

State of Delaware

Delaware Dropout Summary 2024-2025



February 2026

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 48,946 students enrolled in grades 9-12, 902 students left school.
- The statewide annual dropout rate for school year 2024-2025 was 1.8%. This is a decrease from school year 2023-2024 when the dropout rate was 2.2%.
- Of the 902 dropouts, 58% were male and 42% were female.
- The largest number of dropouts were from students enrolled in the 9th grade (305 students). Students enrolled in 12th grade represented the lowest proportion of students who dropped out (98 students).
- Behavior/Disliked (9.1%) and Economic/Employment (9.1%) reasons were cited as primary reasons for dropouts in school year 2024-2025 among those that were collected by the school/district.

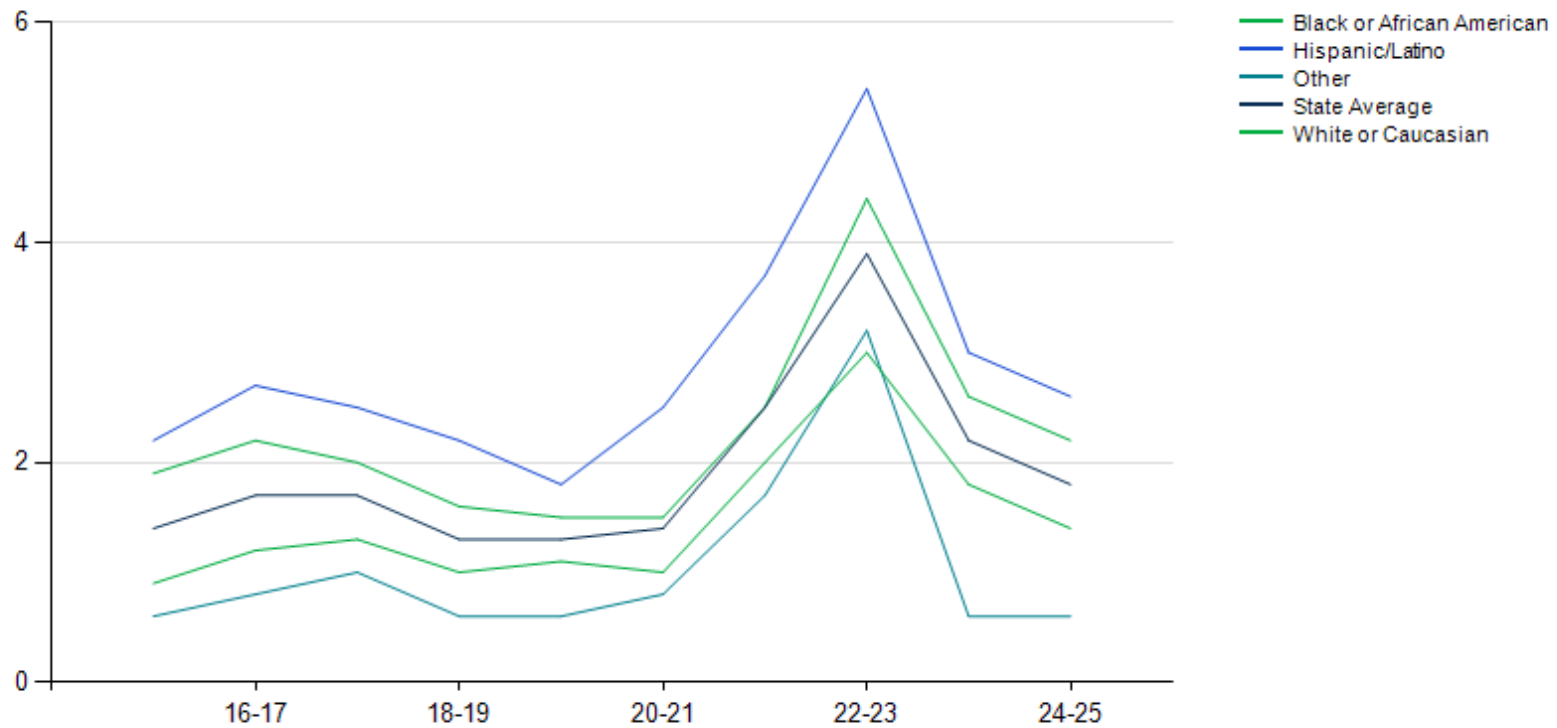
Table 1
Dropout Summary Statistics
Dropout Rates of 9-12 Grade Students, School Years 2023-2025

