

# Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate – Texas Tied for 22<sup>nd</sup> in On-time Graduation in 2011-12

by Roy L. Johnson, M.S.

In 2011-12, Texas ranked 22<sup>nd</sup> out of 50 states and the District of Columbia in on-time graduation from public high schools – the percentage of public high school students who graduate with a regular high school diploma four years after starting ninth grade. That year, Texas tied with four other states – California, Colorado, Illinois, and Kentucky – with an on-time graduation rate of 82 percent compared to the national average of 81 percent.

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) in the U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, released the 2010-11 and 2011-12 averaged freshman graduation rates (AFGR) in April 2014. With annual estimates of school dropouts and completers since the 1960s, the AFGR provides an estimate of the percentage of high school students starting at ninth grade who graduate on time with a regular diploma. Data for this measure were drawn from counts of enrollment by grade and graduates in the Common Core of Data (CCD) State Non-fiscal Survey of Public Elementary/Secondary Education. In order to calculate the rate, aggregate student enrollment data are used to estimate the size of the incoming freshman class and aggregate counts of the number of diplomas awarded four years later.

The 50 states and the District of Columbia reported counts of high school graduates in 2011-12 (see table on Page 30 for rates by state and rank orders by state for the period of 2009-10 to 2011-12). The data were reported by state education agencies for high school graduates between the period of October 1 and September 30 of each applicable school year.

## Methods

The averaged freshman graduation rate is calculated by dividing the number of graduates with regular diplomas by the size of the incoming freshman class four years earlier and is expressed as a percent. Aggregate student enrollment data and aggregate counts of the number of diplomas awarded are used to esti-

mate the percent of students who graduate on time.

## Major Findings

Major findings of the latest NCES study on averaged freshman graduation rate include the following (also see the tables on Pages 30 and 31).

- In the 2011-12 school year, about four out of five students in the United States graduated from high school on time – within four years of after starting high school as a freshman in Grade 9.
- The averaged freshman graduation rate in the United States increased from 78.2 percent in 2009-10 to 80 percent in 2010-11 to 81 percent in 2011-12.
- For the class of 2011-12, the averaged freshman graduation rate of public high schools ranged from a low of 60 percent in the Nevada to a high of 93 percent in Nebraska and Vermont.
- Twenty-six states had rates equal to or higher than the national average of 78.2 percent – California, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, and Wisconsin. In 2011-12, Texas ranked 22<sup>nd</sup> among the 50 states and the District of Columbia with a rate of 82 percent.
- Twenty-four states and the District of Columbia had rates lower than the overall average of 78.2 percent – Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

- Twenty-nine states had rates 80.0 percent or higher – California, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.
- In the United States in 2011-12, American Indian/Alaska Native, Black and Hispanic, and male students had an averaged freshman graduation rate below the national average. American Indian/Alaska Native students and Black students had an on-time rate of 68 percent, while Hispanic students had a rate of 76 percent. White students had a rate of 85 percent, while Asian/Pacific Islander students had a rate of 93 percent. By gender, males had a rate of 78 percent compared to 85 percent for females.

Nationally and in Texas about four out of five students who enter a freshman class graduated with a regular diploma within four years. Most minority group students and male students had an on-time graduation rate below the national average. The disparity in on-time graduation rates as estimated by averaged freshman graduation calculations suggest that our state and nation must continue to address issues surrounding dropout and graduation in our public schools.

## Resources

Johnson, R., *Texas Public School Attrition Study, 2013-14, Overall Attrition Rates Take Another Step Forward – Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate: Texas Ranks 25th in On-Time Graduation in 2009-10*. (San Antonio, Texas: Intercultural Development Research Association, October 2013).

U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, and National Center for Education Statistics. *Public High School Four-Year On-Time Graduation Rates and Event Dropout Rates: School Years 2010-11 and 2011-12, First Look* (April 2014).

