

April 4, 2025

TO: Deborah Gorgulho, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent, Educational Progress Division

FROM: Dan Mason, Manager, Assessment & Accountability
Deann Walsh, Manager, Assessment & Accountability

SUBJECT: 2023-24 Santa Clara County Four-Year Adjusted Cohort Outcome Report

The California Department of Education (CDE) previously released the four-year adjusted cohort outcome reports for the Class of 2023-24. The following analysis provides information on Graduation Rates and Dropout Rates as well as information related to the percentages of Santa Clara County students that are meeting UC/CSU graduation requirements. In addition, data is disaggregated in order to highlight variation that occurs among race and ethnic student groups as well as by program participation.

Please note that some caution should be used in comparing cohort outcome results from 2019-20 through 2021-22. The global pandemic resulted in California schools being closed in the Spring of 2020 and distance learning being implemented throughout 2020-21. Due to these circumstances, schools, districts, and the state legislature adopted a variety of measures that may have affected graduation rates and subsequently decreased their year-over-year comparability. In the summer of 2021, AB 104 exempted class of 2021 (retroactively) and class of 2022 students from having to fulfil any minimal local graduation requirements, which are always more stringent than California's minimal graduation requirements. It is more appropriate to compare any 2022-23 and 2023-24 cohort outcome rates to rates from 2018-19 or before.

Finally, as has been past precedent, local recalculations were performed to remove from the cohort students enrolled in Escuela Popular/Center for Training and Careers, Family Learning (a charter school authorized by the East Side Union High School District). This site primarily functions as a community-based support for newly arrived and predominantly English Learner adult immigrants. Inclusion of Escuela Popular's data significantly skews countywide results and thus removing their numbers from the calculations provides a more accurate accounting of the county's cohort outcome rates. In 2023-24, the recalculation involved removing 498 students from the countywide and statewide calculations. Of these 498 students, 5 had graduated (a 1.0% graduation rate). These Escuela Popular students represented 494 Hispanic or Latino students, 58 English Learners, 39 Homeless Youth, and 385 Socioeconomically Disadvantaged students.

BACKGROUND

California annually calculates a 4-Year Adjusted Cohort Outcome Rate for all of its schools and districts serving grade 12 students. At its core, this rate is calculated by first determining where students entered grade 9 four years prior and then classifying what each individual student's outcome is at the completion of the four years. The cohort is adjusted so that students are added in and/or removed from a school's or district's cohort as they enroll or leave (for various reasons) throughout the duration of the 4 years. At the conclusion of the 4-year time frame students are classified into one of eight categories:

1. Regular High School Diploma Graduates
2. CPP Completers (California Proficiency Program)
3. Adult Education High School Diploma Graduates
4. Special Education Certificates
5. GED Completers (General Education Development)
6. Other Transfers
7. Dropouts
8. Still Enrolled

To preserve space, the abbreviations in Table 1 are used in this report's data displays.

Table 1: Data Display Abbreviations

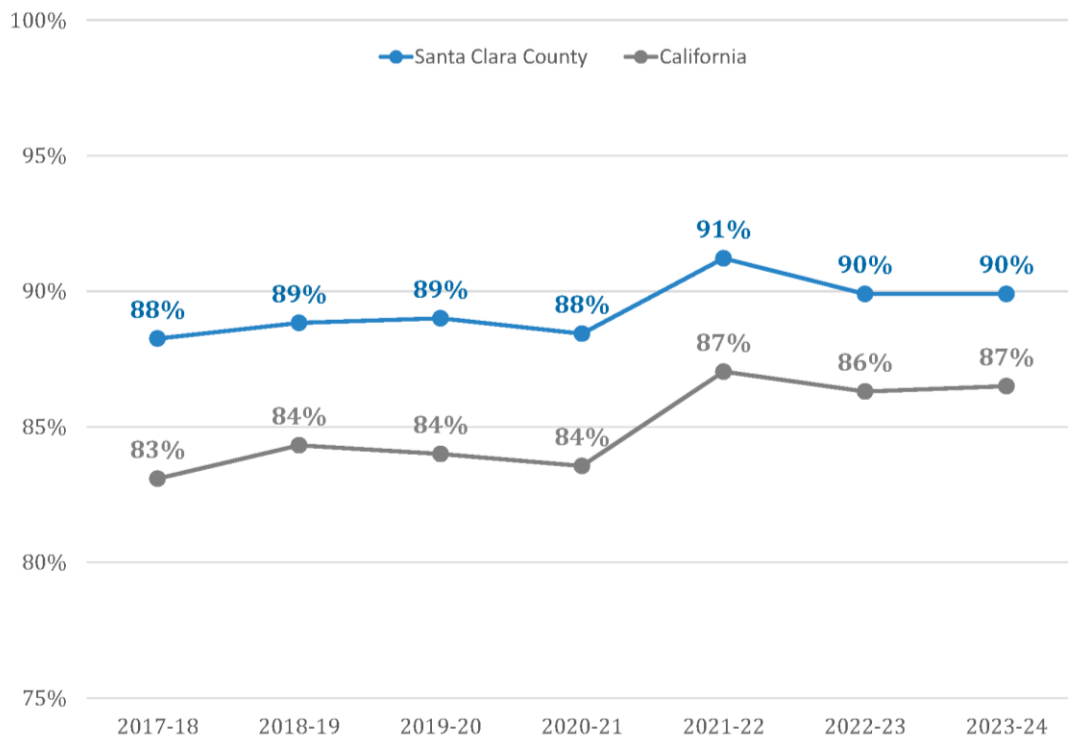
SCC	Santa Clara County
CA	California
All	All Students
Am. Ind.	American Indian or Alaska Native
Black	Black or African American
Latino	Hispanic or Latino
Pac. Is.	Pacific Islander
Two +	Two or More Races
EL	English Learner
Not EL	Not English Learner (Fluent English Proficient and English Only)
SED	Socioeconomically Disadvantaged
Not SED	Not Socioeconomically Disadvantaged
SWD	Students with Reported Disabilities
Not SWD	Students with No Reported Disabilities
Foster	Foster Youth
Homeless	Homeless Youth

