



Graduation and Dropout Rate Report

2000-2001 School Year

Introduction

Michigan high schools collectively have experienced increases in graduation rates and decreases in dropout rates over the past five years. The number of high schools graduating 95 percent or more of their students increased by 5 percent from the prior year. The percent of high schools with dropout rates exceeding 7 percent improved from 11.0 percent in 1999-2000 to 8.7 percent in 2000-2001.

Even more encouraging are the number of high schools that have increased their graduation rates from

the prior year. A total of 319 high schools, out of 572, recorded some increase in graduation rate from 1999-2000. Also, of the 25 high schools that showed no change from the prior year, 19 reported graduation rates of 100 percent for both years. Added together, these high schools account for 60 percent of the total. The numbers suggest that improvements made in graduation and dropout rates are not due to a small number of schools recording large increases, but to many schools making small but steady improvements.

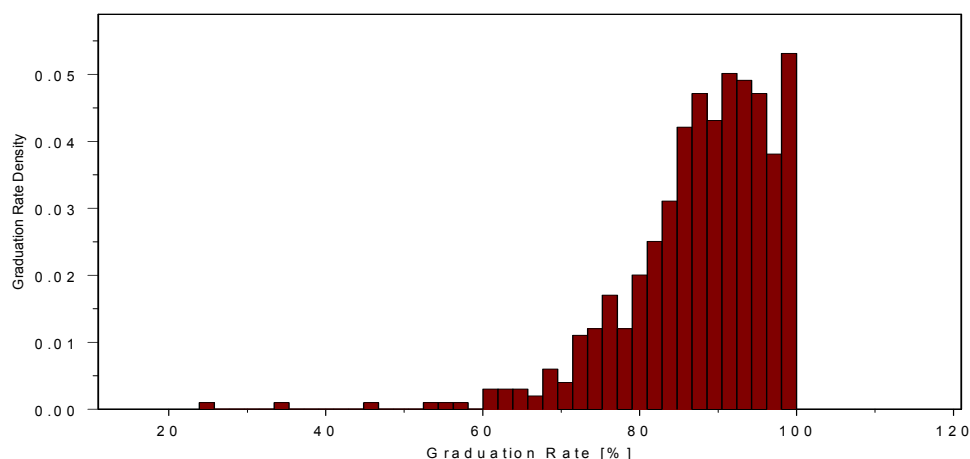
Highlights

- ♦ *Thirty-eight districts reported graduation rates at 100 percent.*
- ♦ *Twenty-four percent of Michigan school districts reported graduation rates at 95 percent or greater.*
- ♦ *Fifty high schools reported dropout rates exceeding 7 percent.*
- ♦ *The 2000-2001 state average graduation rate is a five-year high.*
- ♦ *Paralleling the graduation rates, dropout rates are at a record low.*
- ♦ *High schools with the highest graduation rates tend to be smaller schools located in rural and suburban areas.*

Statewide Graduation Rates

Michigan's school districts achieved graduation rates averaging 87.8 percent in 2000-2001. Among individual districts, the graduation rate ranged from a high of 100 percent (38 districts) to a low of 23.9 percent (one district). The median is 89.3 percent.

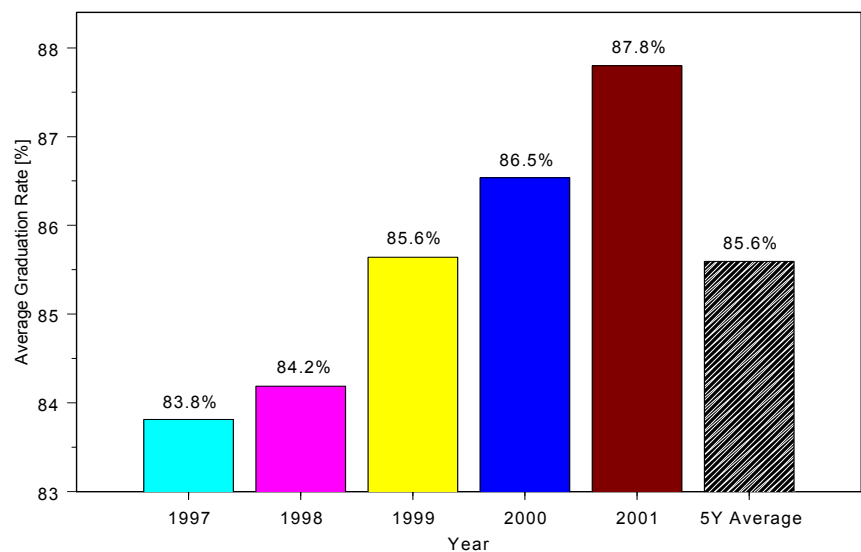
2001 Graduation Rate Distribution



Source: Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services

Statewide Graduation Rates (continued)

