



Knocking at the College Door

Projections of High School Graduates

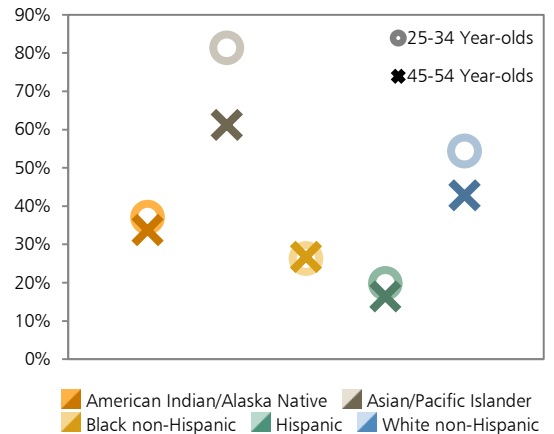
ILLINOIS

National and regional trends mask important variation among states in the supply of high school graduates. This profile provides brief indicators for Illinois related to: current levels of educational attainment, our projections of high school graduates into the future, and two common barriers to student access and success – insufficient academic preparation and inadequate finances.

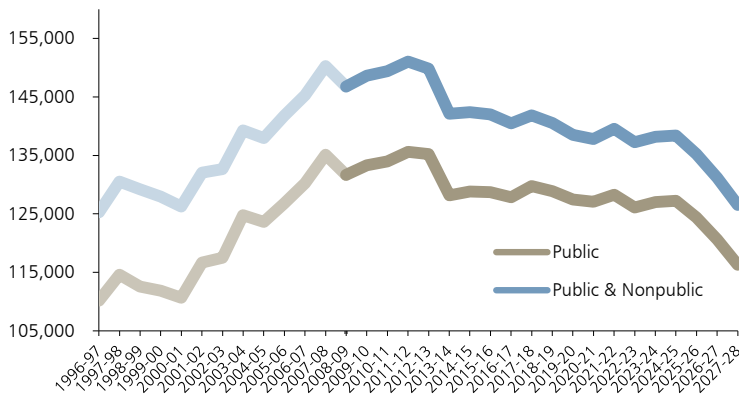
Educational Attainment by Race/Ethnicity¹

Illinois appears to be gaining in educational attainment, as measured by having achieved an associate’s degree or higher. About 45% of younger adults (aged 25-34) have a postsecondary degree versus only 39% for older working-age adults (aged 45-54). But this forward momentum masks a potentially growing attainment gap among racial/ethnic groups.

- Over 61% of older Asians/Pacific Islanders have achieved a degree, 20 percentage points fewer than for their younger counterparts.
- Attainment is also considerably higher for younger White non-Hispanics, 54.4% of whom have a degree, significantly higher than the 42.8% of older White non-Hispanics.
- Hispanics have the lowest attainment rates of any race/ethnicity, although the younger age group has improved its degree attainment to 19.8%, compared to 16.4% for the older group.
- 26% of both age groups of Black non-Hispanics have a degree.



Production of High School Graduates

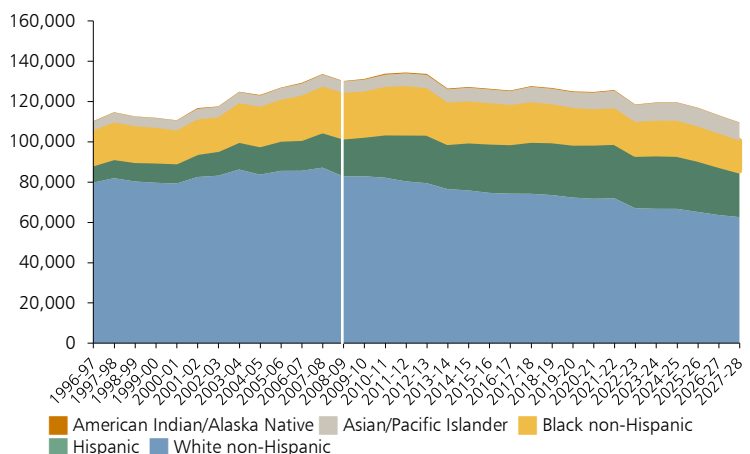


Overall, Illinois is looking forward to a future with a sharply reduced number of high school graduates.