GRADUATION RATES OVER TIME, COUNTY & STATE

Figure 1, below, illustrates the Santa Clara County and California graduation rates since 2017-18. During that time, Santa Clara County has consistently produced higher overall graduation rates than California. At both the county and state levels, there was a slight increase between 2017-18 and 2019-20, a decrease in 2020-21, and then an AB 104-related bump in 2021-22, which was followed by a post-AB 104 correction and leveling off in 2022-23 and 2023-24.

In 2022-23 and 2023-24, 90% of Santa Clara County's four-year cohort graduated, compared to 86% and 87% of the statewide cohort. Though the 2022-23 and 2023-24 overall rates are lower than 2021-22, they represent an improvement over the pre-pandemic years.

Figure 1: County-State Comparison, Overall Graduation Rates Over Time



COUNTY STATE COMPARISON

In 2023-24, Santa Clara County’s African American, Asian, Pacific Islander, Two or More Races and White student groups graduated at higher rates than the state’s percentages for these groups. In contrast, our county’s American Indian, Filipino and Hispanic/Latino student groups graduated at rates slightly below the statewide average. (See Figure 2 for additional details.)

Figure 3: 2023-24 County-State Comparison of the Percentages of Students Receiving a Regular HS Diploma, by Race and Ethnicity

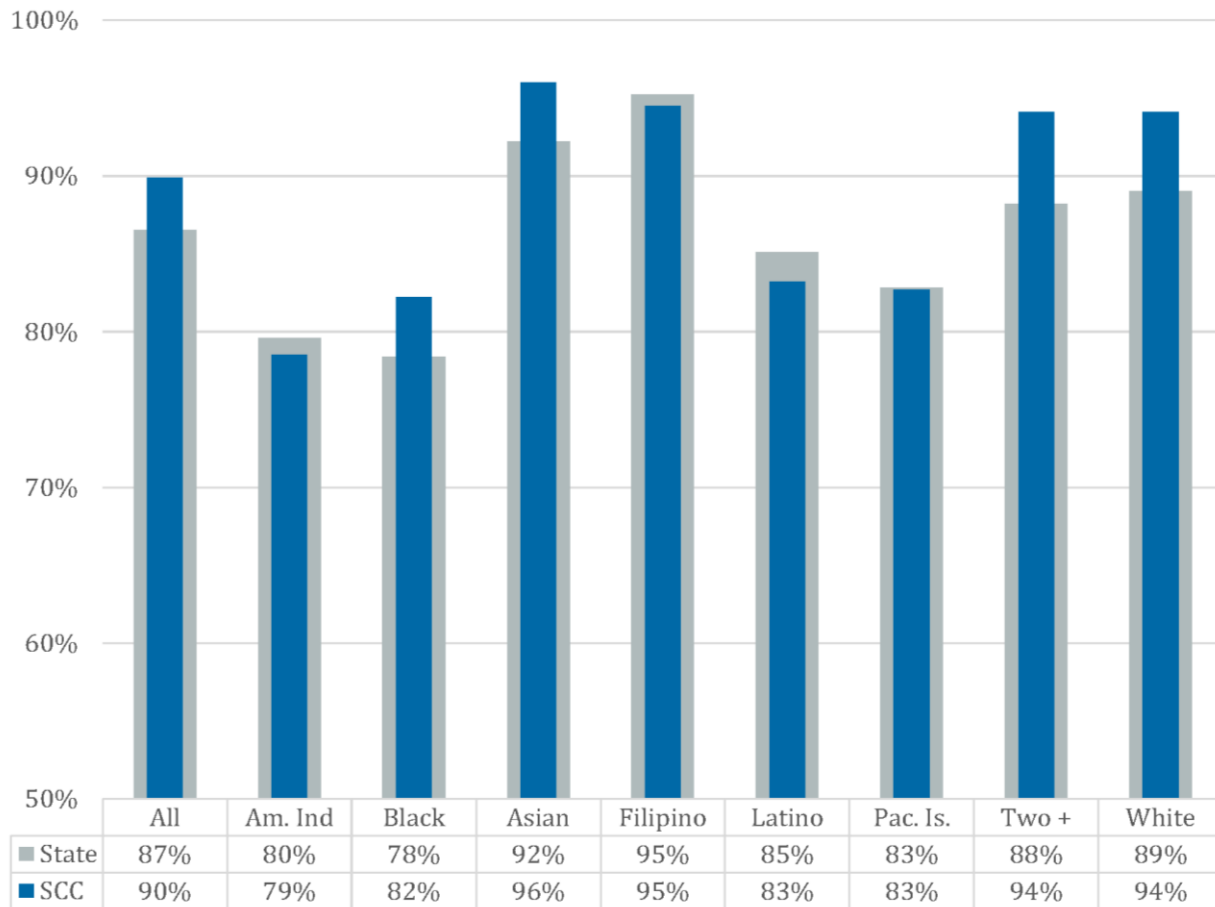
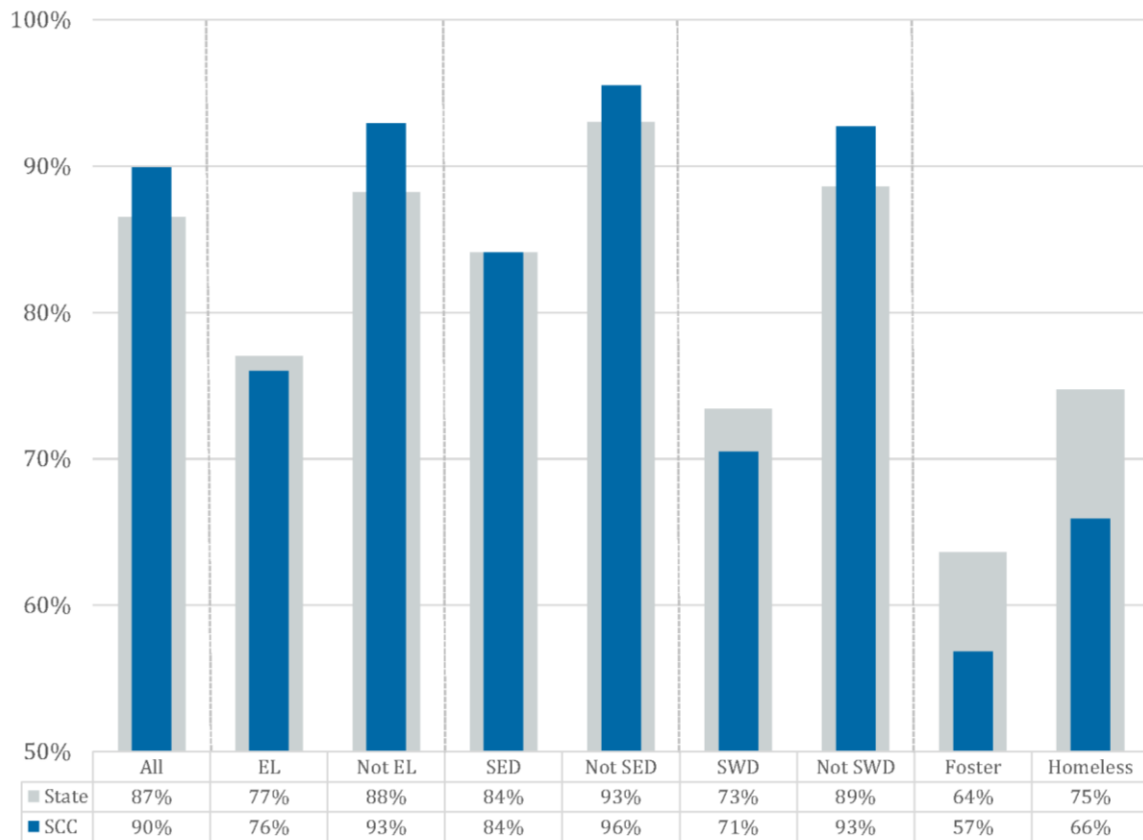


