

MEETING THE NATION'S GRADUATION CHALLENGE

Making Graduation Count Congressional Briefing
March 2009

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How Close is the Nation to Graduating All its High School Students?

- Nation's Graduation Rate is currently about 74%
- Currently there is about a 20 point gap between White Students (80%) and African American and Latino Students (60%)
- Need to say “about” because still do not have common and uniform way to measure graduation rates across states, school districts and schools
- Only about 20 states are currently using accurate graduation rates - 2008 Dept. of Ed regulations asks for all states to comply by 2012

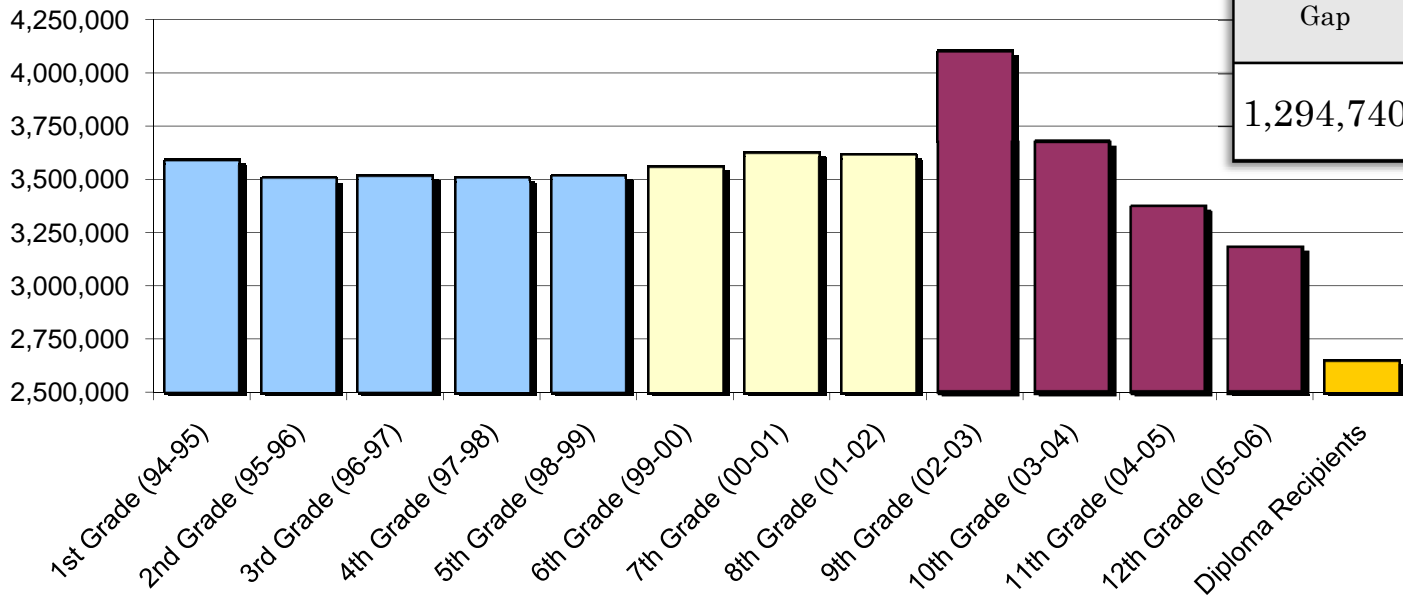


CLASS OF 2006

GRADE ENROLLMENTS & GRADUATES

FOR THE NATION'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Total Number of Students and Graduates



Current Graduation Gap	
9th Graders to Diploma Gap	12th Graders to Diploma Gap
1,294,740	370,269

