



New Jersey's High School Graduation Rate at Highest Level Since Use of New Federal Calculation

For Immediate Release

Contact: Michael Yaple
David Saenz

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609-292-1126

Trenton, NJ – The Christie Administration today announced that New Jersey's high school graduation rate rose again in 2015, increasing to 89.7 percent in 2015 from 88.6 percent in 2014. This is the fourth straight year that the statewide high school graduation rate has increased, and the third consecutive year in which it grew by at least a full percentage point.

Since New Jersey began seeing the results of the federally mandated methodology for calculating the graduation rate with the graduating class of 2011, the state's high school graduation rate has increased by 6.7 percent. The federal methodology was designed to improve the accuracy of graduation rates by tracking cohorts of students over four years, starting from the time they enter the ninth grade.

"We all should be proud of the work our teachers and school leaders have done to help make sure our students have the opportunity to graduate from high school ready to take the next step in their lives," said Commissioner David C. Hespe. "This Administration has been committed to improving the college and career readiness of New Jersey's graduating students and today is further proof that our students and educators are aggressively working towards meeting that goal."

While graduation rates vary among subgroups, New Jersey continues to narrow the achievement gap. A summary of graduation rates by student subgroups is as follows:

- For the first time, African American students graduated at a rate above 80 percent with 81.5 percent in 2015, an increase of 2.6 percentage points from 2014, when it was 78.9 percent.
- 82.8 percent of Hispanic students graduated in 2015, a 2.2 percent increase from the previous year of 80.6 percent.
- 94.0 percent of white students graduated in 2015, an increase from 93.5 percent in 2014.
- 96.5 percent of Asian students graduated in 2015, an increase from 96.2 percent reported in the previous year.
- Economically disadvantaged students graduated at a rate of 81.7 percent in 2015, an increase of 2.1 percent from 2014, when it was 79.6 percent.
- 74.0 percent of Limited English Proficient (LEP) students graduated in 2015, an increase of 2.9 percentage points from 71.1 percent in 2014.
- Students with disabilities graduated at a rate of 78.0 percent in 2015, an increase of 1.4 percentage points from 2014 when it was 76.6 percent.

The Department also calculated the five-year graduation rate for students that began high school in 2010. While the four year graduation rate last year was 88.6 percent for the class of 2014, the graduation rate that included students who continued on for a fifth year was 90.6 percent.

Additional information and district-by-district graduation rates can be found online at www.state.nj.us/education/data/grate/.