Figure 3 illustrates that when graduation rates for Santa Clara County’s student program groups are compared to statewide rates, the county’s program inclusion-based rates are mostly lower than the comparable rates statewide (the rates for socioeconomically disadvantaged are equal).

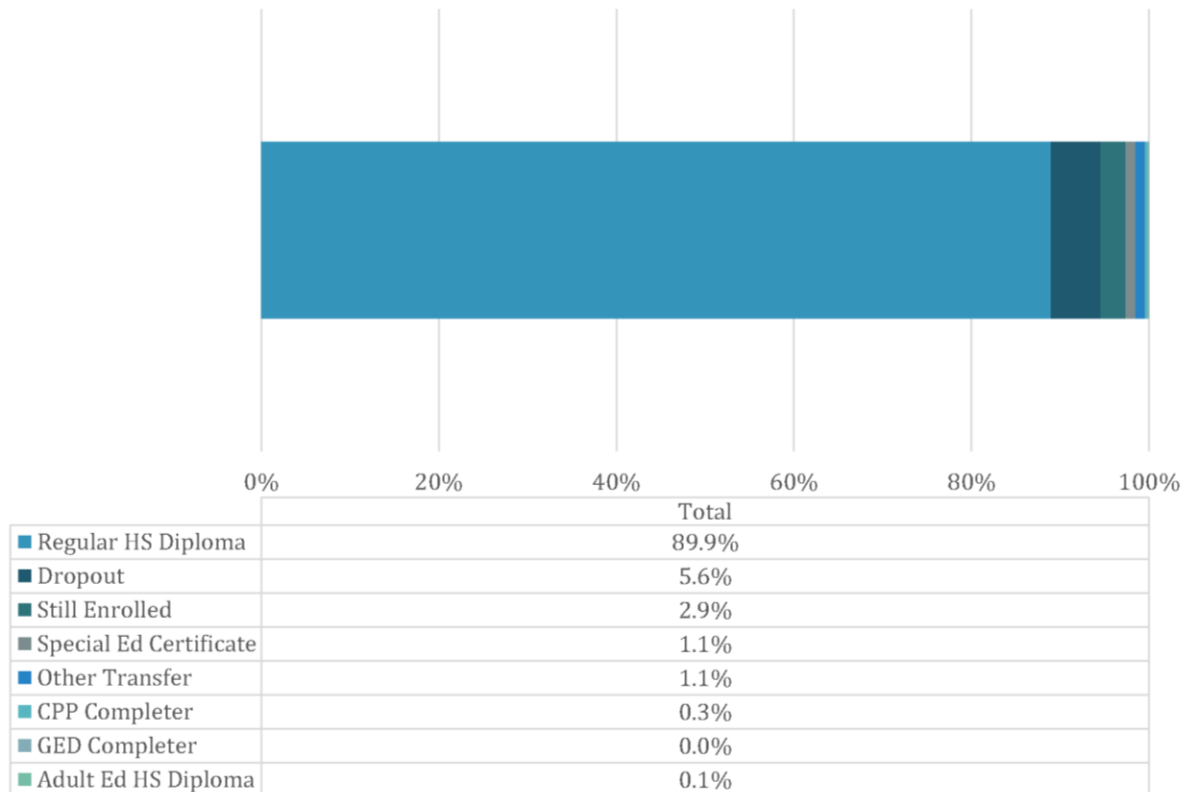
Figure 3: 2023-24 County-State Comparison of the Percentages of Students Receiving a Regular HS Diploma, by Program



