

State of Delaware

**Delaware Dropout Summary**  
2021-2022



March 2023

## **Executive Summary**

The Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) report on dropouts is from data collected annually. Delaware collects data from all public schools including grades 9 through 12 and calculates the yearly dropout rate, as is prescribed by the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES), which provides data to the federal reporting system.

In accordance with NCES requirements, Delaware uses the event dropout rate, which measures the proportion of students who drop out in a single school year. This is the rate the State has reported since 1994. See Appendix A for additional details about the dropout calculation.

This report does not contain data reflecting private or home school students in Delaware. The State does gather information from families that home school their children as well as from private schools, but only does so to verify the transfer of a student from public to private and home schools.

## **Highlights**

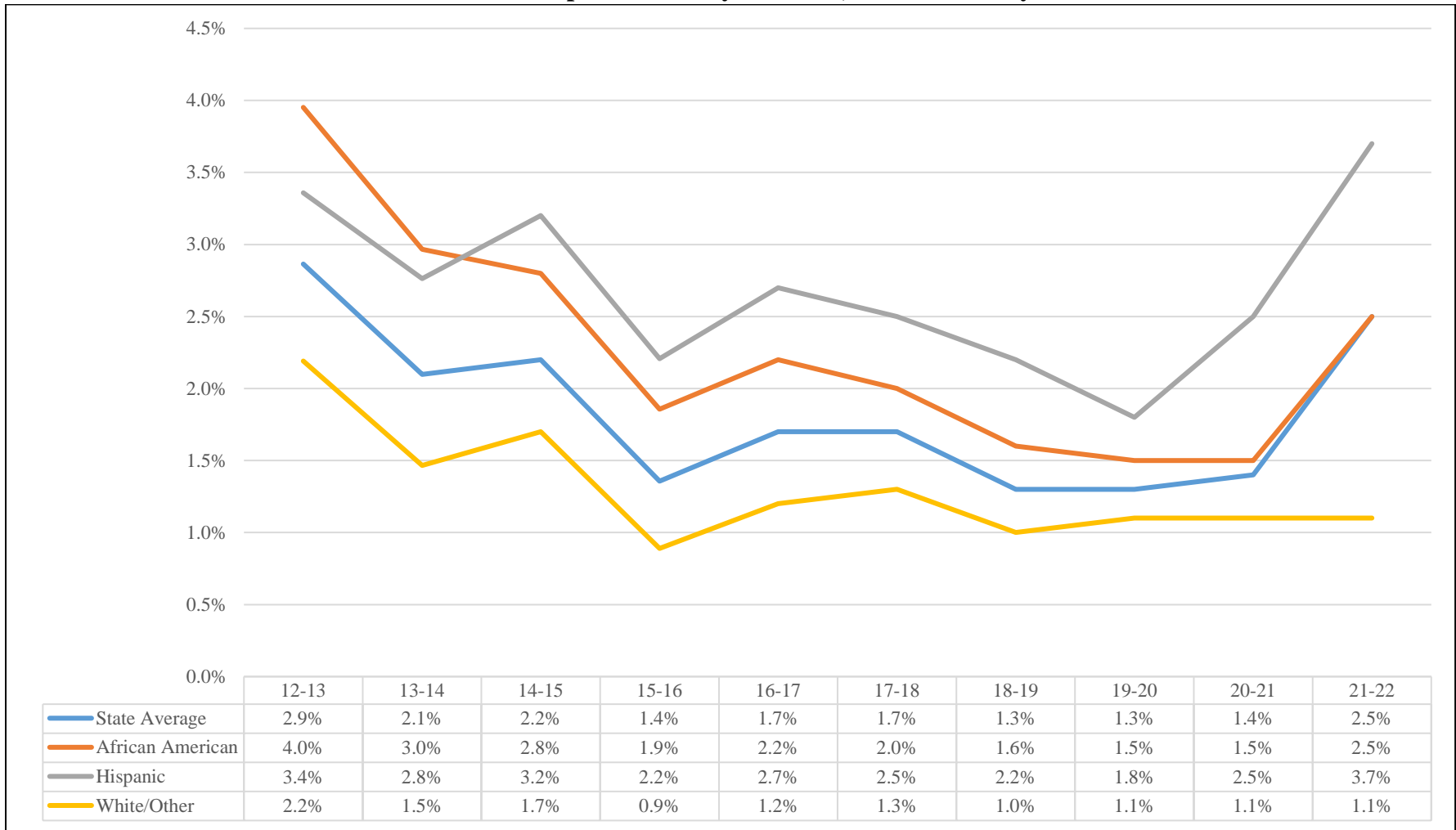
- Last year, out of 44,198 students enrolled in grades 9-12, 1,083 students left school.
- The statewide annual dropout rate for school year 2021-2022 was 2.5%. This is an increase from school year 2020-2021 when the dropout rate was 1.4%.
- Of the 1,083 dropouts, 58.8% were male and 41.2% were female.
- The largest number of dropouts were from students enrolled in the 9th grade (326 students). Students enrolled in 12th grade represented the lowest proportion of students who dropped out (188 students).
- Economic and employment reasons were cited as primary reasons for dropped outs in school year 2021-2022.

