

Charles Weis, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools

August 17, 2009

TO: Charles Weis, Ph.D., Superintendent

FROM: Linda Aceves, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services Branch
Dale Russell, Ed.D., Director, Assessment and Accountability
Dan Mason, Research Analyst, Assessment and Accountability

SUBJECT: Final Release of 2007-08 Adjusted Dropout Data and Graduation Data

2007-08 Adjusted Dropout Data

The California Department of Education (CDE) has released the final adjusted dropout counts for the 2007-08 school year. For the past two years, CDE has used Statewide Student Identification (SSID) numbers to collect dropout data at the student-level. Data is collected via the Annual SSID Maintenance data (Information Day) submission process. Information Day submission took place on October 1, 2008.

This level of precision in data collection allows CDE to more accurately calculate the dropout rate. When these student-level data are submitted by LEAs and processed by the CDE, CDE focuses on two types of information concerning dropouts:

- (1) students reported by the LEA with a dropout exit-code were subsequently re-enrolled in another California school district (re-enrolled dropout); and
- (2) students reported by the LEA as a transfer to another California public school, but could not be located in another California public school by CDE (lost transfer).

CDE has adjusted the LEA reported dropout counts by subtracting re-enrolled dropouts from and adding lost transfers to the dropout counts. Since there are substantially more lost transfers than re-enrolled dropouts, this adjustment usually results in an increase in the number of grade seven through twelve dropouts attributed to schools. The adjustment reflects a significant step forward in efforts to more accurately track student enrollment over time and to better determine what happens to students who leave school before graduation.

The 4-year derived dropout rate is an estimate of the percent of students who would drop out in a four year period based on data collected for a single year. The formula used to calculate the 4-year derived rate is:

$(1 - ((1 - (\text{Reported or Adjusted Gr. 9 Dropouts} / \text{Gr. 9 Enrollment})) * (1 - (\text{Reported or Adjusted Gr. 10 Dropouts} / \text{Gr. 10 Enrollment})) * (1 - (\text{Reported or Adjusted Gr. 11 Dropouts} / \text{Gr. 11 Enrollment})) * (1 - (\text{Reported or Adjusted Gr. 12 Dropouts} / \text{Gr. 12 Enrollment})))) * 100$

For example, during 2007-08 a school had enrollments of 250 students per grade and a total of 1,000 students. The school may have reported a certain amount of dropout and transfer exit codes to CDE during the school year. After the Information Day data collection and subsequent CDE data queries, CDE releases adjusted drop out counts for the school of three grade 9 students, four grade 10 students, four grade 11 students, and twenty-five grade 12 students. The 4-year derived dropout rate would be calculated as follows:

Grade 9: $1 - (3/250) = .988$
Grade 10: $1 - (4/250) = .984$
Grade 11: $1 - (4/250) = .984$
Grade 12: $1 - (25/250) = .900$
 $.988 \times .984 \times .984 \times .900 = .861$
 $1 - .861 = .139 = 13.9\%$
13.9% is the 4-year derived dropout rate

CDE defines a dropout for the October 2008 California Basic Educational Data System (CBEDS) data collection as a person who meets the following criteria:

1) Was enrolled in grades seven through twelve at some time during the 2007-08 school year AND left school prior to completing the 2008-09 school year

OR

2) Successfully completed the 2006-07 school year but did not begin attending the next grade (seven through twelve) in the school to which he or she was assigned or in which he or she had pre-registered or was expected to attend during the 2007-08 school year

AND

3) Is not enrolled and attending school as of Information Day (aka CBEDS Day)

Due to the complex nature of student-level exit data being mapped to dropout and graduate data, there is a process for LEAs to submit corrected SSID records up until July 03, 2009. The data release schedule, which includes multiple opportunities for corrections, is as follows:

- 05/12/2009 – Public release of adjusted dropout data
- 05/21/2009 – Deadline #3 for LEA submission of SSID corrections to be included in next public release of data
- 06/15/2009 – Private viewing site for LEAs to preview dropout data is made available
- 06/18/2009 – Public release of adjusted dropout data
- 07/03/2009 – Deadline #4 for LEA submission of SSID corrections to be included in next public release of data. No further corrections will be accepted.
- 07/29/2009 – Private viewing site for LEAs to preview dropout data is made available
- 08/03/2009 – Final Public release of adjusted dropout data

2007-08 Graduation Data

Graduation rates are released by CDE at the same time as dropout rates. Graduation rates are based on a different formula than dropout rates are and therefore there are often small inconsistencies when comparing graduation rates to dropout rates. Whereas four year derived dropout rates are based on one year of data, graduation rates are based on four years of data.

The graduation rate formula is based on the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) definition:

$$\frac{\text{Number of Graduates (Year 4)}}{\text{divided by}} \\ \text{Number of Graduates (Year 4) + Gr. 9 Dropouts (Year 1) + Gr. 10 Dropouts (Year 2) + Gr. 11} \\ \text{Dropouts (Year 3) + Gr. 12 Dropouts (Year 4)}$$

Data sources:

Dropouts Gr.9 (04-05) - CBEDS October 2005
Dropouts Gr.10 (05-06) - CBEDS October 2006
Dropouts Gr.11 (06-07) - CBEDS October 2007*
Dropouts Gr.12 (07-08) - CBEDS October 2008*
Grade 12 Graduates (07-08) - CBEDS October 2008*

*Dropout and graduate counts are taken from student-level data.

Santa Clara County Office of Education's Assessment and Accountability Department prepared the following analysis of the 2007-08 Dropout and Graduation data for your review.

Topic 1 – Dropout Rate: Santa Clara County (SCC) Compared to California (CA)

	SCC	CA	Table/Figure
Grade 9 – 12 Adjusted Dropouts	2,980	98,420	Table 1
Adjusted Grade 9 – 12 Four Year Derived Dropout Rate	14.4%	18.9%	Table 1
Adjusted Grade 9 – 12 Four Year Derived Dropout Rate: Hispanic/Latino	25.0%	23.8%	Table 1
Adjusted Grade 9 – 12 One Year Dropout Rate	3.8%	4.9%	
Percent of Grade 9 – 12 Enrollment who were Hispanic/Latino	34.3%	45.3%	Figure 1
Percent of Adjusted Grade 9 – 12 Dropouts who were Hispanic/Latino	59.3%	55.0%	Figure 1
Percent of Adjusted Grade 7 – 12 Dropouts who Dropped Out in Twelfth Grade	64.1%	46.5%	Figure 2
Adjusted Grade 9 – 12 Four Year Derived Dropout Rate: Special Education	25.6%	23.6%	Table 3

Topic 2 – Dropout Rate: Summary of Results for Santa Clara County

	SCC	Table/Figure
Adjusted Grade 9 – 12 Four Year Derived Dropout Rate: Hispanic/Latino	25.0%	Table 1
Adjusted Grade 9 – 12 Four Year Derived Dropout Rate: White	7.8%	Table 1
Adjusted Grade 9 – 12 Four Year Derived Dropout Rate: Asian	5.5%	Table 1
Adjusted Grade 9 – 12 Four Year Derived Dropout Rate: Male	16.7%	Table 3
Adjusted Grade 9 – 12 Four Year Derived Dropout Rate: Female	11.9%	Table 3
Adjusted Grade 9 – 12 Four Year Derived Dropout Rate: East Side Union High School District	19.7%	Figure 3
Adjusted Grade 9 – 12 Four Year Derived Dropout Rate: Palo Alto Unified School District	0.9%	Figure 3

Topic 3 – Graduation Rate: Santa Clara County (SCC) Compared to California (CA)

	SCC	CA	Table/Figure
Graduation Rate Based on NCES Definition	82.6%	80.6%	Figure 4
Percent of 12 th Grade Graduates Completing Courses required for UC/CSU Entrance	47.6%	33.9%	Figure 5