OVERALL COUNTY RESULTS

Santa Clara County's 2023-24 Four-Year Adjusted Cohort included a total of 20,424 students. Of these students, 89.9% completed high school with a regular HS diploma. An additional 5.6% of the cohort were classified as Dropouts, while another 2.9% of the cohort was still enrolled in school. The remaining 2.6% of the cohort was split amongst Special Education Certificates, Other Transfers, CHSPE Completers, GED Completers, and Adult Education High School Diplomas. (See Figure 4.)

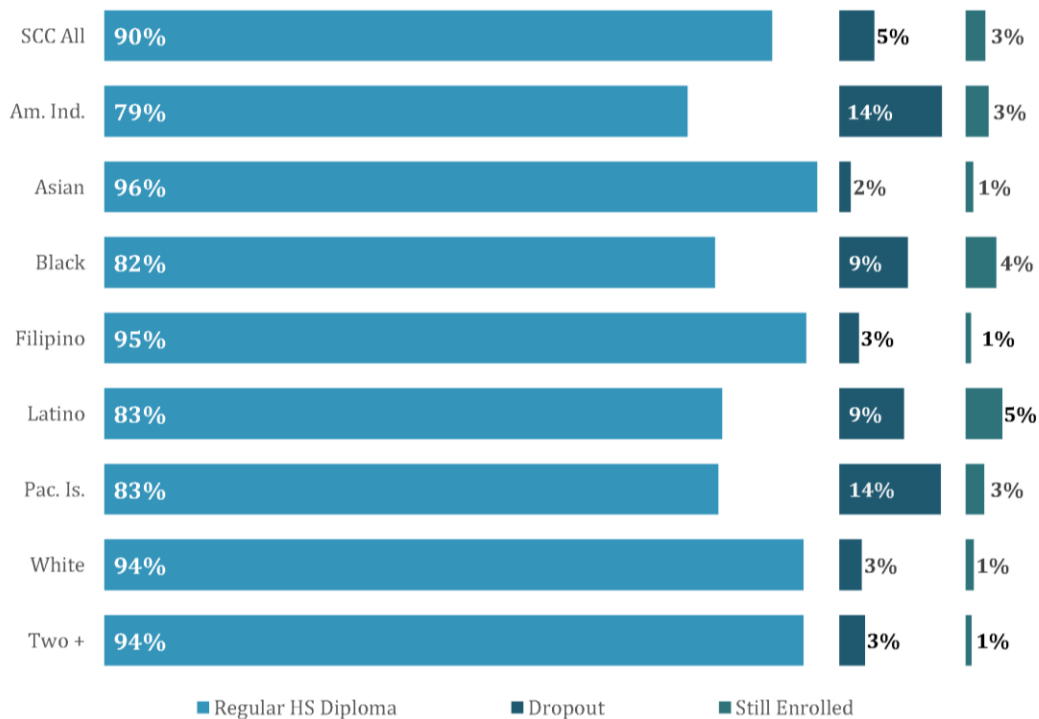
Figure 4: Santa Clara County 2023-24 4-Year Adjusted Cohort Outcome, by Outcome Category



COUNTY RESULTS BY STUDENT GROUP

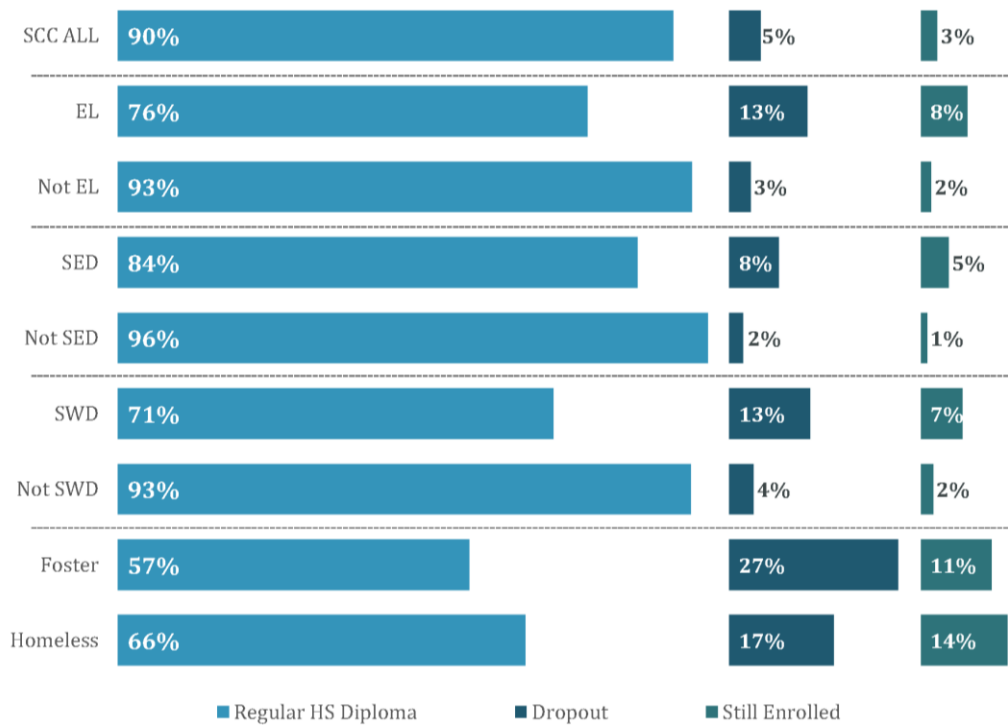
As illustrated in Figure 5, while 90% of the 2023-24 Santa Clara County cohort received a regular high school diploma, there was substantial variation among racial/ethnic student groups in meeting this milestone. The regular high school diploma rates for African American (82%), American Indian (79%), Hispanic/Latino (83%), and Pacific Islander (83%) student groups were significantly lower than the countywide rate. In addition, students in the Asian, Filipino, White and Two or More Races student groups had lower rates of still being enrolled in high school and lower dropout rates than the other student groups.

