



Christie Administration Announces Rise in New Jersey's High School Graduation Rate

For Immediate Release

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Date: December 3, 2014

New Jersey's high school graduation rate continued to rise in 2014, increasing to 88.6 percent in 2014 from 87.5 percent in 2013, the second consecutive year in which high school graduation statewide grew by a full percentage point. In calculating the graduation rate, New Jersey uses a federally mandated methodology designed to provide a complete accounting of graduation rates by tracking cohorts of students over four years, starting from the time they enter the ninth grade.

"Today's announcement of another gain in graduation rates is a testament to the hard work that students, teachers and school leaders have done over the last few years to ensure that students make it to the finish line," said Acting Commissioner David C. Hespe. "However, New Jersey has also made it a priority to not only graduate its students, but to make sure the diploma they receive is a meaningful and valuable resource to have as they embark on the next stage of their lives."

More high school students graduated in 2014 even though coursework was more rigorous and demanding. The Class of 2014 was the first class to be required to take geometry, a second laboratory science, and a course in financial literacy. Additional course-taking requirements continue to be phased in with the Class of 2016.

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:

- 78.9% of African American students graduated this year, a 2.5 percent increase from the previous year of 76.4%.
- Hispanic students graduated at a rate of 80.6% in 2014, an increase of 2 percent from 2013 when it was 78.6%.
- 93.5% of white students graduated in 2014, an increase from 93.1% in 2013.
- 96.2% of Asian students graduated this year, an increase from the previous year of 95.9%.
- Economically disadvantaged students graduated at a rate of 79.6% in 2014, an increase of 2.5 percent from last year when it was 77.1%.
- 71.1% of Limited English Proficient (LEP) students graduated in 2014, an increase from 70.5% in 2013.
- 76.6% of students with disabilities graduated in 2014, an increase from 75.9% in 2013.

The Department also calculated the five-year graduation rate for students that began high school in 2009. While the four year graduation rate last year was 87.5 percent for the class of 2013, the graduation rate for students who continued on for a fifth year was 89.6 percent.

Information on the graduation rate can be found online at www.state.nj.us/education/data/grate/.