**Table 1**  
**Dropout Summary Statistics**  
**Dropout Rates of 9-12 Grade Students, School Years 2020-2022**

	2019-2020			2020-2021			2021-2022		
	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate
<b><u>State Average</u></b>	<b>42,734</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>43,092</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>44,198</b>	<b>1,083</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
<b><u>Gender</u></b>									
Female	21,035	209	1.0%	21,444	200	0.9%	21,937	446	2.0%
Male	21,700	351	1.6%	21,648	394	1.8%	22,260	637	2.9%
<b><u>Race/Ethnicity</u></b>									
African American	13,276	205	1.5%	13,155	193	1.5%	13,652	340	2.5%
Asian American	*	*	0.2%	*	*	0.2%	*	*	0.2%
Hispanic or Latino	7,362	132	1.8%	7,521	188	2.5%	7,923	292	3.7%
Multi-Racial	*	*	1.0%	1,555	16	1.0%	1,745	52	1.0%
Native American	*	*	1.7%	*	*	1.7%	*	*	1.7%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	47	0	0.0%	*	*	0.0%	*	*	0.0%
White	18,684	201	1.1%	18,852	184	1.1%	18,859	382	1.1%
<b><u>Age</u></b>									
Less than 15	*	*	15.4%	*	*	15.4%	*	*	15.4%
Age 15	*	*	0.3%	*	*	0.3%	*	*	0.3%
Age 16	9,993	94	1.0%	10,643	42	0.4%	11,004	69	0.6%
Age 17 and over	28,182	448	1.6%	23,277	543	2.3%	23,796	989	4.2%

\*Information suppressed to protect student privacy.

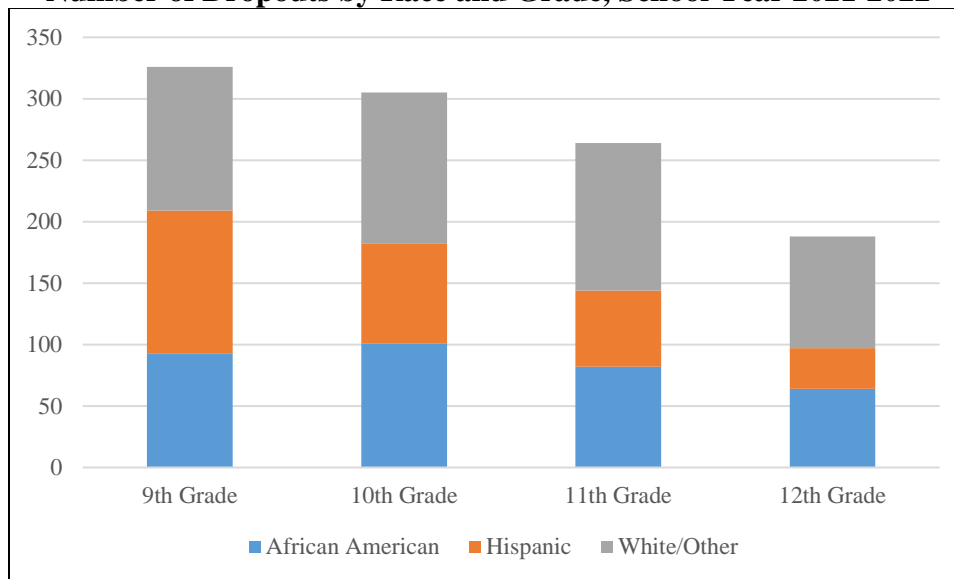
**Figure 1**  
**Delaware Dropout Summary Statistics, 10 Year History**