Figure 5: Santa Clara County 2023-24 4-Year Adjusted Cohort Outcome, by Race and Ethnicity



Similar variation can be observed when analyzing outcome rates by programs (see Figure 6 below). The regular high school diploma rates of students classified as English Learners, Socioeconomically Disadvantaged, Students with Disabilities, Foster Youth and Homeless were significantly lower than the county average as well as being markedly lower than the rates for the students who were not part of these programs. In addition, the students within these programs had higher rates of still being enrolled in high school and higher dropout rates than students not in these programs.

Figure 6: Santa Clara County 2023-24 4-Year Adjusted Cohort Outcome, by Program

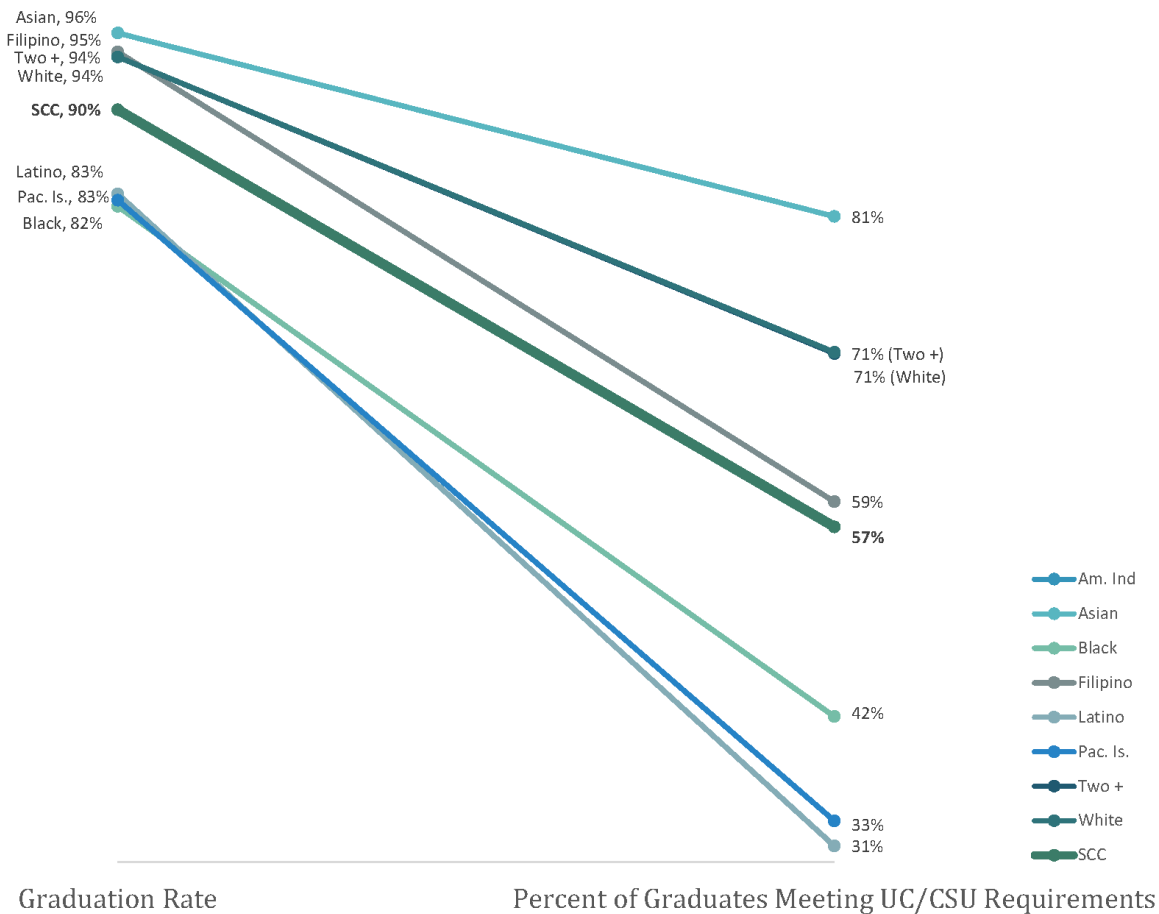


ACHIEVEMENT OF GRADUATION MILESTONES

Comparing graduation rates to the percentages of graduates that meet UC/CSU requirements shows that many Santa Clara County students graduate from high school without having met the requirements to immediately enroll in the UC or CSU system. Figure 7 illustrates this comparison disaggregated by race and ethnicity.

