

# State of Delaware

## **Delaware Dropout Summary** 2023-2024



March 2025

## **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 48,319 students enrolled in grades 9-12, 1,057 students left school.
- The statewide annual dropout rate for school year 2023-2024 was 2.2%. This is a decrease from school year 2022-2023 when the dropout rate was 3.9%.
- Of the 1,057 dropouts, 58% were male and 42% were female.
- The largest number of dropouts were from students enrolled in the 9th grade (356 students). Students enrolled in 12th grade represented the lowest proportion of students who dropped out (94 students).
- Behavior/Disliked Experience reasons were cited as primary reasons for dropped outs in school year 2023-2024.

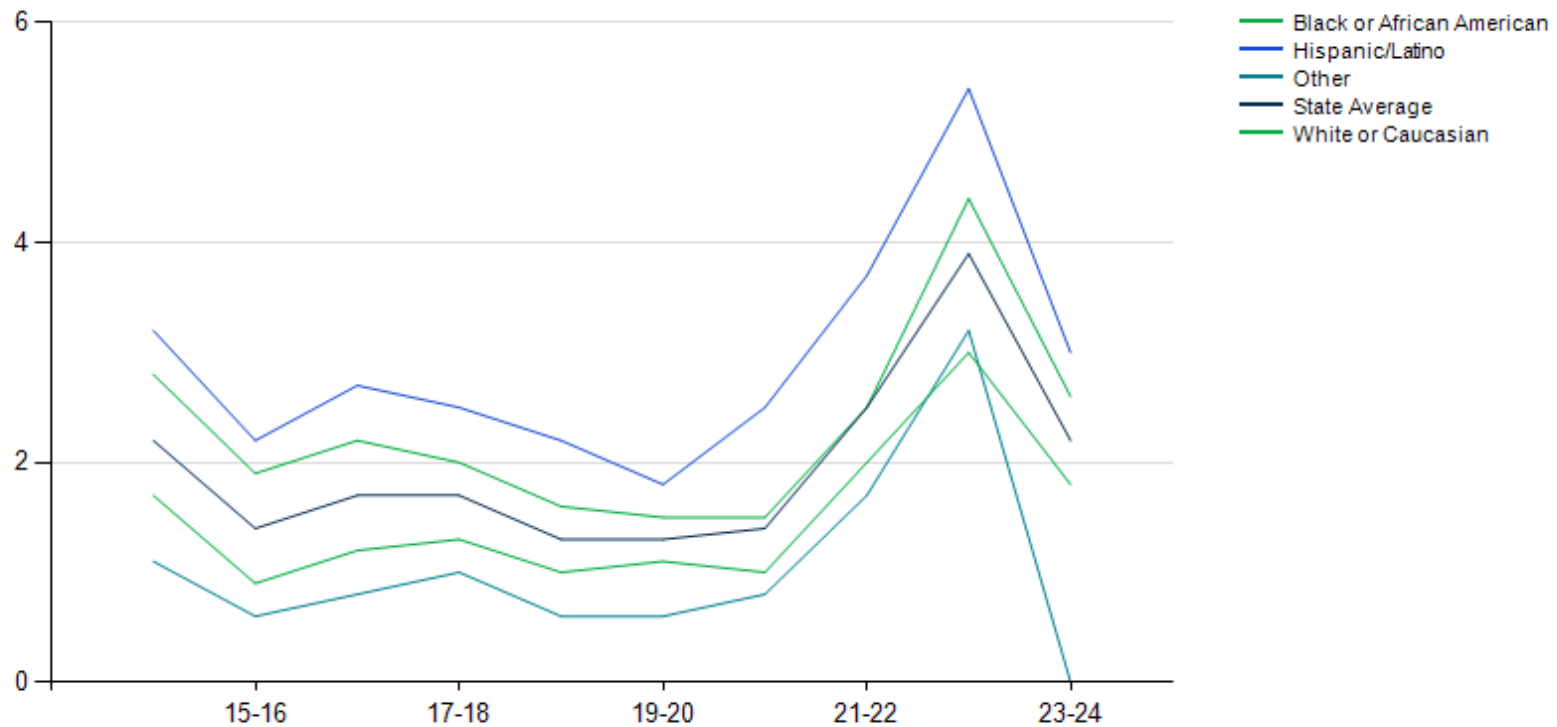
**Table 1**  
**Dropout Summary Statistics**  
**Dropout Rates of 9-12 Grade Students, School Years 2022-2024**

