

High School Dropouts 2004-05

Massachusetts Public Schools

In the 2004-05 school year, a total of 3.8 percent (11,145 dropouts) of students in grades nine through twelve dropped out. This rate was one-tenth of a percentage point higher than the rate for the 2003-04 school year.

Table 1: State Dropout Trends: 1998-99 to 2004-05

1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05		
Total HS Enrollment		258,026	265,795	271,700	273,912	281,939	288,329	293,399
Number of Dropouts		9,188	9,199	9,380	8,422	9,389	10,633	11,145
Dropout Rate		3.6%	3.5%	3.5%	3.1%	3.3%	3.7%	3.8%

The projected four-year rate is an estimation of the cumulative effect of four years of students dropping out of school. The projected four-year rate for the class of 2008 was 14.7 percent, a slight increase over the projected four-year rate for the previous class.

Table 2: State Projected Dropout Rates: Class of 2002 to Class of 2008

	Class of 2002	Class of 2003	Class of 2004	Class of 2005	Class of 2006	Class of 2007	Class of 2008
Projected Dropout Rates	13.3%	13.1%	13.4%	11.7%	12.8%	14.3%	14.7%

Table 3: Annual Dropout Rates by School Type 2001-02 to 2004-05

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Regular/Comprehensive				
Academic Schools (295)	4.9%	3.4%	3.7%	3.7%
Vocational-Technical Total (41)				
City/Town (12)	5.4%	6.8%	7.2%	6.0%
Regional/County/Independent (29)	1.7%	2.0%	2.1%	2.3%

Charter Schools (27)	3.1%	4.3%	5.6%	6.1%
Schools Located in Cities (151)	4.8%	5.2%	5.7%	6.1%
Schools Located in Towns³ (211)	1.7%	1.9%	2.0%	2.0%

Table 4: Annual Dropout Data for Selected Demographics: 2004-05

Total HS Enrollment	Number of Dropouts	Annual Dropout Rates	Percent of all Dropouts		
Grade	9th	84,628	2,541	3.0%	22.8%
	10th	75,478	2,798	3.7%	25.1%
	11th	69,441	2,813	4.1%	25.2%
	12th	63,852	2,993	4.7%	26.9%
Race/Ethnicity	Asian	13,612	358	2.6%	3.2%
	Black	26,881	1,701	6.3%	15.3%
	Hispanic	31,486	2,872	9.1%	25.8%
	Native American	886	48	5.4%	0.4%
	White	220,534	6,166	2.8%	55.3%
Gender	Female	144,908	4,622	3.2%	41.5%
	Male	148,491	6,523	4.4%	58.5%

Table 5: Annual Dropout Data for Special Populations: 2004-05

Total HS Enrollment	
Special Education	
Limited English Proficient (LEP)	
Low-Income	



1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05		
Grade	9th	3.1%	3.1%	3.3%	2.9%	2.6%	2.6%	3.0%
	10th	3.8%	3.7%	3.5%	3.1%	3.6%	3.7%	3.7%
	11th	4.3%	3.9%	4.0%	3.3%	3.7%	4.0%	4.1%
	12th	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	2.9%	3.5%	4.8%	4.7%
Race/Ethnicity	Asian	3.6%	4.0%	3.9%	2.3%	2.5%	2.7%	2.6%
	Black	6.7%	6.1%	6.1%	4.9%	5.7%	6.3%	6.3%
	Hispanic	9.8%	8.2%	8.0%	7.3%	7.4%	8.2%	9.1%
	Native American	4.0%	4.2%	3.2%	3.7%	4.8%	6.4%	5.4%
	White	2.5%	2.6%	2.6%	2.4%	2.6%	2.8%	2.8%
Gender	Female	3.1%	2.9%	2.8%	2.6%	2.8%	3.1%	3.2%
	Male	4.0%	4.0%	4.1%	3.5%	3.9%	4.3%	4.4%

**Table 7:
Annual Dropout Rates for Special Populations:
2002-03 to 2004-05**

2002-03	
Special Education	S
LEP	
Low-Income	L

**Table 8: Dropout Rates and Percent of 2004-05 Dropouts Among
Competency Determination (CD) Earners and Students without a CD**

Grade	CD Status	Number of Enrolled Students	Number of Dropouts	Dropout Rate	Percent of Dropouts
11	With CD	64,286	1,351	2.1%	48.0%
	Without CD	5,155	1,462	28.4%	52.0%
12	With CD	61,138	2,065	3.4%	69.0%
	Without CD	2,714	928	34.2%	31.0%

**Table 9: Distribution of Annual Dropout Rates Among Schools:
1999-00 to 2004-05**

The state dropout rate masks the wide disparity in individual school annual dropout rates, specifically the number of schools that have dropout rates below the state rate. Therefore, including a chart within the report was important to illustrate the distribution of school dropout rates. Please note this chart only includes schools with enrollment of 75 students or more as dropout rates for schools with low enrollments are overly sensitive to small variations.

	1999-00		2000-01		2001-02		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
<i>Number of Schools Included</i>	317		319		324		321		330		336	
Annual	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%

Rate												
0	18	6	16	5	29	9	38	12	17	5	11	3
0.1 – 1.0	67	21	67	21	73	23	65	20	70	21	74	22
1.1 – 2.5	103	32	92	29	93	29	82	26	81	25	90	27
2.6 – 5.0	72	23	93	29	85	26	80	25	85	26	94	28
5.1 – 7.5	30	10	21	7	23	7	23	7	37	11	23	7
7.6 – 10.0	9	3	9	3	9	3	15	5	17	5	15	4
10.1 and above	18	6	21	7	12	4	18	6	23	7	29	9