



## Santa Clara County Office of Education

Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.  
County Superintendent of Schools

April 5, 2023

TO: Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D., County Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Deann Walsh, Manager, Assessment & Accountability  
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SUBJECT: 2021-22 Santa Clara County 4-Year Adjusted Cohort Outcome Report

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The California Department of Education (CDE) previously released the four-year cohort outcome reports for the Class of 2021-22. 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 caution should be used in interpreting these results given the ongoing impacts of school closures and distance learning during the Spring of 2020 and throughout the 2020-21 school year as a result of the global pandemic. 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 comparability over time. Specifically, AB 104's local graduation requirements exemption is believed to have had an impact on state and local graduation rates. As the legislation's related exemptions and clauses expire in the coming years, it remains to be seen what improvements hold steady and/or if rates return to pre-pandemic levels.

Finally, as has been past precedent, local recalculations were performed to remove from the cohort students enrolled in Escuela Popular (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 2021-22, the recalculation involved removing 552 students from the countywide and statewide calculations. These 552 students represented 528 Hispanic or Latino students, 526 English Learners, 394 Homeless Youth, and 527 Socioeconomically Disadvantaged students.

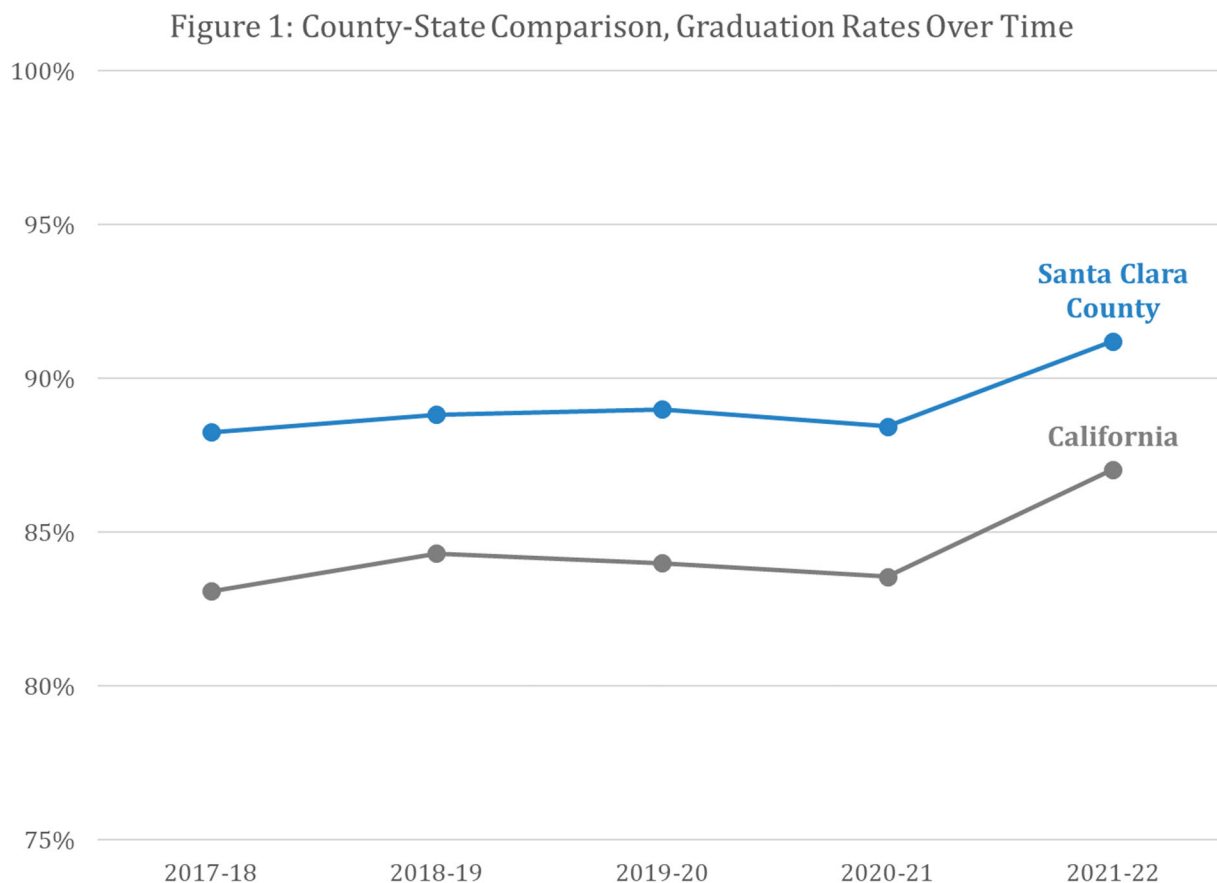
## **BACKGROUND**

California annually calculates a 4-Year Adjusted Cohort Outcome Rate for all of its schools and districts serving students in grade 12. At its core, this rate is calculated by first determining who entered grade 9 four years prior and then classifying what each individual student's outcome is at the completion of the current year. 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. CHSPE Completers (California High School Proficiency Examination)
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