**Table 2**  
**Dropouts by Race and Grade, School Year 2021-2022**

Grade	African American			Hispanic or Latino			White/Other			All		
	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate
9	4,268	93	2.2%	2,639	116	4.4%	6,312	117	1.9%	13,219	326	2.5%
10	3,263	101	3.1%	2,081	81	3.9%	5,713	123	2.2%	11,057	305	2.8%
11	3,148	82	2.6%	1,692	62	3.7%	5,319	120	2.3%	10,159	264	2.6%
12	2,973	64	2.2%	1,511	33	2.2%	5,279	91	1.7%	9,763	188	1.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,652</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>7,923</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>22,623</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>44,198</b>	<b>1,083</b>	<b>2.5%</b>

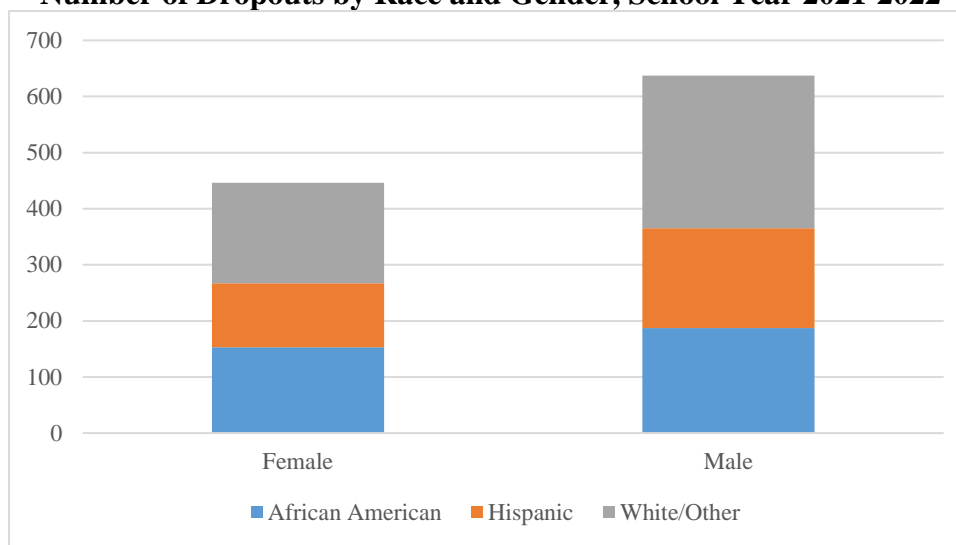
**Figure 2**  
**Number of Dropouts by Race and Grade, School Year 2021-2022**



**Table 3**  
**Dropouts by Race and Gender, School Year 2021-2022**

Gender	African American			Hispanic or Latino			White/Other			All		
	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate
Female	6,840	152	2.2%	3,986	114	2.9%	11,111	179	1.6%	21,937	446	2.0%
Male	6,812	187	2.8%	3,937	178	4.5%	11,511	272	2.4%	22,261	637	2.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,652</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>7,923</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>22,622</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>44,198</b>	<b>1,083</b>	<b>2.5%</b>

