



## Historical Summary of Florida's Graduation Rate

- 1975-76** The graduation rate is calculated by dividing total standard diplomas by the fall ninth grade membership four years prior.
- 1986-87** The graduation rate is calculated by dividing total completers (standard diplomas, special diplomas, certificates of completion, and special certificates of completion) by first-time ninth grade students in the fall four years prior.
- 1990-91** First year graduation data is compiled from electronic records submitted by the school districts to the Florida Department of Education's automated database. The data was collected via paper survey through 1989-90.
- Also beginning in 1990-91, the graduation rate is calculated by dividing total completers (standard diplomas, special diplomas, certificates of completion, special certificates of completion, and GED diplomas for 16- to 19-year-olds) by first-time ninth grade students in the fall four years prior.
- 1998-99** Cohort method is implemented for the first time. The graduation rate is calculated by compiling the cohort of students who entered ninth grade for the first time four years prior, adjusting for incoming and outgoing transfers, and dividing the number of graduates from the adjusted cohort by the total adjusted cohort. This involves the tracking of individual student records to determine the numerator and denominator of the calculation. The definition of "graduate" is changed to include only diploma recipients (standard, special, GED). Certificate recipients are no longer counted as graduates.
- 2000-01** Florida begins calculating a separate graduation rate for No Child Left Behind (NCLB) reporting purposes. This rate follows the same calculation as Florida's traditional rate but does not count special diplomas and GEDs awarded to adult students as graduates.
- 2004-05** The Florida Legislature mandates the calculation of the National Governors Association (NGA) graduation rate to comply with the NGA Compact. The NGA rate is first implemented using 2004-05 data. It follows the same calculation as Florida's traditional rate but does not count any GEDs as graduates.
- 2008-09** The NGA graduation rate replaces Florida's traditional rate as the state's official graduation rate.
- 2010-11** The Federal Uniform Graduation Rate is calculated to meet the federal guidelines per 34 C.F.R. §200.19. This version replaced the NGA version in high school grade calculations in 2011-12. The Federal Uniform Graduation Rate is the most stringent of all versions Florida has calculated. It counts only standard diploma recipients as graduates, does not allow for the transfers to adult education programs to be removed from the cohort, and credits all students enrolled in DJJ facilities back to their home schools. This version has been retroactively calculated to 1998-99. The Federal Uniform Graduation Rate meets the requirements of the NGA Compact.

**Table 1: Florida Public Schools Graduation Rates, 1975-76 to 2020-21**

| School Year | Florida's Graduation Rate | NCLB Graduation Rate (Cohort-Based) | NGA Graduation Rate (Cohort-Based) | Federal Uniform Graduation Rate (Cohort-Based) |
|-------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 1975-76     | 70.12                     |                                     |                                    |  |
| 1976-77     | 69.86                     |                                     |                                    |  |
| 1977-78     | 68.30                     |                                     |                                    |  |
| 1978-79     | 62.85                     |                                     |                                    |  |
| 1979-80     | 63.85                     |                                     |                                    |  |
| 1980-81     | 63.98                     |                                     |                                    |  |
| 1981-82     | 64.90                     |                                     |                                    |  |
| 1982-83     | 65.47                     |                                     |                                    |  |
| 1983-84     | 66.30                     |                                     |                                    |  |
| 1984-85     | 65.07                     |                                     |                                    |  |
| 1985-86     | 65.57                     |                                     |                                    |  |
| 1986-87     | 71.86                     |                                     |                                    |  |
| 1987-88     | 72.95                     |                                     |                                    |  |
| 1988-89     | 71.89                     |                                     |                                    |  |
| 1989-90     | 71.65                     |                                     |                                    |  |
| 1990-91     | 78.68                     |                                     |                                    |  |
| 1991-92     | 77.86                     |                                     |                                    |  |
| 1992-93     | 78.73                     |                                     |                                    |  |
| 1993-94     | 75.64                     |                                     |                                    |  |
| 1994-95     | 72.94                     |                                     |                                    |  |
| 1995-96     | 73.22                     |                                     |                                    |  |
| 1996-97     | 73.18                     |                                     |                                    |  |
| 1997-98     | 71.89                     |                                     |                                    |  |
| 1998-99*    | 60.2                      |                                     |                                    | 52.0   |
| 1999-2000   | 62.3                      |                                     |                                    | 54.0   |
| 2000-01     | 63.8                      | 60.9                                |                                    | 54.0   |
| 2001-02     | 67.9                      | 64.7                                |                                    | 56.7   |
| 2002-03     | 69.0                      | 66.0                                |                                    | 56.5   |
| 2003-04     | 71.6                      | 68.7                                |                                    | 59.2   |
| 2004-05     | 71.9                      | 69.0                                | 69.7                               | 59.3   |
| 2005-06     | 71.0                      | 68.3                                | 68.9                               | 58.8   |
| 2006-07     | 72.4                      | 69.8                                | 70.3                               | 59.8   |
| 2007-08     | 75.4                      | 72.8                                | 73.1                               | 62.7   |
| 2008-09     | 78.6                      | 76.2                                | 76.3                               | 65.5   |
| 2009-10     | 80.7                      | 78.2                                | 79.0                               | 69.0   |
| 2010-11     | 81.2                      | NA                                  | 80.1                               | 70.6   |
| 2011-12     | NA                        | NA                                  | NA                                 | 74.5   |
| 2012-13     | NA                        | NA                                  | NA                                 | 75.6   |
| 2013-14     | NA                        | NA                                  | NA                                 | 76.1   |
| 2014-15     | NA                        | NA                                  | NA                                 | 77.9   |
| 2015-16     | NA                        | NA                                  | NA                                 | 80.7   |
| 2016-17     | NA                        | NA                                  | NA                                 | 82.3   |
| 2017-18     | NA                        | NA                                  | NA                                 | 86.1   |
| 2018-19     | NA                        | NA                                  | NA                                 | 86.9   |
| 2019-20**   | NA                        | NA                                  | NA                                 | 90.0   |
| 2020-21**   | NA                        | NA                                  | NA                                 | 90.1   |

\*Cohort method was implemented.\*\*When comparing the 2019-20 and 2020-21 graduation rate to prior years, it is important to note that pursuant to [Florida Department of Education Emergency Order No. 2020-EO-1](#) and [Florida Department of Education Emergency Order No. 2021-EO-2](#), students in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 graduating class were exempt from statewide, standardized assessment requirements stipulated in s. 1003.4282, F.S.. Approximately 8.5% of the 2020-21 graduating class graduated with this exemption and 7.1% of the 2019-20 graduating class graduated with this exemption.