## GRADUATION RATES OVER TIME, COUNTY & STATE

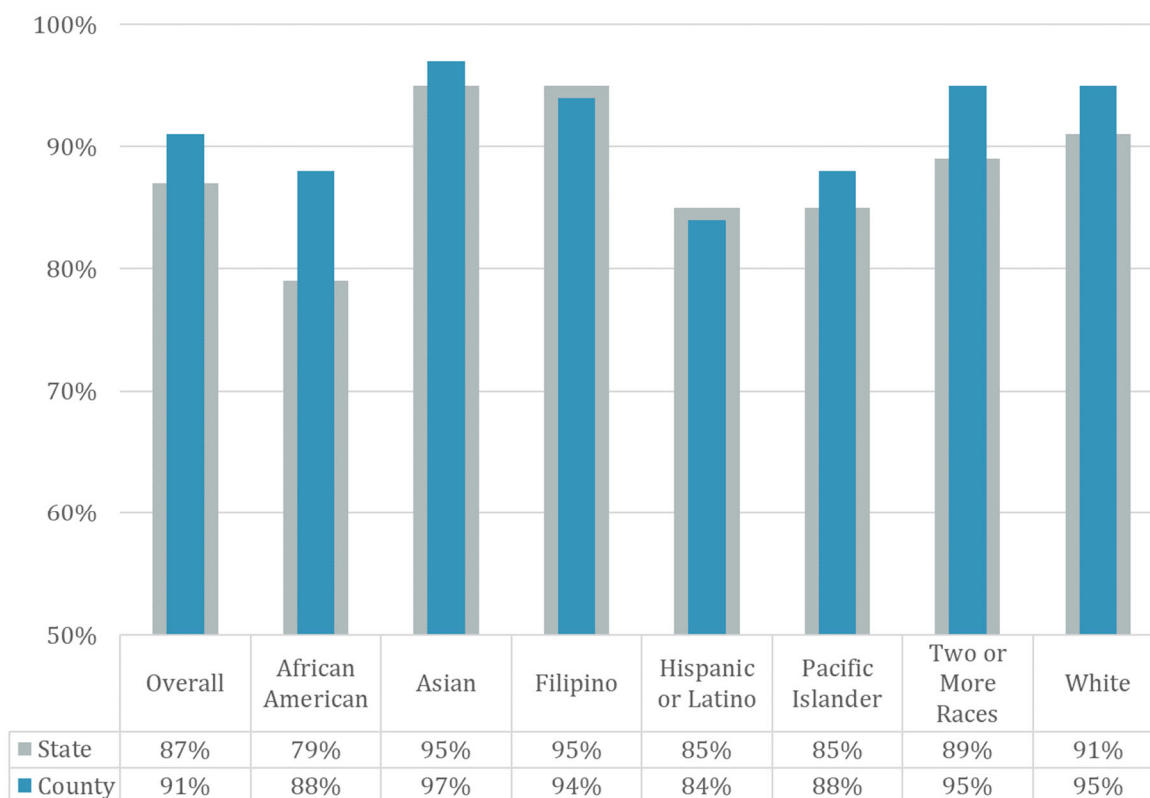
Figure 1, below, illustrates graduation rates in Santa Clara County and California for the past five years. During that time, Santa Clara County has consistently produced rates above the statewide average. At both the county and state levels, a slight increase was observed between 2017-18 and 2018-19. Rates then remained relatively stable over the next two cycles (2019-20 and 2020-21) before a significant increase occurred in 2021-22. In the most current year, Santa Clara County graduated students at a rate of 91%, which was an increase of approximately 3 percentage points over the prior year, while statewide students graduated at a rate of 87%, which was also an increase of approximately 3 percentage points.



## COUNTY STATE COMPARISON

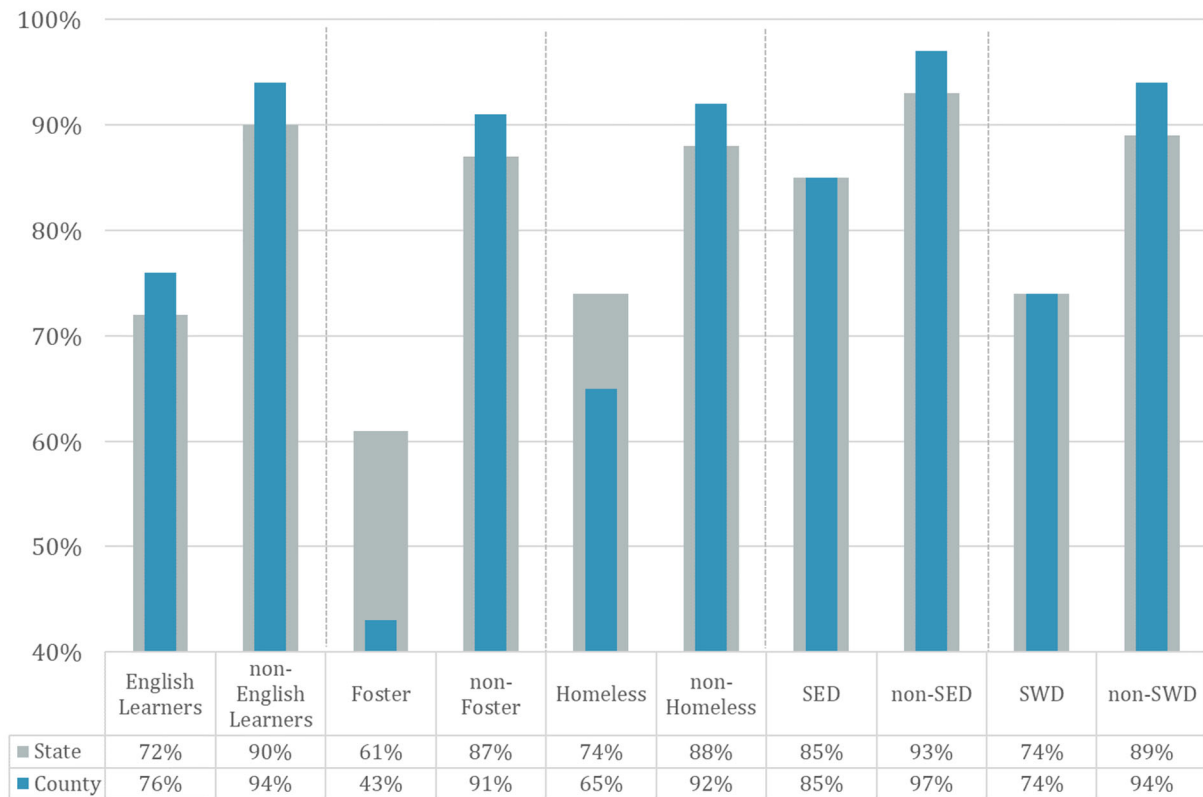
In 2021-22, Santa Clara County's African American, Asian, Pacific Islander, Two or Races and White student groups graduated at higher rates than the state's percentages for these groups. In contrast, our county's Filipino and Hispanic or Latino student groups graduated at rates just below the statewide average. (See Figure 2 for additional details.)

