

E&R Report No. 11.09

April 2011

HIGH SCHOOL FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION RATES, WAKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM (WCPSS): 2009-10

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BACKGROUND

The federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) requires public school districts and high schools to report a four-year graduation rate. There are school, district, and state rates. WCPSS now has five years' worth of cohort graduation rates.

The 2009-10 four-year cohort graduation rate is defined as the percentage of students who entered the 9th grade *for the first time* during the 2006-07 school year and who earned a diploma by June of 2010. Students who transfer into a school on grade level are added to that school's cohort, and those who transfer out are removed. Students who are initially in a school cohort and transfer off grade level from one WCPSS school to another WCPSS school are in the district cohort graduation rate calculation but are not included in any school rate. These students are removed from both the sending school's and the receiving school's cohort, but they stay in the district cohort. Students who earn a certificate of completion are in the cohort but are not counted as graduates.

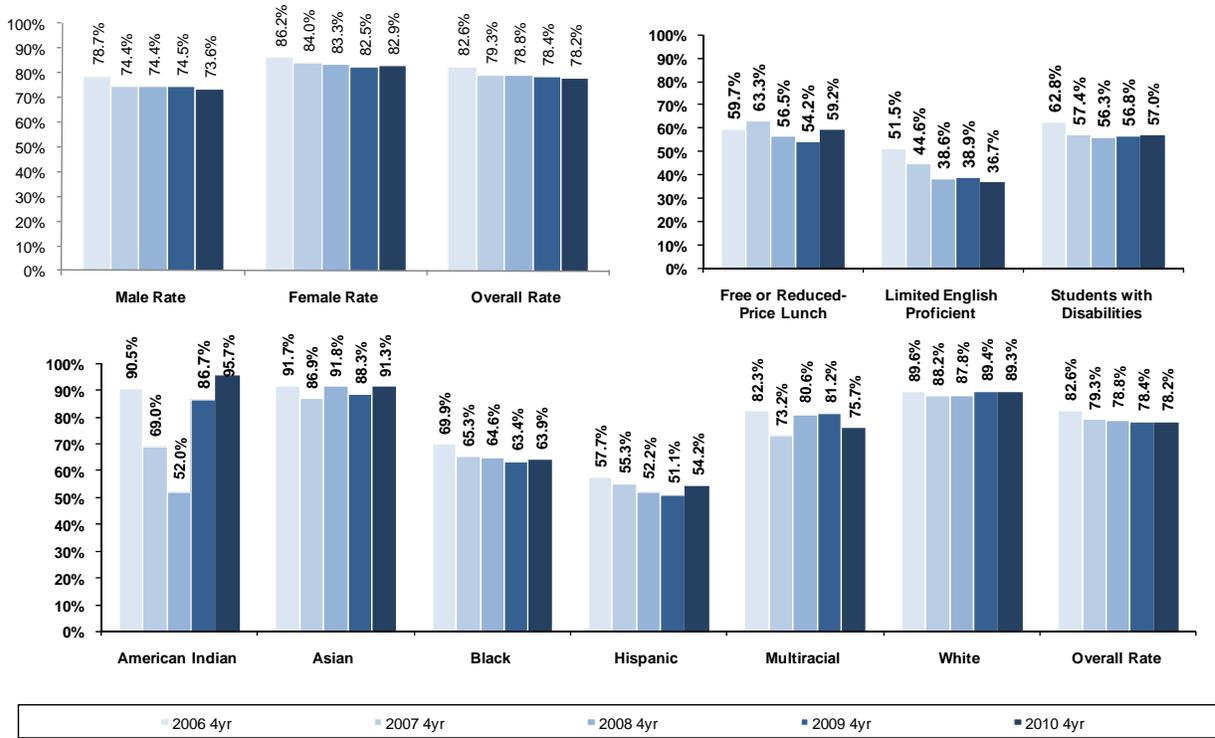
GRADUATION RATE RESULTS

Overall rates and subgroup rates for the 2009-10 cohort of students are summarized below.