Average Graduation Rate by Year



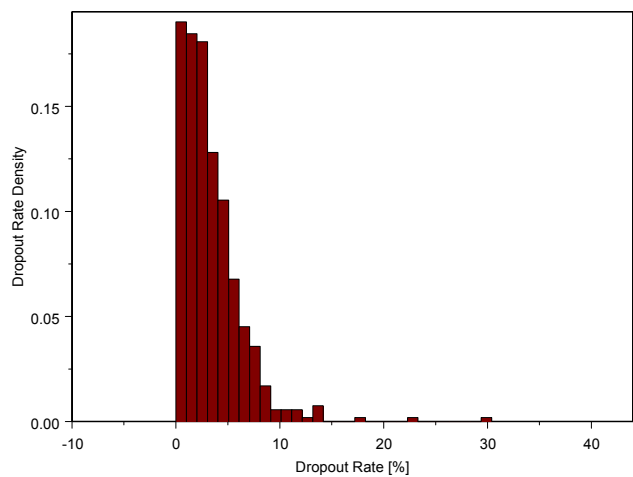
The 2000-2001 state average represents a five-year high. Graduation rates have steadily improved over the five years examined.

Source: Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services

Statewide Dropout Rates

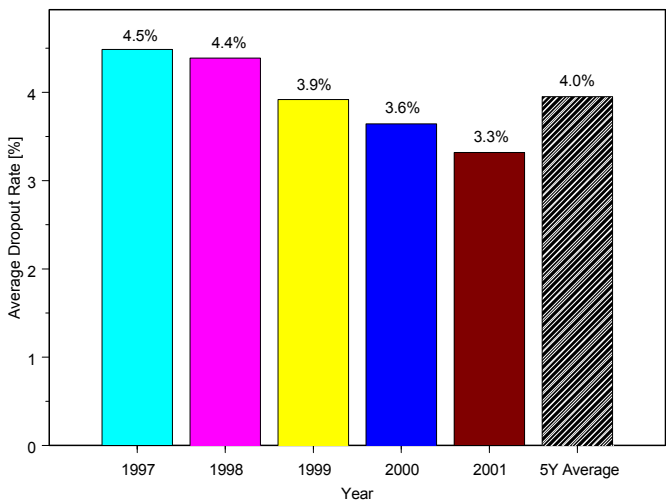
The dropout rate for the average Michigan school district decreased for the fourth consecutive year in 2000-2001 to 3.3 percent. Among individual districts, the dropout rate ranged from a low of zero percent (38 districts) to a high of 30.4 percent. The median is 2.7 percent. The state average represents a five-year low, paralleling the positive trend for graduation rates.

2001 Dropout Rate Distribution



Source: Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services

Average Dropout Rate by Year



Source: Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services

School District Summary

Graduation Rates

During the 2000-2001 academic year, 128 school districts, or 24 percent of the total of 524 school districts, graduated 95 percent or more of their students. This is an increase over the prior school year, when 97 districts graduated 95 percent or more of their students.

Of the total 524 districts included in this report, 442 (84 percent) graduated at least 80 percent of their students in 2000-2001. Of the total school districts, 318 (61 percent) increased their graduation rate from the prior year.

Dropout Rates

Dropout rates for the 2000-2001 school year ranged from zero percent to 30 percent. A total of 45 districts had dropout rates greater than 7 percent.

Some school districts have difficulty tracking students who transfer to another school district, move out of state, etc. For these reasons, some of these students may be counted as dropouts, therefore inflating the actual number of students who dropout. This problem will be mitigated in the future as the Michigan Education Information System (MEIS) and the Single Record Student Database (SRSD) are fully implemented.

Public School Academy Summary

The computation method for graduation and dropout rates require that a high school consist of grades 9 through 12 and be in existence for at least two years. These requirements apply to both traditional public high schools and public school academy (PSA) high schools. There are 32 PSA high schools in the state of Michigan that currently meet these criteria. Since the PSAs tend to have smaller enrollments, slight changes in the factors used to compute graduation and dropout rates can cause the rates to be skewed.

While five PSAs showed graduation rates of 100 percent, half (16) graduated less than 70 percent. The dropout rate for the PSAs displayed a wide range of rates from zero to 40 percent.

