



# The 2009 Virginia On-Time Graduation Rate

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Subgroup	Adjusted Cohort	On-Time Graduation Rate	Dropout Rate	Long-Term Absence Rate
All Students	98,043	83.22%	7.93%	0.45%
Female	48,093	86.40%	6.50%	0.41%
Male	49,950	80.15%	9.31%	0.49%
Black	26,433	75.69%	11.26%	0.90%
Hispanic	6,812	72.28%	19.14%	0.28%
White	58,003	87.01%	5.55%	0.29%
Asian	4,953	93.30%	3.31%	0.10%
American Indian	301	78.41%	9.30%	1.33%
Native Hawaiian	89	83.15%	6.74%	0%
Other	6,795	91.11%	4.05%	0.19%
Students with Disabilities	11,901	82.49%	12.46%	0.01%
Students with Disabilities anytime	13,962	79.45%	15.19%	0.01%
Economically Disadvantaged	24,009	73.19%	11.95%	0.81%
Economically Disadvantaged anytime	35,370	70.87%	14.59%	0.86%
Limited English Proficient	3,920	68.78%	26.12%	0.08%
Limited English Proficient anytime	5,951	74.86%	20.79%	0.05%
Migrant	45	66.67%	20%	0%
Migrant anytime	76	60.53%	28.95%	0%
Homeless (when last in system)	587	66.61%	17.89%	1.19%
Homeless anytime in high school	1,395	62.01%	21.22%	1.29%

The state of Virginia reported an on-time graduation rate of 83.22 percent for Class of 2009 (i.e., students who were first-time 9th graders during the school year of 2005-06). This is the second year that the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) reported annual state-level, division-level and school-level cohort graduation rate based on the percentage of students who entered ninth-grade for the first time and earned a Board of Education-approved diploma<sup>1</sup> within four years. The percentages are based on longitudinal student-level data tracked over time in VDOE's Educational Information Management System (EIMS), a more sophisticated data system than other conventional accounting systems for student mobility, retention, and promotion patterns. "Building a long-term trend of raising graduation rates will require a continued student-by-student approach by educators, as well as the sustained involvement of parents and strong partnerships with community institutions," says Superintendent of Public Instruction, Patricia I. Wright.

As part of the on-time graduation rate, Virginia disaggregated students by a variety of subgroups, including students experiencing homelessness. In addition to graduation rate, this cohort report also included data on dropouts, students still in school, students of long-term absence, and students whose records were properly reported to the state but whose status is unconfirmed. This year, Virginia reported not only students who were identified in a certain subgroup at the time of graduation, but also those who were in this subgroup anytime during the course of high school years. As indicated by the table, the cohort report included students who were homeless at graduation as well as the students who experienced homelessness

during their high school years. Virginia reported that 66.6 percent who were homeless graduated on-time in 2009, six percent greater than last year. The dropout rate for this cohort of students was 17.89 percent in the 2008-09 school year. The graduation rate for students who experienced homelessness anytime during their high school years was approximately 62 percent, with a dropout rate of 21 percent. The graduation rate of homeless students continues to be lower than the whole population average and other at-risk subgroups (e.g., students with disabilities, students identified as economically disadvantaged, limited English proficient students). This persistent gap indicates that children and youth experiencing homelessness are in need of more support and targeted intervention to improve their attendance and help them succeed in school.

<sup>1</sup> According to VDOE, a Virginia on-time high school graduate needs to earn one of following types of diplomas: advanced studies diploma, standard diploma, modified standard diploma, and special diploma. Students who earn a General Educational Development (GED) diploma are counted separately.

Project HOPE-Virginia is Virginia's Program for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth. The College of William and Mary administers the program for the Virginia Department of Education. Funding is authorized under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act, Title X, Part C of the *No Child Left Behind Act* (P.L. 107-110).

The purpose of Project HOPE-Virginia is to ensure the enrollment, attendance, and success of homeless children and youth in school. For more information: [www.wm.edu/hope](http://www.wm.edu/hope)