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ABSTRACT

Graduation rates and numbers of graduates for spring 1981 through 1985 are presented in seven figures and five tables along with related enrollment information. Data were provided by the Center for Education Statistics' Common Core of Data Surveys derived from administrative records in each state. The graduation rates reflect the number of public school graduates as a percentage of the corresponding ninth-grade enrollment and are adjusted for interstate migration and unclassified students. The national graduation rate for the 5 years included in the tabulations has remained quite stable, varying from a low of 69.5 percent in 1981 to a high of 70.8 percent in 1984. (MLF)

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# Historical report

Center for Education Statistics

U.S. Department of Education

Office of Educational Research and Improvement

ED 297479

# OERI

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July 1987

## Public School Graduates, 1981-1985

Graduation rates and numbers of graduates for spring, 1981 through 1985, are presented in tables 1 through 5 along with related enrollment information. Some highlights from the tables and figures are:

- The national graduation rate for the 5 years included in the tabulations has remained quite stable, varying from a low of 69.5 in 1981 to a high of 70.8 in 1984.
- Nine States and the District of Columbia had increasing or stable graduation rates from 1983 to 1984 and again from 1984 to 1985.
- Both ninth- and twelfth-grade enrollments have decreased every year for the 5 years included in the tabulations.

### METHODOLOGY

Data on numbers of graduates, other completers, and enrollment were provided through the Common Core of Data (CCD) Survey, Part V (State Nonfiscal Report). The CCD surveys are an annual collection of basic information on the universe of public schools. The State Nonfiscal Report includes information on enrollment, staffing, and graduates. The CCD surveys are conducted by the Center for Education Statistics with the assistance of the State education agencies (SEAs) in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the outlying areas under U.S. jurisdiction. Data from outlying areas are not included here, but are available upon request. The data were derived from the administrative records in each State.

In compiling these data from administrative record systems, each SEA obtains fall enrollment reports from the local education agencies (LEAs) that operate public schools. Since each SEA uses various collection

CS 87-369h

EA 020335

methodologies to obtain these data, the "as of dates" for enrollment counts may vary from State to State. Each SEA may edit or examine the individual LEA reports before computing State totals. Upon receipt of the data from each State, CES edits the reports using a machine edit procedure to check for internal and longitudinal consistency. Questionable entries are returned to the SEA for verification or correction before publication.

Graduation rates for 1983-84 and 1984-85 are those published in the State Education Statistics Supplement (also known as "The Wall Chart"), prepared by the Department's Office of Planning, Budget and Evaluation. The graduation rates presented there are derived from the CCD data on enrollment and number of graduates. The rates are adjusted for secondary school students who are not classified by grade and for interstate migration. In the adjusted figures, the number of ninth-grade students used as the base includes the prorated share of unclassified secondary school students for each State. The percentage that ninth-grade enrollment comprises of the ninth- to twelfth-grade enrollment is applied to the unclassified secondary counts and then this figure is added to the ninth-grade count. To adjust for interstate migration, the number of ninth-grade students is multiplied by a migration factor. The migration factor is calculated for each State as a ratio, whose elements are: the 14- to 16-year-olds in 1983 as the numerator; and the 11- to 13-year-olds in 1980 as the denominator. (The numerator is based on the Current Population Survey; the denominator is based on the 1980 Census.)

Graduation rates for 1980-81, 1981-82 and 1982-83 were calculated by CES based on the CCD data using the methodology described above.

#### DEFINITIONS

Enrollment data are the unduplicated headcounts of students whose names were entered on the roll of the school or IEA as of October 1 of the school year. The regular day-school graduates are the number of students receiving a high school diploma from the regular day-school program in the given school year. Other completers are those students receiving a high school diploma or its equivalent from other programs (e.g. GEDs, and adult evening schools).

#### RESPONSE RATES

Although several States did not report the number of "other completers," survey responses were obtained from all States and the District of Columbia for all years presented.

#### LIMITATIONS

The graduation rates presented here reflect the number of public school graduates as a percentage of the corresponding ninth-grade enrollment and are adjusted for interstate migration and unclassified students. There is no adjustment for other factors such as transfers to and from private schools, students who do not advance from grade to grade at the normal rate, and the like. The graduation rate should not be used as a proxy for dropout rates.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

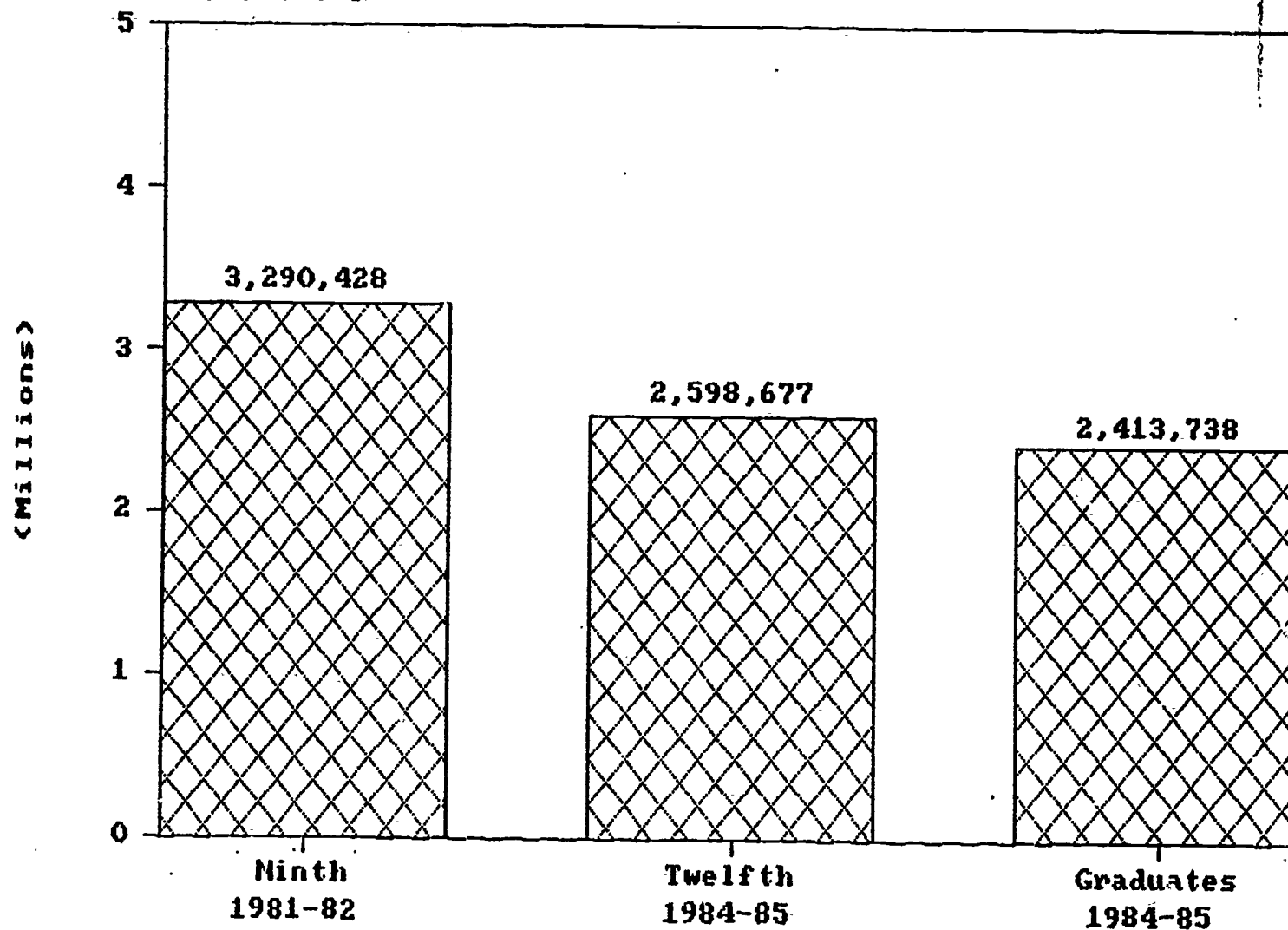
The author is grateful for the comments and suggestions of the reviewers: Jewell Gould from the American Federation of Teachers; Anne Hafner, Phil Kaufman, and Don Malec from the Center for Education Statistics; and Jim Wittebols from the Council of Chief State School Officers.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the CCD Survey, State Nonfiscal Report, contact the project officer, Mary Batcher (202) 357-6618.