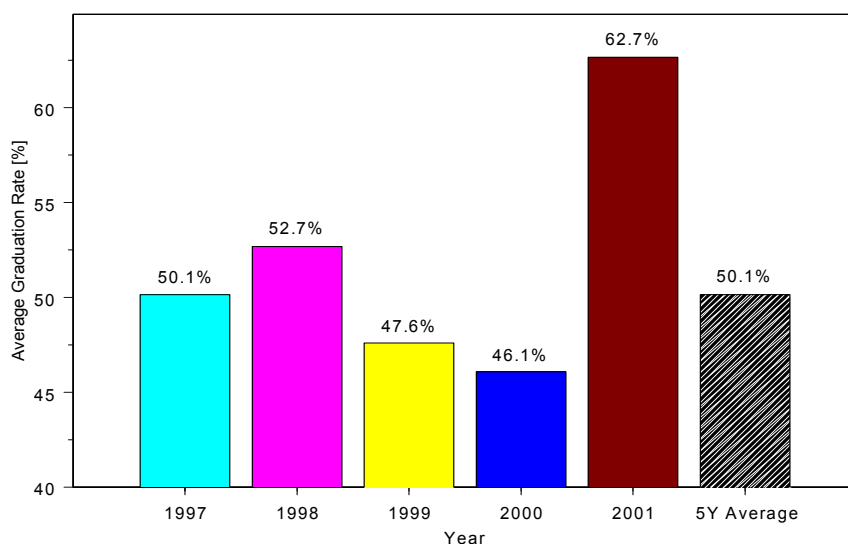
Graduation Rate Trends by Public School Academy

The PSAs have shown a marked improvement in their graduation rates over the period from 1997 to 2001. While PSAs recorded drops in graduation rates in 1999 and 2000, the increase in rates between 1997 and 2001 is 12.6 percentage points. As PSAs continue to add high school grades, the graduation rates will tend to change less radically. The fact that only 32 PSAs currently have complete high school grades (9-12), coupled with the relatively small pupil headcount numbers, lends itself to much greater swings in rates

compared to the population of traditional public high schools. The rate for 2001 is encouraging and may be the beginning of a trend.

The dropout rates for the Public School Academies generally reflect the inverse of the graduation rates. Between 1997 and 2001, the dropout rate ranged from a high of 20.8 percent in 1999 to a low of 10 percent in 2001.

Average Graduation Rate by Year for Public School Academies

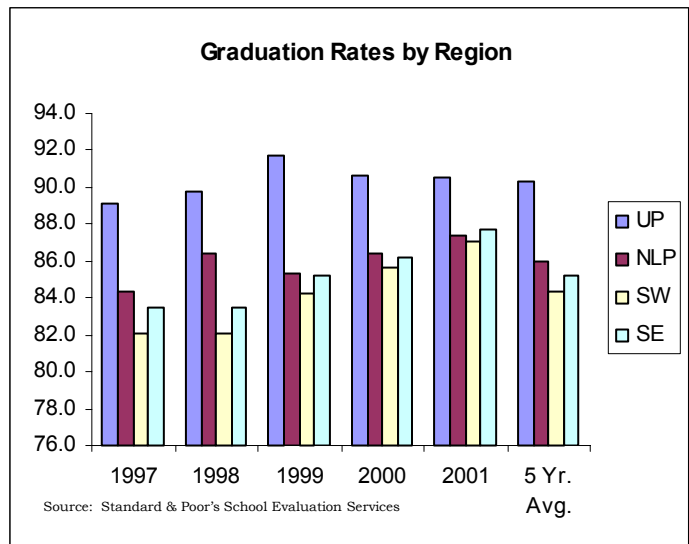


Source: Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services

Geographic Area

The high schools with the greatest graduation rates tend to be smaller schools located in rural and suburban areas. Many of the high schools with the highest graduation rates are located in less populated areas like the upper peninsula and the northern lower peninsula.

While the upper peninsula had the highest graduation rates over the five-year period, the southwest (5.0) and southeast (4.2) recorded the greatest improvement over the five years. The northern lower peninsula showed an increase of 3.1 percentage points, with the upper peninsula at 1.4. With the high graduation rate in the upper peninsula, it is more difficult for that region to show marked improvement from one year to the next.



Note: the four regions depicted above are: the Upper Peninsula (UP); the Northern Lower Peninsula (NLP) which includes school districts in 27 counties in the line with and north of Mason, Lake, Osceola, Clare, Gladwin, and Saranac; southeast (SE) which includes 23 counties in line with and east of Isabella, Gratiot, Clinton, Ingham, Jackson, Hillsdale; and southwest (SW) which includes 18 counties.

