State of Delaware

Delaware Dropout Summary

2022-2023

March 2024

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 45,263 students enrolled in grades 9-12, 1,768 students left school.

- The statewide annual dropout rate for school year 2022-2023 was 3.9%. This is an increase from school year 2021-2022 when the dropout rate was 2.5%.

- Of the 1,768 dropouts, 56.4% were male and 43.6% were female.

- The largest number of dropouts were from students enrolled in the 9th grade (605 students). Students enrolled in 12th grade represented the lowest proportion of students who dropped out (285 students).

- Behavior/Disliked Experience reasons were cited as primary reasons for dropped outs in school year 2022-2023.

Table 1
Dropout Summary Statistics
Dropout Rates of 9-12 Grade Students, School Years 2021-2023

		2020-2021			2021-2022			2022-2023		
		Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate
	State Average	43,092	594	1.4%	44,198	1,083	2.5%	45,263	1,768	3.9%
Gender	Female	21,444	200	0.9%	21,938	446	2.0%	22,317	770	3.5%
	Male	21,648	394	1.8%	22,260	637	2.9%	22,946	998	4.3%
Race	Black or African American	13,155	193	1.5%	13,652	340	2.5%	14,134	619	4.4%
	Asian American	1,720	*	*	1,727	9	0.5%	1,748	34	1.9%
	Hispanic/Latino	7,521	188	2.5%	7,923	292	3.7%	8,662	465	5.4%
	Multi-Racial	1,555	16	1.0%	1,745	52	3.0%	1,981	76	3.8%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	230	6	2.6%	225	*	*	216	19	8.8%
	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	59	*	*	67	*	*	76	7	9.2%
	White or Caucasian	18,852	184	1.0%	18,859	382	2.0%	18,446	548	3.0%
Age	Less than 15	11,986	191	1.6%	13,219	326	2.5%	12,923	605	4.7%
	Age 15	11,122	169	1.5%	11,057	305	2.8%	11,923	525	4.4%
	Age 16	10,155	121	1.2%	10,160	264	2.6%	10,364	353	3.4%
	Age 17 and over	9,829	113	1.1%	9,762	188	1.9%	10,053	285	2.8%

Information suppressed to protect student privacy.

