

2025–26 Cohort Graduation Rate

Background Information

The rules for calculating the cohort graduation rate meet the requirements of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The cohort graduation rate is defined as the percentage of students in the adjusted cohort who graduate within four years with a regular high school diploma. To generate the 2025–26 cohort, first-time grade-nine students were identified in 2022–23. The cohort was then adjusted by adding any students who transferred into the cohort after grade 9 and subtracting any students who transferred to a diploma granting institution, emigrated to another country, transferred to a prison or juvenile facility, or were deceased.

The disaggregated cohort graduation rates by school and by district are available online on the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction website. Also, available on the website is a supplementary document that explains the calculations used for the four-year and five-year cohort graduation rates.

TABLE 1. State of North Carolina – 2025–26 Four-year cohort graduation rate results by student group (2022–23 entering grade-nine students)

Subgroup	Denominator	Numerator	Percent
All Students	126,816	112,662	88.8
Male	64,859	56,303	86.8
Female	61,957	56,359	91.0
American Indian	1,148	984	85.7
Asian	4,849	*	>95
Black	31,838	27,774	87.2
Hispanic	28,325	23,772	83.9
Two or More Races	6,640	5,785	87.1
White	53,815	49,511	92.0
Economically Disadvantaged	54,394	45,870	84.3
Not Economically Disadvantaged	72,422	66,792	92.2
English Learner	13,441	10,320	76.8
Not English Learner	113,375	102,342	90.3
Students with Disabilities	15,402	11,574	75.1
Not Student with Disabilities	111,414	101,088	90.7
Academically Gifted	18,221	*	>95

* Data not displayed in accordance with data privacy rules.

TABLE 2. State of North Carolina – 2024–25 Four-year cohort graduation rate results by student group (2021–22 entering grade-nine students)

Subgroup	Denominator	Numerator	Percent
All Students	126,963	111,424	87.8
Male	65,027	55,712	85.7
Female	61,936	55,712	90.0
American Indian	1,265	1,070	84.6
Asian	4,664	*	>95
Black	31,076	26,677	85.8
Hispanic	28,206	23,361	82.8
Two or More Races	6,293	5,412	86.0
White	55,284	50,296	91.0
Economically Disadvantaged	55,053	45,894	83.4
Not Economically Disadvantaged	71,910	65,530	91.1
English Learner	11,125	7,996	71.9
Not English Learner	115,838	103,428	89.3
Students with Disabilities	15,559	11,306	72.7
Not Student with Disabilities	111,404	100,118	89.9
Academically Gifted	19,264	*	>95

* Data not displayed in accordance with data privacy rules.

Table 3. State of North Carolina – 2025–26 Five-year cohort graduation rate results by student group (2021–22 entering grade-nine students)

Subgroup	Denominator	Numerator	Percent
All Students	126,732	112,623	88.9
Male	64,887	56,402	86.9
Female	61,845	56,221	90.9
American Indian	1,265	1,073	84.8
Asian	4,660	*	>95
Black	31,015	27,090	87.3
Hispanic	28,189	23,727	84.2
Two or More Races	6,280	5,482	87.3
White	55,147	50,621	91.8
Economically Disadvantaged	54,596	46,552	85.3
Not Economically Disadvantaged	72,136	66,071	91.6
English Learner	11,108	8,245	74.2
Not English Learner	115,624	104,378	90.3
Students with Disabilities	15,516	11,624	74.9
Not Students with Disabilities	111,216	100,999	90.8
Academically Gifted	19,166	*	>95

* Data not displayed in accordance with data privacy rules.

Student group information is based on data collected when a student was last enrolled in a North Carolina school during the cohort.

2025–26 school year data as of August 13, 2026.