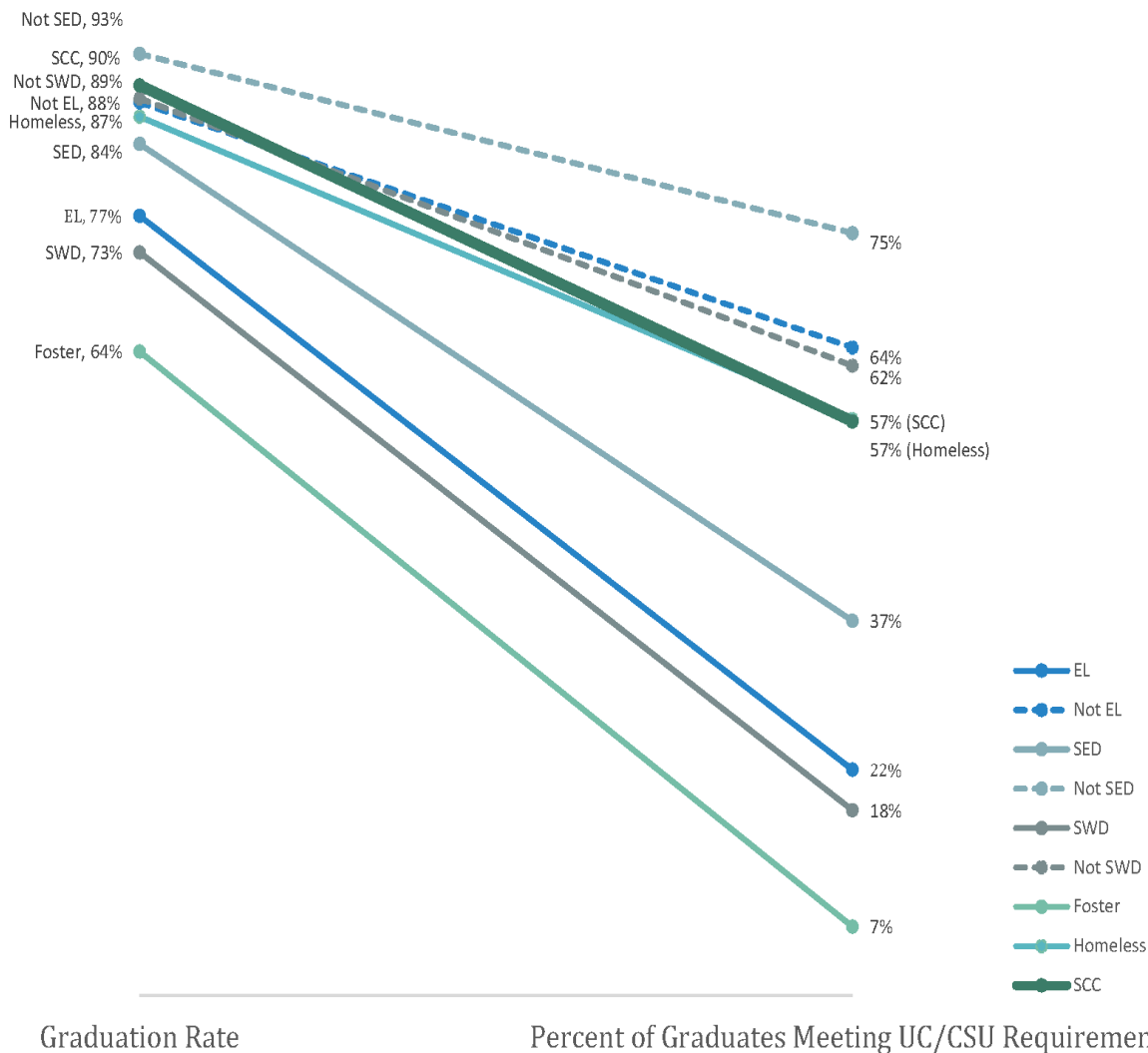
Overall, countywide students graduate at a rate of approximately 90%; however, only 57% of the cohort met the UC/CSU requirements, which represents a divergence of 33 percentage points. In contrast, Asian students met UC/CSU requirements at a rate only 15 percentage points less than their student group's graduation rate (81% versus 96%), while the African American, Hispanic/Latino and Pacific Islander student groups met UC/CSU requirements at rates approximately 50 percentage points below their respective student group's graduation rates.

Figure 7: 2023-24 Santa Clara County Comparison of Graduation Rates versus Graduates Meeting UC/CSU Requirements by Race and Ethnicity



Similar divergence can be observed in Figure 8, where the results are disaggregated by programs. For all program groups, students who participate in the applicable program (e.g. English Learners, Students with Disabilities, etc.) meet UC/CSU requirements at rates less than students who are not part of that applicable program. For example, for students who were not socioeconomically disadvantaged, there was an 18-percentage point divergence between graduation rates and rates of students meeting UC/CSU requirements, while the rates for socioeconomically disadvantaged students diverged by 47 percentage points.

