCW 28A.175.010

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) calculates a five-year high school graduation rate, which includes students who take more than four years to graduate. In the 2016–17 school year, this graduation rate was 82.4 percent; in 2017–18, the rate was 82.7 percent, an increase of 0.3 percentage points, representing 441 additional graduates (see Table 12).

**Table 12: Change in the Five-Year High School Graduation Rate in Washington State, 2016–17 to 2017–18**

	<b>Five-year Graduation Rate</b>	<b>Students in Cohort</b>	<b>Graduates (Rate * Cohort)</b>
<b>Actual Graduates</b> (2017–18 rate)	82.7%	83,022	68,619
<b>Hypothetical Graduates</b> (based on the 2016–17 rate)	82.4%	83,022	68,418
<b>Difference</b>			201

*Totals may not add due to rounding.*

Using WSIPP’s benefit-cost model, we estimate that the per-student monetary benefit associated with graduating from high school is \$406,473 (see Table 13). The benefits accrue over an individual’s lifetime and the dollar amount is in net present value terms, in 2017 dollars.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> To calculate net present value, we use a .035 discount rate.

**Table 13: The Value of Graduation from High School Per-Student Estimate Benefits, Lifetime, Net Present Value, 2017 Dollars**

	<b>Benefits to Graduates</b>	<b>Benefits to taxpayers</b>	<b>Other beneficiaries</b>	<b>Total benefits</b>
Total	\$192,047	\$121,948	\$92,478	\$406,473
<b>Components of the Benefits</b>				
Higher earnings	\$226,978	\$103,076	\$126,757	\$456,810
Lower crime	\$0	\$908	\$2,698	\$3,605
Health care costs	(\$9,558)	\$34,721	(\$20,992)	\$4,170
Costs of higher education	(\$25,372)	(\$16,757)	(\$15,984)	(\$58,113)

*Source: Washington State Institute for Public Policy Benefit-Cost Model*

*Totals may not add due to rounding*

About half of the benefits go to the graduates themselves in the form of increased earnings, for which they pay taxes (represented as benefits to taxpayers). Some of these gains in earnings come from the greater rate at which high school graduates attend postsecondary institutions. The costs incurred in higher education to achieve the increased earnings are distributed across the funders of higher education. Graduating from high school is also associated with less crime. Additionally, individuals who graduate from high school are more likely to use private health care services and less likely to use publicly funded health care services.

For the 201 additional graduates in 2017–18, the total estimated monetary benefit is \$81.7 million.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> 201 x \$406,473 = \$81,665,807



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