To order a 3-year data tape, contact John Dusatko, Information Services, 555 New Jersey Avenue NW., Washington D.C. 20208 or telephone (800) 424-1616.

Figure 1.--Public school: Ninth-grade enrollment, 1981-82; twelfth-grade enrollment, 1984-85; and number of high school graduates, 1984-85, U.S. total

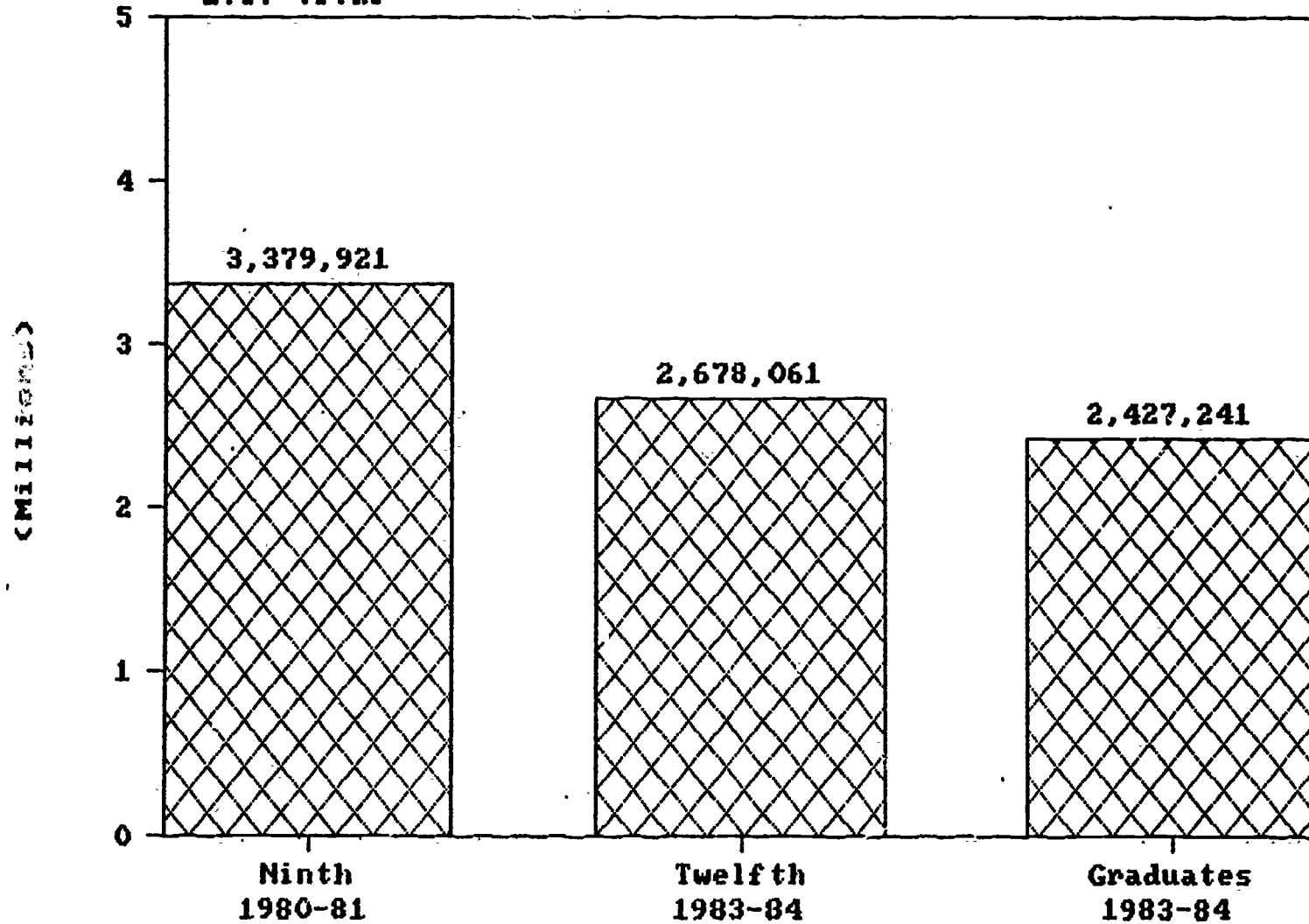


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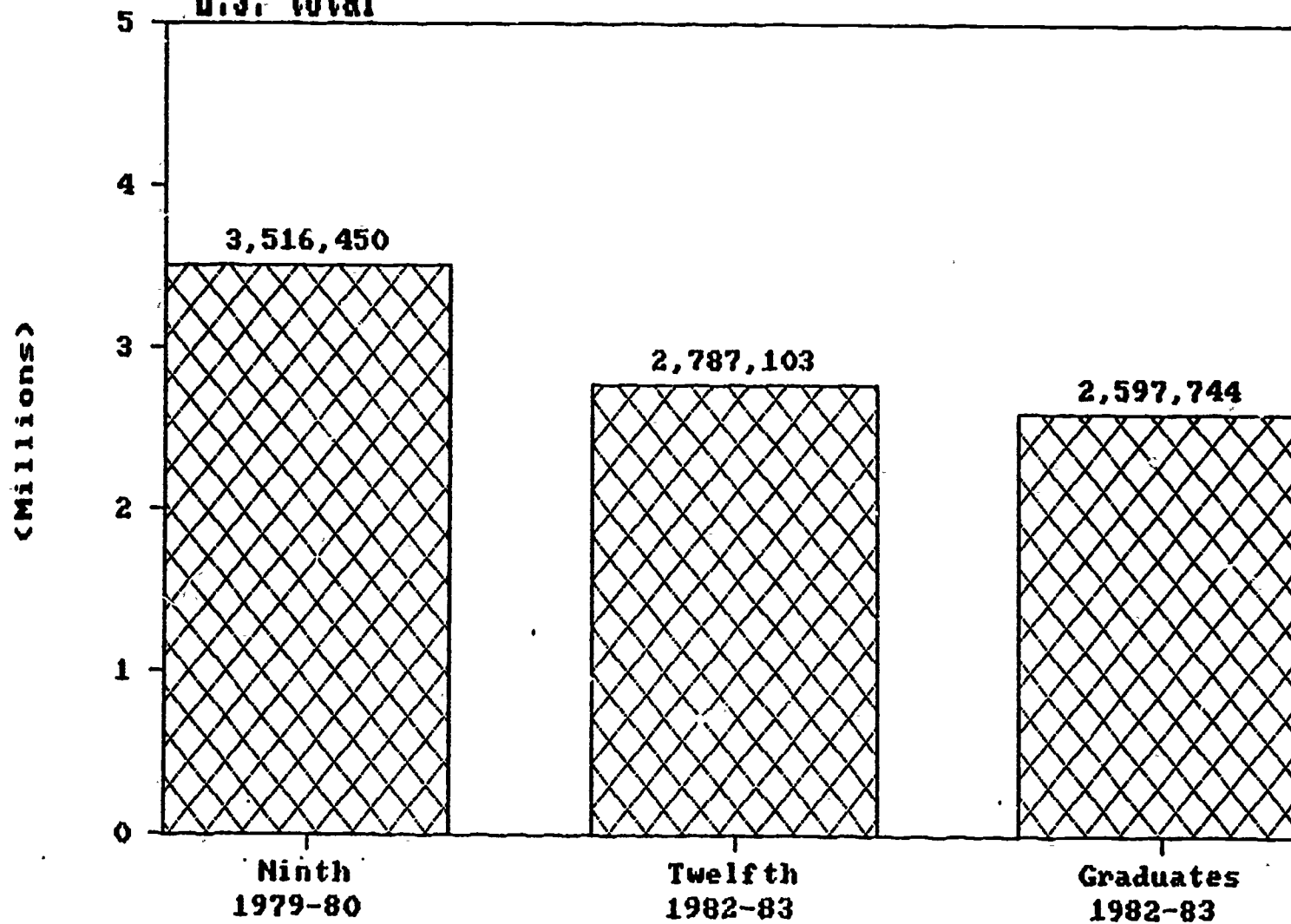
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Figure 2.--Public school: Ninth-grade enrollment, 1980-81; twelfth-grade enrollment, 1983-84; and number of high school graduates, 1983-84; U.S. total



5

Figure 3.--Public school: Ninth-grade enrollment, 1979-80; twelfth-grade enrollment, 1982-83; and number of high school graduates, 1982-83, U.S. total



**Figure 4.--Public school: Ninth-grade enrollment, 1978-79; twelfth-grade enrollment, 1981-82; and number of high school graduates, 1981-82, U.S. total**