Topic 4 – Graduation Rate: Summary of Results for Santa Clara County

	SCC	Table/Figure
Percent of 12 th Grade Asian Graduates Completing Courses required for UC/CSU Entrance	70.2%	Figure 6
Percent of 12 th Grade White Graduates Completing Courses required for UC/CSU Entrance	51.9%	Figure 6
Percent of 12 th Grade Hispanic Graduates Completing Courses required for UC/CSU Entrance	22.7%	Figure 6

Table 1: 2007-08 Santa Clara County and California Adjusted¹ Grade 9 – 12 Four Year Derived Dropout Rates by Ethnicity

Ethnic Category	Santa Clara County		California	
	Grade 9-12 Dropout Count	Grade 9-12 Four-year Dropout Rate	Grade 9-12 Dropout Count	Grade 9-12 Four-year Dropout Rate
Hispanic or Latino	1,767	25.0%	54,998	23.8%
White	462	7.8%	19,458	11.7%
Asian	264	5.5%	3,488	7.9%
Multiple/No Response	173	21.5%	2,893	23.3%
African American (not Hispanic)	162	22.7%	14,516	32.9%
Filipino	100	9.0%	1,235	8.6%
Pacific Islander	28	18.2%	749	21.3%
American Indian/Alaska Native	24	23.1%	1,083	24.1%
Total	2,980	14.4%	98,420	18.9%

¹ Adjusted Dropouts - Reported Grade 9-12 Dropout Total minus Reenrolled Grade 9-12 Dropouts plus Grade 9-12 Lost Transfers.

Figure 1: 2007-08 Santa Clara County and California Grade 9 – 12 Enrollment by Ethnicity and Adjusted Dropouts by Ethnicity