		2021-2022			2022-2023			2023-2024		
		Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate
	State Average	44198	1083	2.5%	45263	1768	3.9%	48319	1057	2.2%
Gender	Female	21938	446	2.0%	22317	770	3.5%	23566	444	1.9%
	Male	22260	637	2.9%	22946	998	4.3%	24754	613	2.5%
Race	Black or African American	13652	340	2.5%	14134	619	4.4%	15479	402	2.6%
	Asian American	1727	9	0.5%	1748	34	1.9%	1883	15	0.8%
	Hispanic/Latino	7923	292	3.7%	8662	465	5.4%	9899	296	3.0%
	Multi-Racial	1745	52	3.0%	1981	76	3.8%	2276	*	*
	American Indian or Alaska Native	225	*	*	216	19	8.8%	236	5	2.1%
	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	67	*	*	76	7	9.2%	83	*	*
	White or Caucasian	18859	382	2.0%	18446	548	3.0%	18463	333	1.8%
Age	Less than 15	13219	326	2.5%	12923	605	4.7%	13688	356	2.6%
	Age 15	11057	305	2.8%	11923	525	4.4%	12306	326	2.6%
	Age 16	10160	264	2.6%	10364	353	3.4%	10968	281	2.6%
	Age 17 and over	9762	188	1.9%	10053	285	2.8%	11357	94	0.8%

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*\*Information suppressed to protect student privacy.*

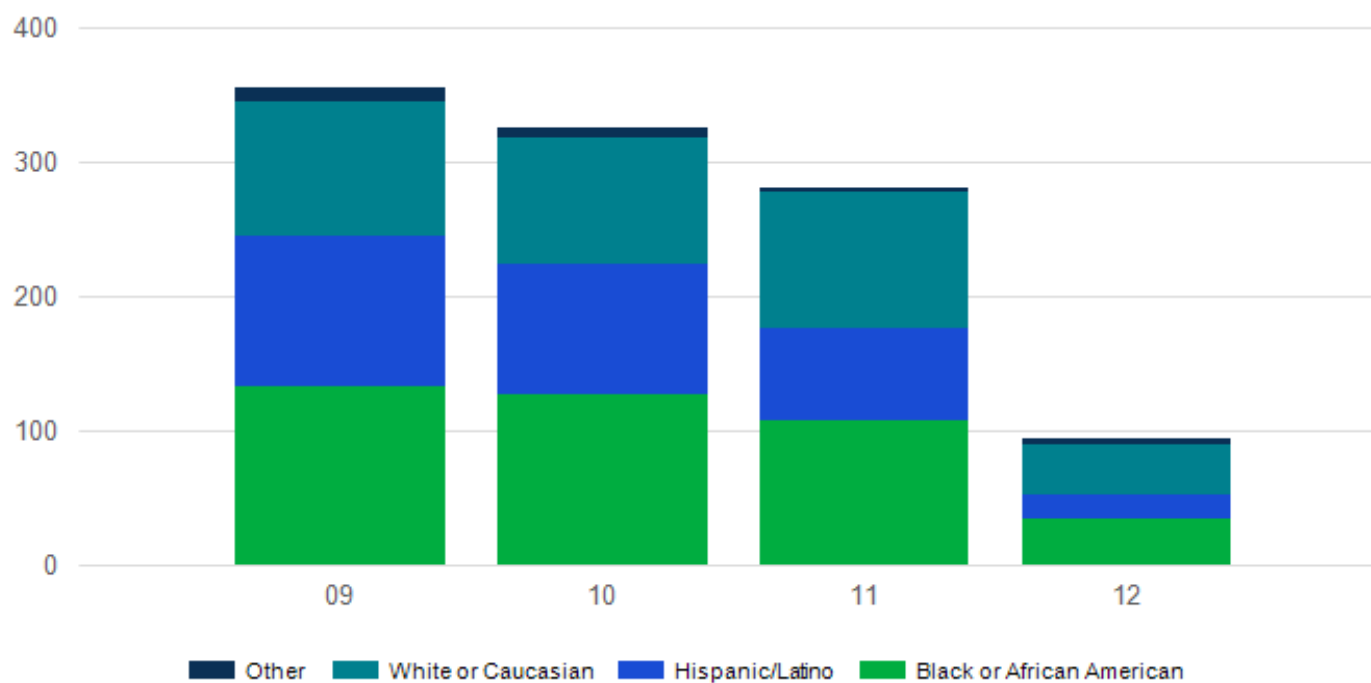
**Figure 1**  
**Delaware Dropout Summary Statistics, 10 Year History**