## Averaged Freshman Graduation Rates, by State, School Years 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12

State or Jurisdiction	2009-10		2010-11		2011-12	
	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank
<b>United States</b>	<b>78.2</b>		<b>80</b>		<b>81</b>	
Alabama	71.8	43	76	40	75	43
Alaska	75.5	37	78	32	79	30
Arizona	74.7	42	79	30	77	39
Arkansas	75.0	41	77	37	78	34
California	78.2	29	80	25	82	22
Colorado	79.8	24	82	19	82	22
Connecticut	75.1	39	85	12	86	12
Delaware	75.5	37	76	40	77	39
District of Columbia	59.9	50	61	50	71	48
Florida	70.8	44	72	44	75	43
Georgia	69.9	45	70	47	70	49
Hawaii	75.4	38	74	43	78	34
Idaho	84.0	10	83	17	84	16
Illinois	81.9	16	80	25	82	22
Indiana	77.2	30	80	25	80	27
Iowa	87.9	5	89	5	89	5
Kansas	84.5	8	87	7	89	5
Kentucky	79.9	23	81	22	82	22
Louisiana	68.8	46	71	45	72	46
Maine	82.8	13	86	10	87	9
Maryland	82.2	15	84	15	84	16
Massachusetts	82.6	14	85	12	86	12
Michigan	75.9	36	75	42	77	39
Minnesota	88.2	4	89	5	88	7
Mississippi	63.8	49	69	48	68	60
Missouri	83.7	12	85	12	86	12
Montana	81.9	16	84	15	86	12
Nebraska	83.8	11	90	3	93	1
Nevada	57.8	51	59	51	60	51
New Hampshire	86.3	7	87	7	87	9
New Jersey	87.2	6	87	7	87	9
New Mexico	67.3	48	71	45	74	45
New York	76.0	35	78	32	78	34
North Carolina	76.9	32	77	37	79	30
North Dakota	88.4	3	90	3	91	4
Ohio	81.4	19	82	19	84	16
Oklahoma	78.5	27	80	25	79	30
Oregon	76.3	34	78	32	78	34
Pennsylvania	84.1	9	86	10	88	7
Rhode Island	76.4	33	77	37	76	42
South Carolina	68.2	47	69	48	72	46
South Dakota	81.8	18	82	19	83	20
Tennessee	80.4	21	81	22	83	20
<b>Texas</b>	<b>78.9</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>22</b>
Utah	78.6	26	78	32	78	34
Vermont	91.4	1	93	1	93	1
Virginia	81.2	20	83	17	84	16
Washington	77.2	30	79	30	79	30
West Virginia	78.3	28	78	32	80	27
Wisconsin	91.1	2	92	2	92	3
Wyoming	80.3	22	80	25	80	27

Source: Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education, *Public High School Four-Year On-Time Graduation Rates and Event Dropout Rates: School Years 2010-11 and 2011-12, First Look* (April 2014)

## 2011-12 Averaged Freshman Graduation Rates, by Race-Ethnicity and Gender

State	Total	Race-Ethnicity					Gender	
		American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Hispanic	Black	White	Female	Male
United States	81	68	93	76	68	85	85	78
Alabama	75	87	89	67	68	80	79	72
Alaska	79	62	98	84	75	83	82	78
Arizona	77	67	89	72	73	82	81	73
Arkansas	78	69	84	80	72	79	81	75
California	82	77	96	77	70	88	86	78
Colorado	82	57	87	76	65	84	86	79
Connecticut	86	‡98	95	74	73	90	89	83
Delaware	77	89	96	70	69	81	82	72
District of Columbia	71	∞	∞	59	70	98	80	62
Florida	75	94	94	78	66	77	82	73
Georgia	70	86	90	64	62	76	75	66
Hawaii	78	65	76	68	77	56	81	75
Idaho	84	67	96	83	78	83	86	82
Illinois	82	91	98	79	64	89	85	83
Indiana	80	80	‡99	83	63	82	87	78
Iowa	89	59	91	88	64	90	92	87
Kansas	89	64	92	87	70	89	92	86
Kentucky	82	72	‡99	89	78	82	86	80
Louisiana	72	68	98	87	65	76	78	66
Maine	87	60	‡98	97	83	86	88	86
Maryland	84	70	96	85	74	87	89	81
Massachusetts	86	70	98	69	82	90	89	85
Michigan	77	66	92	51	60	83	82	74
Minnesota	88	48	92	70	66	92	91	86
Mississippi	68	44	85	68	63	72	74	61
Missouri	86	98	98	92	73	87	89	83
Montana	86	62	87	96	65	87	88	84
Nebraska	93	68	97	93	65	93	95	91
Nevada	60	37	71	50	41	64	65	55
New Hampshire	87	65	‡99	86	74	87	90	84
New Jersey	87	59	‡99	78	74	91	89	84
New Mexico	74	71	90	73	68	76	78	71
New York	78	68	94	65	65	85	79	76
North Carolina	79	74	88	78	68	82	83	76
North Dakota	91	62	‡95	82	‡98	93	93	89
Ohio	84	75	97	82	64	89	89	84
Oklahoma	79	72	‡99	78	66	80	82	76
Oregon	78	58	87	78	65	78	85	77
Pennsylvania	88	79	‡99	76	75	92	91	86
Rhode Island	76	52	74	72	66	76	80	72
South Carolina	72	53	83	72	64	76	78	67
South Dakota	83	42	‡98	77	77	88	85	82
Tennessee	83	94	94	‡	76	86	86	81
Texas	82	97	94	80	73	84	85	80
Utah	78	58	87	65	60	80	80	76
Vermont	93	‡90	‡98	‡95	‡98	91	95	91
Virginia	84	82	96	92	71	85	90	81
Washington	79	41	81	79	57	80	85	77
West Virginia	80	69	‡98	81	76	80	82	78
Wisconsin	92	76	97	85	63	96	94	90
Wyoming	80	44	79	77	58	82	82	78

∞ Data were suppressed ‡ Greater than or equal † Data were suppressed because the reported data did not meet NCES standards.

Source: Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education, *Public High School Four-Year On-Time Graduation Rates and Event Dropout Rates: School Years 2010–11 and 2011–12, First Look* (April 2014)