1. The overall cohort graduation rate for WCPSS in 2009-10 was 78.2%, meaning that about four out of every five students who enrolled in 9th grade for the first time in 2006-07 had graduated four years later. This rate was down just slightly from 2008-09, when 78.4% of that year's cohort graduated within four years (Figure 1).
2. Female students in WCPSS had a higher graduation rate in 2009-10 than male students (Figure 1). The rate for male students declined to 73.6% from 74.5%. The rate for females was 82.9%, slightly higher than 82.5% in 2008-09, while among ethnic groups, male rates varied from 50.1% to 88.5%, and female rates varied from 58.4% to 94.2% (Figure 2).

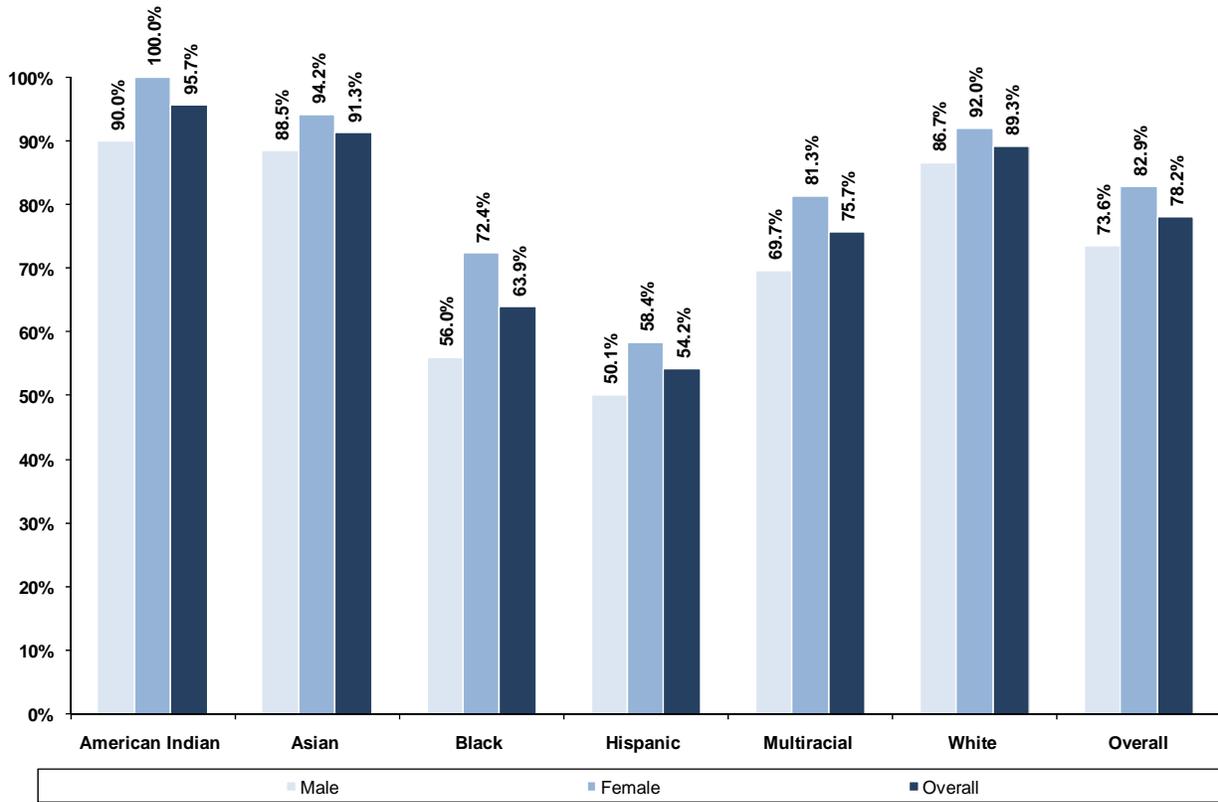
3. As seen in previous years, students with disabilities (SWD), students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch (FRL), and students with limited English proficiency (LEP) all had graduation rates that were substantially below the system-wide average. However, the rate for the FRL subgroup rose to 59.2% from 54.2% in 2008-09, as did the rate for the SWD subgroup (to 57.0% from 56.8%). The rate for the LEP subgroup declined to 36.7% in 2009-10 from 38.9% (Figure 1).
4. The four-year graduation rate varied considerably among ethnic subgroups (from 54.2% to 91.3%), with White and Asian students showing the highest rates and Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino students the lowest. In 2009-10, the rates for the Asian (91.3%), Hispanic/Latino (54.2%), Black/African American (63.9%) subgroups increased, but the White (89.3%) and Multiracial (75.7%) rates decreased. After four years of decline, the Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino subgroups showed an increase in their graduation rates for the first time (Figure 1).
5. Comparisons reveal that WCPSS overall rates compare favorably to other North Carolina school districts, the state, and the nation. WCPSS rates were as high as, or higher than most other large NC public school districts in 2009-10, and higher than the state (Figure 3).
6. Subgroup analysis that compared WCPSS 2009-10 graduation rates to other selected North Carolina school districts and the state found that WCPSS had rates above the state rates and also above most of the comparison districts for male, female, Asian, Multiracial, and White students. Graduation rates for Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, FRL, and LEP subgroups were below the state rate, and Hispanic/Latino, FRL, and LEP subgroup rates were the lowest of all the comparison districts (Figures 4, 5, and 6).
7. In WCPSS, the individual high school rates in 2009-10 varied from 72.6% to 92.8%. Fifteen of twenty-five (60 %) schools had graduation rates above 80% (Table 1).