		2022-2023			2023-2024			2024-2025		
		Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate
	State Average	45263	1768	3.9	48319	1057	2.2	48946	902	1.8
Gender	Female	22317	770	3.5	23566	444	1.9	23767	381	1.6
	Male	22946	998	4.3	24754	613	2.5	25181	521	2.1
Race	Black or African American	14134	619	4.4	15479	402	2.6	16053	356	2.2
	Asian American	1748	34	1.9	1883	15	0.8	1961	*	*
	Hispanic/Latino	8662	465	5.4	9899	296	3.0	10141	260	2.6
	Multi-Racial	1981	76	3.8	2276	*	*			
	American Indian or Alaska Native	216	19	8.8	236	5	2.1	234	13	5.6
	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	76	7	9.2	83	*	*	78	*	*
	White or Caucasian	18446	548	3.0	18463	333	1.8	18110	259	1.4
Age	Less than 15	12923	605	4.7	13688	356	2.6	13757	305	2.2
	Age 15	11923	525	4.4	12306	326	2.6	12173	264	2.2
	Age 16	10364	353	3.4	10968	281	2.6	11126	235	2.1
	Age 17 and over	10053	285	2.8	11357	94	0.8	11890	98	0.8

%

**Information suppressed to protect student privacy.*

Figure 1
Delaware Dropout Summary Statistics, 10 Year History



	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25
State Average	1.4	1.7	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.4	2.5	3.9	2.2	1.8
Black or African American	1.9	2.2	2	1.6	1.5	1.5	2.5	4.4	2.6	2.2
Hispanic/Latino	2.2	2.7	2.5	2.2	1.8	2.5	3.7	5.4	3	2.6
White or Caucasian	0.9	1.2	1.3	1	1.1	1	2	3	1.8	1.4
Other	0.6	0.8	1	0.6	0.6	0.8	1.7	3.2	0.6	0.6

Table 2
Dropouts by Race and Grade, School Year 2024-2025

	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	4610	127	2.8	2975	93	3.1	4827	73	1.5	1345	12	0.9	13757	305	2.2
10	3973	104	2.6	2630	83	3.2	4395	72	1.6	1175	5	0.4	12173	264	2.2
11	3577	81	2.3	2241	59	2.6	4257	87	2	1051	8	0.8	11126	235	2.1
12	3893	44	1.1	2295	25	1.1	4631	27	0.6	1071	2	0.2	11890	98	0.8
Total	16053	356	2.2	10141	260	2.5	18110	259	1.4	4642	27	0.6	48946	902	1.8