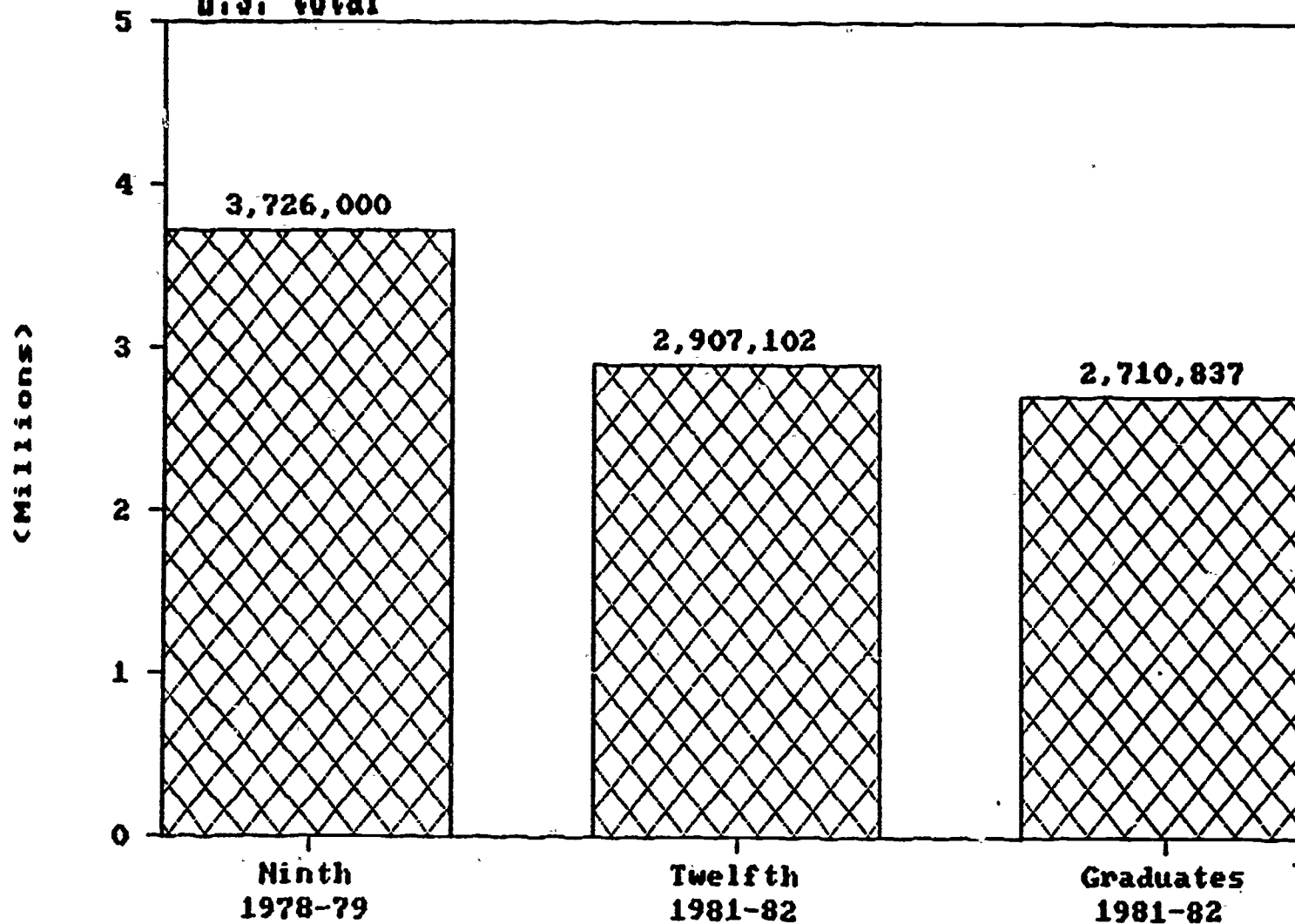




Figure 5.--Public school: Ninth-grade enrollment, 1977-78; twelfth-grade enrollment, 1980-81; and number of high school graduates, 1980-81, U.S. total

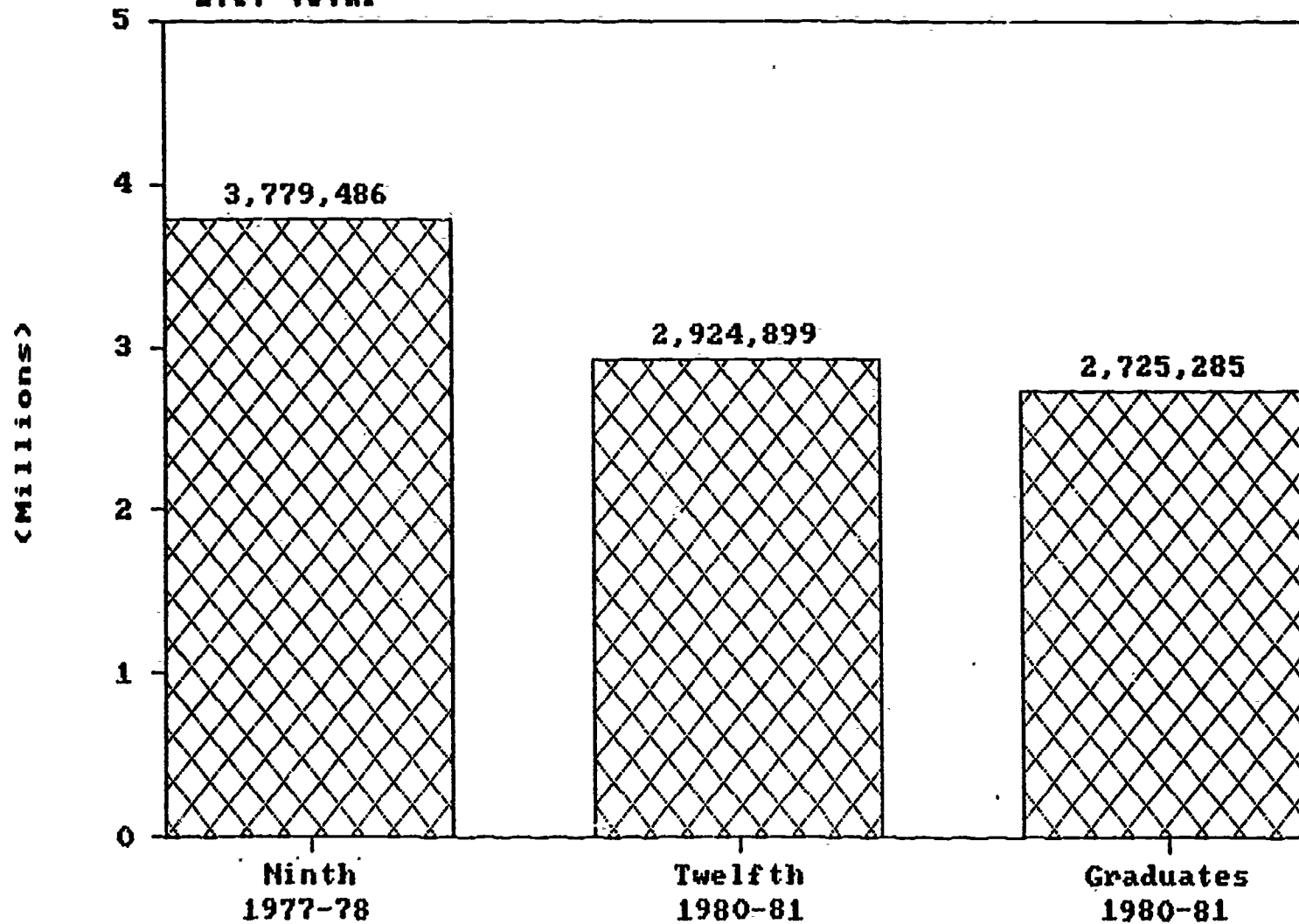


Figure 6.--U.S. graduation rates, academic years 1980-81 to 1984-85, calculated as a percentage of ninth-grade enrollment 3 years earlier, adjusted for interstate migration and secondary students who are not assigned to a standard grade

