

# Measure: 4-Year Graduation Rate

## What is 4-Year Graduation Rate?

The 4-Year Graduation Rate is a measure of students' on-time graduation. OSPI focuses on the 4-year graduation rate, because the expectation is that most students will graduate high school four years after they enter 9th grade for the first time. OSPI recognizes that not all students will graduate in four years and includes 5-year, 6-year, and 7-year graduation rates on the [Report Card](#).

To earn a high school diploma in Washington, students must meet state and local graduation requirements designed to prepare them for life after high school. The state's minimum requirements include completing the required credits across subject areas, a High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP), Graduation Pathway, and Washington state history. School districts may also have additional local requirements students must complete.

## Why is this measure important?

Earning a high school diploma is a major milestone in education. The 4-year graduation rate can reflect how effectively schools are helping students earn a high school diploma within the expected timeframe. It is a consistent measure of whether students are staying engaged, on track, and supported through graduation.

## How is the data used?

As one of the most cited data points in public K–12 education, the 4-Year Graduation Rate measure is used as a barometer of success at the local, state, and national levels. This measure can also help identify achievement gaps and direct the focus of improvement efforts where students need them the most.

## What does the data show?

The data show that over the past three years there has been a slight decline in the percentage of students graduating high school within four years.



### Percent of Students Graduating in Four Years

School Year	Percent
2022–23	83.6%
2023–24	82.8%
2024–25	82.6%

### What are the business rules for calculating the 4-Year Graduation Rate?

The 4-Year Graduation Rate measure is defined as the rate of students who graduated high school with their 4-year adjusted 9th grade cohort. The 9th grade cohort is made up of all students who start 9th grade together. Students who transfer in or out of a school are added or removed from the cohort.

Numerator = Number of students in the 9th grade adjusted cohort who graduate in four or fewer years.

Denominator = Number of students in the 9th grade adjusted cohort.

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#### Additional Resources

[OSPI Graduation Pathways Webpage](#)

#### OSPI Contact Information

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