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## California Department of Education News Release

Release: #20-101  
December 11, 2020

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# California Department of Education Releases 2019-20 High School Graduation and Dropout Rates

SACRAMENTO—The California Department of Education (CDE) today released high school graduation data that showed rates remained largely steady overall in 2019–20—and some of the state’s highest-need students saw increases—during a school year in which the majority of California’s schools abruptly shifted to distance learning midway through their spring semesters due to the COVID-19 public health crisis.

“The COVID-19 crisis upended the senior years of hundreds of thousands of high school students throughout California, and I am proud of the resilience of these young adults and of the educators who went above and beyond to help keep them on track to graduate,” said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond.

Among all students statewide who started high school in 2016, 84.3 percent graduated with their peers, compared to the 84.5 percent from the year before. Rates for many student groups remained level year-to-year, though some experienced decreases (Asian, Filipino, White) while others, including some of the state’s highest-need students, saw increases (American Indian or Alaska Native, English Learners, Foster Youth, Students with Disabilities). (See [Table 1](#)).

Overall, statewide dropout rates for 2019–20 also remained largely stable at 8.9 percent, compared to 9 percent the previous year. The largest increases in the dropout rates were experienced among Asian, Filipino and White students, while the largest decreases were seen among students who are African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, English Learners, Foster Youth, or Students with Disabilities. (See [Table 2](#)).

Additionally, the [five-year cohort graduation rate](#)—the rate for students who began high school in 2015 and earned their diploma in 2020—was reported at 87 percent.

To view state, county, district, and school graduation and dropout rates, visit the California Department of Education's [DataQuest](#).

Downloadable data files for graduation rates are available on the CDE [Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate and Outcome Data web page](#) and on the [Five-Year Cohort Graduation Rate and Outcome Data web page](#).

**Table 1: Graduation Counts and Rates by Student Group**

<b>Ethnic/Racial Designation or Program</b>	<b>2020 Graduate Count</b>	<b>2019 Graduate Count</b>	<b>2020 Graduation Rate</b>	<b>2019 Graduation Rate</b>
African American	21,431	22,312	76.9%	76.8%
American Indian or Alaska Native	2,043	2,123	75.8%	74.8%
Asian	41,931	42,631	92.6%	94.0%
Filipino	13,119	13,750	92.4%	94.1%
Hispanic or Latino	218,460	216,451	82.2%	82.1%
Pacific Islander	2,035	2,048	84.4%	84.6%
White	99,722	103,110	87.9%	88.4%
Two or More Races	13,133	12,284	85.5%	85.5%
Not Reported	2,319	2,787	53.9%	53.0%
English Learners	48,613	50,108	69.1%	68.7%
Foster Youth	4,706	4,279	58.2%	56.0%
Homeless Youth	24,297	24,122	69.7%	70.0%
Migrant Education	4,489	4,586	81.5%	81.6%

Students with Disabilities	40,918	39,352	68.4%	67.7%
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	276,348	276,339	81.2%	81.1%
<b>Statewide Total</b>	<b>414,193</b>	<b>417,496</b>	<b>84.3%</b>	<b>84.5%</b>

**Table 2: Dropout Counts and Rates by Student Group**

<b>Ethnic/Racial Designation or Program</b>	<b>2020 Dropout Count</b>	<b>2019 Dropout Count</b>	<b>2020 Dropout Rate</b>	<b>2019 Dropout Rate</b>
African American	3,621	4,116	13.0%	14.2%
American Indian or Alaska Native	370	442	13.7%	15.6%
Asian	1,948	1,360	4.3%	3.0%
Filipino	607	414	4.3%	2.8%
Hispanic or Latino	26,124	26,942	9.8%	10.2%
Pacific Islander	230	238	9.5%	9.8%
White	7,928	7,785	7.0%	6.7%
Two or More Races	1,207	1,189	7.9%	8.3%
Not Reported	1,613	2,010	37.5%	38.2%
English Learners	12,432	13,408	17.7%	18.4%
Foster Youth	1,987	2,137	24.6%	27.9%

Homeless Youth	6,107	6,239	17.5%	18.1%
Migrant Education	611	630	11.1%	11.2%
Students with Disabilities	7,209	7,831	12.1%	13.5%
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	34,763	36,692	10.2%	10.8%
<b>Statewide Total</b>	<b>43,648</b>	<b>44,496</b>	<b>8.9%</b>	<b>9.0%</b>

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**Tony Thurmond — State Superintendent of Public Instruction**  
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Last Reviewed: Friday, December 11, 2020

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