**Table 2**  
**Dropouts by Race and Grade, School Year 2023-2024**

Grade	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
09	4562	133	2.9%	3041	112	3.7%	4794	100	2.1%	1291	11	0.9%	13688	356	2.6%
10	3965	127	3.2%	2595	97	3.7%	4608	94	2%	1138	8	0.7%	12306	326	2.6%
11	3492	108	3.1%	2099	68	3.2%	4383	102	2.3%	994	3	0.3%	10968	281	2.6%
12	3460	34	1%	2164	19	0.9%	4678	37	0.8%	1055	4	0.4%	11357	94	0.8%
Total	15479	402	2.6%	9899	296	2.9%	18463	333	1.8%	4478	26	0.6%	48319	1057	2.2%

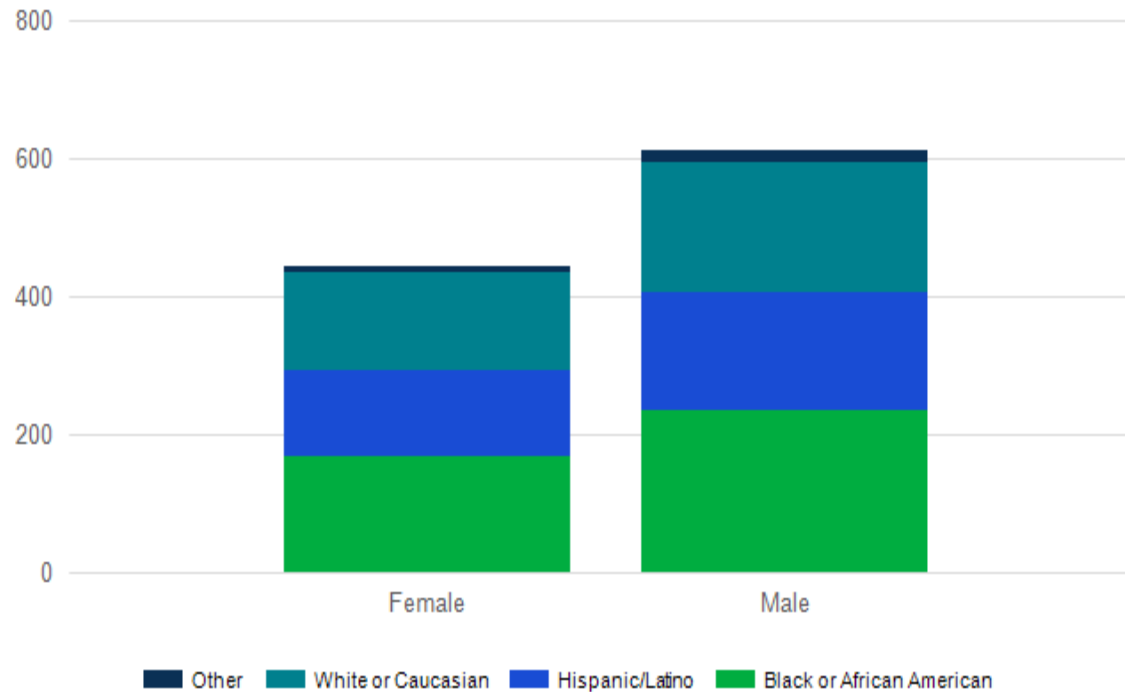
**Figure 2**  
**Number of Dropouts by Race and Grade, School Year 2023-2024**



**Table 3**  
**Dropouts by Race and Gender, School Year 2023-2024**

	Black or African American			Hispanic/Latino			White or Caucasian			Other			All		
Gender	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	7496	167	2.2%	4885	125	2.6%	8954	144	1.6%	2231	8	0.4%	23566	444	1.9%
Male	7984	235	2.9%	5014	171	3.4%	9509	189	2%	2247	18	0.8%	24754	613	2.5%
Total	15480	402	2.6%	9899	296	3%	18463	333	1.8%	4478	26	0.6%	48320	1057	2.2%

