

News Release

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Graduation rates continue to climb

MADISON — Wisconsin’s statewide public school graduation rate continued its upward trend, improving 2.3 percentage points between the 2009-10 and 2012-13 school years. The class of 2013 had a four-year graduation rate of 88.0 percent, five-tenths of a point higher than the prior year.

“We are making great strides in getting kids to graduate in four years,” said State Superintendent Tony Evers. “The 2013 data confirms a recent national report that puts us among the tops in the nation for graduation rates.”

The National Center for Education Statistics report of cohort graduation rates showed that Wisconsin’s 2012 graduation rate was 88 percent, which was tied for second in the nation with Nebraska, Texas, and Vermont. Iowa’s graduation rate for 2012 was 89 percent.

4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate	
2009-10	85.7%
2010-11	87.0%
2011-12	87.5%
2012-13	88.0%
6-Year Cohort Graduation Rate	
2011-12	90.4%
2012-13	91.3%

For the class of 2013, there were 58,778 Wisconsin public school graduates from the cohort of 66,808 students. These students entered high school in the 2009-10 school year. Data shows an increase in graduation rates for almost all students groups and significant closing of gaps among all racial and ethnic groups over four years.

“Through the hard work of teachers, school staff members, parents, and the students themselves, we are making progress to improve graduation rates for all students,” Evers said. “Earning a high school diploma is critical to the next steps in a young person’s life: ready for college and careers.”

The federal uniform graduation rate is based on four-year diploma completion for a cohort of students. The cohort begins when a student starts high school and is adjusted for students who transfer to another state or nonpublic school, emigrate to another country, or die during the timeframe. The graduation rate is based on earning a regular high school diploma.

The state’s six-year graduation rate reached 91.3 percent. Wisconsin computes five- and six-year cohort graduation rates to report the efforts of students who take additional time to complete their high school education. Under special education law and the Wisconsin Constitution, students are guaranteed a free appropriate public education through the age of 20. The five- and six-year rates show the positive impact of extra time for special

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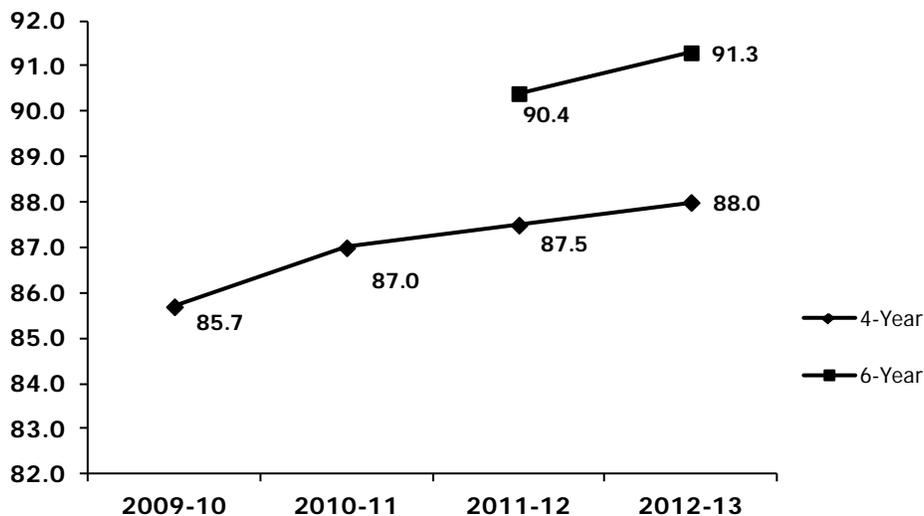
populations of students. Graduation rates over a longer timeframe for students of color, economically disadvantaged students, and students with disabilities show major gains in the number and percentage of graduates within the cohort.

“We are advancing our Agenda 2017 goal with these significant increases in graduation rates,” Evers said. “I expect that our Dropout Early Warning System (DEWS) and other proactive strategies to meet student needs and boost academic achievement will benefit even more students so they walk across the stage to claim the high school diploma they have earned.”

Part of a secure data system for educators, DEWS looks at factors such as attendance and assessment results to identify students as early as middle school who are more likely to dropout or have a delayed graduation. Teachers, counselors, and parents use this information together to develop strategies that will support the student’s academic and school success.

Graduation data, reported for the first time in the WISEdash Public Portal, shows that the four-year graduation rate improved between the 2009-10 and 2012-13 school years for almost all subgroups of students. The 2010 and 2011 cohorts of graduates, through the five- and six-year graduation rates, also show increased percentages of students earning a high school diploma. Disparities among racial and ethnic groups and white students and students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged, and English language learners and their peers are large, though most show evidence of closing gaps.

Wisconsin 4- and 6-Year Graduation Rates
All Students



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NOTES: Additional information about graduation rates is available on the attached table. District- and school-level graduation rate data is available on WISEdash, the Department of Public Instruction’s public data portal, <http://wisedash.dpi.wi.gov/>. Click on the “Graduation” tab. This news release is available electronically at http://news.dpi.wi.gov/files/eis/pdf/dpinr2014_59.pdf.

Wisconsin Graduation Rates Statewide by Student Group

Percent of Students Earning a Regular High School Diploma

	4-Year				5-Year			6-Year	
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2011-12	2012-13
All Students	85.7	87.0	87.5	88.0	89.5	90.4	90.8	90.4	91.3
American Indian / Alaska Native	67.7	71.7	75.5	74.1	73.9	77.5	79.9	75.3	79.3
Asian *	83.4	88.4	88.4	90.2	91.2	92.7	92.7	92.1	93.7
Black or African American	60.5	63.8	62.7	64.8	69.3	71.5	71.2	71.5	73.8
Hispanic / Latino	69.0	72.0	74.3	74.3	76.6	78.8	80.7	78.1	80.5
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	--	82.5	88.7	79.4	--	87.2	94.2	--	87.2
White, Not Hispanic	90.7	91.4	92.2	92.4	93.3	93.9	94.3	94.0	94.5
Two or More Races	--	85.7	83.9	85.6	--	91.1	89.5	--	92.2
Female	88.1	89.4	89.7	90.6	91.4	92.2	92.4	92.2	92.9
Male	83.3	84.7	85.4	85.5	87.7	88.8	89.2	88.8	89.9
With Disabilities	64.6	67.1	68.6	68.7	74.3	76.9	78.1	78.8	81.3
Without Disabilities	88.6	89.8	90.0	90.4	91.6	92.3	92.4	92.0	92.7
Economically Disadvantaged	71.7	74.1	74.9	76.6	79.5	81.0	81.8	81.3	83.2
Not Economically Disadvantaged	90.6	91.9	92.9	93.1	92.9	94.0	94.5	93.5	94.4
English-Language Learners	65.1	66.0	66.1	62.3	76.5	74.4	75.0	77.8	76.2
English Proficient	86.3	87.6	88.2	88.6	89.9	90.9	91.2	90.8	91.8

* Also included Pacific Islander through 2009-10.

NOTE: Due to 2010-11 race and ethnicity reporting changes, caution is urged in comparing graduation rates by race and ethnicity. See: <http://wise.dpi.wi.gov/about-data-graduation>.

Definition: The graduation rate counts only students earning a regular diploma in the numerator of the formula. The denominator is the adjusted cohort. Students are assigned a cohort year when they first enroll in a Wisconsin public high school. At the end of the selected graduation timeframe (4-year, 5-year, or 6-year), adjustments are made to remove any student from the assigned cohort if the student has transferred to another state or a nonpublic Wisconsin school, emigrated to another country, or has died prior to the end of that timeframe. The number of years in the cohort group includes the summer following the last school year.