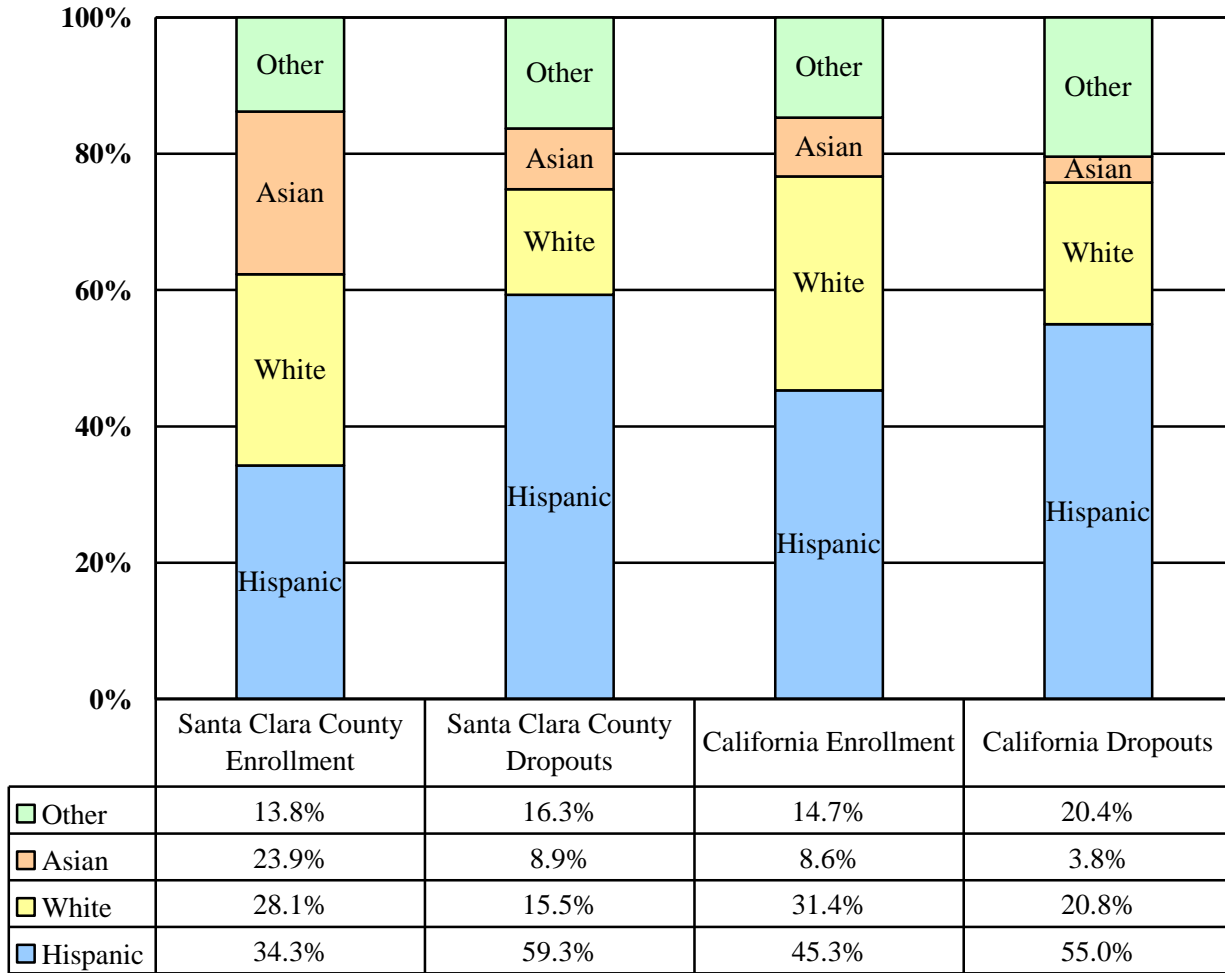


Figure 2: 2007-08 Santa Clara County and California Adjusted Dropouts by Grade Level; displayed as Percent of Total Adjusted Dropouts