Figure 2
Number of Dropouts by Race and Grade, School Year 2024-2025

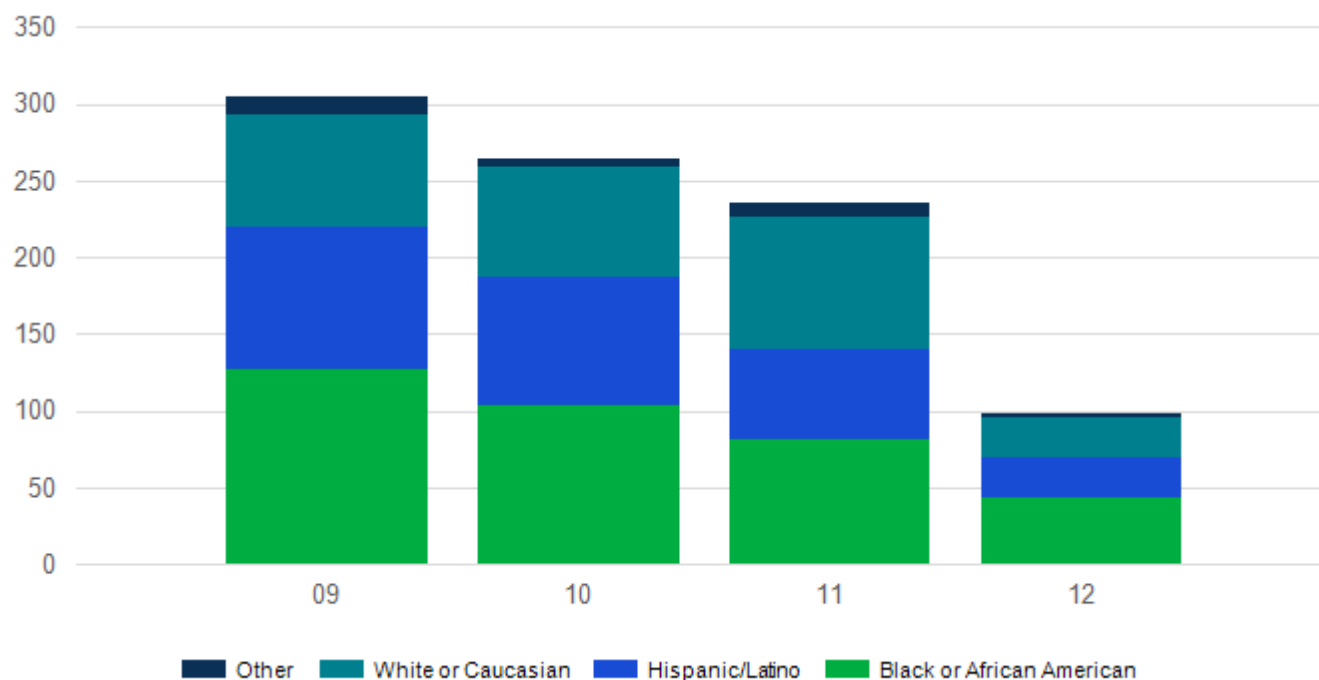


Table 3
Dropouts by Race and Gender, School Year 2024-2025

	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	7746	140	1.8	4926	100	2	8794	126	1.4	2301	15	0.7	23767	381	1.6
Male	8308	216	2.6	5215	160	3.1	9317	133	1.4	2341	12	0.5	25181	521	2.1
Total	16054	356	2.2	10141	260	2.6	18111	259	1.4	4642	27	0.6	48948	902	1.8