Figure 1
**Delaware Dropout Summary Statistics, 10 Year History**
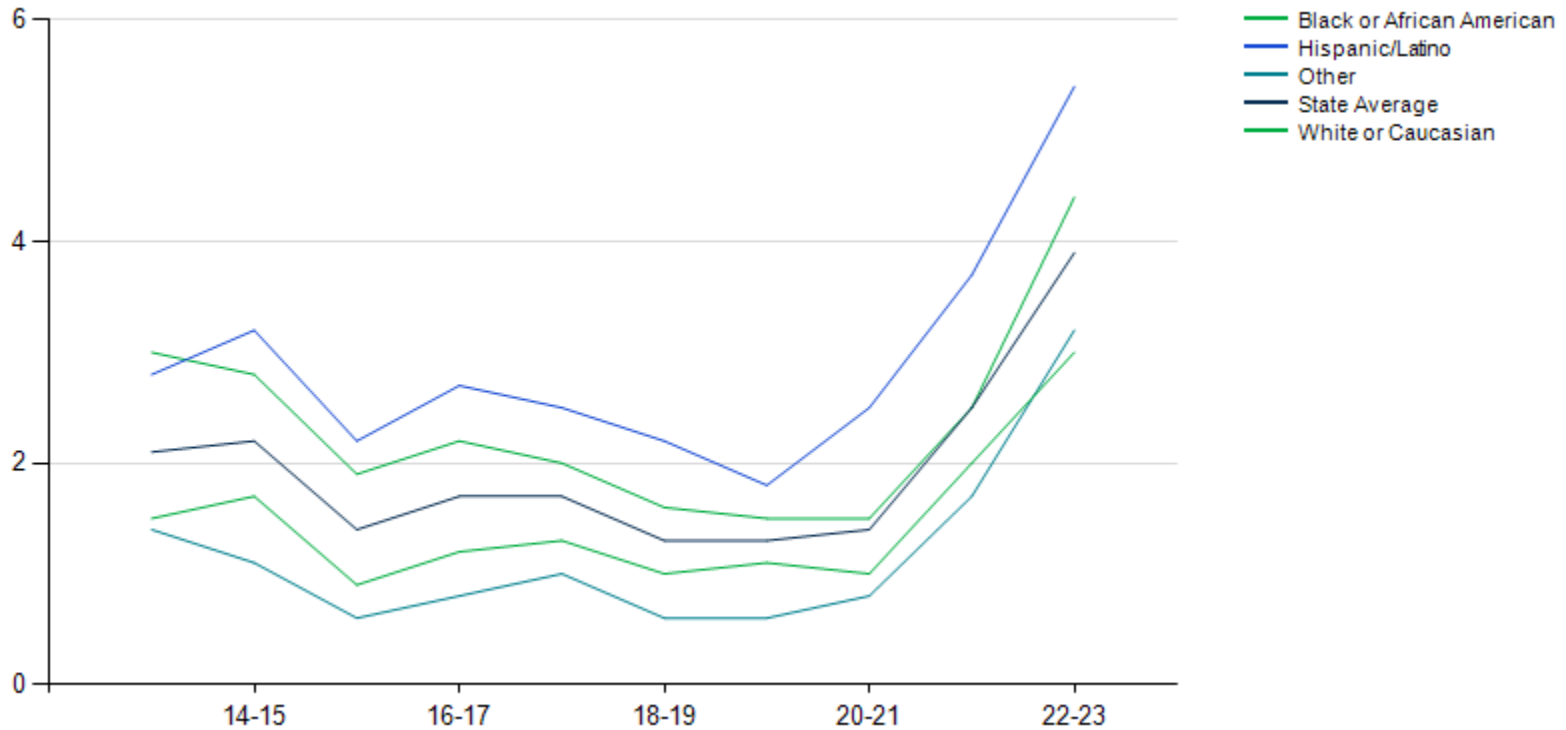
	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23
State Average	2.1%	2.2%	1.4%	1.7%	1.7%	1.3%	1.3%	1.4%	2.5%	3.9
Black or African American	3.0%	2.8%	1.9%	2.2%	2.0%	1.6%	1.5%	1.5%	2.5%	4.4
Hispanic/Latino	2.8%	3.2%	2.2%	2.7%	2.5%	2.2%	1.8%	2.5%	3.7%	5.4
White or Caucasian	1.5%	1.7%	0.9%	1.2%	1.3%	1.0%	1.1%	1.0%	2.0%	3
Other	1.4%	1.1%	0.6%	0.8%	1.0%	0.6%	0.6%	0.8%	1.7%	3.2

Table 2
Dropouts by Race and Grade, School Year 2022-2023

|	Black or African American			Hispanic/Latino			White or Caucasian			Other			All		
Grade	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate
09	4,172	197	4.7%	2,701	185	6.8%	4,908	173	3.5%	1,232	50	4.1%	12,923	605	4.7%
10	3,777	179	4.7%	2,364	153	6.5%	4,766	154	3.2%	1,087	39	3.6%	11,923	525	4.4%
11	3,077	131	4.3%	1,885	70	3.7%	4,434	119	2.7%	996	33	3.3%	10,364	353	3.4%
12	3,108	112	3.6%	1,712	57	3.3%	4,338	102	2.4%	968	14	1.4%	10,053	285	2.8%
Total	14,134	619	4.3%	8,662	465	5.1%	18,446	548	3.0%	4,283	136	3.1%	45,263	1,768	3.8%