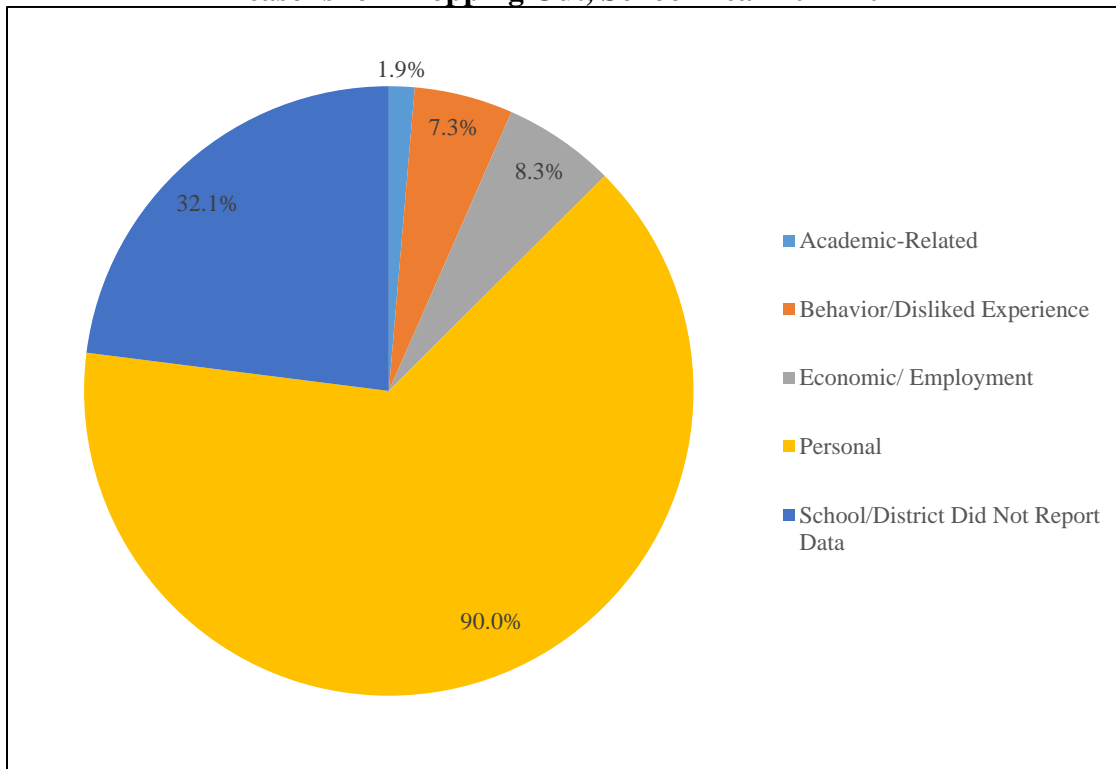
**Figure 3**  
**Number of Dropouts by Race and Gender, School Year 2021-2022**



**Table 4**  
**Reasons for Dropping Out, School Year 2021-2022**

Reason	Number	Percent
Academic-Related	21	1.9%
Behavior/Disliked Experience	79	7.3%
Economic/Employment	90	8.3%
Personal	10	0.9%
School/District Did Not Report Data	883	32.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,083</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Figure 4**  
**Reasons for Dropping Out, School Year 2021-2022**



**Table 5**  
**Annual Dropout Rate by District/Charter, School Years 2020-2022**

District/Charter	2019-2020 Dropout Rate	2020-2021 Dropout Rate	2021-2022 Dropout Rate
Appoquinimink School District	0.2%	0.5%	0.3%
Brandywine School District	1.2%	0.3%	1.1%
Caesar Rodney School District	0.3%	1.0%	2.0%
Cape Henlopen School District	0.9%	0.8%	2.2%
Capital School District	3.7%	2.9%	4.3%
Christina School District	3.0%	4.2%	3.7%
Colonial School District	2.2%	1.6%	5.7%
Delmar School District	1.6%	0.9%	2.2%
Early College High School at Del State	1.0%	0.3%	1.2%
First State Military Academy	2.0%	2.6%	6.4%
Freire Charter School Wilmington	1.8%	0.5%	1.8%
Great Oaks Charter School	0.6%	5.4%	3.0%
Indian River School District	2.9%	3.1%	4.5%
Lake Forest School District	1.3%	2.2%	3.5%
Las Americas Aspira Academy	n/a	n/a	2.5%
Laurel School District	2.7%	1.2%	5.6%
Milford School District	1.5%	2.7%	5.2%
MOT Charter School	0.6%	0.4%	2.2%
New Castle County Vocational-Technical School	0.4%	0.1%	1.3%
Newark Charter School	0.0%	0.1%	0.5%
Odyssey Charter School	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
POLYTECH School District	0.1%	0.3%	0.8%
Positive Outcomes Charter School	0.0%	2.3%	10.7%
Red Clay Consolidated School District	0.5%	1.6%	1.0%
Seaford School District	2.6%	2.1%	7.2%
Smyrna School District	1.6%	1.0%	3.0%
Sussex Academy	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Sussex Technical School District	1.0%	0.7%	0.5%
Woodbridge School District	2.0%	0.7%	3.0%