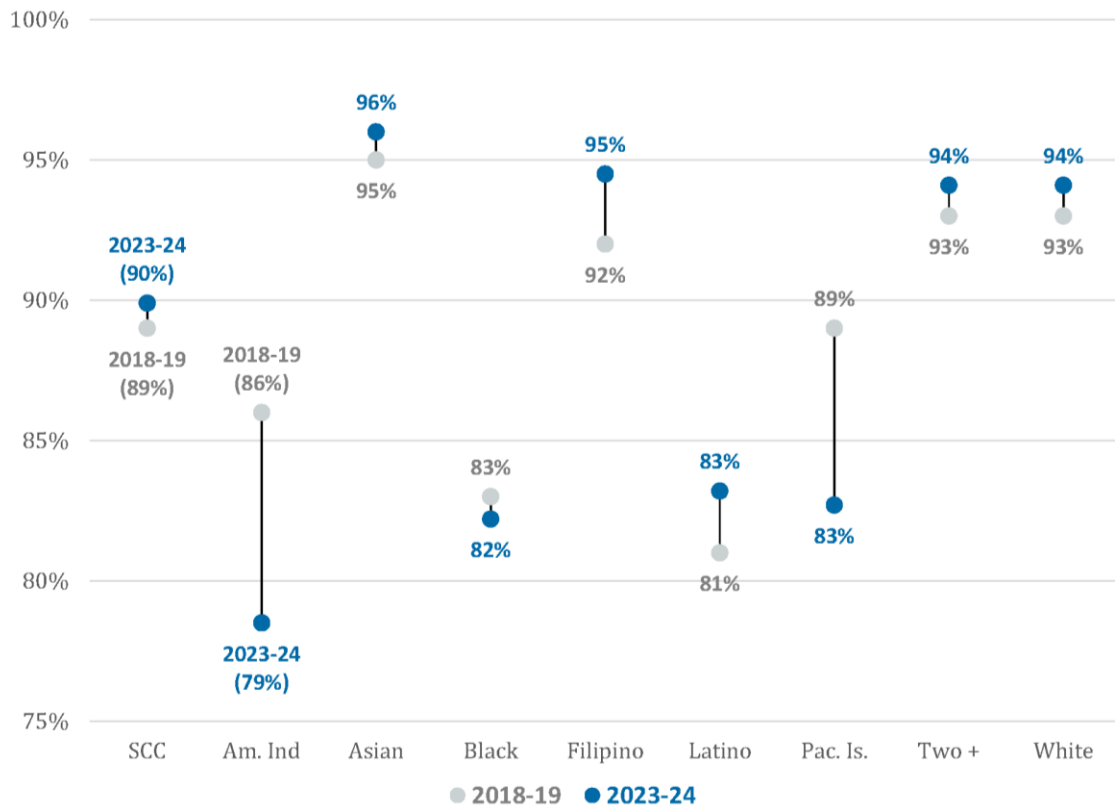
Figure 8: 2024 Santa Clara County Comparison of Graduation Rates versus Graduates Meeting UC/CSU Requirements by Program



COUNTYWIDE TWO-YEAR CHANGE

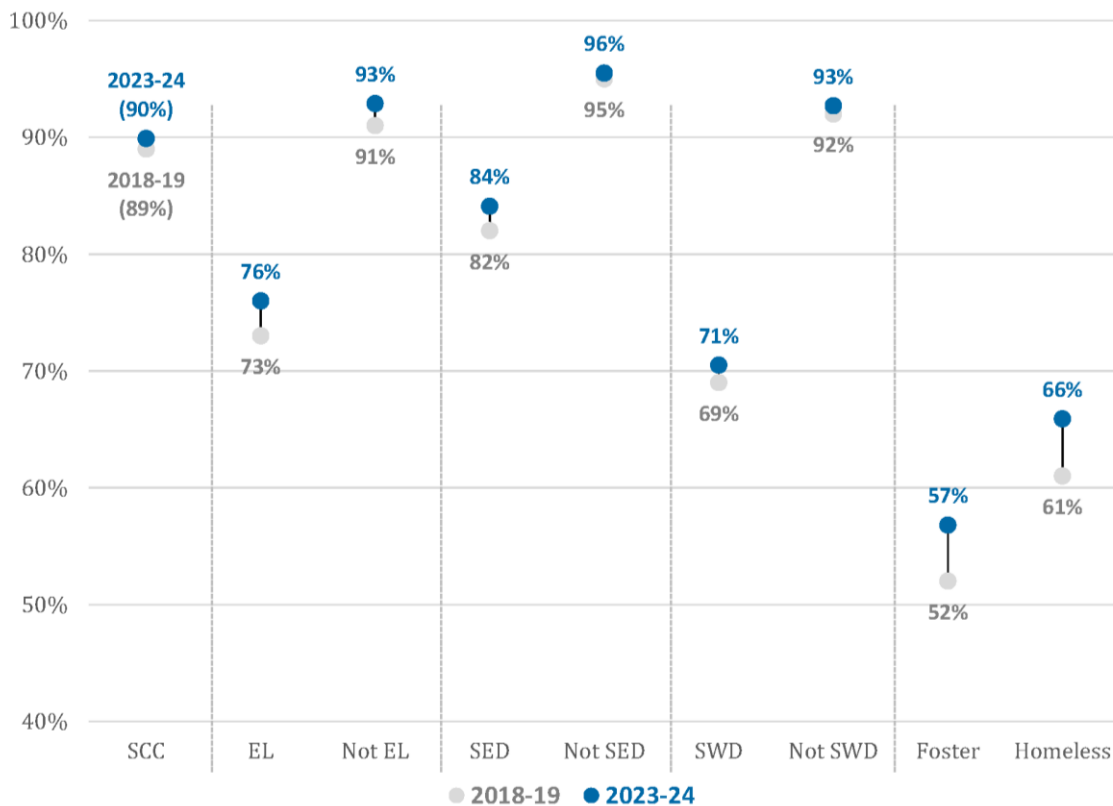
The final pair of figures illustrate changes in Santa Clara County graduation rates between 2018-19 and 2023-24. Overall, the graduation rate for the class of 2024 was a percentage point higher than the class of 2019 (90% vs. 89%). As illustrated in Figure 9 below, when disaggregated by race and ethnicity, growth was not observed for American Indian, African American and Pacific Islander students.