Figure 2
Number of Dropouts by Race and Grade, School Year 2022-2023
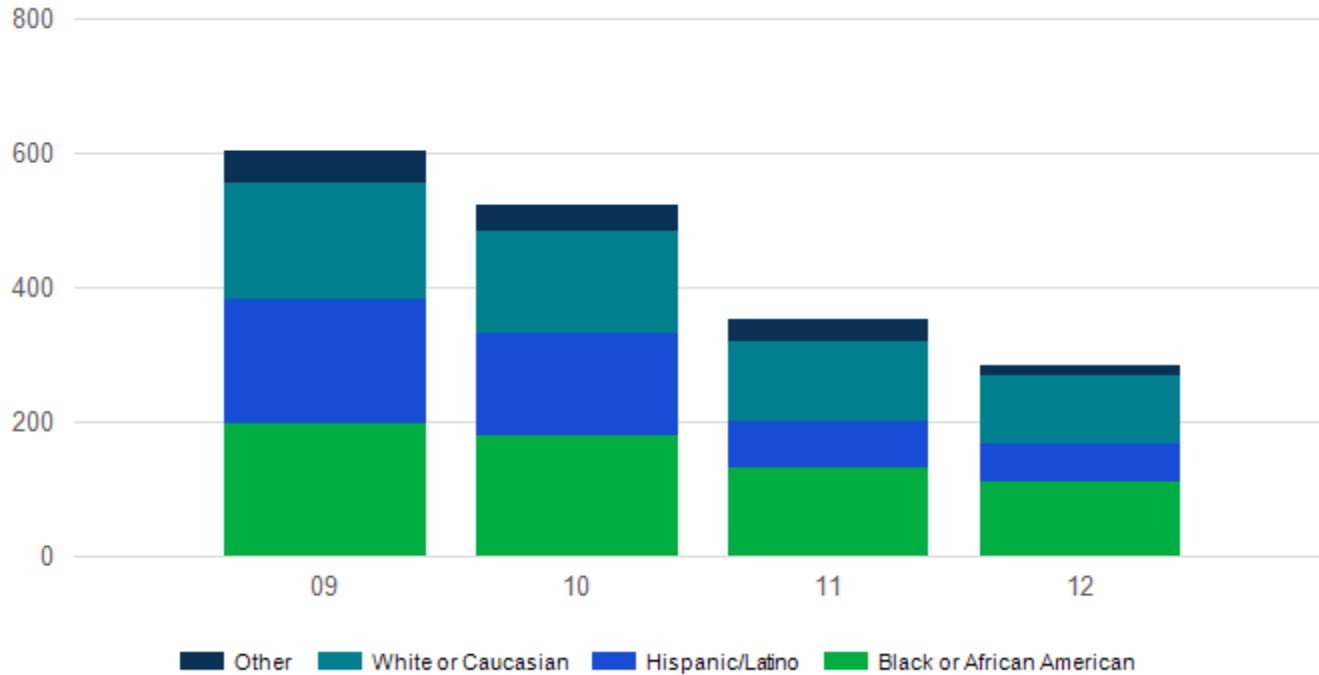
Table 3
Dropouts by Race and Gender, School Year 2022-2023

| Gender	Black or African American			Hispanic/Latino			White or Caucasian			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	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate
Female	6,982	297	4.3%	4,284	191	4.5%	9,030	224	2.5%	2,145	58	2.7%	22,317	770	3.5%
Male	7,152	322	4.5%	4,378	274	6.3%	9,416	324	3.4%	2,139	78	3.6%	22,946	998	4.3%
Total	14,134	619	4.4%	8,662	465	5.4%	18,446	548	3.0%	4,284	136	3.2%	45,263	1,768	3.9%