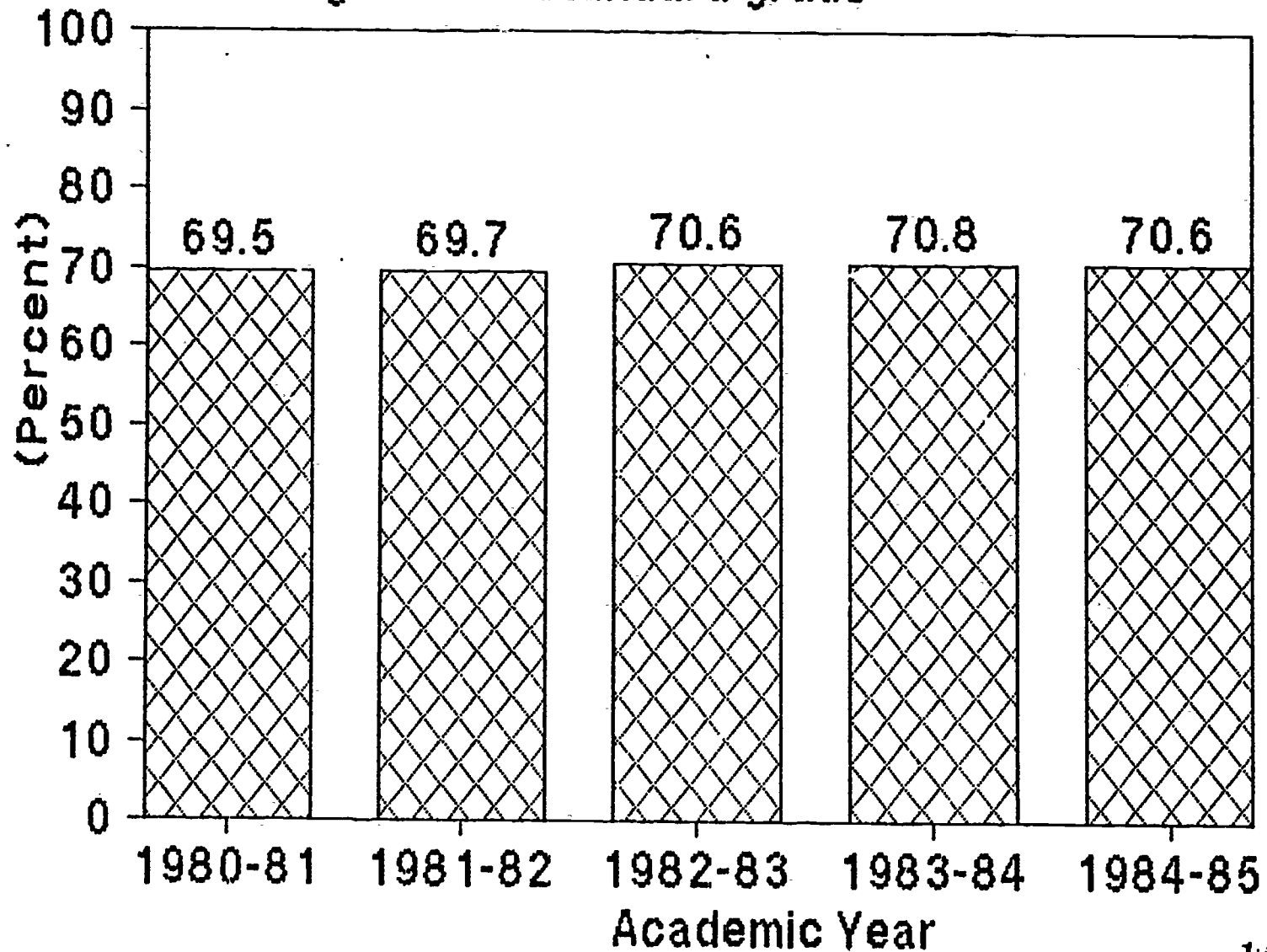


Figure 7.—Changes in graduation rate by State, 1983 to 1985.

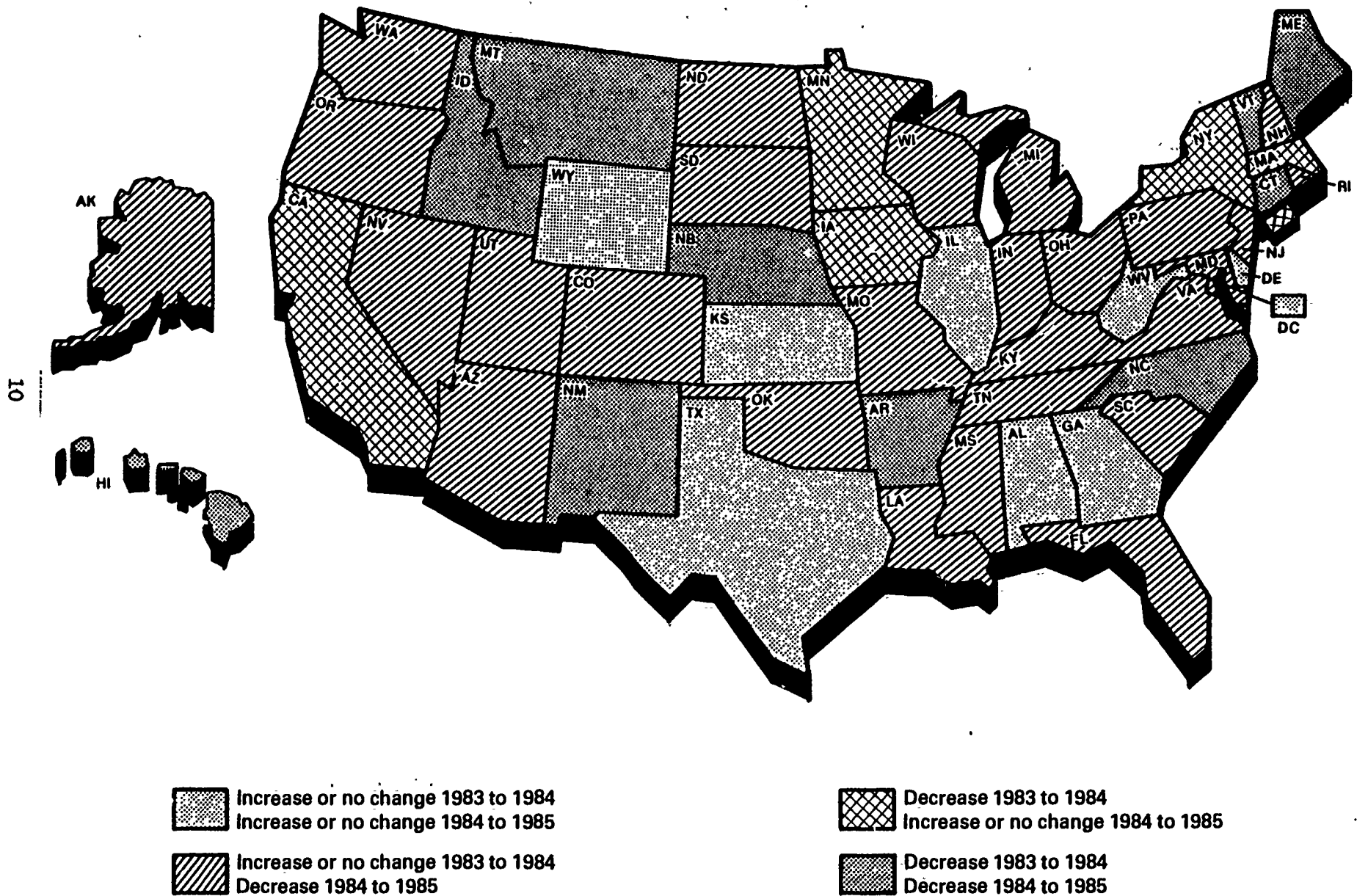


Table 1.--Public school: Number of graduates, twelfth-grade enrollment, ninth-grade enrollment 3 years earlier, and graduation rates by State, 1984-85