Notes: • Red Clay Consolidated School District includes Charter School of Wilmington and Delaware Military Academy.  
• Special Schools and ILCs are included in district dropout summary statistics.



**Table 6**  
**Annual Dropout Rate by School, School Years 2020-2022**

High Schools	19-20 Dropout Rate	20-21 Dropout Rate	21-22 Dropout Rate
Appoquinimink High School	0.1%	0.2%	0.4%
Brandywine High School	1.2%	0.1%	1.0%
Brennen School (The)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Caesar Rodney High School	0.2%	0.9%	2.1%
Calloway (Cab) School of the Arts	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%
Cape Henlopen High School	1.0%	0.8%	2.2%
Charter School of Wilmington	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Christiana High School	6.6%	4.1%	1.8%
Concord High School	0.9%	0.6%	0.7%
Conrad Schools of Science	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Delaware Military Academy	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%
Delaware School for the Deaf School (DSD)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Delcastle Technical High School	0.6%	0.3%	0.3%
Delmar High School	1.6%	1.0%	2.3%
Dickinson (John) School	0.5%	6.2%	2.4%
Dover High School	2.8%	2.7%	3.4%
duPont (Alexis I.) High School	1.9%	2.1%	1.7%
Early College High School at Del State	1.0%	0.3%	1.2%
Ennis (Howard T.) School	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%
First State Military Academy	2.0%	2.6%	6.4%
First State School	9.1%	14.3%	0.0%
Freire Charter School	1.8%	0.5%	1.8%
Glasgow High School	3.5%	1.9%	3.4%
Great Oaks Charter School	0.6%	5.4%	3.0%
Hodgson (Paul M.) Vocational Technical High School	0.4%	0.3%	1.6%
Howard High School of Technology	0.8%	0.8%	4.0%
Indian River High School	1.9%	1.3%	4.1%
John S. Charlton School	2.0%	1.9%	0.0%
Kent County Community School	31.8%	4.3%	3.1%
Kent County Secondary ILC	26.3%	7.6%	33.3%
Lake Forest High School	1.3%	2.2%	3.5%