Figure 2: 2021-22 County-State Comparison of the Percentages of Students Receiving a Regular HS Diploma by Race and Ethnicity



Similarly, as displayed in Figure 3, when county results are compared to statewide figures nearly all student program groups within Santa Clara County are above statewide averages. As is illustrated in the following chart, Foster and Homeless students are the only two student program groups in which the countywide rates fall below the statewide figures. (See Figure 3 for full details and rates.)

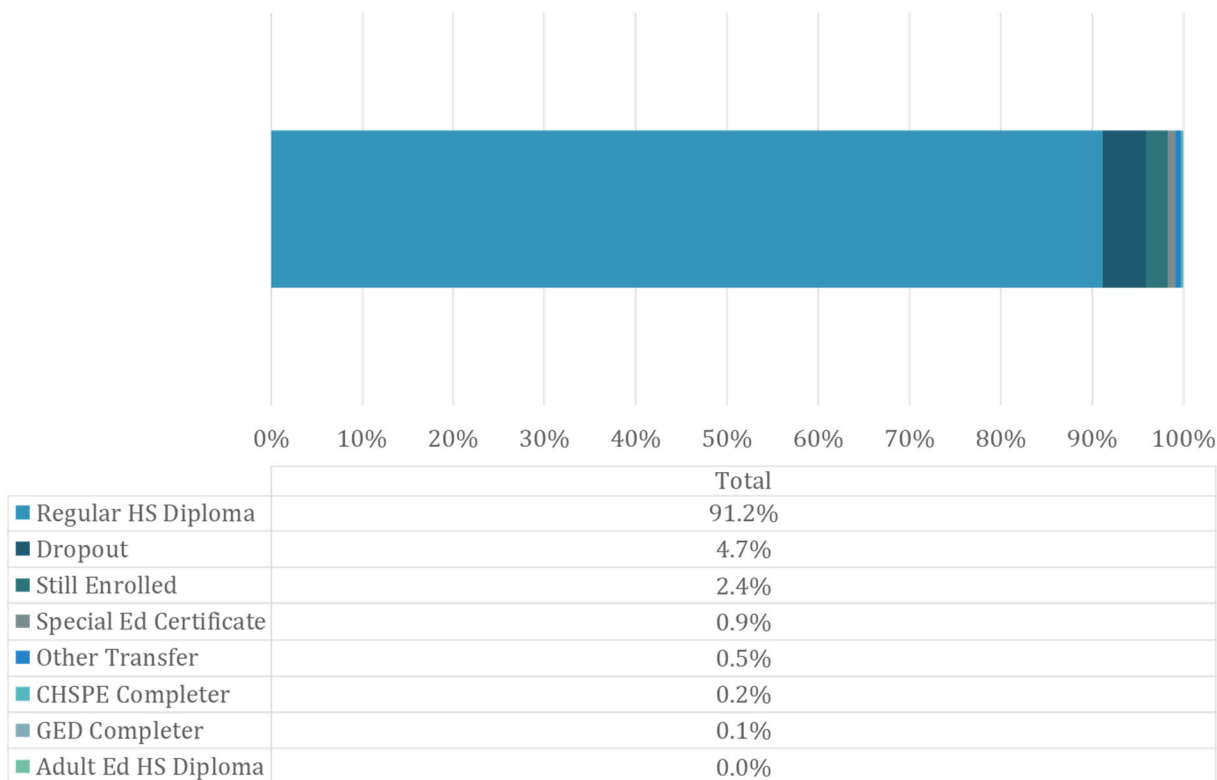
Figure 3: 2021-22 County-State Comparison of the Percentages of Students Receiving a Regular HS Diploma by Program



## OVERALL COUNTY RESULTS

Santa Clara County's 2021-22 4-Year Adjusted Cohort included a total of 20,817 students. Of these students, 91.2% completed high school with a regular HS diploma. An additional 4.7% of the cohort was classified as Dropouts, while another 2.4% of the cohort was still enrolled in school. The remaining 1.7% of the cohort was split amongst Special Education Certificates, Other Transfers, CHSPE Completers, GED Completers, and Adult Education High School Diplomas. (See Figure 4 for additional details.)