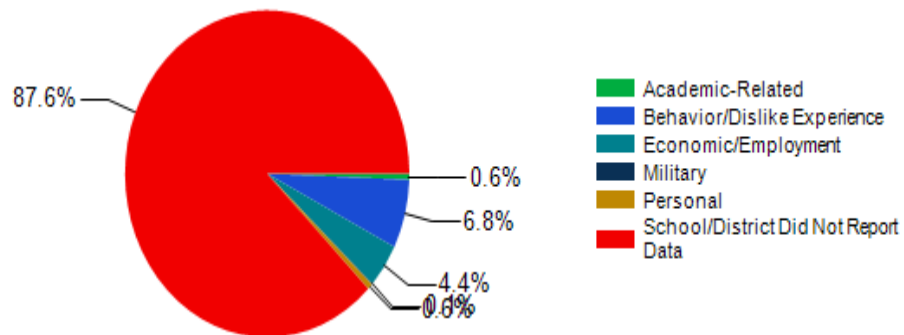
**Figure 3**  
**Number of Dropouts by Race and Gender, School Year 2023-2024**



**Table 4**  
**Reasons for Dropping Out, School Year 2023-2024**

Reason	Number	Percent
Academic-Related	8	0.6%
Behavior/Dislike Experience	93	6.8%
Economic/Employment	60	4.4%
Military	1	0.1%
Personal	8	0.6%
School/District Did Not Report Data	1199	87.6%
Total	1369	100.0%

**Figure 4**  
**Reasons for Dropping Out, School Year 2023-2024**



**Table 5**  
**Annual Dropout Rate by District/Charter, School Years 2022-2024**

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
District/Charter	Dropout Rate	Dropout Rate	Dropout Rate
Appoquinimink School District	0.3%	1.9%	0.9%
Brandywine School District	1.1%	2.1%	0.7%
Caesar Rodney School District	2.0%	6.5%	3.7%
Cape Henlopen School District	2.2%	3.2%	1.7%
Capital School District	4.3%	7.0%	5.2%
Christina School District	3.7%	6.1%	3.7%
Colonial School District	5.7%	6.4%	3.6%
Delmar School District	2.2%	3.9%	0.7%
Early College High School at Del State	1.2%	1.9%	0.3%
First State Military Academy	6.4%	2.7%	3.4%
Freire Charter School Wilmington	1.8%	8.9%	9.1%
Great Oaks Charter School	3.0%	14.1%	4.7%
Indian River School District	4.5%	7.1%	3.6%
Lake Forest School District	3.5%	3.0%	1.3%
Las Americas Aspira Academy	2.5%	2.0%	0.8%
Laurel School District	5.6%	8.0%	2.8%
Milford School District	5.2%	7.1%	5.4%
MOT Charter School	2.2%	2.0%	0.0%
New Castle County Vocational-Technical School District	1.3%	1.9%	1.3%
Newark Charter School	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
Odyssey Charter School	0.0%	0.8%	1.4%
POLYTECH School District	0.8%	1.9%	0.2%
Positive Outcomes Charter School	10.7%	8.2%	2.2%
Red Clay Consolidated School District	1.0%	1.8%	1.0%
Seaford School District	7.2%	8.6%	3.5%
Smyrna School District	3.0%	3.5%	0.7%
Sussex Academy	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%
Sussex Technical School District	0.5%	1.3%	0.7%
Woodbridge School District	3.0%	3.7%	1.6%

*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 2022-2024**

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
School	Dropout Rate	Dropout Rate	Dropout Rate
Appoquinimink High School	0.4%	2.0%	1.5%
Brandywine High School	1.0%	2.4%	0.4%
Brennen School (The)	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%
Caesar Rodney High School	2.1%	6.6%	3.7%
Calloway (Cab) School of the Arts	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%
Cape Henlopen High School	2.2%	3.3%	1.7%
Charter School of Wilmington	0.1%	0.3%	0.0%
Christiana High School	1.8%	3.9%	2.5%
Concord High School	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%
Conrad Schools of Science	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%
Delaware Military Academy	0.2%	0.7%	1.7%
Delcastle Technical High School	0.3%	2.0%	1.4%
Delmar High School	2.3%	3.9%	0.7%
Dickinson (John) School	2.4%	4.9%	1.5%
Dover High School	3.4%	6.4%	5.0%
duPont (Alexis I.) High School	1.7%	3.8%	1.9%
Early College High School at Del State	1.2%	1.9%	0.3%
First State Military Academy	6.4%	2.7%	3.4%
Freire Charter School	1.8%	8.9%	9.1%
Glasgow High School	3.4%	4.1%	2.9%
Great Oaks Charter School	3.0%	14.1%	4.7%
Hodgson (Paul M.) Vocational Technical High School	1.6%	1.9%	1.3%
Howard High School of Technology	4.0%	3.1%	2.8%
Indian River High School	4.1%	4.7%	2.4%
Lake Forest High School	3.5%	3.0%	1.3%
Las Americas ASPIRA Academy	2.5%	2.0%	0.8%
Laurel Senior High School	5.6%	8.0%	2.8%
McKean (Thomas) High School	1.8%	1.7%	1.3%
Middletown High School	0.3%	2.3%	0.5%
Milford Senior High School	5.2%	7.1%	5.4%
MOT Charter School	2.2%	2.0%	0.0%
Mount Pleasant High School	1.4%	2.7%	0.9%
Newark Charter School	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
Newark High School	6.5%	6.5%	4.6%
Odessa High School	0.3%	1.0%	0.6%
Odyssey Charter School	0.0%	0.8%	1.4%
Penn (William) High School	5.4%	6.2%	3.7%
POLYTECH High School	0.8%	1.9%	0.2%
Positive Outcomes Charter School	10.7%	8.2%	2.2%