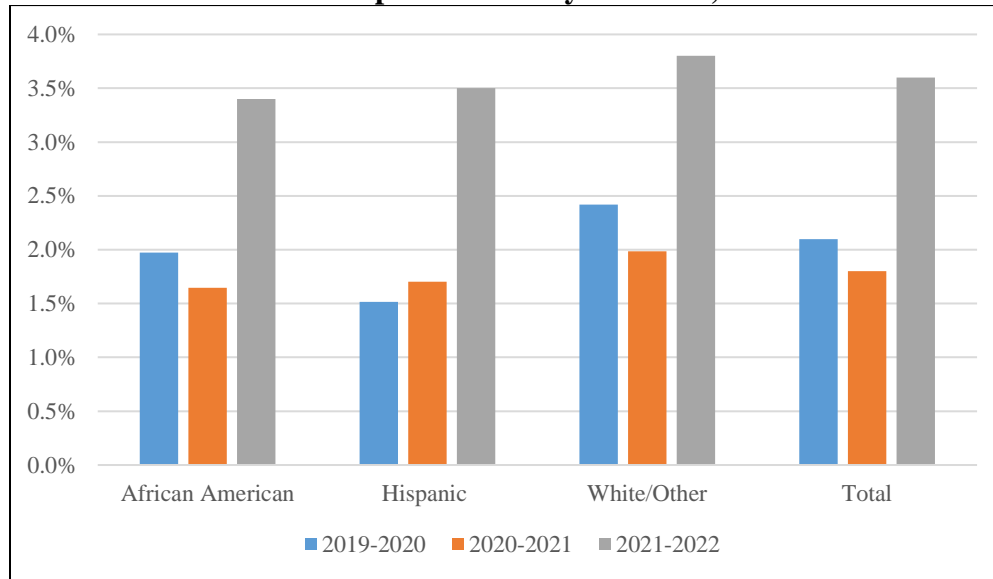
High School	19-20 Dropout Rate	20-21 Dropout Rate	21-22 Dropout Rate
Las Americas ASPIRA Academy	n/a	n/a	2.5%
Laurel Senior High School	2.7%	1.2%	5.6%
Leach (John G.) School	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%
McKean (Thomas) High School	0.7%	2.4%	1.8%
Meadowood Program	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Middletown High School	0.4%	0.8%	0.3%
Milford Senior High School	1.5%	2.7%	5.2%
MOT Charter School	0.6%	0.4%	2.2%
Mount Pleasant High School	1.5%	0.3%	1.4%
Newark Charter School	0.0%	0.1%	0.5%
Newark High School	1.4%	6.8%	6.5%
Odessa High School	n/a	n/a	0.3%
Odyssey Charter School	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Penn (William) High School	1.5%	1.7%	5.4%
POLYTECH High School	0.1%	0.3%	0.8%
Positive Outcomes Charter School	0.0%	2.3%	10.7%
Seaford Senior High School	2.7%	2.1%	7.5%
Smyrna High School	1.6%	1.0%	3.0%
St. Georges Technical High School	0.1%	0.0%	0.4%
Sussex Academy	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Sussex Central High School	3.5%	4.1%	4.9%
Sussex Consortium	0.0%	1.0%	1.0%
Sussex Technical High School	1.0%	0.7%	0.5%
Wallace Wallin School	16.1%	0.0%	16.9%
Woodbridge High School	2.0%	0.7%	3.0%

Notes: • Special Schools and ILCs are included in district dropout summary statistics.

**Table 7**  
**Students with Disabilities Dropout Summary Statistics, School Years 2020-2022**

Race/Ethnicity	2019-2020			2020-2021			2021-2022		
	Total Enrolled	Total Dropout	Dropout Rate	Total Enrolled	Total Dropout	Dropout Rate	Total Enrolled	Total Dropout	Dropout Rate
African American	2,837	56	2.0%	2,918	48	1.6%	3,061	103	3.4%
Hispanic	1,055	16	1.5%	1,116	19	1.7%	1,213	42	3.5%
White/Other	2,975	72	2.4%	3,073	61	2.0%	3,211	121	3.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,867</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>7,107</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>1.8%</b>	<b>7,485</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>3.6%</b>

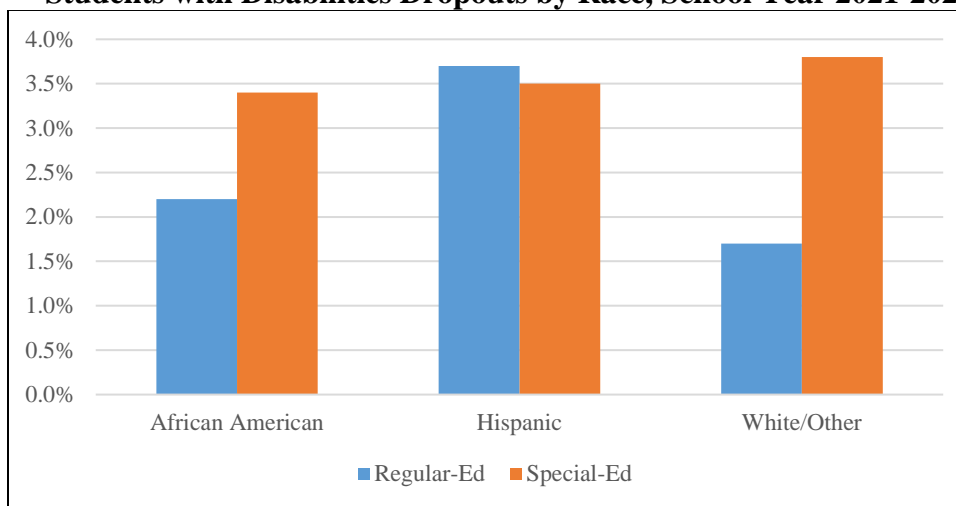
**Figure 5**  
**Students with Disabilities Dropout Summary Statistics, School Years 2020-2022**