Figure 3
Number of Dropouts by Race and Gender, School Year 2024-2025

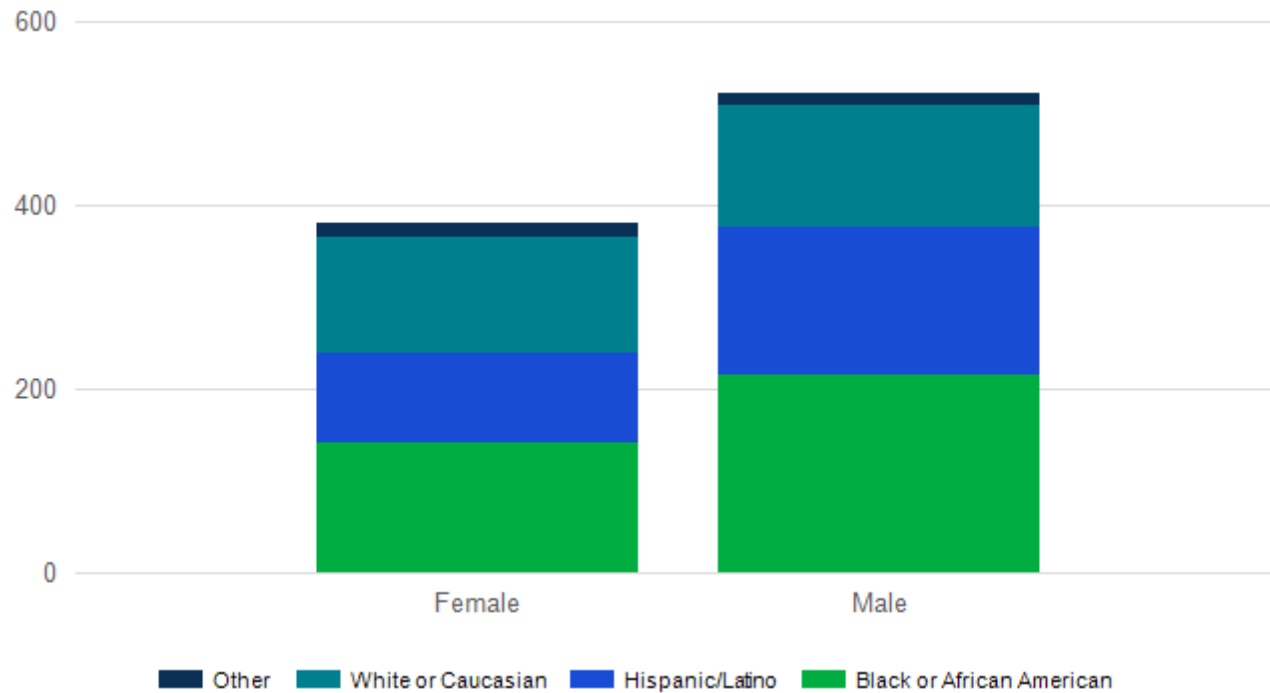


Table 4
Reasons for Dropping Out, School Year 2024-2025

Reason	Number	Percent
Academic-Related	15	1.7%
Behavior/Dislike Experience	82	9.1%
Economic/Employment	82	9.1%
Military	1	0.1%
Personal	15	1.7%
School/District Did Not Report Data	707	78.4%
Total	902	100.0%