- Graduates are expected to initially increase to just over 151,000 by 2011-12, followed by a sharp decline of nearly 9,000 graduates in just two years, to 142,000.
- Between 2014-15 and 2024-25, the number of graduates will undergo a moderate and fitful decrease to about 138,000. Graduates are projected to decline sharply again beginning in 2025-26.
- Nonpublic schools produced about 13% of all graduates back in 1998-99, but they have been in decline ever since, and by 2019-20 will be only 8% of the total.

Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

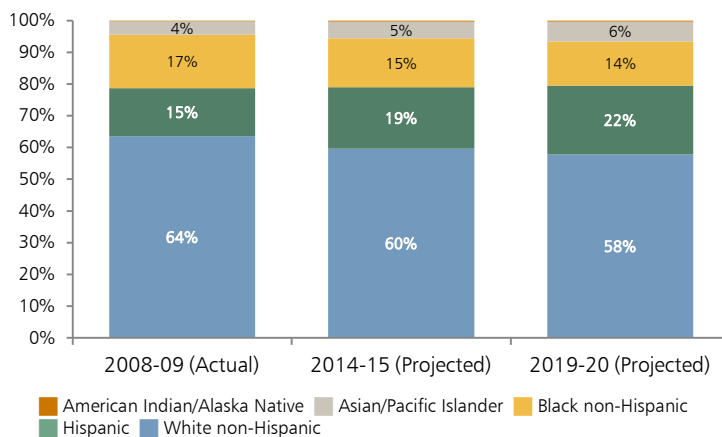
- White non-Hispanic public high school graduates peaked in 2007-08 at 87,097. A steady decline is projected for coming years, to about about 72,000 by 2019-20 (17% less than the peak) and continuing on downward beyond that.
- Black non-Hispanic graduates will bump upward in the initial projected years, climbing over 23,000 in 2011-12, before decreasing to nearly 6,000 by 2019-20.
- The number of Hispanic public graduates doubled in the decade leading up to 2008-09, to 19,616. This trend is projected to carry forward; as of 2011-12, Hispanic graduates will have surpassed Black non-Hispanics as the most numerous minority, on their way to more than 27,000 by 2019-20.



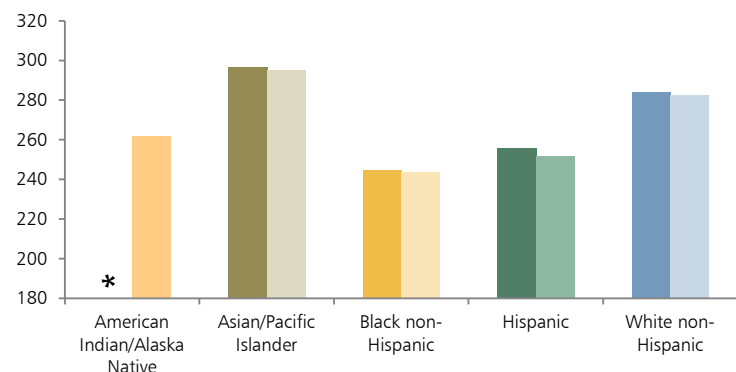
Composition of Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

Illinois can look forward to sweeping changes in the racial/ethnic composition of its public high school graduating classes.

- Projected rapid growth among Hispanics and Asians/Pacific Islanders will drive an overall increase in the non-White share of graduates to 42% by 2019-20.
- Hispanics will grow from 15% to 22% of the class between 2008-09 and 2019-20, while Asians/Pacific Islander graduates will rise 2 percentage points to 6%.
- Black non-Hispanics and White non-Hispanics are each projected to make up smaller shares of the class in 2019-20 than in 2008-09, down 3 and 6 percentage points, respectively.



