

News Release

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State's graduation rate among tops in the nation

New data shows three consecutive years of Wisconsin as a leader in public high school graduation

MADISON — A new data table from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) ranks Wisconsin's high school graduation rate among the top states in the nation for three consecutive years.

The NCES [web table](#) reports the national graduation rate at 81 percent for the 2012-13 school year, based on an adjusted cohort graduation rate. Wisconsin's 88.0 percent rate, [reported to the public last spring](#), is behind Iowa at 90 percent and tied for second with Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, and Texas. Wisconsin's graduation rate was 87.0 percent for the 2010-11 school year, 87.5 percent for 2012 graduates, and 88.0 percent for the class of 2013.

"Bravo for our students and the educators in our public schools who guide them on the path to graduation," said State Superintendent Tony Evers. "Wisconsin has a strong history of being among the top states in the nation for high school graduation rates. We also are working to ensure that a high school diploma has prepared our students for what comes after high school: college and careers."

The report from NCES showed that most states improved their graduation rates over the three-year span and increased their graduation rate by one or more percentage points between the 2011-12 and 2012-13 school years. Wisconsin's rate was relatively flat. Thirteen other states had no change over that one year span or a decline in their graduation rates.

"We cannot expect our schools to keep doing more with less," Evers said, referring to cuts in school funding and revenue authority in the previous state budgets. "My 2015-17 budget calls for fixing our school finance system through 'Fair Funding for Our Future' and reinvesting in several critical aid programs so we can ensure prosperity for all our children, our citizens, and our future."

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NOTE: The public high school four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate for the United States, the 50 states, and the District of Columbia can be found at http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/tables/ACGR_2010-11_to_2012-13.asp. Graduation rates for public schools and school districts in Wisconsin can be found on WISEdash, <http://wisedash.dpi.wi.gov/>. This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2015_06.pdf.