Figure 4
Reasons for Dropping Out, School Year 2024-2025

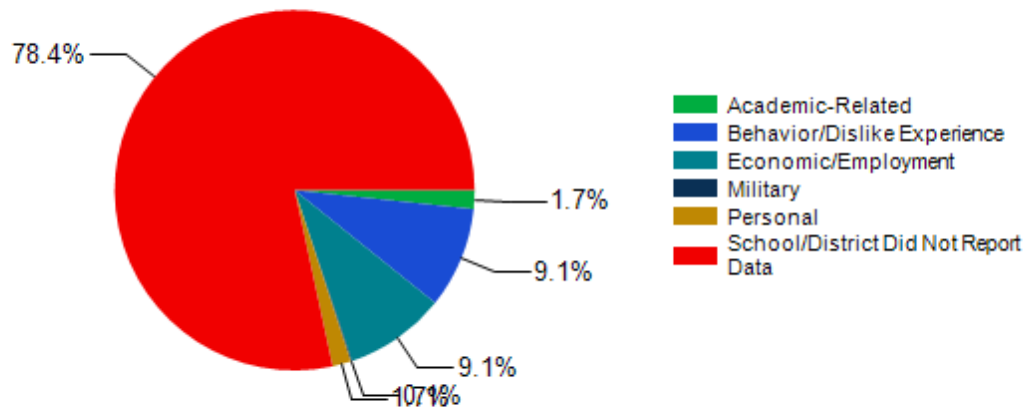


Table 5
Annual Dropout Rate by District/Charter, School Years 2023-2025

	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
District/Charter	Dropout Rate	Dropout Rate	Dropout Rate
Appoquinimink School District	1.9	0.9	0.9
ASPIRA Delaware	2	0.8	1.3
Brandywine School District	2.1	0.7	1
Caesar Rodney School District	6.5	3.7	4
Cape Henlopen School District	3.2	1.7	1.1
Capital School District	7	5.2	4.7
Christina School District	6.1	3.7	3.2
Colonial School District	6.4	3.6	1.5
Delmar School District	3.9	0.7	1.2
Early College High School at Del State	1.9	0.3	0.7
First State Military Academy	2.7	3.4	1.6
Freire Charter School Wilmington	8.9	9.1	4.6
Great Oaks Charter School	14.1	4.7	11.4
Indian River School District	7.1	3.6	4.3
Lake Forest School District	3	1.3	0.9
Laurel School District	8	2.8	4.2
Milford School District	7.1	5.4	1.8
MOT Charter School	2		0.1
New Castle County Vocational-Technical School District	1.9	1.3	0.2
Newark Charter School	0.5	0.5	0.4
Odyssey Charter School	0.8	1.4	
POLYTECH School District	1.9	0.2	0.1
Positive Outcomes Charter School	8.2	2.2	0.9
Red Clay Consolidated School District	1.8	1	0.7
Seaford School District	8.6	3.5	3.6
Smyrna School District	3.5	0.7	0.8
Sussex Academy	0.8		0.2
Sussex Technical School District	1.3	0.7	0.9
Woodbridge School District	3.7	1.6	2.2

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 2023-2025

	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
School	Dropout Rate	Dropout Rate	Dropout Rate
Appoquinimink High School	2	1.5	0.6
ASPIRA Academy	2.0	0.8	1.3
Brandywine High School	2.4	0.4	0.7
Brennen School (The)	0.7		
Caesar Rodney High School	6.6	3.7	4.1
Calloway (Cab) School of the Arts	0.4		
Cape Henlopen High School	3.3	1.7	1.1
Charter School of Wilmington	0.3		0.2
Christiana High School	3.9	2.5	1
Concord High School	0.7	0.7	0.7
Conrad Schools of Science	0.3	0.3	0.3
Delaware Military Academy	0.7	1.7	0.7
Delcastle Technical High School	2	1.4	0.3
Delmar High School	3.9	0.7	1.2
Dickinson (John) School	4.9	1.5	1.2
Dover High School	6.4	5	4.1
duPont (Alexis I.) High School	3.8	1.9	1.3
Early College School at Del State	1.9	0.3	0.7
First State Military Academy	2.7	3.4	1.6
Freire Charter School	8.9	9.1	4.6
Glasgow High School	4.1	2.9	1.7
Great Oaks Charter School	14.1	4.7	11.4
Hodgson (Paul M.) Vocational Technical High School	1.9	1.3	
Howard High School of Technology	3.1	2.8	0.4
Indian River High School	4.7	2.4	3.3
Lake Forest High School	3	1.3	0.9
Laurel Senior High School	8	2.8	4.2
Leach (John G.) School	10.3		2.6
McKean (Thomas) High School	1.7	1.3	1.1
Middletown High School	2.3	0.5	1.1
Milford Senior High School	7.1	5.4	1.8
MOT Charter School	2		0.1
Mount Pleasant High School	2.7	0.9	1.4
Newark Charter School	0.5	0.5	0.4
Newark High School	6.5	4.6	4.5
Odessa High School	1	0.6	0.9
Odyssey Charter School	0.8	1.4	
Penn (William) High School	6.2	3.7	1.5
POLYTECH High School	1.9	0.2	0.1

Positive Outcomes Charter School	8.2	2.2	0.9
Seaford Senior High School	8.9	3.5	3.5
Smyrna High School	3.5	0.7	0.8
St. Georges Technical High School	1	0.2	
Sussex Academy	0.8		0.2
Sussex Central High School	8.6	4.3	4.9
Sussex Technical High School	1.3	0.7	0.9
Woodbridge High School	1.9	1.2	1.3