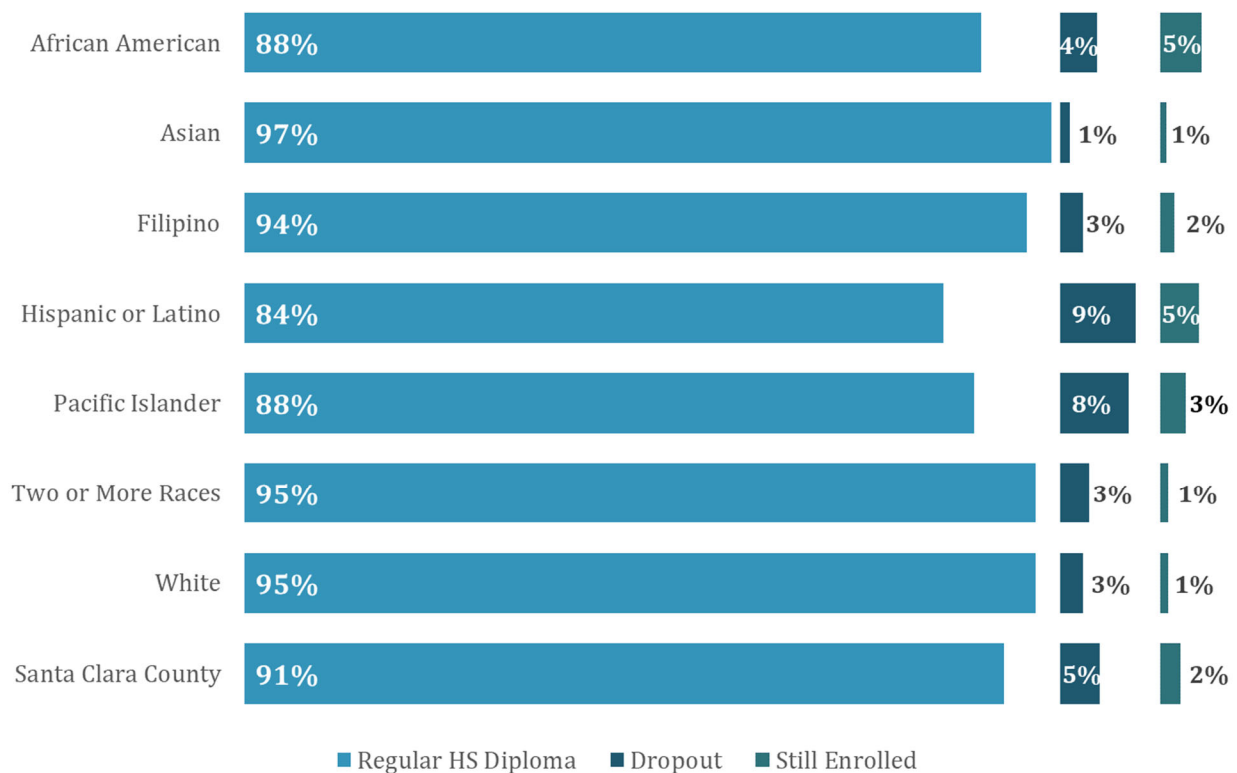
Figure 4: Santa Clara County 2021-22 4-Year Adjusted Cohort Outcome, by Outcome Category



## COUNTY RESULTS BY STUDENT GROUP

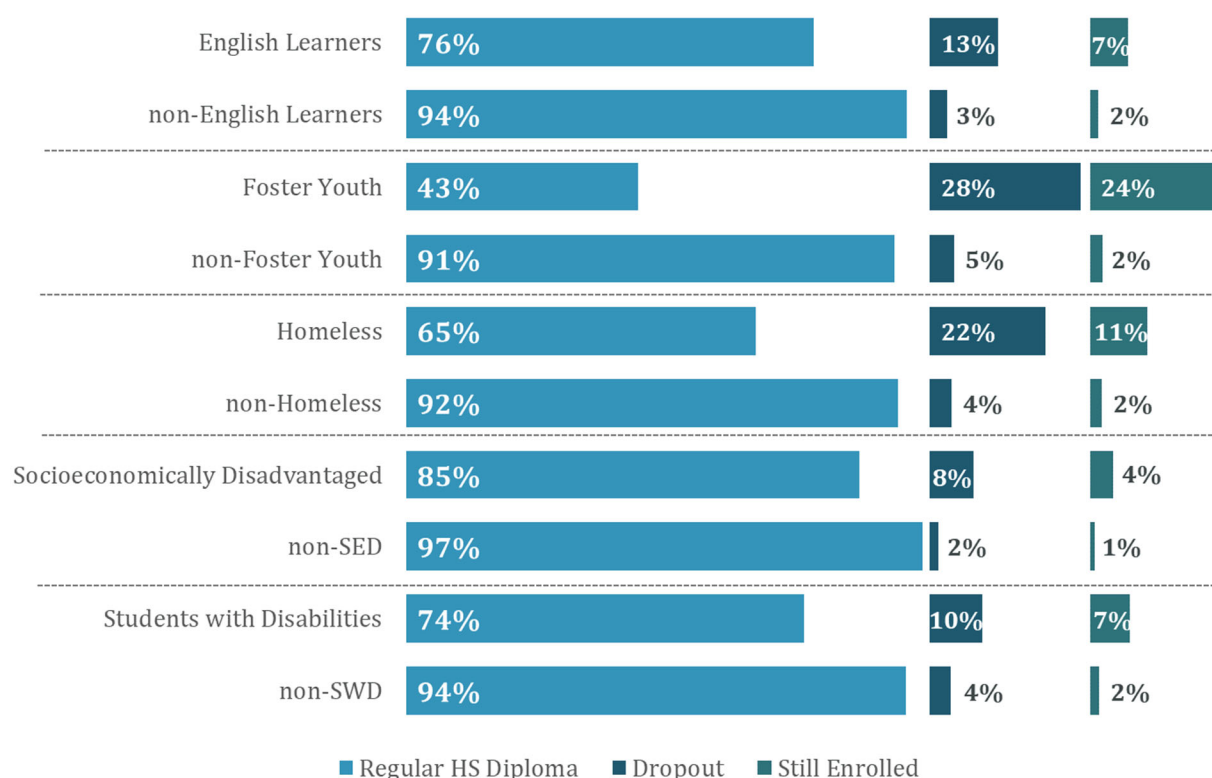
As illustrated below in Figure 5, while 91% of the 2021-22 Santa Clara County cohort received a regular high school diploma, there was significant variation among student groups when disaggregated by race and ethnicity. The regular high school diploma rates for African American, Hispanic or Latino, and Pacific Islander student groups all were lower than the countywide rate (88%, 84%, and 88% respectively). In addition, students in the African American and Hispanic or Latino student groups were more than twice as likely to still be enrolled in high school courses than their countywide peers, and students in the Hispanic or Latino and Pacific Islander student groups experienced dropout rates higher than the county average.