Figure 1
WCPSS Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rates
by Subgroup Over Five Years, 2005-06 to 2009-10



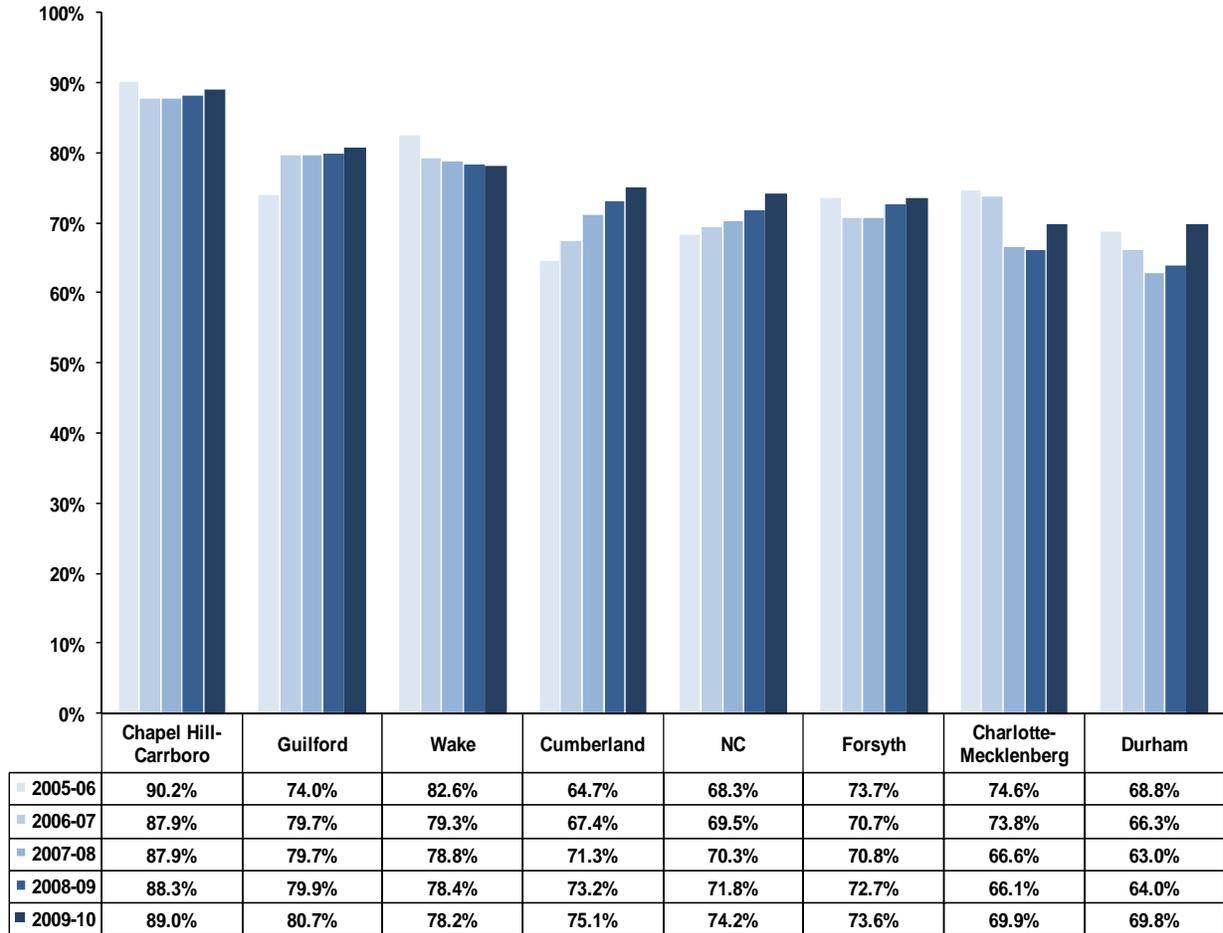
Note: The rate for the American Indian subgroup varies greatly from year to year because of the small size of the group, so results should be viewed with caution.

