



Knocking at the College Door

Projections of High School Graduates

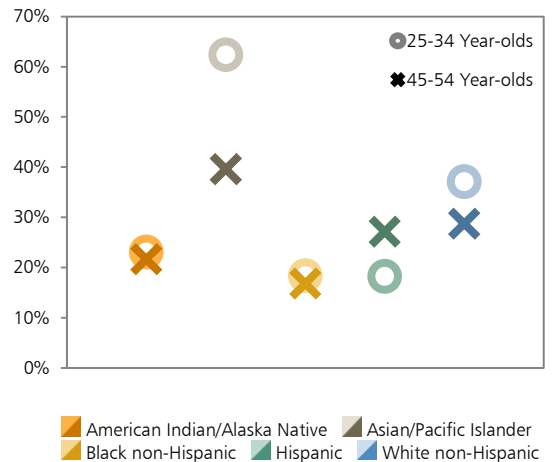
LOUISIANA

National and regional trends mask important variation among states in the supply of high school graduates. This profile provides brief indicators for Louisiana 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.

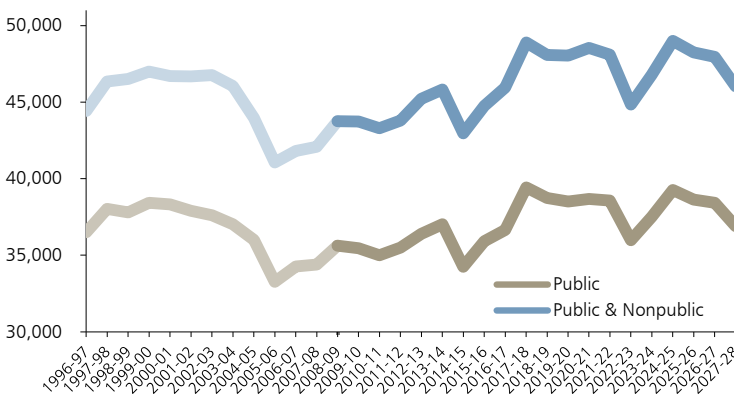
Educational Attainment by Race/Ethnicity¹

Workforce projections indicate there will be a growing demand for well-educated labor, which means that younger adults need to be as well as or more educated than older adults given how much longer they will need to be employed. In Louisiana between 2008 and 2010:

- Not considering race/ethnicity, about 5% more younger adults (ages 25-34) in Louisiana held postsecondary degrees than older adults (ages 45-54), 30% and 25% respectively.
- However, rates of educational attainment lagged the regional and national average among both age groups overall and for most race/ethnicities.
- At 18%, younger Hispanic adults are less likely than older Hispanic adults to hold a postsecondary degree (27%).



Production of High School Graduates



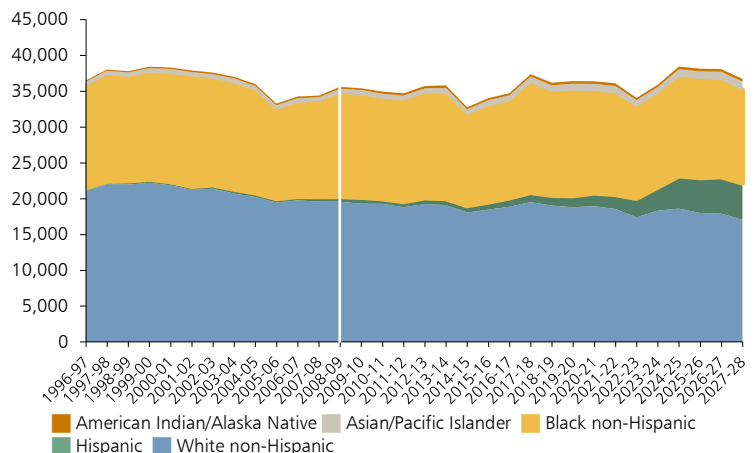
According to our projections, Louisiana’s high school graduating classes will be relatively similar in size across most years of the projections, despite some year-to-year variation.

- Total public and nonpublic graduates will increase from 44,000 in 2008-09 to almost 46,000 in 2013-14, and then drop back slightly for a few years. Except for a brief decline between 2021-22 and 2023-24, class sizes will generally be between 46,000 and 49,000 after 2016-17.
- Nonpublic high school graduates account for about 20% of the total graduating class for most projected years, between 8,300 and 9,600 students in any year, with Louisiana being one of the few states showing increases in nonpublic graduates.

Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

Louisiana is projected to experience increasing diversity among its public high school graduates throughout the projections, largely in relation to increases in Hispanic high school graduates.