Figure 5: Santa Clara County 2021-22 4-Year Adjusted Cohort Outcome, by Race and Ethnicity



Similar variation can be observed when analyzing outcome rates by program (see Figure 6 below for additional details). The regular high school diploma rates of students classified as English Learners, Foster Youth, Homeless, Socioeconomically Disadvantaged and Students with Disabilities 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. For example, 65% of Homeless students received a regular high school diplomas in comparison to 92% of students who were not identified as Homeless. Also, these five student program groups were up to five times as likely to have dropped out of school during the previous four years and up to twelve times as likely to still be enrolled in high school.

Figure 6: Santa Clara County 2021-22 4-Year Adjusted Cohort Outcome, by Program



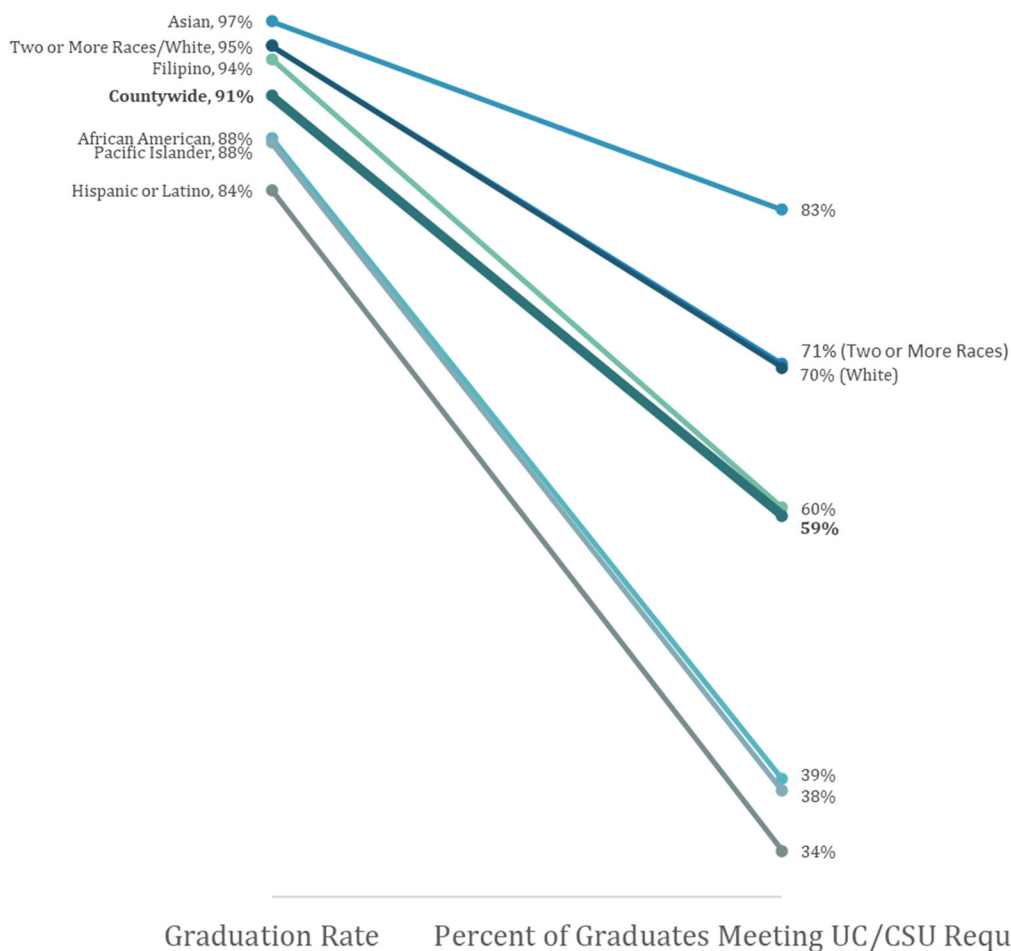


## ACHIEVEMENT OF GRADUATION MILESTONES

A comparison of the percentage of graduates meeting UC/CSU requirements demonstrates the challenge of many students graduating from county high schools having not met the requirements to immediately enroll in the UC or CSU system. Figure 7 illustrates this comparison disaggregated by race and ethnicity.

