



NEWS RELEASE

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Long-term trends show county graduation rates, completion of A-G requirements on the rise; dropout rates declining

SAN JOSE, CA – Results of the 2013-14 graduation and dropout rates for Santa Clara County show that, over the last five years, the graduation rate increased by 3.2 percentage points, the rate of graduates completing the A-G requirements increased by 5.2 percentage points, and the dropout rate decreased by 2.8 percentage points. The California Department of Education released the 2013-14 results today for schools, districts, and counties.

“I am encouraged by the fact that there are more students graduating from high school and fewer students dropping out over the last five years,” said County Superintendent of Schools Jon R. Gundry. “Although there has been steady progress in narrowing the graduation gap, there is still much work to be done. The County Office of Education is committed to working with our districts to exceed the state averages in every student group.”

Several points worth noting from the analysis by the Assessment and Accountability Department of the Santa Clara County Office of Education include:

- Overall, Santa Clara County graduated a higher percentage of students from the class of 2013-14 than did the state as a whole. The graduation rate in Santa Clara County was 83.7 percent, compared to 80.8 percent for California.
- In the past five years, the Santa Clara County cohort graduation rate achievement gaps between Hispanic/Latino and white students decreased by 2.0 percentage points, while the gap between Hispanic/Latino and Asian students decreased by 3.7 percentage points.
- The Santa Clara County cohort dropout rate declined by 2.8 percentage points over five years, from 13.9 percent for the class of 2009-10 to 11.1 percent for the class of 2013-14.
- Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, the percentage of overall grade 12 graduates in Santa Clara County completing the A-G requirements increased by 5.2 percentage points, from 48.9 percent to 54.1 percent.

- The proportion of 2013-14 overall grade 12 graduates in Santa Clara County completing the A-G requirements (54.1 percent) was also much higher than the California rate (41.9 percent).
- A wide achievement gap remained in 2013-14, with only 28.6 percent of Hispanic/Latino grade 12 graduates completing the A-G requirements, compared to 63.3 percent of white and 78.0 percent of Asian grade 12 graduates.
- While the Santa Clara County Hispanic/Latino cohort dropout rate decreased 4.7 percentage points in the past five years, Santa Clara County had a significantly higher Hispanic/Latino cohort dropout rate than did the state. The Santa Clara County 2013-14 Hispanic/Latino cohort dropout rate was 20.6 percent, compared to 14.0 percent for California Hispanic/Latino students.

The entire SCCOE analysis can be found at www.sccoe.org.

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