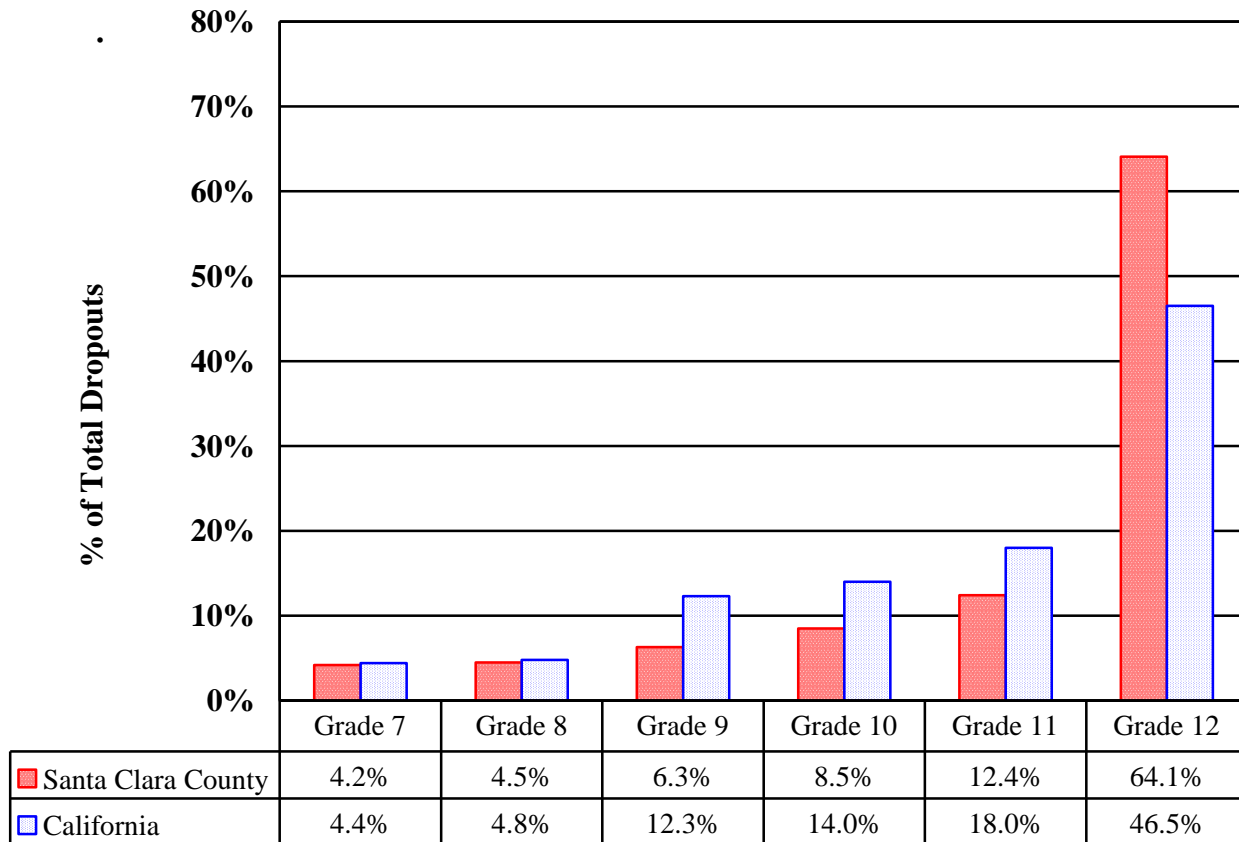


Table 2: 2007-08 Santa Clara County and California Adjusted Dropouts by Grade Level; shown as Percent of Adjusted Total Dropouts

Adjusted Dropouts (Grades 7 - 12)	Santa Clara County		California	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Grade 7 Dropouts	138	4.2%	4,764	4.4%
Grade 8 Dropouts	146	4.5%	5,156	4.8%
Grade 9 Dropouts	206	6.3%	13,324	12.3%
Grade 10 Dropouts	277	8.5%	15,168	14.0%
Grade 11 Dropouts	404	12.4%	19,496	18.0%
Grade 12 Dropouts	2,091	64.1%	50,217	46.4%
Ungraded Secondary	2	0.1%	215	0.2%
Total	3,264	100%	108,340	100%