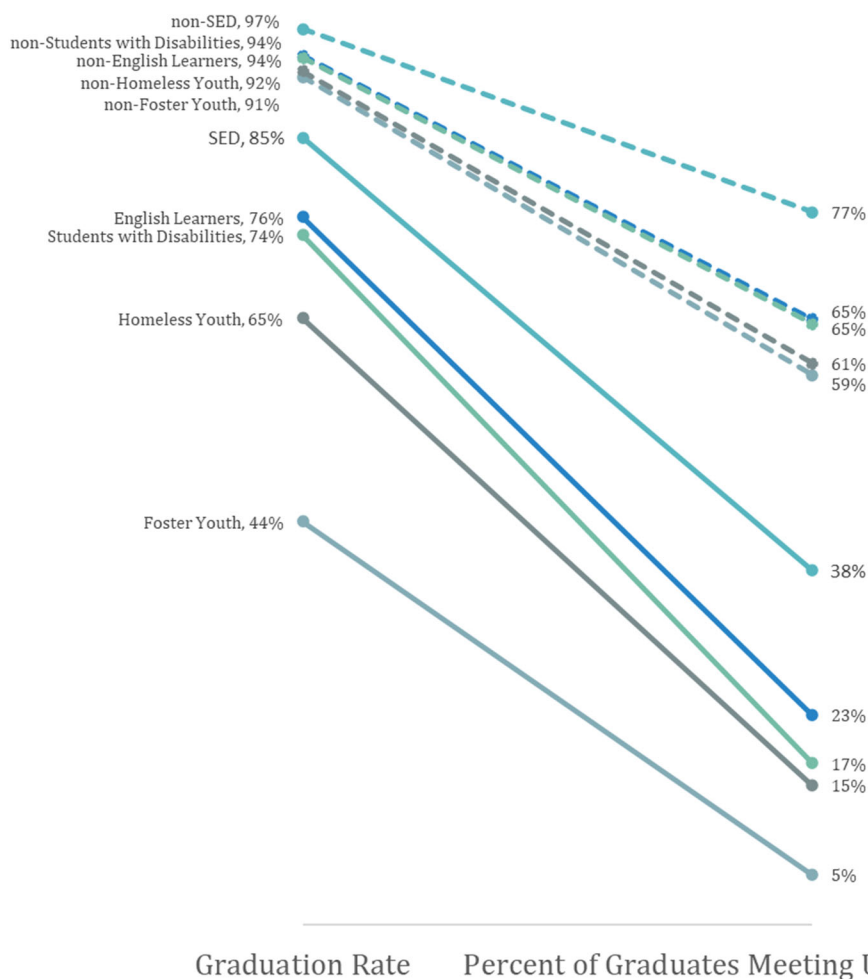
Overall, countywide students graduate at a rate of approximately 91%; however, only 59% of the cohort met the UC/CSU requirements. This represents an approximate divergence of 32 percentage points for graduates overall. In contrast, Asian students met UC/CSU requirements at a rate only 14 percentage points less than their student group's graduation rate (83% versus 97%), 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: 2021-22 Santa Clara County Comparison of Graduation Rates versus Graduates Meeting UC/CSU Requirements by Race and Ethnicity