State	Ninth-grade enrollment 1981-82	Twelfth-grade enrollment 1984-85	Regular day school graduates 1984-85	Graduation rate adjusted for migration and unclassified students 1984-85	Other completers 1984-85
Total	3,290,428	2,598,677	2,413,738	70.6	
Alabama	63,211	42,017	40,002	63.0	--
Alaska	6,991	6,652	5,184	67.1	2,019
Arizona	39,665	33,394	27,877	64.5	--
Arkansas	34,213	28,418	26,342	75.7	6,653
California	326,143	254,211	225,448	65.8	11,487
Colorado	41,771	35,872	32,255	72.2	6,837
Connecticut	39,951	33,417	32,126	80.4	7,858
Delaware	7,456	6,728	5,893	69.9	1,221
District of Columbia	6,756	4,325	3,940	54.8	1,077
Florida	122,218	89,383	81,140	61.2	24,189
Georgia	90,154	62,420	58,654	62.6	12,231
Hawaii	11,856	9,999	10,092	73.8	1,502
Idaho	15,249	13,259	12,148	76.7	1,045
Illinois	151,348	119,945	117,027	74.0	--
Indiana	81,331	68,646	63,308	76.4	7,863
Iowa	40,612	37,450	36,087	86.5	4,889
Kansas	30,937	27,781	25,983	81.4	5,711
Kentucky	54,869	39,983	37,999	68.2	12,200
Louisiana	66,282	43,000	39,460	54.7	10,500
Maine	17,752	14,487	13,924	78.6	2,934
Maryland	60,196	49,647	48,299	77.7	6,781
Massachusetts	87,182	67,791	63,411	76.3	--
Michigan	142,775	109,706	105,908	71.9	17,045
Minnesota	60,125	58,128	53,352	90.6	5,156
Mississippi	39,567	27,916	25,315	61.8	7,500
Missouri	66,328	55,166	51,290	76.1	7,007
Montana	11,621	10,649	10,016	82.9	--
Nebraska	20,751	19,360	18,036	86.9	1,009
Nevada	11,308	10,230	8,572	63.9	1,910
New Hampshire	14,357	11,127	11,052	75.2	1,974
New Jersey	103,000	84,357	81,547	77.3	13,023
New Mexico	21,051	17,040	15,622	71.9	4,030
New York	252,068	177,510	166,752	62.7	12,395
North Carolina	93,772	70,509	67,245	70.3	16,071
North Dakota	9,100	8,555	8,146	86.1	1,287
Ohio	154,291	134,001	122,281	76.1	11,208
Oklahoma	44,191	36,580	34,626	71.1	6,251
Oregon	37,239	31,037	26,870	72.7	7,120
Pennsylvania	157,224	131,240	127,226	77.2	17,679
Rhode Island	12,688	9,993	9,201	71.3	2,215
South Carolina	53,801	37,622	34,500	62.4	6,947
South Dakota	9,421	8,537	8,206	85.1	1,415
Tennessee	66,487	50,416	43,293	64.1	7,963
Texas	235,048	171,694	159,234	63.2	--
Utah	23,988	22,132	19,890	75.9	3,000
Vermont	7,133	6,111	5,769	83.4	1,429
Virginia	81,394	63,587	60,959	73.7	10,368
Washington	60,030	54,110	45,431	74.9	8,926
West Virginia	28,727	22,930	22,262	72.8	5,304
Wisconsin	69,631	63,524	58,851	84.0	8,153
Wyoming	7,169	6,085	5,687	74.3	1,426

1/ Graduation rates are from the "State Education Statistics Supplement, Student Performance and Resource Inputs, 1985 and 1986" (also known as "The Wall Chart"), U.S. Department of Education, 1987. The rates were calculated based on the ninth-grade enrollment 3 years earlier and were adjusted for interstate migration and secondary students who were not assigned to a standard grade.

2/ Due to differences in reporting across States, these counts are not directly comparable. Because of these differences and missing data, no national total is included.

3/ Estimate.

-- Data not available.

Table 2.--Public school: Number of graduates, twelfth-grade enrollment, ninth-grade enrollment 3 years earlier, and graduation rates by State, 1983-84