Figure 2
WCPSS Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rates
by Gender and Ethnicity, 2009-10



Note: The rate for the American Indian subgroup varies greatly from year to year because of the small size of the group, so results should be viewed with caution.

Figure 3
Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rates for WCPSS, NC
and Selected NC School Districts Over Five Years, 2005-06 to 2009-10



Note: Due to data adjustments by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (DPI), percentages have changed slightly from earlier reports for Guilford (2007-08), North Carolina (2007-08 and 2008-09), and Durham (2007-08).

Figure 4
Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rates by Gender
for WCPSS, NC and Selected NC School Districts, 2009-10

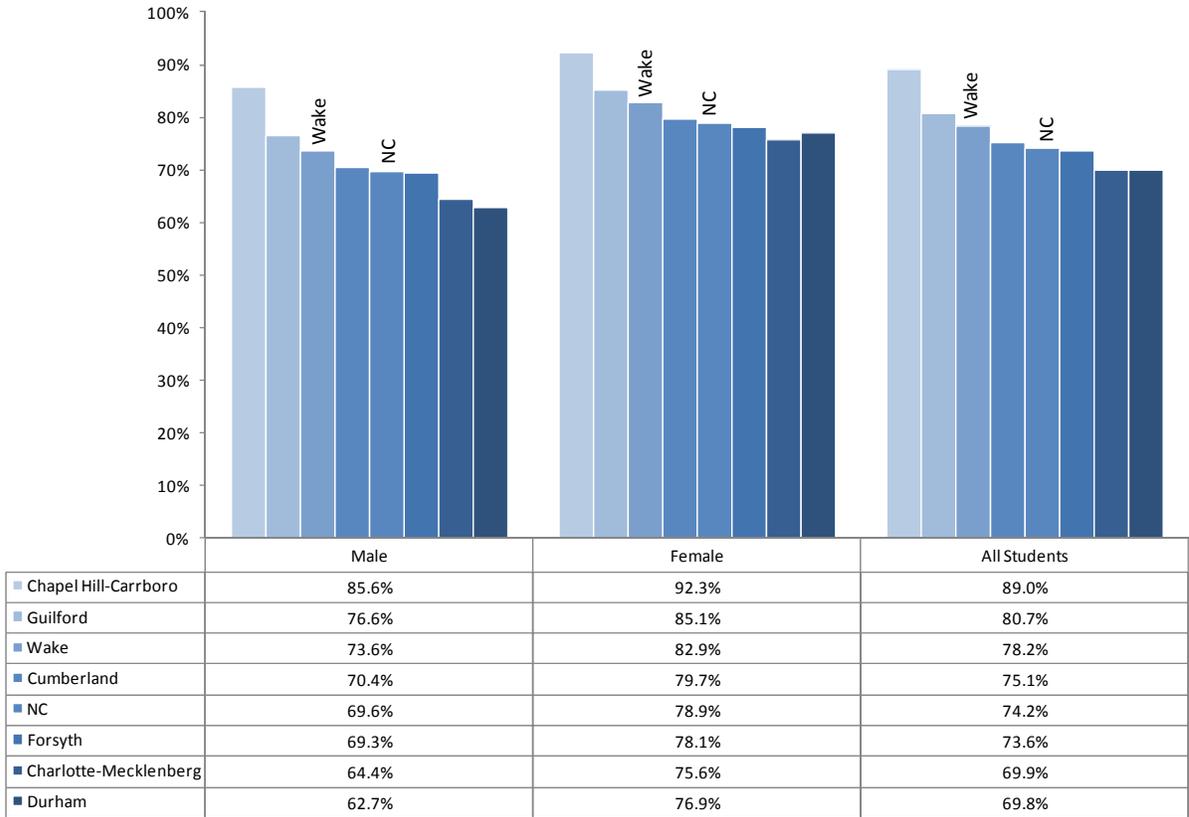
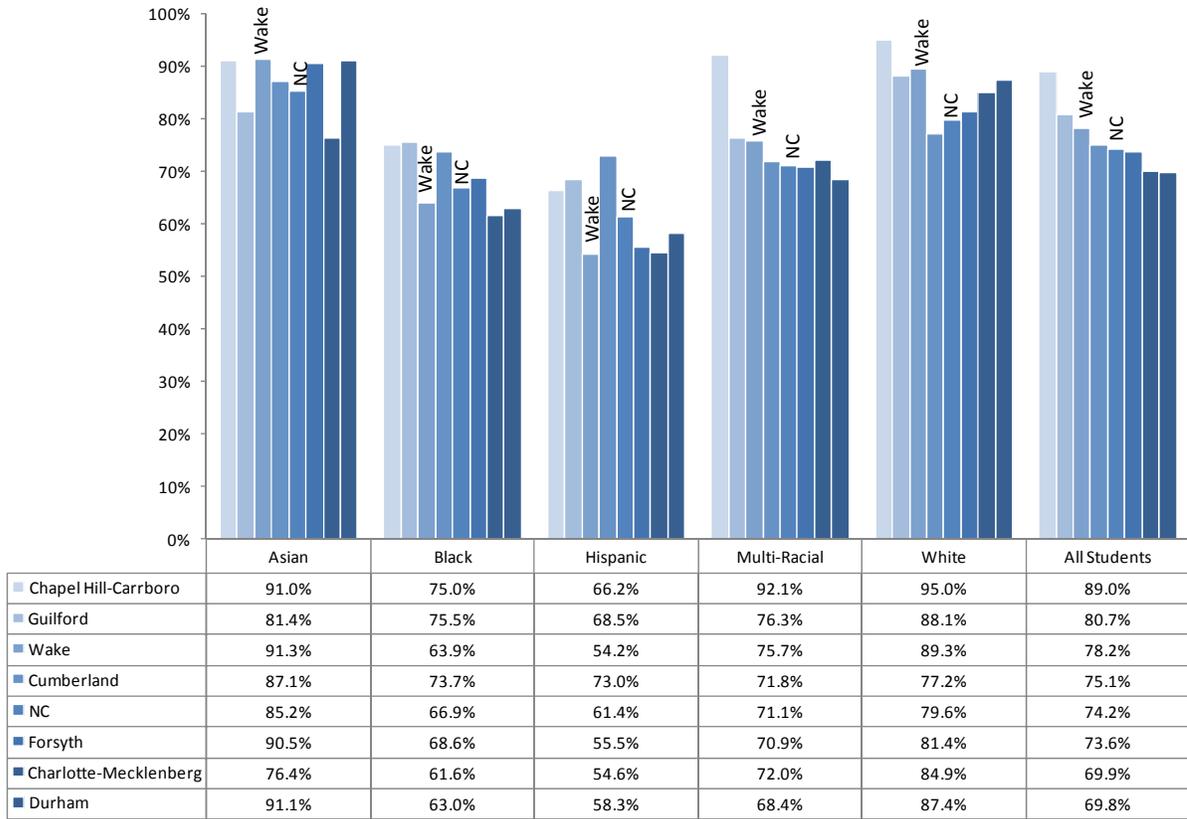


Figure 5
Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rates by Ethnicity
for WCPSS, NC and Selected NC School Districts, 2009-10



Note: Rates for the American Indian subgroup are not shown because of the small size of the group.

