

Florida High Schools

GRADUATION RATE ESTIMATES DIFFER DEPENDING ON THE SOURCE

	State-Reported ¹	U.S. Department of Education-Reported ²	Independent Estimate ³
Florida Graduation Rates	68.7%	66.4%	60.5%

According to independent estimates, Florida ranks **45th** in the nation in graduation rates.⁴

THE HIGH SCHOOL CRISIS IS CONCENTRATED IN THE NATION'S "DROPOUT FACTORIES"

"Dropout factories" are schools where 60% or fewer of the students progress to twelfth grade in four years.

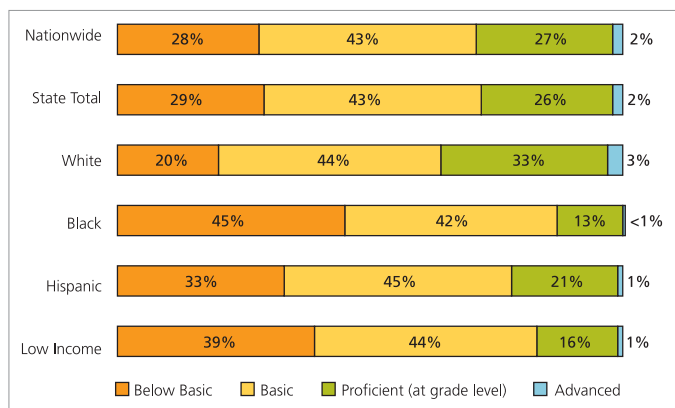
	Number of Federally Reported Regular High Schools ⁵	Number of Dropout Factories ⁶
Florida	417	163
Nation	15,409	1,642

THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP REMAINS A CHALLENGE

Graduation Rates by Race⁷

	Florida	Nation
All Students	61%	70%
White	66%	76%
Black	47%	53%
Hispanic	59%	58%
Asian	82%	80%

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Reading Scores for Florida Eighth Graders⁸



44% of Florida eighth graders are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.⁹

COMPREHENSIVE DATA SYSTEMS ARE NEEDED

The national Data Quality Campaign recommends ten elements as the start of a robust P-12 longitudinal data system.¹⁰

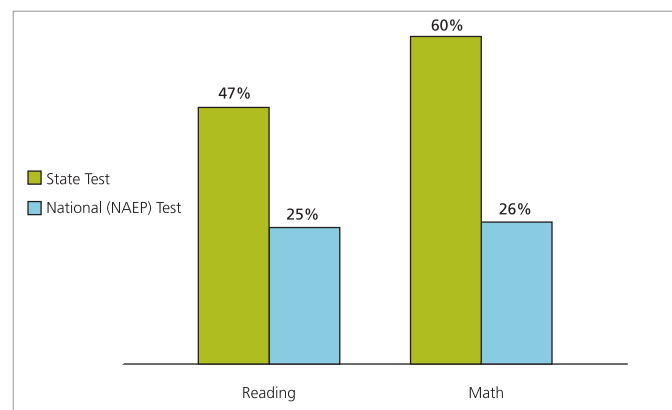
	Florida
1. The ability to track individual students over time	YES
2. Student-level demographic information	YES
3. The ability to track individual students' test records from year to year to measure academic growth	YES
4. The ability to know which students have not been tested	YES
5. The ability to match teachers to students by classroom and subject	YES
6. Student-level transcript information	YES
7. Information on student performance on college-readiness examinations like the SAT, ACT, and AP	YES
8. Student-level graduation and dropout data	YES
9. The ability to match student records between the K-12 and higher education systems	YES
10. System in place to evaluate data system quality	YES

To date, only four states have achieved all ten elements.



STATE AND FEDERAL PROFICIENCY MEASURES DIFFER

Florida Eighth-Grade Proficiency as Measured by Florida State and National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Tests¹¹



The average gap nationally between state- and NAEP-reported **reading** scores is **37** percentage points.

The average gap nationally between state- and NAEP-reported **math** scores is **31** percentage points.

DROPOUTS AND POORLY PREPARED STUDENTS HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE ECONOMY

Approximately **100,200** students did not graduate from Florida's high schools in 2007; the lost lifetime earnings in Florida for that class of dropouts alone are more than **\$26 billion**.¹²

Florida would save more than **\$1.5 billion** in health care costs over the lifetimes of each class of dropouts had they earned their diplomas.¹³

If Florida's high schools graduated all students ready for college, the state would save almost **\$193.8 million** a year in community college remediation costs and lost earnings.¹⁴

Florida's economy would see a combination of crime-related savings and additional revenue of about **\$507 million** each year if the male high school graduation rate increased by just 5%.¹⁵

1. Florida Department of Education 2007
2. United States Department of Education 2007
3. Editorial Projects in Education Research Center 2007
4. Editorial Projects in Education Research Center 2007
5. National Center for Education Statistics 2007
6. Center for Social Organization of Schools, Johns Hopkins University 2007
7. Editorial Projects in Education Research Center 2007
8. National Center for Education Statistics 2007
9. National Center for Education Statistics 2007
10. National Center for Education Accountability 2007
11. National Center for Education Statistics 2006; Florida Department of Education 2006
12. Alliance for Excellent Education 2007
13. Alliance for Excellent Education 2006
14. Alliance for Excellent Education 2006
15. Alliance for Excellent Education 2006

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