State	Ninth-grade enrollment 1980-81	Twelfth-grade enrollment 1983-84	Regular day school graduates 1983-84	Graduation rate adjusted for migration and unclassified students 1983-84	Other completers 1983-84
Total	3,379,921	2,678,061	2,427,241 <sup>3/</sup>	70.8	
Alabama	64,139	46,274	42,021	65.2	--
Alaska	6,639	6,420	5,457	74.7	2,226
Arizona	40,563	33,608	28,332	64.6	--
Arkansas	35,367	28,896	27,049	75.2	5,660
California	335,085	266,889	232,199	63.2	11,345
Colorado	40,937	36,119	32,954	75.4	6,385
Connecticut	42,170	35,423	33,679	79.1	8,953
Delaware	8,076	7,210	6,410	71.1	1,467
District of Columbia	6,906	4,289	4,073	55.2	1,421
Florida	127,374	92,877	85,908	62.2	24,299
Georgia	92,612	64,251	60,718	63.1	11,015
Hawaii -	12,514	10,302	10,454	73.2	1,652
Idaho	14,987	13,068	11,732	75.8	1,144
Illinois	158,553	124,693	122,561	74.5	--
Indiana	83,966	70,246	65,710	77.0	8,444
Iowa	42,372	38,729	37,248	86.0	5,531
Kansas	31,755	28,464	26,730	81.7	6,595
Kentucky	56,989	40,773	39,645	68.4	12,200
Louisiana	67,769	43,012	39,021	56.7	10,547
Maine	18,101	14,543	13,935	77.2	3,050
Maryland	64,232	51,546	50,684	77.8	7,231
Massachusetts	89,307	70,088	65,886	74.3	--
Michigan	149,403	113,642	--	72.2	14,282
Minnesota	57,701	60,348	55,376	89.3	5,271
Mississippi	40,849	28,719	26,324	62.4	7,500
Missouri	69,032	56,623	53,388	76.2	8,697
Montana	12,051	10,889	10,224	82.1	1,627
Nebraska	21,626	19,857	18,674	86.3	805
Nevada	11,221	9,997	8,726	66.5	2,378
New Hampshire	14,933	12,055	11,478	75.2	1,929
New Jersey	107,283	88,568	85,569	77.7	12,916
New Mexico	21,705	17,264	15,914	71.0	4,252
New York	264,763	184,845	174,762	62.2	12,840
North Carolina	94,444	70,113	66,803	69.3	13,361
North Dakota	9,549	8,877	8,569	86.3	1,261
Ohio	158,822	137,818	127,837	80.0	4,497
Oklahoma	43,843	37,567	35,254	73.1	6,167
Oregon	37,060	31,326	27,214	73.9	6,041
Pennsylvania	163,976	136,206	132,412	77.2	21,876
Rhode Island	13,144	10,541	9,652	72.3	3,402
South Carolina	55,509	39,308	36,800	64.5	7,209
South Dakota	9,862	8,955	8,638	85.5	1,646
Tennessee	68,239	52,038	44,711	64.5	8,479
Texas	233,357	172,561	161,580	64.6	--
Utah	22,846	21,901	19,606	78.7	2,948
Vermont	7,392	6,220	6,002	83.1	1,395
Virginia	81,937	65,031	62,177	74.7	10,421
Washington	59,142	53,363	44,919	75.1	9,953
West Virginia	29,095	23,193	22,613	73.1	5,681
Wisconsin	73,603	66,424	62,189	84.5	834
Wyoming	7,121	6,092	5,764	76.0	1,480

1/ Graduation rates are from the "State Education Statistics Supplement, Student Performance and Resource Inputs, 1985 and 1986" (also known as "The Wall Chart"), U.S. Department of Education, 1987. The rates were calculated based on the ninth grade enrollment 3 years earlier and were adjusted for interstate migration and secondary students who were not assigned to a standard grade.

2/ Due to differences in reporting across States, these counts are not directly comparable. Because of these differences and missing data, no national total is included.

3/ Adjusted with estimate of number of graduates for Michigan.

-- Data not available.



Table 3.--Public school: Number of graduates, twelfth-grade enrollment, ninth-grade enrollment 3 years earlier, and graduation rates by State, 1982-83

State	Ninth-grade enrollment 1979-80	Twelfth-grade enrollment 1982-83	Regular day school graduates 1982-83	Graduation rate adjusted for migration and unclassified students 1982-83	Other completers 1982-83
Total	3,516,450	2,787,103	2,597,744	70.6	
Alabama	65,779	48,538	44,352	67.2	--
Alaska	7,144	6,242	5,622	71.3	2,550
Arizona	41,155	33,970	26,530	60.0	--
Arkansas	37,278	29,863	28,447	75.0	6,120
California	315,329	270,700	236,897	68.5	10,902
Colorado	44,060	38,489	34,875	73.1	7,360
Connecticut	49,665	36,887	36,204	72.6	6,056
Delaware	8,523	7,751	6,924	73.4	1,482
District of Columbia	7,853	5,087	4,909	59.8	1,242
Florida	130,610	93,070	86,871	61.3	28,021
Georgia	96,086	66,764	63,293	63.5	13,140
Hawaii	13,087	10,398	10,757	72.8	1,780
Idaho	15,571	13,301	12,126	75.5	--
Illinois	167,180	129,928	128,814	74.5	--
Indiana	90,056	74,377	70,549	76.9	2,011
Iowa	44,992	41,045	39,569	86.1	5,349
Kansas	34,322	29,942	28,316	82.3	7,413
Kentucky	59,727	41,822	40,478	66.7	12,134
Louisiana	69,741	44,786	39,539	55.3	10,867
Maine	19,256	15,257	14,600	76.0	3,662
Maryland	67,109	53,358	52,446	76.5	8,296
Massachusetts	91,915	74,577	71,219	78.0	--
Michigan	156,999	121,036	112,950	70.2	--
Minnesota	65,092	63,677	59,015	90.3	5,970
Mississippi	42,830	29,671	27,271	59.5	14,000
Missouri	74,045	60,472	56,420	75.2	9,636
Montana	12,862	11,231	10,689	80.5	--
Nebraska	23,787	20,991	19,986	82.8	952
Nevada	12,030	10,044	8,979	63.8	2,671
New Hampshire	15,013	12,016	11,470	74.9	2,094
New Jersey	113,375	92,546	90,048	77.6	13,031
New Mexico	23,142	17,968	16,530	69.2	--
New York	275,793	193,475	184,022	63.2	20,285
North Carolina	99,201	71,642	68,783	67.9	15,347
North Dakota	10,154	9,220	8,886	84.2	1,486
Ohio	168,328	138,848	133,524	78.9	4,894
Oklahoma	46,212	38,420	36,799	72.7	6,853
Oregon	38,505	32,039	28,099	73.4	7,464
Pennsylvania	172,480	141,321	137,494	72.7	20,748
Rhode Island	13,971	10,968	10,533	70.2	3,319
South Carolina	56,737	40,343	37,570	64.4	5,082
South Dakota	10,835	9,494	9,206	83.4	1,927
Tennessee	71,731	53,725	46,704	64.1	9,105
Texas	243,499	191,314	168,897	64.7	--
Utah	23,006	21,877	19,350	77.0	4,514
Vermont	7,716	6,435	6,011	79.8	1,660
Virginia	86,600	68,021	65,571	74.5	12,154
Washington	61,812	55,521	45,809	73.3	--
West Virginia	30,448	24,043	23,561	73.1	5,765
Wisconsin	76,574	68,240	64,321	83.9	1,467
Wyoming	7,235	6,353	5,909	76.4	1,911

1/ Graduation rates were calculated based on the ninth-grade enrollment 3 years earlier and were adjusted for interstate migration and secondary students who were not assigned to a standard grade. The number of unclassified students used in the rate adjustment for New Hampshire was estimated by CES.

2/ Due to differences in reporting across States, these counts are not directly comparable. Because of these differences and missing data, no national total is included.

-- Data not available.