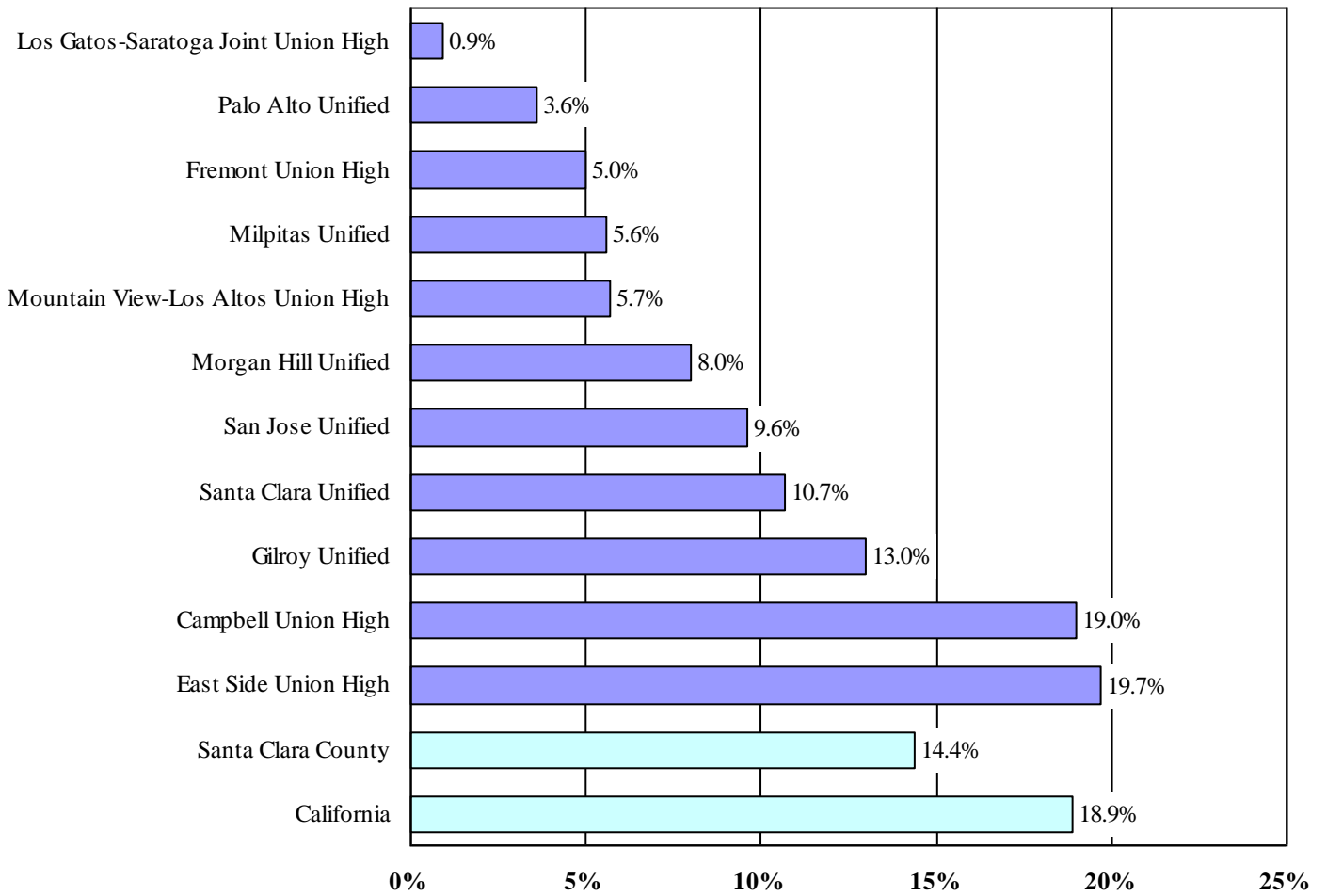
Table 3: Santa Clara County and California 2007-08 Four Year Derived Dropout Rates by Subgroup*

Subgroup	Santa Clara County		California	
	Grade 9-12 Dropout Count	Grade 9-12 Four-year Dropout Rate	Grade 9-12 Dropout Count	Grade 9-12 Four-year Dropout Rate
Male	1,800	16.7%	58,270	21.7%
Female	1,180	11.9%	40,150	15.9%
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	1,270	21.2%	47,729	23.2%
LEP NCLB Definition**	1,129	19.5%	31,757	21.7%
Special Education Students	514	25.6%	11,368	23.6%
Migrant Education Students	106	20.3%	1,888	18.8%

* **Subgroup Data** - Please note that the reports for the following subgroups: English learners, special education, migrant education, and socioeconomically disadvantaged contain incomplete comparison information. The baseline data was collected in October of 2006. Since this was the first time enrollment was collected at the student level, in many cases schools and districts simply did not report if students were in one or more of these four subgroups. In the newest data set, collected in October of 2007, the state has emphasized that it will be using this information going forward, so the data regarding these four subgroups will be much more complete.

****Limited English Proficient (LEP)** - No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Definition includes English Learners (EL) and Fluent-English Proficient (FEP) students that have not yet tested at the proficient or above level for three years on the California Standards Test (CST) English Language Arts (ELA) test.

Figure 3: Santa Clara County 2007-08 Grade 9 – 12 Four Year Adjusted Dropout Rates by Districts*



*CDE does not post dropout rate calculations for schools that are operated by County Offices of Education because of constraints in interpreting these calculations with high mobility schools. Caution must also be used when calculating or analyzing dropout rates for other schools with high mobility including alternative schools, dropout recovery high schools, or schools eligible or participating in the Alternative Schools Accountability Model (ASAM).