Figure 3
Number of Dropouts by Race and Gender, School Year 2022-2023
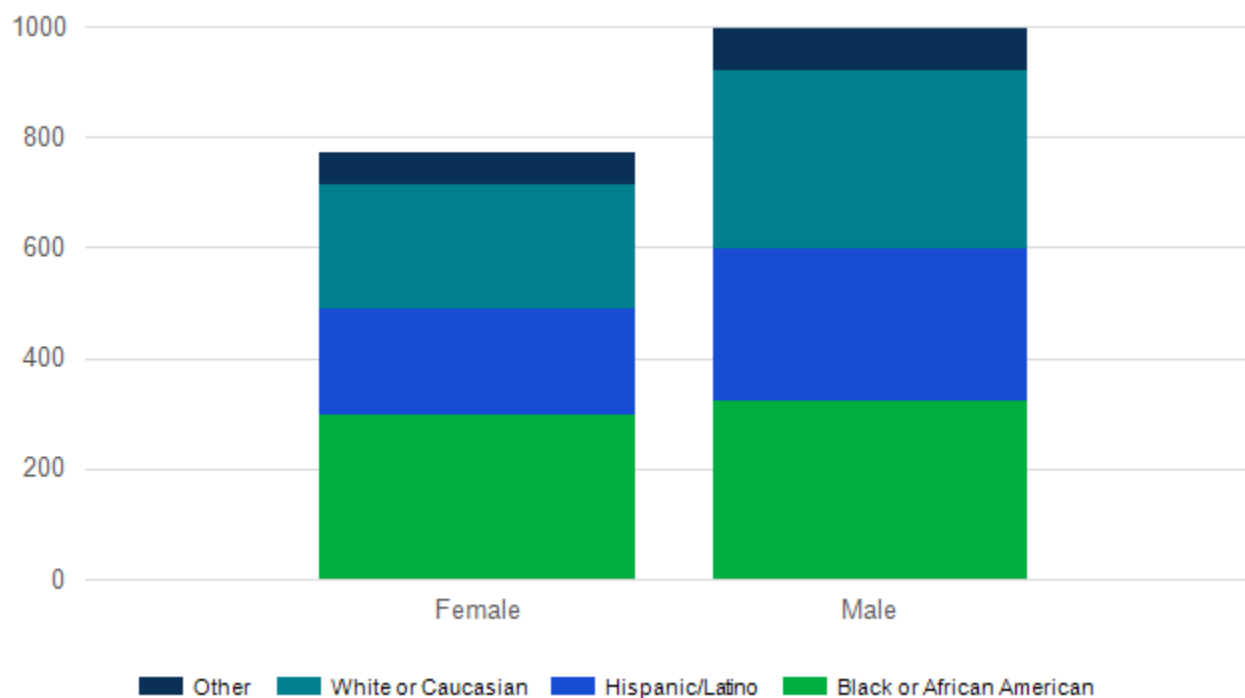
Table 4
Reasons for Dropping Out, School Year 2022-2023

Reason	Number	Percent
Academic-Related	23	1.1%
Behavior/Dislike Experience	188	9.3%
Curriculum	1	0.0%
Economic/Employment	126	6.2%
Personal	10	0.5%
School/District Did Not Report Data	1,679	82.8%
Total	2,027	100.0%

Figure 4
Reasons for Dropping Out, School Year 2022-2023
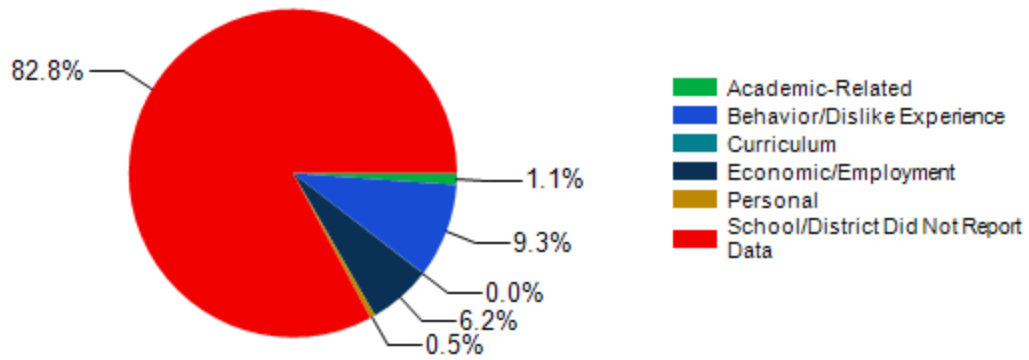
Table 5
Annual Dropout Rate by District/Charter, School Years 2021-2023

District/Charter	2020-2021 Dropout Rate	2021-2022 Dropout Rate	2022-2023 Dropout Rate
Appoquinimink School District	0.5%	0.3%	1.9%
Brandywine School District	0.3%	1.1%	2.1%
Caesar Rodney School District	1.0%	2.0%	6.5%
Cape Henlopen School District	0.8%	2.2%	3.2%
Capital School District	2.9%	4.3%	7.0%
Christina School District	4.2%	3.7%	6.1%
Colonial School District	1.6%	5.7%	6.4%
Delmar School District	0.9%	2.2%	3.9%
Early College High School at Del State	0.3%	1.2%	1.9%
First State Military Academy	2.6%	6.4%	2.7%
Freire Charter School Wilmington	0.5%	1.8%	8.9%
Great Oaks Charter School	5.4%	3.0%	14.1%
Indian River School District	3.1%	4.5%	7.1%
Lake Forest School District	2.2%	3.5%	3.0%
Las Americas Aspira Academy	N/A	2.5%	2.0%
Laurel School District	1.2%	5.6%	8%
Milford School District	2.7%	5.2%	7.1%
MOT Charter School	0.4%	2.2%	2.0%
New Castle County Vocational-Technical School District	0.1%	1.3%	1.9%
Newark Charter School	0.1%	0.5%	0.5%
Odyssey Charter School	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%
POLYTECH School District	0.3%	0.8%	1.9%
Positive Outcomes Charter School	2.3%	10.7%	8.2%
Red Clay Consolidated School District	1.6%	1.0%	1.8%
Seaford School District	2.1%	7.2%	8.6%
Smyrna School District	1.0%	3.0%	3.5%
Sussex Academy	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%
Sussex Technical School District	0.7%	0.5%	1.3%
Woodbridge School District	0.7%	3.0%	3.7%