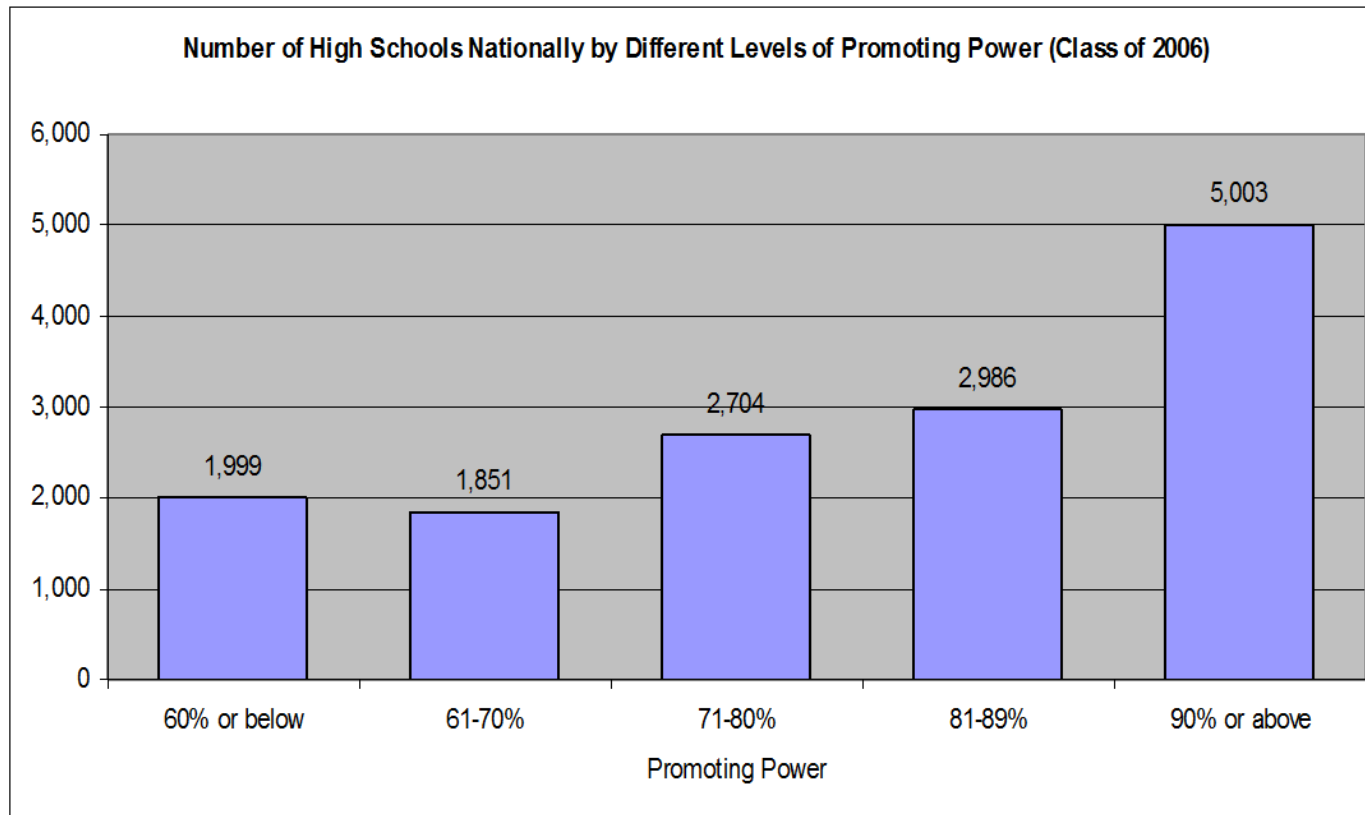


How Many High Schools Have Low Graduation Rates?

- About 1800 to 2000 high schools likely have graduation rates of 60% or less
- These are the nation's dropout factories and represent about 12% its high schools
- They produce half or more of all dropouts and close to two-thirds of African American and Latino dropouts
- Only low income and minority students, with a few exceptions, attend these high schools



Estimated Graduation Rates in the Nation's High Schools



Are We Making Any Progress?

- The Nation's Graduation Rate has been essentially flat over the past 5 years
- Some states and communities, however, have made recognizable progress
- There are about 10% fewer dropout factories than in 2001 and overall about 300,000 fewer students attend these schools
- There has been an even greater increase in the number of high schools with high graduation rates (90% or higher) with minority and majority students showing equal gains
- Twelve states have seen their graduation rates increase by three to eleven points



STATE PROGRESS TOWARD RAISING GRADUATION RATES (FROM 2002 TO 2006)

State	Graduation Rate Gain (Percentage Points)	Graduation Rate 2002**	Graduation Rate 2006**	Change in Number of Weak Promoting Power High Schools
Tennessee	11.2	61%	72%	-22
Delaware	6.8	70%	76%	2
Kentucky	6.8	71%	78%	-26
South Dakota	5.3	79%	85%	4
Arkansas	5.2	75%	80%	0
Alabama	4.1	62%	66%	-30
North Carolina	3.6	68%	72%	-26
New York	3.5	64%	67%	-37
Hawaii	3.4	72%	76%	2
Missouri	3.4	78%	81%	7
Nebraska	3.1	84%	87%	1
New Hampshire	3.0	78%	81%	-1
United States	0.4	74%	74%	-184

* Net gain in graduates was calculated by applying the Graduation Rate for 2002 to the estimated number of first-time ninth-graders in 2002-2003, and then subtracting the result from the total number of graduates in 2005-2006.

** Rates for 2002 and 2006 are rounded for ease of comparison; source: Common Core of Data



Progress is Possible, But We Are Not Making Enough

- Two-thirds of states saw their graduation rates stay the same or go down between 2002 and 2006
- To be fair though, no one was asking them to do so
- NCLB through the 2008 regulations let states off the hook
- Progress then was the result of initiatives at the state and community levels.
- Ensuring that every student graduates prepared for adult success is too important to the nation to leave it to chance-greater federal involvement is required



To Making Dropping Out Not an Option- What Do We Need to Do?

- Uniform and common graduation rate measures
- Aggressive but attainable graduation rate goals and annual progress toward them
- Press Graduation Gap High Schools to bring minority graduation rates up to majority levels-Advances in Early Warning and On-Track Indicator Systems make this possible
- Transform or replace the nation's dropout factories -- until this is done it will not be possible to graduate all students
- Create federal-state-school-district-community partnerships to get it done



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