



Research Note

RN1301
April 2014

Dr. Terry Froman

Graduation Rates by Gender and Ethnicity/Race - 2011-12 and 2012-13

Definition of Cohort

The percentages in outcome categories for this report are based on a four-year adjusted cohort model. This means that for each category of interest, the denominator consists of all students entering grade 9 for the first time four years prior to the year for which the rate is calculated, plus incoming transfers (ninth graders in the first year of the cohort, tenth graders in the second year of the cohort, eleventh graders in the third year of the cohort and twelfth graders in the fourth and final year of the cohort) minus adjustments to the cohort (exiting transfers and deceased students). Thus, any rate referred to in this report as the 2012-2013 rate reflects the disposition of students who entered 9th grade in September of 2008, along with their grade-level peers, who would have been normally expected to graduate in June of 2013.

Outcome Categories

For the purposes of this report, students at the end of their four-year high school history were classified into five exhaustive and mutually exclusive categories: adult school attendees, graduates, dropouts, non-graduating completers, and continuing students. This report especially focuses on the percentages of graduates and dropouts when broken down by both ethnicity/race and gender.

Definition of Graduate#

Starting in the 2011-2012 school year, the school grade accountability system for the State of Florida changed from using the National Governors Association (NGA) rate to the Federal Uniform Rate (FUR) for defining longitudinal graduation rates. The FUR is a more rigorous measure and generally results in lower graduation rates.

For the calculation of graduation rates, all students from the denominator who are not specifically classified as on-time graduates become non-graduates – including dropouts and other students who remain enrolled at the end of year 4 but have not yet graduated with a qualifying diploma, as well as certificate recipients and recipients of non-qualifying special diplomas and GED based diplomas.

Definition of Dropout

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) currently defines a dropout as a student who: (1) voluntarily removes himself or herself from the school system before graduation; (2) has not met the relevant attendance requirements of the school district, or the student's whereabouts are unknown; (3)

has withdrawn from school but has not transferred to another public or private school; (4) has withdrawn from school because of hardship; or (5) is not eligible to attend school because of reaching the maximum age for an exceptional student program. Rates depicted in this report reflect the withdrawal codes pertaining to these outcomes as recorded by school site personnel.

The percentages by each outcome category for each of the ethnicity-gender combinations for the last two years are presented below.

	2011-2012	2012-2013		2011-2012	2012-2013
Black Female			Black Male		
Adult	0%	3%	Adult	0%	4%
Graduates	73%	74%	Graduates	63%	65%
Dropouts	11%	8%	Dropouts	17%	12%
Non-Grad Completers	7%	8%	Non-Grad Completers	5%	7%
Continuing	9%	8%	Continuing	15%	14%
Cohort	2826	3206	Cohort	2660	3114
Hispanic Female			Hispanic Male		
Adult	1%	2%	Adult	1%	4%
Graduates	80%	81%	Graduates	73%	76%
Dropouts	7%	4%	Dropouts	13%	7%
Non-Grad Completers	7%	7%	Non-Grad Completers	6%	6%
Continuing	4%	5%	Continuing	7%	7%
Cohort	7311	8262	Cohort	7463	8273
White Female			White Male		
Adult	2%	1%	Adult	1%	3%
Graduates	86%	89%	Graduates	81%	83%
Dropouts	5%	4%	Dropouts	9%	5%
Non-Grad Completers	3%	2%	Non-Grad Completers	3%	3%
Continuing	4%	3%	Continuing	5%	6%
Cohort	1225	1128	Cohort	1179	1213