High School Building Summary

A total of 572 high schools are included in this report. Of the total, 38 high schools (6.6 percent), primarily smaller rural and suburban schools, graduated 100 percent of their students. Of the total high schools, 125 recorded graduation rates at 95 percent or above for 2000-2001. This accounts for 22 percent of the total, compared to 17 percent for the prior year. For 2000-2001, 475 high schools had graduation rates of 80 percent or more.

School Size

High schools with small student populations are likely to keep most, or all, of their students in school. Also, smaller school districts have only one high school, while a few of the larger districts have multiple high schools. Districts with one high school will reflect the same graduation and dropout rates for both the district and high school.

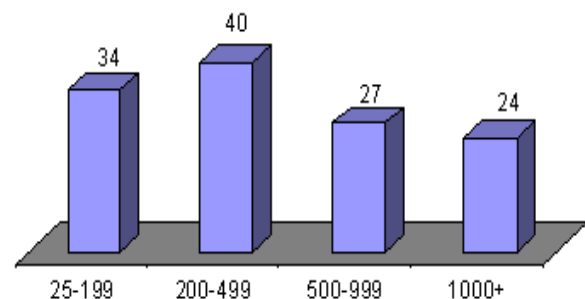
The top 125 high schools with graduation rates of 95 percent or greater range in enrollment from 28 to 2,229. The enrollment average of these 125 schools is 593.

Number of School Districts with Single or Multiple High School Buildings

	1 HS	2 HS	3 HS	4 HS	5 HS	>5 HS
# of Districts	487	27	6	2	1	1

Source: Center for Educational Performance and Information

High Schools with Graduation Rates of 95% or Greater by Enrollment



Source: Center for Educational Performance and Information

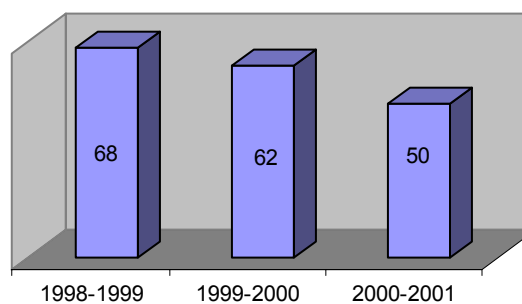
Growth in Graduation Rate

Eighty-four (84) high schools increased their graduation rates by 10 percent or more from the prior year, while 47 experienced a decrease of 10 percent over the same period. Of the 572 high schools included in this report, over half (319) experienced some increase in their graduation rate.

Dropout Rates

Dropout rates by high school range from zero percent to a high of 30 percent. Thirty-nine (39) high schools reported no dropouts. A total of 50 schools reported dropout rates of over 7 percent. This compares to 62 high schools with dropout rates greater than of 7 percent for the 1999-2000 school year.

Number of High Schools With Dropout Rates Greater Than 7 Percent



Source: Center for Educational Performance and Information

Data Resources

The graduation and dropout rates calculated for this report use data that are reported by Michigan's school districts annually via the Education Data Network. The dropout rates used in this report measure the percentage of students who did not return to school from the previous year (or who are unaccounted for). The dropout rate is a one-year rate. The graduation rates used in the report are based on a calculation of retention rates over a four-year period. Background and details about the calculation of graduation and dropout rates can be found at www.michigan.gov/cepi, under "Education Reports."

Accurate information is critical for CEPI to be able to calculate graduation and dropout rates. In general, Michigan school districts are improving efforts to count their students and track transfers and graduates. The implementation of the Single Record Student Data (SRSD) will improve both the collection and accuracy of graduation and dropout data in the future. CEPI's goal is to work closely with all the school districts to obtain the most accurate and timely data possible. This will lead to more useful information for all the stakeholders in Michigan.

For related information, including 2000-2001 Graduation/Dropout Rates sorted by school district and sorted by public school academy, please visit "Education Reports" and "Download Data" on our Web site: www.michigan.gov/cepi

**Center for Educational
Performance and
Information**

110 West Michigan Avenue,
Suite 600
Lansing, Michigan 48913

Phone: 517-241-2374
Fax: 517-335-4088
www.michigan.gov/cepi

State of Michigan



The Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) is the state agency that collects, manages, and reports data about Michigan's K-12 public schools. More information about CEPI and the resources provided by CEPI can be found at www.michigan.gov/cepi.

Notes

The statewide graduation and dropout rate averages included in this report are not weighted averages.

The PSA graduation and dropout rates are not included in the statewide figures.

This report was compiled by the Center for Educational Performance and Information with contributions by Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services.