Table 4.--Public school: Number of graduates, twelfth-grade enrollment, ninth-grade enrollment 3 years earlier, and graduation rates by State, 1981-82

State	Ninth-grade enrollment 1978-79	Twelfth-grade enrollment 1981-82	Regular day school graduates 1981-82	Graduation rate adjusted for migration and unclassified students 1981-82
Total	3,726,000	2,907,102	2,710,837	69.7
Alabama	67,677	48,365	45,409	63.4
Alaska	7,711	6,564	5,477	64.3
Arizona	38,725	34,179	28,049	63.4
Arkansas	39,763	31,472	29,710	73.4
California	350,186	260,818	241,343	60.1
Colorado	46,518	39,464	35,494	70.9
Connecticut	52,923	38,466	37,706	70.6
Delaware	9,572	7,486	7,144	68.2
District of Columbia	8,105	5,169	4,521	52.8
Florida	138,808	96,718	90,736	60.2
Georgia	97,066	67,458	64,489	65.0
Hawaii	13,733	11,609	11,563	74.9
Idaho	16,327	13,903	12,560	74.4
Illinois	182,530	137,492	136,534	76.1
Indiana	96,205	78,754	73,984	71.7
Iowa	48,352	43,194	41,509	84.1
Kansas	34,970	29,804	28,298	80.7
Kentucky	63,618	44,238	42,531	65.9
Louisiana	72,332	49,449	46,324	61.5
Maine	21,067	15,671	14,764	70.1
Maryland	72,242	55,981	54,621	74.8
Massachusetts	96,705	78,561	73,414	76.4
Michigan	166,411	128,326	121,030	71.6
Minnesota	69,692	66,539	62,145	88.2
Mississippi	44,455	30,201	28,023	61.3
Missouri	79,372	63,472	59,872	74.2
Montana	13,581	11,728	11,162	78.7
Nebraska	25,141	22,296	21,027	81.9
Nevada	12,279	10,313	9,240	64.8
New Hampshire	14,903	12,238	11,669	77.0
New Jersey	120,050	96,708	93,750	76.5
New Mexico	24,625	19,122	17,635	69.4
New York	293,427	202,971	194,605	63.4
North Carolina	104,045	74,327	71,210	67.1
North Dakota	10,892	9,897	9,504	83.9
Ohio	180,431	145,454	139,899	77.5
Oklahoma	49,429	41,134	38,347	70.8
Oregon	40,125	32,594	28,780	72.4
Pennsylvania	181,966	148,972	143,356	76.0
Rhode Island	14,463	11,117	10,545	72.7
South Carolina	58,956	42,146	38,647	63.8
South Dakota	11,752	10,232	9,864	82.7
Tennessee	74,710	56,094	51,447	67.8
Texas	252,288	195,660	172,085	63.6
Utah	23,832	21,784	19,400	75.0
Vermont	8,386	6,886	6,513	79.6
Virginia	90,416	70,432	67,809	73.8
Washington	65,209	59,347	50,146	76.1
West Virginia	31,555	24,306	23,589	66.3
Wisconsin	80,808	71,632	67,357	83.1
Wyoming	7,666	6,359	5,999	72.4

1/ Graduation rates were calculated based on the ninth-grade enrollment 3 years earlier and were adjusted for interstate migration and secondary students who were not assigned to a standard grade.

-- Data not available.

Table 5.--Public school: Number of graduates, twelfth-grade enrollment, ninth-grade enrollment 3 years earlier, and graduation rates by State, 1980-81.

State	Ninth-grade enrollment 1977-78	Twelfth-grade enrollment 1980-81	Regular day school graduates 1980-81	Graduation rate adjusted for migration and unclassified students 1980-81
Total	3,779,486	2,924,899	2,725,285	69.5
Alabama	66,899	49,896	44,894	66.8
Alaska	7,779	6,288	5,343	61.8
Arizona	41,153	35,363	28,416	64.3
Arkansas	39,563	31,076	29,577	73.3
California	356,094	279,544	242,172	63.9
Colorado	46,902	40,014	35,897	71.5
Connecticut	53,970	38,946	38,369	70.5
Delaware	10,111	7,703	7,349	67.0
District of Columbia	8,886	5,416	4,848	49.6
Florida	139,272	96,645	88,755	58.7
Georgia	97,936	66,337	62,963	62.9
Hawaii	14,415	11,954	11,472	72.1
Idaho	16,509	13,751	12,679	74.4
Illinois	186,984	140,292	136,795	71.4
Indiana	97,440	78,386	73,381	74.2
Iowa	50,297	44,382	42,635	83.5
Kansas	36,510	31,109	29,397	80.3
Kentucky	62,003	43,500	41,714	66.4
Louisiana	72,900	49,496	46,199	58.6
Maine	21,795	16,045	15,554	71.5
Maryland	72,046	56,294	54,050	74.1
Massachusetts	97,423	79,840	74,831	77.3
Michigan	171,649	130,699	124,372	71.6
Minnesota	73,509	64,463	64,166	86.9
Mississippi	45,452	30,323	28,083	59.9
Missouri	81,548	64,383	60,359	72.7
Montana	14,384	12,326	11,634	77.4
Nebraska	26,325	22,977	21,411	81.0
Nevada	11,808	10,131	9,069	66.2
New Hampshire	14,989	12,531	11,552	75.7
New Jersey	121,501	97,050	93,168	76.7
New Mexico	24,947	19,860	17,915	69.5
New York	301,129	207,777	198,465	63.3
North Carolina	103,751	73,385	69,395	65.5
North Dakota	11,687	10,359	9,924	81.7
Ohio	182,955	146,289	143,503	78.2
Oklahoma	50,542	41,593	38,875	70.3
Oregon	40,744	33,195	28,729	71.0
Pennsylvania	183,933	150,756	144,645	75.8
Rhode Island	14,715	11,299	10,719	71.6
South Carolina	55,731	40,862	38,347	63.3
South Dakota	12,549	10,797	10,385	81.8
Tennessee	76,133	55,980	50,648	64.6
Texas	249,397	193,475	171,665	64.2
Utah	24,800	22,026	19,886	73.7
Vermont	8,510	6,771	6,424	77.4
Virginia	91,623	70,350	67,126	67.7
Washington	66,469	59,579	50,046	74.5
West Virginia	31,849	23,990	23,580	70.4
Wisconsin	82,264	72,758	67,743	81.7
Wyoming	7,706	6,638	6,161	74.6

1/ Graduation rates were calculated based on the ninth-grade enrollment 3 years earlier and were adjusted for interstate migration and secondary students who were not assigned to a standard grade.

-- Data not available.