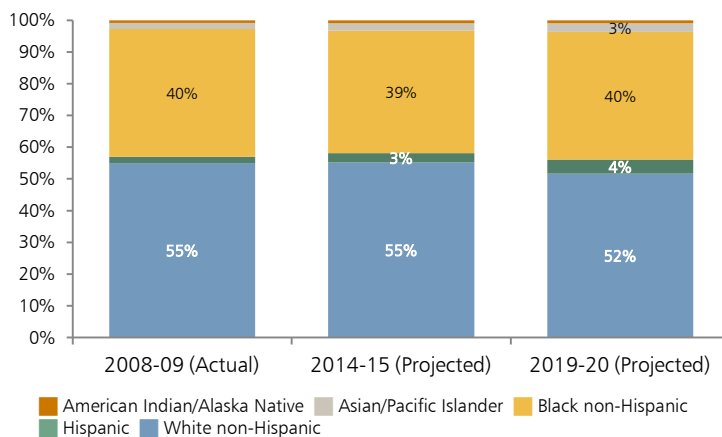
- White non-Hispanic graduates will decrease about 13% (2,500 graduates) by the end of the projections, from the high-point of 19,600 in 2008-09.
- Black non-Hispanics are projected to decline about 10% by the end of the projections, despite relatively stable output and even some increase in a couple of years.
- The number of Hispanic public high school graduates is projected to double from 700 in 2008-09 to 1,400 by 2018-19, and then increase rapidly, to more than 5,000 graduates by the end of the projections.



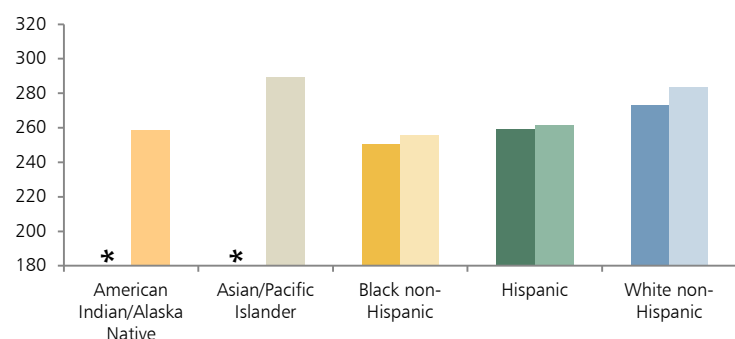
Composition of Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

Despite the projected rapid growth in the number of Hispanic public high school graduates, and steady growth in Asian/Pacific Islanders, our projections indicate that racial/ethnic proportions will remain relatively constant for Louisiana's public high school graduating classes through 2019-20.

- After this, there will be declines in both White and Black non-Hispanic public high school graduates, combined with growth in Hispanics. White non-Hispanics will decline from 55% of the total public high school graduates in 2008-09 to 46% by the last projected year, 2027-28; Black non-Hispanics will decline from 40% to 35%; and Hispanics will increase from 2% to 11% of the total.



Composite Math and Reading Scores by Race/Ethnicity²



Academic preparation is a major factor in college access and success, and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) provides some measure of differences by race/ethnicity.

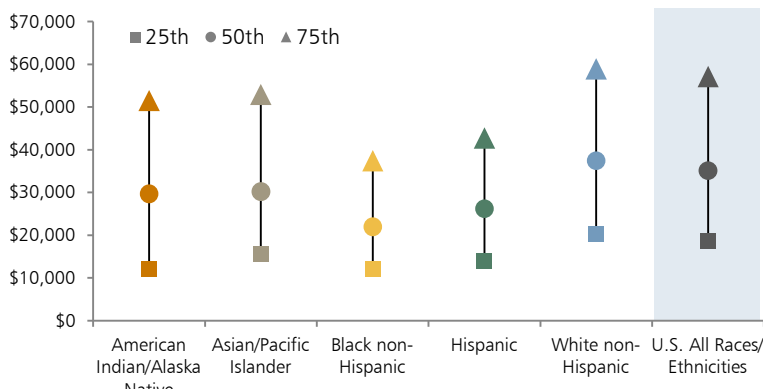
- The average composite math and reading scores for Louisiana 8th graders in 2011 were: 250 for Black non-Hispanics, 259 for Hispanics and 273 for White non-Hispanics; scores were not available for American Indian/Alaska Natives or Asian/Pacific Islanders.
- The average score for each race/ethnicity that was available was generally about the national average.

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

Annual Income by Race/Ethnicity³

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

- The statewide median income was \$31,699, about 90% of the national median income of \$35,147.
- Black non-Hispanics were the least well off financially among all races/ethnicities with a median income of \$21,967, less than two-thirds of the statewide median; three-quarters of Black non-Hispanics earned \$37,400 or less; and one in four earned \$12,100 or less.
- Incomes among Hispanics were also concentrated in the lower-than-average range. There was a wider range for American Indians/Alaska Natives, but the median was still below the statewide median, at \$29,701.



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 8th graders tested in 2011, scale of 0 to 500; scores for 12th graders taking NAEP were not available for this state.

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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