**Table 8**  
**Students with Disabilities Dropouts by Race, School Year 2021-2022**

	African American			Hispanic or Latino			White/Other			All		
	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate
Regular-Ed	10,591	237	2.2%	6,710	250	3.7%	19,412	330	1.7%	36,713	817	2.2%
Special-Ed	3,061	103	3.4%	1,213	42	3.5%	3,211	121	3.8%	7,485	266	3.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,652</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>7,923</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>22,623</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>44,198</b>	<b>1,083</b>	<b>2.5%</b>

**Figure 6**  
**Students with Disabilities Dropouts by Race, School Year 2021-2022**



## *Appendix A*

### *Criteria for being identified as a dropout:*

- A student who completed the previous school year and who did not reach his or her 16th birthday by the beginning of the current school and did not attend any days of the current school year is considered dropout underage from the receiving school. This student should be coded in eSchoolPLUS as Dropout-Underage. This underage dropout should have a withdrawal date that is the same as the entry date (i.e., first day of school of the reporting year).
- A student who completed the previous school year and who did reach his or her 16th birthday by the beginning of the current school and did not attend any days of the current school year is considered "dropout-truancy" from the receiving school. This student should be coded in eSchoolPLUS as Dropout-Truancy. This dropout should have a withdrawal date that is the same as the entry date (i.e., first day of school of the reporting year).
- If a student has moved and there is no official documentation that he or she has transferred to another school, he or she is counted as a dropout and code in eSchoolPLUS as DropoutUnderage or Dropout-Truancy depending on age.
- A student who transfers to James H. Groves Adult High School during the current school year and is not in attendance (enrolled) by September 30 of the next school year, is counted as Dropout-Academic from the home school.
- A student who transfers to James H. Groves Adult Basic Education (ABE) programs during the current school year is counted as Dropout-Academic from the home school.
- An expelled student is counted as a dropout if he or she does not return at the end of the disciplinary period. This student should be coded in eSchoolPLUS as Dropout-Behavior.
- A school leaver who has joined the military is counted as a dropout. This student should be coded in eSchoolPLUS as Dropout-Military.
- A school leaver who has joined Job Corps is counted as a dropout. This student should be coded in eSchoolPLUS as Dropout-Employment.
- A student withdrawn because of truancy is counted as a dropout. This student shall be coded in eSchoolPLUS as Dropout-Underage or Dropout- Truancy depending on age. (A student with an active truancy case with the Justice of the Peace Court shall not be withdrawn from eSchoolPLUS.)

### *Criteria for not being identified as a dropout:*

- A student who remains enrolled in a public school in the State.
- A student who receives a diploma or in the case of a special education student a district or charter school issued Certificate, or a diploma of alternate achievement standards should not be reported as a dropout.
- A student who transfers to another public or private school should not be reported as a dropout. Documentation of transfer needs to be preserved.
- A student who moves out of state should not be reported as a dropout. Documentation of the move needs to be preserved.
- A student who dies should not be reported as a dropout.
- A school leaver who is in a correctional institution or other state agency placement should not be counted as a dropout.
- A student who leaves the United States is not considered to be a dropout even if the school district cannot document the student's subsequent enrollment in school.