Seaford Senior High School	7.5%	8.9%	3.5%
Smyrna High School	3.0%	3.5%	0.7%
St. Georges Technical High School	0.4%	1.0%	0.2%
Sussex Academy	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%
Sussex Central High School	4.9%	8.6%	4.3%
Sussex Technical High School	0.5%	1.3%	0.7%
The Wallace Wallin School	16.9%	0.0%	0.0%
Woodbridge High School	3.0%	1.9%	1.2%

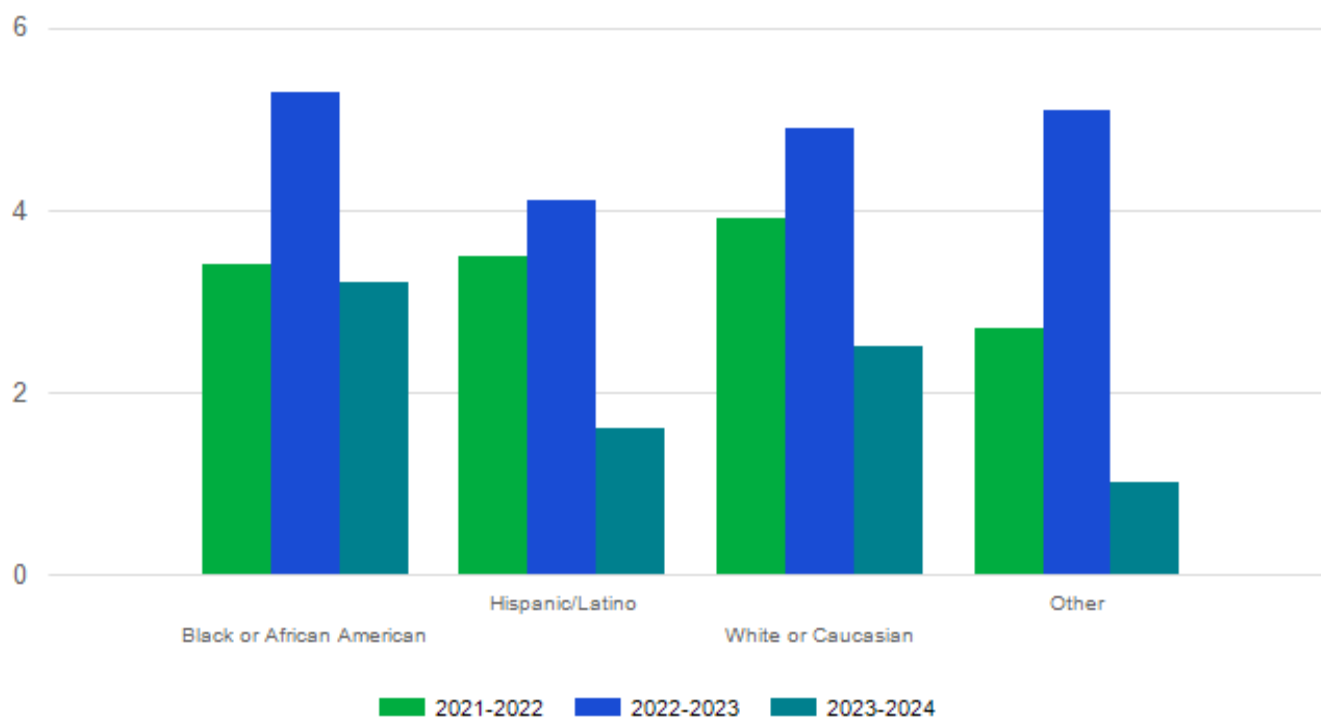
*Notes:*    • *Special Schools and ILCs are included in district dropout summary statistics.*

