

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Long-term trends show incremental increase in county graduation rates and completion of A-G requirements; slight decrease in dropout rates**

*Much work still left to be done in closing achievement gaps*

**SAN JOSE, CA** – The graduation rate for students in Santa Clara County has incrementally increased over the past six years, as has the percent of graduates completing the A-G requirements. Between 2009-10 and 2014-15, the graduation rate increased by 3.1 percentage points to 83.6 percent while the percent of overall SCC grade 12 graduates completing the A-G requirements increased by 4.7 points to 53.6 percent, according to statistics released today by the California Department of Education.

In the same time frame, the dropout rate for students in Santa Clara County has declined by 2.8 percentage points. However, there was no change from last year and, for the first time, the dropout rate for California (10.7 percent) inched lower than the county's (11.1 percent).

“Any improvement is positive but we know there are still many needs,” said County Superintendent of Schools Jon R. Gundry. “One of the ways we are addressing student needs in this area is through programs like our new Opportunity Youth Academy that affords 16- to 24-year-olds an opportunity to earn their high school diploma through an individualized program.”

Begun this academic year, there are now four [Opportunity Youth Academy](#) (OYA) sites throughout the county. More than just a credit recovery program, OYA pairs students with staff who build positive, one-on-one relationships with them and work to map out a path for each student's individual academic and career goals.

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

- Santa Clara County (SCC) graduated a higher percentage of students from the Class of 2014-15 than did the state. The cohort graduation rate in SCC was 83.6 percent, compared to 82.3 percent for California.

- In the past six years, the SCC cohort graduation rate achievement gaps between Hispanic/Latino and white students decreased by 0.7 percentage points, while the gap between Hispanic/Latino and Asian students decreased by 2.8 percentage points. The 2014-15 achievement gap between Hispanic/Latino and white students was 22.5 percentage points (92.5 percent vs. 70.0 percent) and the gap between Hispanic/Latino and Asian students was 25.2 percentage points (95.2 percent vs. 70.0 percent).
- The proportion of 2014-15 overall SCC grade 12 graduates completing the A-G requirements (53.6 percent) was much higher than the California rate (43.4 percent).
- Between 2009-10 and 2014-15, the percent of overall SCC grade 12 graduates completing the A-G requirements increased by 4.7 percentage points (from 48.9 percent to 53.6 percent). However, an extremely large achievement gap remained in 2014-15 as only 29.7 percent of Hispanic/Latino grade 12 graduates completed the A-G requirements, compared to 63.8 percent of white and 77.0 percent of Asian grade 12 graduates.
- In 2014-15, 29.7 percent of SCC Hispanic/Latino grade 12 graduates completed the A-G requirements, compared to 34.6 percent of Hispanic/Latino grade 12 graduates statewide (a statistically significant 4.9 percentage point difference).
- The SCC Hispanic/Latino cohort dropout rate decreased 4.5 percentage points from 25.3 percent for the class of 2009-10 to 20.8 percent for the class of 2014-15.
- SCC had a statistically significant higher Hispanic/Latino cohort dropout rate than did the state. The SCC Class of 2014-15 Hispanic/Latino cohort dropout rate was 20.8 percent, compared to 12.6 percent for California Hispanic/Latino students.

Read the entire SCCOE [analysis](#).

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