Figure 4: 2006-07 and 2007-08 Santa Clara County Graduation Rates by District

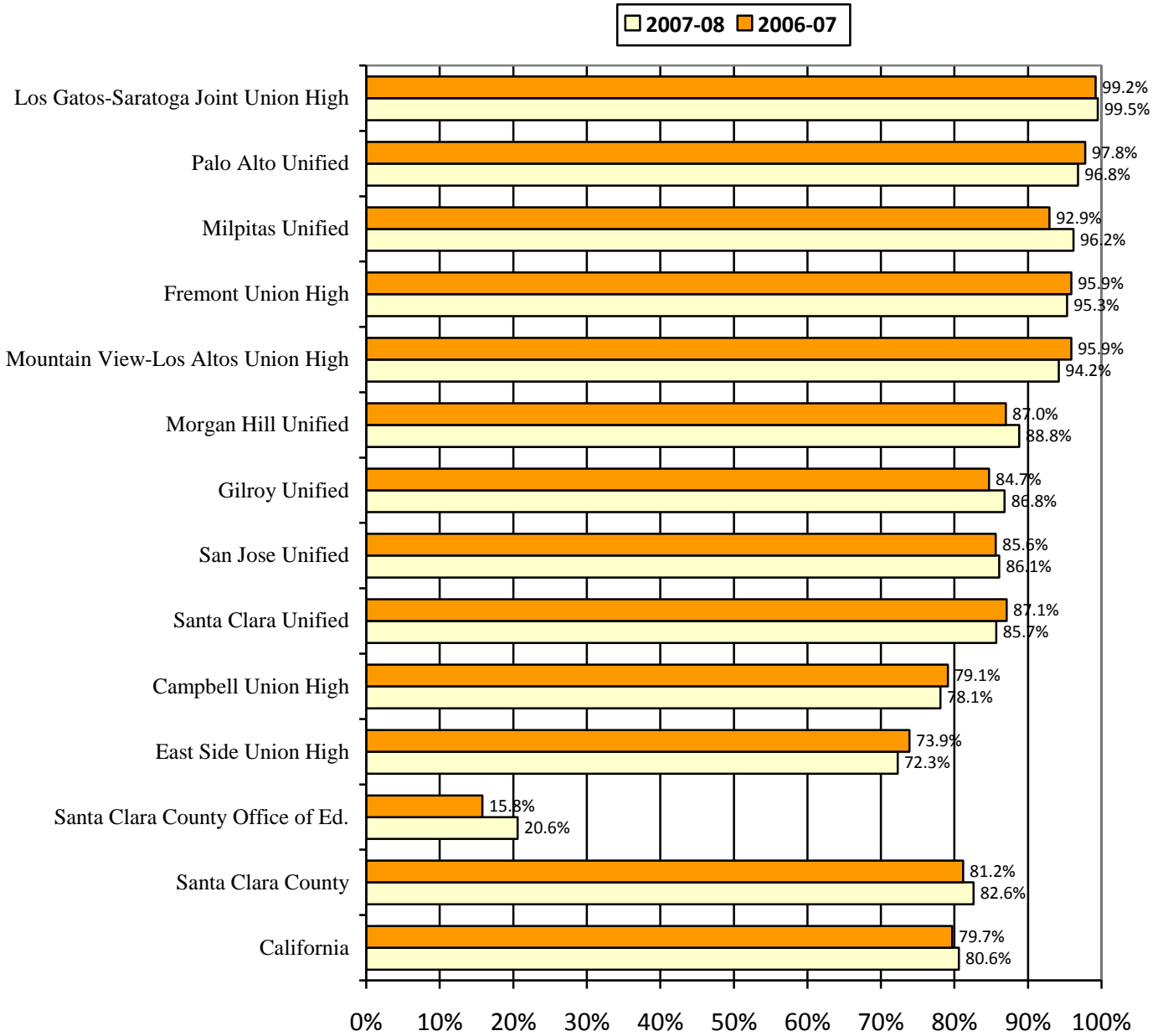


Figure 5: 2006-07 and 2007-08 Percent of Santa Clara County 12th Grade Graduates Completing Courses Required for UC and/or CSU Entrance by District