Figure 9: Santa Clara County Graduation Rates by Race and Ethnicity Change from 2018-19 to 2023-24



Lastly, Figure 10 illustrates 2018-19 to 2023-24 changes in graduation rates by student programs. Growth was observed in all cases. For all program groups, the graduation rates for students who participate in the applicable program (e.g. English Learners, Students with Disabilities, etc.) grew slightly more than the rates for students who were not included in the applicable programs.

Figure 10: Santa Clara County Graduation Rates by Program, Change from 2018-19 to 2023-24



Appendix 1: 2023-24 Cohort Graduation Rates

Student Group	State of California					Santa Clara County				
	Cohort Students	Regular HS Diploma Graduates	Graduates Meeting UC/CSU Requirements	Graduates Earning a Seal of Biliteracy	Graduates Earning a Golden State Seal Merit Diploma	Cohort Students	Regular HS Diploma Graduates	Graduates Meeting UC/CSU Requirements	Graduates Earning a Seal of Biliteracy	Graduates Earning a Golden State Seal Merit Diploma
African American	26,138	20,499	8,998	648	3,823	411	338	171	19	96
American Indian or Alaska Native	2,443	1,945	660	113	393	65	51	22	9	18
Asian	47,865	44,110	34,488	10,604	28,146	6,054	5,812	4,929	1,907	4,000
Filipino	12,944	12,324	8,743	1,329	6,511	842	796	494	55	308
Hispanic or Latino	286,181	243,477	108,145	39,298	57,975	8,214	6,832	2,574	1,130	1,245
Pacific Islander	2,209	1,828	773	82	443	81	67	27	8	19
White	106,045	94,431	54,308	10,050	39,129	3,570	3,358	2,521	687	1,899
Two or More Races	19,208	16,936	10,037	1,859	7,104	1,020	960	719	203	548
Not Reported	3,276	2,510	1,311	278	898	171	157	127	74	114
Total	506,305	438,060	227,463	64,261	144,422	20,424	18,371	11,584	4,092	8,247
English Learners	76,377	58,813	15,669	4,632	7,263	3,589	2,726	802	250	384
non-English Learners	429,932	379,247	211,794	59,629	137,159	16,835	15,645	10,782	3,842	7,863
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	369,664	310,952	138,401	42,491	78,446	9,913	8,332	3,669	1,235	1,982
non-Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	136,641	127,108	89,062	21,770	65,976	10,511	10,039	7,915	2,857	6,265
Students with Disabilities	68,288	50,141	10,857	1,284	6,110	2,556	1,803	468	84	265
non-Students with Disabilities	438,017	387,919	216,606	62,977	138,312	17,868	16,568	11,116	4,008	7,982
Foster Youth	5,594	3,559	723	115	358	88	50	6	2	4
Homeless	37,657	28,135	7,844	2,340	4,212	1,010	666	163	61	83

Appendix 2: 2023-24 Cohort Outcome Results

Student Group	State of California									Santa Clara County								
	Cohort Students	Regular HS Diploma Graduates	CHSPE Completers	Adult Ed HS Diploma	Special Education Certificate of Completion	GED Completers	Other Transfers	Still Enrolled	Dropouts	Cohort Students	Regular HS Diploma Graduates	CHSPE Completers	Adult Ed HS Diploma	Special Education Certificate of Completion	GED Completers	Other Transfers	Still Enrolled	Dropouts
African American	26,138	20,499	24	32	352	17	182	1,226	3,806	411	338	2	1	8	0	7	17	38
American Indian or Alaska Native	2,443	1,945	6	0	26	3	38	80	345	65	51	1	0	0	0	2	2	9
Asian	47,865	44,110	238	10	357	12	109	485	2,544	6,054	5,812	24	0	60	0	7	61	90
Filipino	12,944	12,324	26	12	129	5	35	110	303	842	796	3	0	13	0	2	6	22
Hispanic or Latino	286,181	243,477	142	257	2,753	195	2,599	9,621	27,137	8,214	6,832	9	9	85	3	164	400	712
Pacific Islander	2,209	1,828	4	2	18	8	19	63	267	81	67	0	0	0	0	1	2	11
White	106,045	94,431	467	64	801	107	567	1,632	7,976	3,570	3,358	16	3	24	2	22	38	107
Two or More Races	19,208	16,936	65	15	138	28	106	404	1,516	1,020	960	5	0	6	1	5	8	35
Not Reported	3,276	2,510	14	3	34	7	41	190	477	171	157	1	0	3	0	1	1	8
Total	506,305	438,060	986	395	4,608	382	3,696	13,811	44,367	20,424	18,371	61	13	199	6	211	535	1,028
English Learners	76,377	58,813	21	91	1,295	33	1,176	3,936	11,012	3,589	2,726	2	2	63	1	74	269	452
non-English Learners	429,932	379,247	965	304	3,313	349	2,520	9,875	33,355	16,835	15,645	59	11	136	5	137	266	576
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	369,664	310,952	425	335	3,783	282	3,322	12,708	37,857	9,913	8,332	20	11	134	3	175	446	792
non-Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	136,641	127,108	561	60	825	100	374	1,103	6,510	10,511	10,039	41	2	65	3	36	89	236
Students with Disabilities	68,288	50,141	72	79	4,605	60	612	4,089	8,630	2,556	1,803	9	0	199	1	41	170	333
non-Students with Disabilities	438,017	387,919	914	316	3	322	3,084	9,722	35,737	17,868	16,568	52	13	0	5	170	365	695
Foster Youth	5,594	3,559	2	5	98	7	65	465	1,393	88	50	0	0	3	0	1	10	24
Homeless	37,657	28,135	17	56	323	44	558	2,212	6,312	1,010	666	2	1	4	0	25	141	171