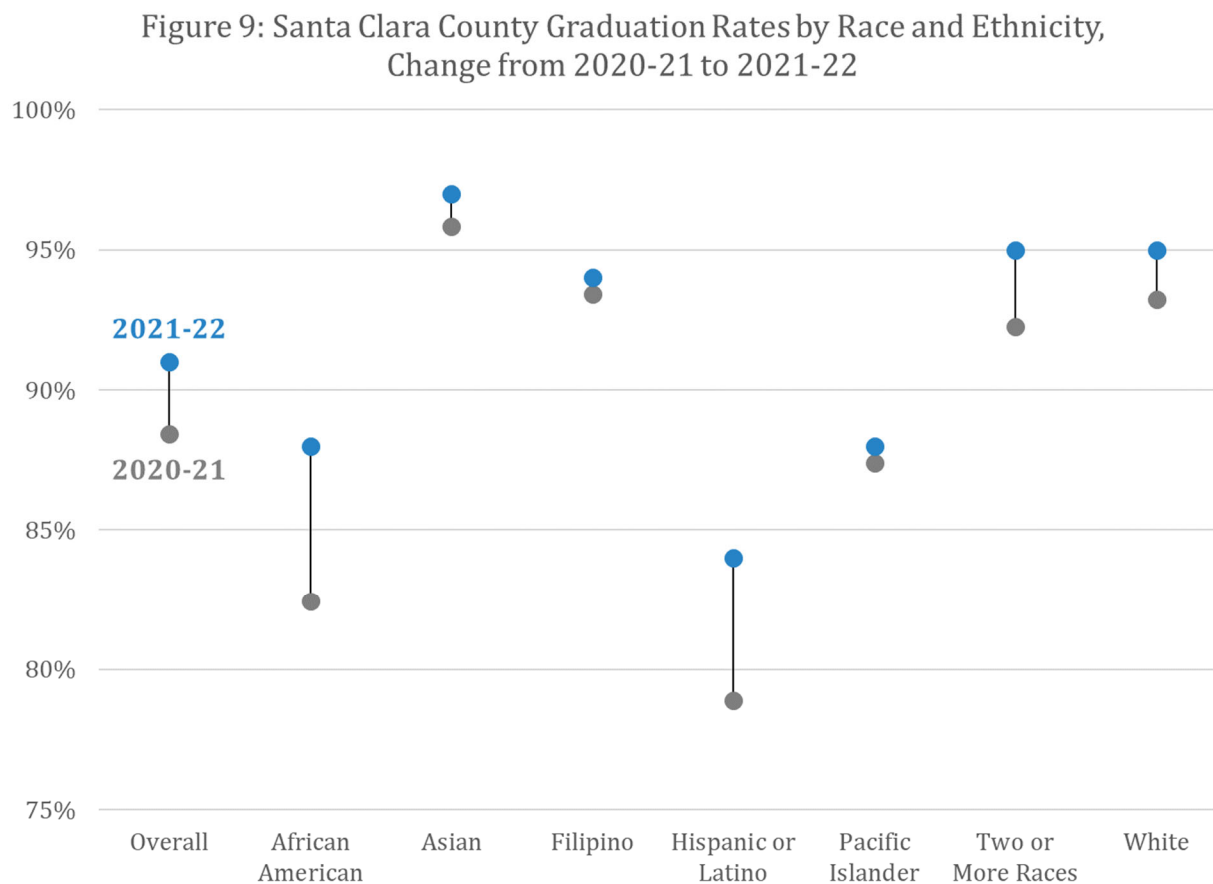
Similar divergence can be observed in Figure 8, where the results are disaggregated by program. For all program groups, students who participate in the applicable program (e.g. English Learners, Students with Disabilities, etc.) meet UC/CSU requirements at rates less than students who are not part of the applicable program. For example, the divergence between graduation rates and rates of students meeting UC/CSU requirements was a 29 percentage point difference for students without disabilities, while the rates diverged by 57 percentage points for students with disabilities.

Figure 8: 2021-22 Santa Clara County Comparison of Graduation Rates versus Graduates Meeting UC/CSU Requirements by Program