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

Table 7

Students with Disabilities Dropout Summary Statistics, School Years 2023-2025

	2022-2023			2023-2024			2024-2025		
Race/Ethnicity	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate	Total Students	Dropout Students	Dropout Rate
Black or African American	3200	168	5.3	3688	118	3.2	3840	91	2.4
Hispanic/Latino	1327	55	4.1	1507	24	1.6	1573	21	1.3
White or Caucasian	2871	141	4.9	3091	76	2.5	3098	67	2.2
Other	564	29	5.1	576	6	1	618	4	0.6
Total	7962	393	4.8	8862	224	2.1	9129	183	1.6

Students with Disabilities Dropout Summary Statistics, School Years 2023-2025

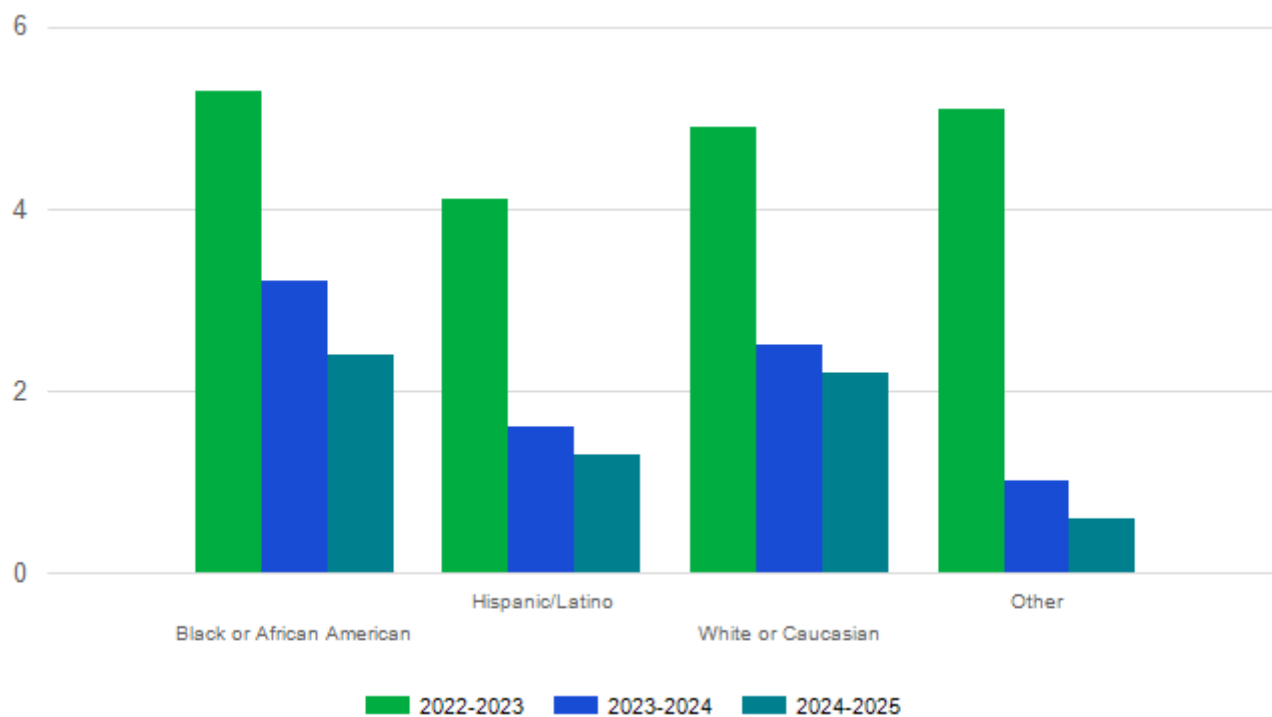
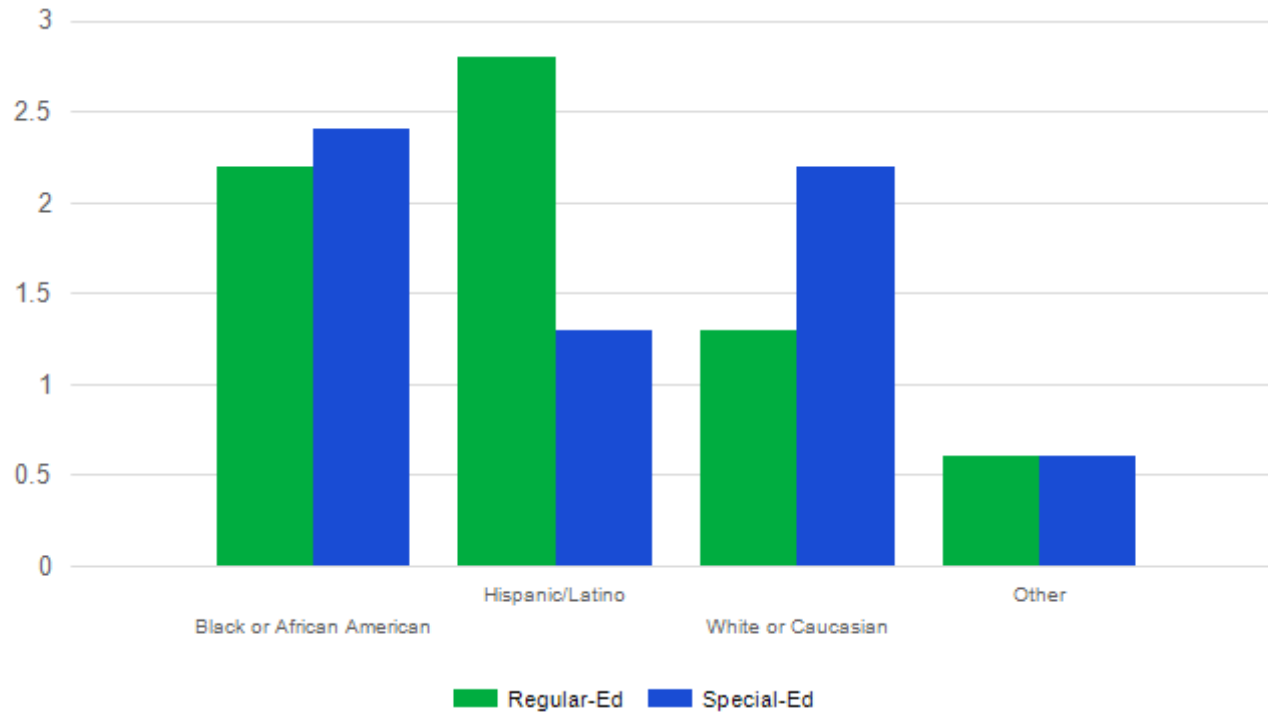


Table 8
Students with Disabilities Dropouts by Race, School Year 2024-2025

	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	12213	265	2.2	8568	239	2.8	15012	192	1.3	4024	23	0.6	39817	719	1.8
Special-Ed	3840	91	2.4	1573	21	1.3	3098	67	2.2	618	4	0.6	9129	183	2
Total	16053	356	2.3	10141	260	2	18110	259	1.8	4642	27	0.6	48946	902	1.9

Figure 6: Students with Disabilities Dropouts by Race, School Year 2024-2025



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 the Student Information System (SIS) 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 the SIS 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 the SIS as Dropout-Underage 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 the SIS as Dropout-Behavior.
- A school leaver who has joined the military is counted as a dropout. This student should be coded in the SIS as Dropout-Military.
- A school leaver who has joined Job Corps is counted as a dropout. This student should be coded in the SIS as Dropout-Employment.
- A student withdrawn because of truancy is counted as a dropout. This student shall be coded in the SIS 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 the Student Information System.)

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.