Composite Math and Reading Scores by Race/Ethnicity²



Note: Illinois in darker shades; U.S. in lighter shades. *Reporting standards were not met and no score is available.

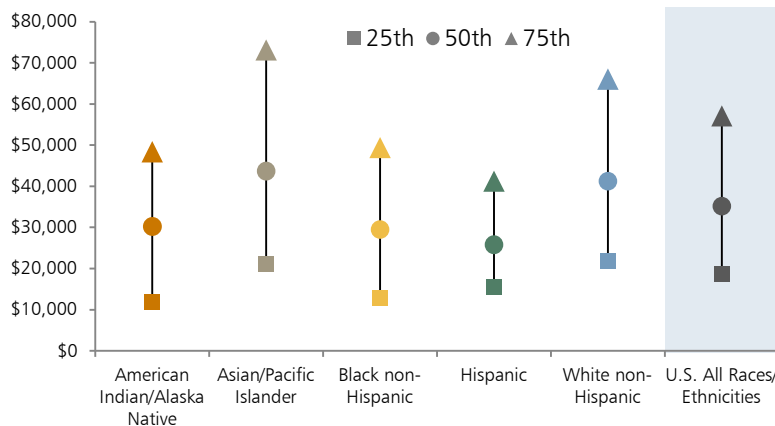
Academic preparation is a major factor in access to and success in college. One indicator of readiness comes from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) math and reading scores for twelfth graders in 2009. The good news for Illinois is that all the racial/ethnic groups for which it had reportable data outperformed their national counterparts. The bad news is that serious gaps in performance among the races/ethnicities are apparent.

- Asians/Pacific Islanders achieved the highest composite score, 296.7, and White non-Hispanics scored 284.1.
- But after that there is a significant drop: Hispanics' score was 255.8 and Black non-Hispanics' score was 244.8 (not statistically different from one another).
- No state-level score was available for American Indians/Alaska Natives.

Annual Income by Race/Ethnicity³

A second major barrier is access to the financial resources needed to pay for college. For the working-age population (25-64) in Illinois from 2006 to 2010:

- The statewide median income was \$37,126, compared with \$35,147 for the nation.
- At \$43,687, Asians/Pacific Islanders had the highest median income, followed by White non-Hispanics at \$41,251.
- At the low end of the income spectrum, Hispanics' median income was \$25,782, a quarter earning \$15,377 or less. One quarter of Black non-Hispanics earned less than \$12,741, and their median income was estimated at \$29,463.



Projections of high school graduates are from WICHE, *Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates*, 2012. 1996-97 to 2008-09 are actual reported graduates and 2009-10 to 2027-28 are projections. The National Center for Higher Education Management Systems supplied the data used in the first and last figures. State-level estimates for those figures are only reported for a racial/ethnic group when the coefficients of variation for all estimates do not exceed 25% and sample size is 50 or greater. Readers should understand that estimates for small samples can be imprecise due to large standard errors. WICHE provides relevant data tables at <http://wiche.edu/knocking-8th/technicalNotes>.

¹Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) File. Average annual percent of population aged 25-34 and 45-54 with an Associate's degree or higher in 2008-10.

²Source: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2009 and 2011 Mathematics and Reading Assessments, generated using the NAEP Data Explorer. <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata/>. Notes: Composite scores are the average of the Math and Reading scores for 12th graders tested in 2009; Math scores (0 to 300) were converted to fit the Reading scale of 0 to 500.

³Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-10 American Community Survey Five-Year Public Use Microdata Sample File. Note: Percentiles for wage/salary income were calculated for persons age 25-64 with positive earnings; unemployed persons with \$0 income were also included. Figures are in 2010 dollars. Native Hawaiians are included in Asian/Pacific Islander.

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