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 2021-2023

School	2020-2021 Dropout Rate	2021-2022 Dropout Rate	2022-2023 Dropout Rate
Appoquinimink High School	0.2%	0.4%	2.0%
Brandywine High School	0.1%	1.0%	2.4%
Brennen School (The)	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%
Caesar Rodney High School	0.9%	2.1%	6.6%
Calloway (Cab) School of the Arts	0.2%	0.0%	0.4%
Cape Henlopen High School	0.8%	2.2%	3.3%
Charter School of Wilmington	0.0%	0.1%	0.3%
Christiana High School	4.1%	1.8%	3.9%
Concord High School	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%
Conrad Schools of Science	0.0%	0.1%	0.3%
Delaware Military Academy	0.2%	0.2%	0.7%
Delaware School for the Deaf School (DSD)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Delcastle Technical High School	0.3%	0.3%	2.0%
Delmar High School	1.0%	2.3%	3.9%
Dickinson (John) School	6.2%	2.4%	4.9%
Dover High School	2.7%	3.4%	6.4%
duPont (Alexis I.) High School	2.1%	1.7%	3.8%
Early College High School at Del State	0.3%	1.2%	1.9%
Ennis (Howard T.) School	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
First State Military Academy	2.6%	6.4%	2.7%
First State School	14.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Freire Charter School	0.5%	1.8%	8.9%
Glasgow High School	1.9%	3.4%	4.1%
Great Oaks Charter School	5.4%	3.0%	14.1%
Hodgson (Paul M.) Vocational Technical High School	0.3%	1.6%	1.9%
Howard High School of Technology	0.8%	4.0%	3.1%
Indian River High School	1.3%	4.1%	4.7%
John S. Charlton School	1.9%	0.0%	3.7%
Kent County Community School	4.3%	3.1%	2.3%
Kent County Secondary ILC	7.6%	33.3%	30.2%
Lake Forest High School	2.2%	3.5%	3.0%
Las Americas ASPIRA Academy	N/A	2.5%	2.0%
Laurel Senior High School	1.2%	5.6%	8.0%
Leach (John G.) School	0.0%	2.1%	10.3%
McKean (Thomas) High School	2.4%	1.8%	1.7%
Meadowood Program	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Middletown High School	0.8%	0.3%	2.3%
Milford Senior High School	2.7%	5.2%	7.1%
MOT Charter School	0.4%	2.2%	2.0%

Mount Pleasant High School	0.3%	1.4%	2.7%
Newark Charter School	0.1%	0.5%	0.5%
Newark High School	6.8%	6.5%	6.5%
Odessa High School	N/A	0.3%	1.0%
Odyssey Charter School	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%
Penn (William) High School	1.7%	5.4%	6.2%
POLYTECH High School	0.3%	0.8%	1.9%
Positive Outcomes Charter School	2.3%	10.7%	8.2%
Seaford Senior High School	2.1%	7.5%	8.9%
Smyrna High School	1.0%	3.0%	3.5%
St. Georges Technical High School	0.0%	0.4%	1.0%
Sussex Academy	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%
Sussex Central High School	4.1%	4.9%	8.6%
Sussex Consortium	1.0%	1.0%	0.9%
Sussex Technical High School	0.7%	0.5%	1.3%
The Wallace Wallin School	0.0%	16.9%	0.0%
Woodbridge High School	0.7%	3.0%	1.9%