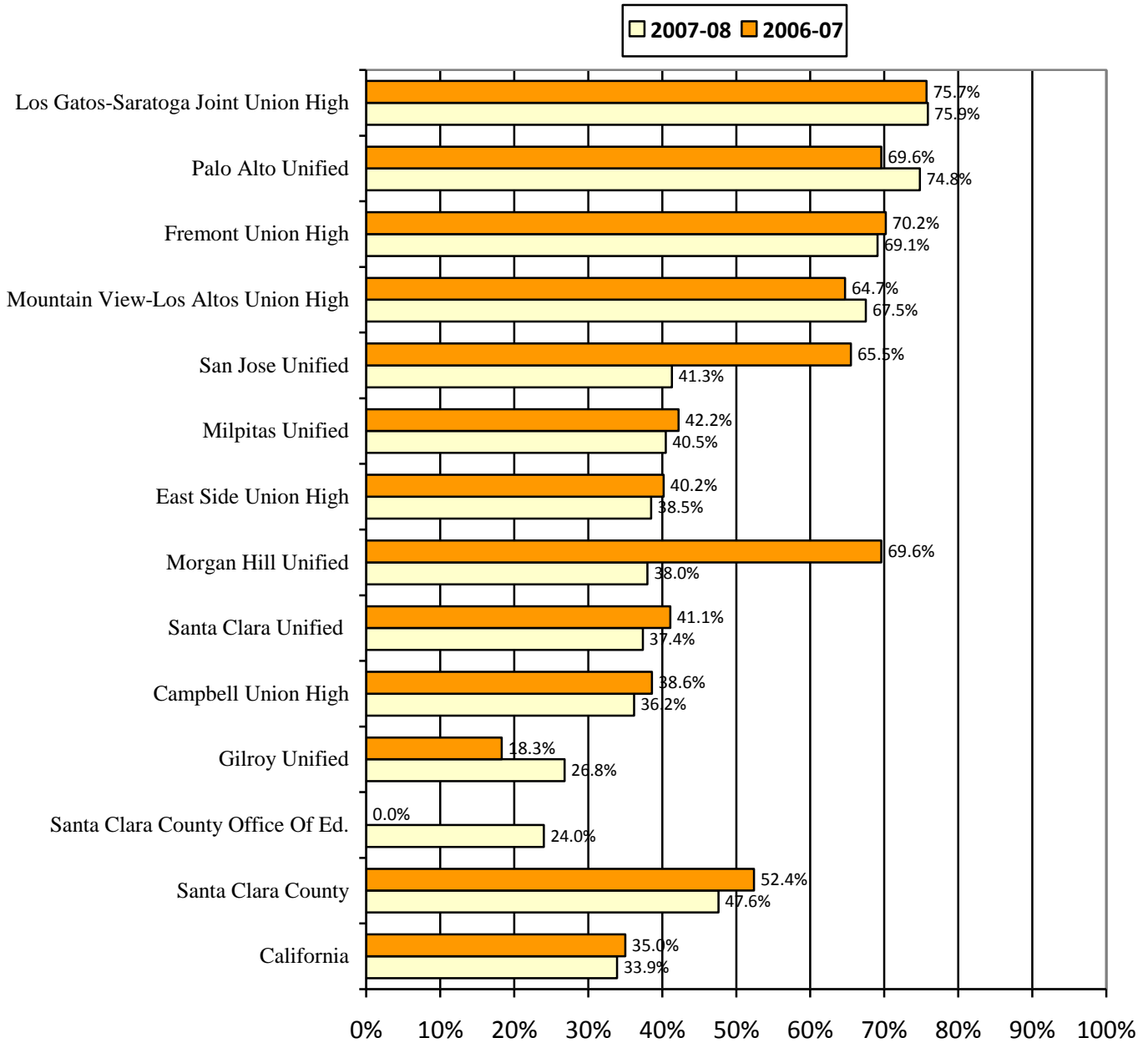


Figure 6: 2006-07 and 2007-08 Percent of Santa Clara County Graduates with UC/CSU Required Courses by Ethnicity