**Table 7**

**Students with Disabilities Dropout Summary Statistics, School Years 2022-2024**

	2021-2022			2022-2023			2023-2024		
Race/Ethnicity	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate
Black or African American	3061	103	3.4%	3200	168	5.3%	3688	118	3.2%
Hispanic/Latino	1213	42	3.5%	1327	55	4.1%	1507	24	1.6%
White or Caucasian	2804	108	3.9%	2871	141	4.9%	3091	76	2.5%
Other	486	13	2.7%	564	29	5.1%	576	6	1%
Total	7564	266	3.5%	7962	393	4.9%	8862	224	2.5%

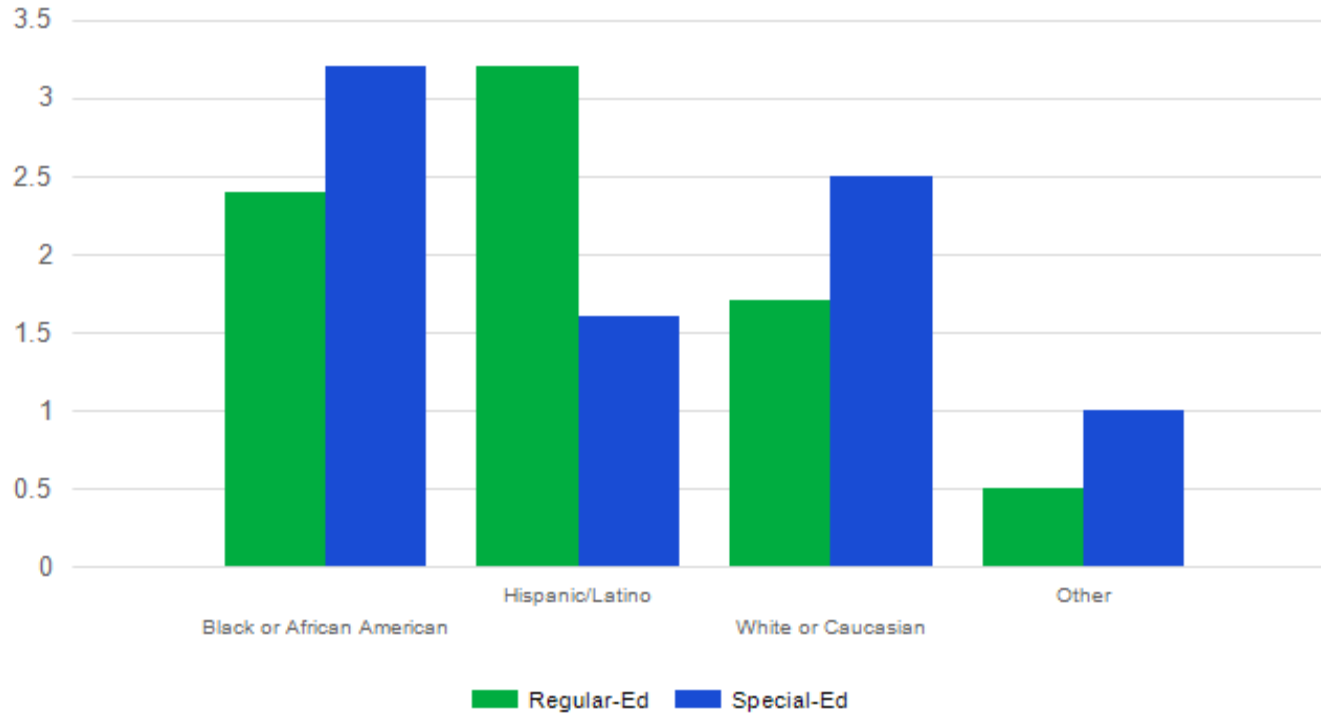
**Students with Disabilities Dropout Summary Statistics, School Years 2022-2024**



**Table 8**  
**Students with Disabilities Dropouts by Race, School Year 2023-2024**

	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	11791	284	2.4%	8392	272	3.2%	15372	257	1.7%	3902	20	0.5%	39457	833	2.1%
Special-Ed	3688	118	3.2%	1507	24	1.6%	3091	76	2.5%	576	6	1%	8862	224	2.5%
Total	15479	402	2.6%	9899	296	2.9%	18463	333	1.8%	4478	26	0.6%	48319	1057	2.2%

**Figure 6: Students with Disabilities Dropouts by Race, School Year 2023-2024**



## *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.