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

Table 7
Students with Disabilities Dropout Summary Statistics, School Years 2021-2023

| Race/Ethnicity	2020-2021			2021-2022			2022-2023		
	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate
Black or African American	2,918	48	1.6%	3,061	103	3.4%	3,200	168	5.3%
Hispanic/Latino	1,116	19	1.7%	1,213	42	3.5%	1,327	55	4.1%
White or Caucasian	2,721	52	1.9%	2,804	108	3.9%	2,871	141	4.9%
Other	419	9	2.1%	486	13	2.7%	564	29	6.1%
Total	7,174	128	1.8%	7,564	266	3.4%	7,962	393	4.8%

Students with Disabilities Dropout Summary Statistics, School Years 2021-2023

Table 8
Students with Disabilities Dropouts by Race, School Year 2022-2023

	Black or African American			Hispanic/Latino			White or Caucasian			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	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate
Regular-Ed	10,934	451	4.1%	7,335	410	5.6%	15,575	407	2.6%	3,547	107	3.0%	3,7391	1,375	3.7%
Special-Ed	3,200	168	5.3%	1,327	55	4.1%	2,871	141	4.9%	474	29	6.1%	7,872	393	5.0%
Total	14,134	619	4.7%	8,662	465	4.8%	18,446	548	3.8%	4,021	136	4.6%	45,263	1,768	4.4%

Figure 6: Students with Disabilities Dropouts by Race, School Year 2022-2023
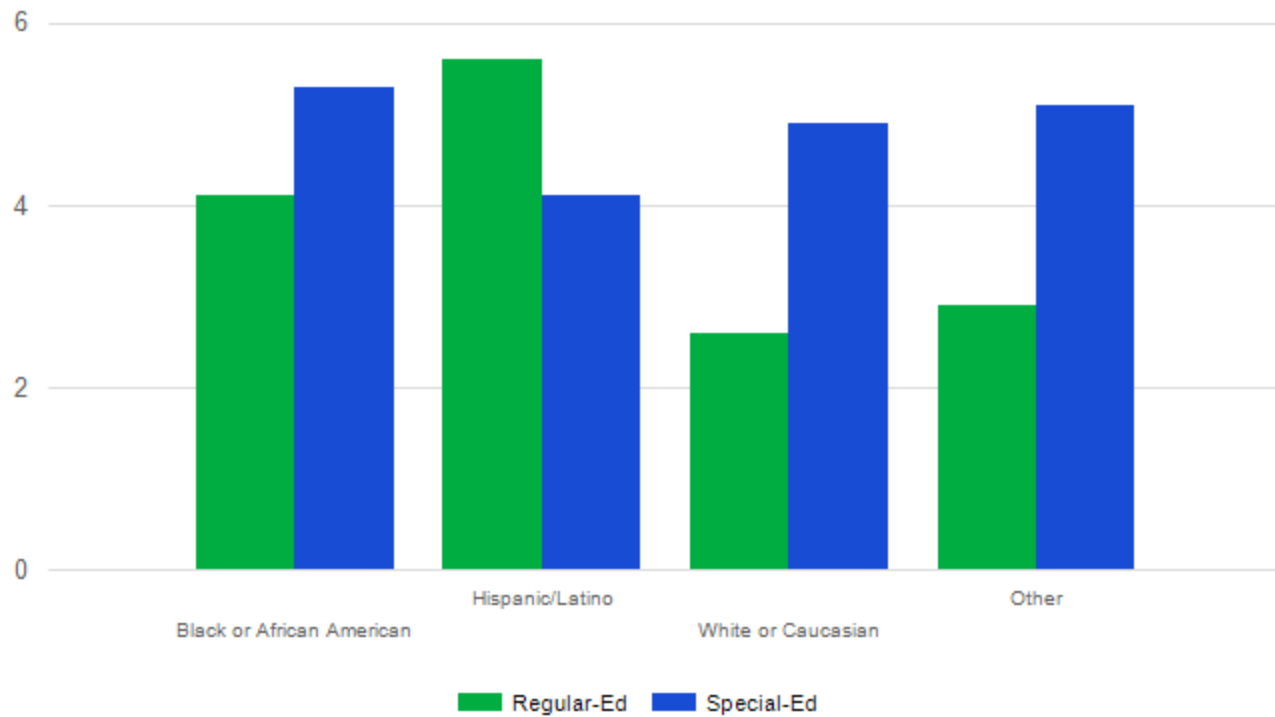
Appendix A

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.