Figure 6
Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rates by FRL, LEP, and SWD Subgroups
for WCPSS, NC and Selected NC School Districts, 2009-10

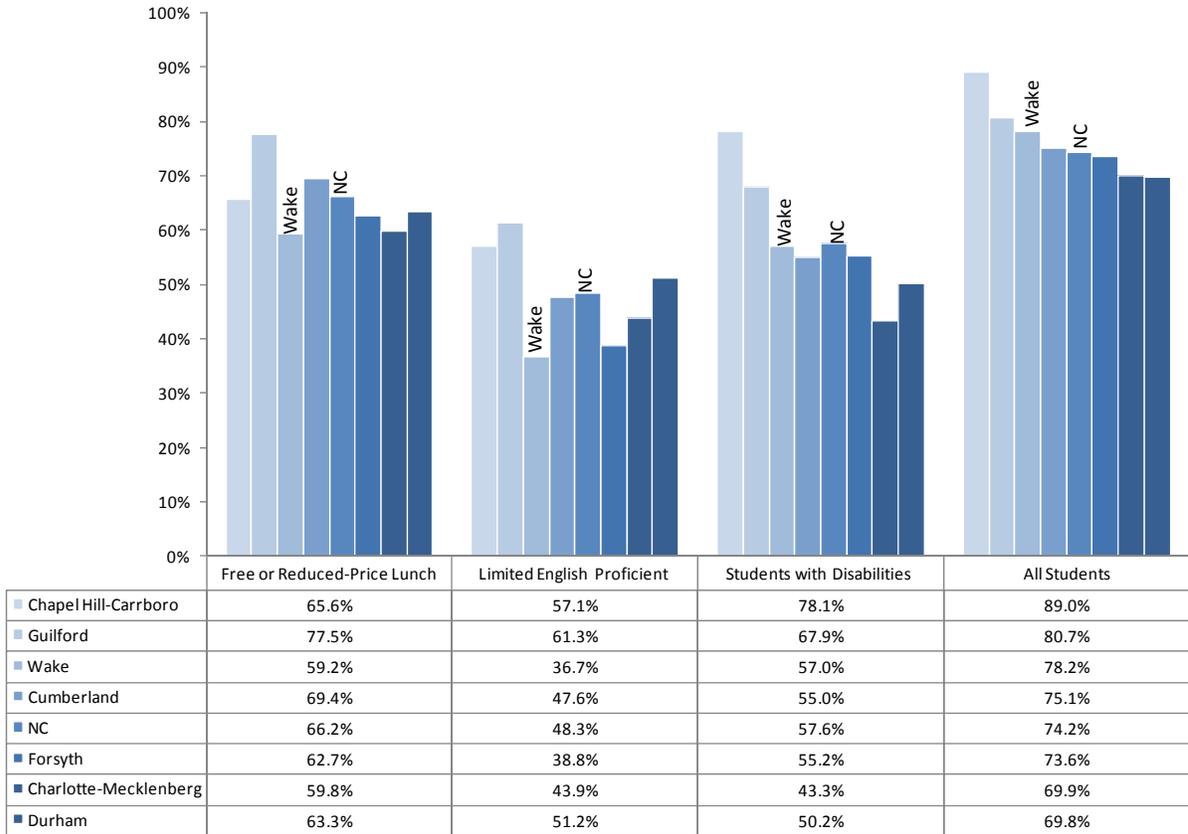


Table 1
Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rates
for WCPSS High Schools, 2009-10

<u>School/Unit</u>	<u>Rate</u>
NC	74.2%
WCPSS	78.2%
Apex	91.2%
Athens Drive	78.1%
Broughton	83.7%
Cary	80.9%
East Wake: Arts	75.6%
East Wake: Engineering	88.4%
East Wake: Health	85.3%
East Wake: Technology	77.8%
Enloe	84.2%
Fuquay-Varina	80.7%
Garner	72.6%
Green Hope	92.6%
Holly Springs	82.1%
Knightdale	73.7%
Leesville Road	86.4%
Middle Creek	83.3%
Millbrook	76.8%
Panther Creek	92.8%
Phillips	79.3%
Sanderson	75.0%
Southeast Raleigh	82.6%
Wake Forest-Rolesville	89.1%
Wakefield	83.4%

Note: Rates are not calculated for high schools that did not have a graduating class in 2010.