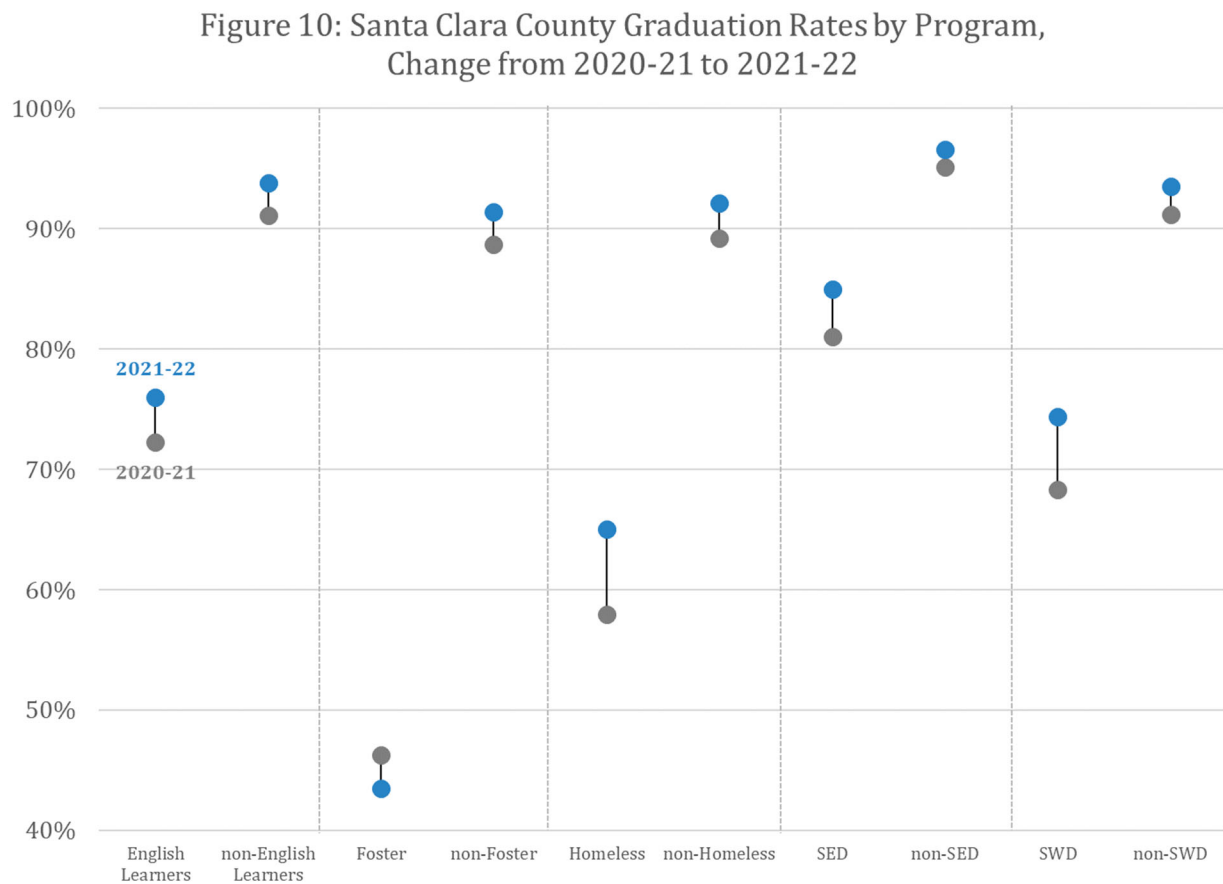


## COUNTYWIDE TWO-YEAR CHANGE

The final set of figures illustrates the two-year change in graduation rates between 2020-21 and 2021-22. Overall, in Santa Clara County, students in the class of 2022 graduated at rates approximately 3 percentage points higher than the class of 2021. As illustrated in Figure 9 below, when disaggregated by race and ethnicity, growth was observed across all student groups. In addition, African American and Hispanic or Latino student groups experienced the largest growth of 6 percentage points and 5 percentage points respectively.



Lastly, in Figure 10 two-year growth is illustrated by student program. In nearly all cases, growth was observed between the two cohorts of students, except in the case of Foster Youth who experienced a 3 percentage point decline in their graduation rate. For the remaining four student group programs (i.e. English Learners, Homeless, SED and SWD), all experienced greater rates of growth than students who were not associated with the student group program. For example, the graduation rate of students in the Homeless student group increased by 7 percentage points while the increase in rates for those students who were not part of the Homeless student group was 3 percentage points.



## Appendix 1: 2021-22 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	26,811	21,063	8,704	569	3,480	382	338	149	14	80
American Indian or Alaska Native	2,580	2,032	618	80	305	65	47	22	5	13
Asian	47,100	44,836	34,826	9,701	26,427	6,487	6,286	5,354	1,711	4,117
Filipino	13,587	12,968	9,067	1,250	6,031	910	855	543	57	303
Hispanic or Latino	273,400	232,028	100,885	28,918	48,630	7,796	6,545	2,615	883	1,070
Pacific Islander	2,390	2,028	801	77	411	97	85	37	6	17
White	111,065	100,660	57,612	8,874	35,634	4,006	3,807	2,819	502	1,635
Two or More Races	16,874	15,085	8,915	1,458	5,455	880	836	622	175	375
Not Reported	3,549	2,637	1,314	238	750	218	189	136	43	81
Total	497,332	433,337	222,742	51,165	127,123	20,817	18,988	12,297	3,396	7,691
English Learners	69,850	50,522	13,073	2,368	5,994	3,046	2,325	690	170	401
non-English Learners	427,482	382,815	209,669	48,797	121,129	17,771	16,663	11,607	3,226	7,290
Foster Youth	5,595	3,436	598	81	264	92	40	5	1	1
non-Foster Youth	491,737	429,901	222,144	51,084	126,859	20,725	18,948	12,292	3,395	7,690
Homeless	33,370	24,629	7,149	1,605	3,457	677	443	102	34	40
non-Homeless Youth	463,962	408,708	215,593	49,560	123,666	20,140	18,545	12,195	3,362	7,651
Students with Disabilities	63,360	46,744	9,133	709	4,535	2,526	1,880	441	60	190
non-Students with Disabilities	433,972	386,593	213,609	50,456	122,588	18,291	17,108	11,856	3,336	7,501
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	346,503	293,402	125,802	30,565	64,271	9,594	8,147	3,669	897	1,877
non-Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	150,829	139,935	96,940	20,600	62,852	11,223	10,841	8,628	2,499	5,814

## Appendix 2: 2021-22 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	26,811	21,063	14	4	361	14	129	1,531	3,695	382	338	0	0	7	0	1	19	17
American Indian or Alaska Native	2,580	2,032	0	5	34	2	39	119	349	65	47	0	0	0	0	2	5	11
Asian	47,100	44,836	125	2	359	15	76	536	1,151	6,487	6,286	16	0	59	1	1	49	75
Filipino	13,587	12,968	13	2	129	6	27	133	309	910	855	1	0	10	1	3	15	25
Hispanic or Latino	273,400	232,028	97	66	2,760	207	1,803	11,542	24,897	7,796	6,545	5	8	68	7	99	363	701
Pacific Islander	2,390	2,028	1	0	23	2	14	64	258	97	85	0	0	1	0	0	3	8
White	111,065	100,660	347	20	900	126	483	2,216	6,313	4,006	3,807	12	0	33	2	7	38	107
Two or More Races	16,874	15,085	37	0	114	20	70	428	1,120	880	836	0	0	6	0	0	8	30
Not Reported	3,549	2,637	11	1	71	7	27	333	462	218	189	0	0	3	0	1	4	21
Total	497,332	433,337	645	100	4,751	399	2,668	16,901	38,531	20,817	18,988	34	8	187	11	114	503	972
English Learners	69,850	50,522	15	17	1,510	42	893	4,946	11,905	3,046	2,325	0	2	69	2	43	217	388
non-English Learners	427,482	382,815	630	83	3,241	357	1,775	11,955	26,626	17,771	16,663	34	6	118	9	71	286	584
Foster Youth	5,595	3,436	1	3	113	10	70	721	1,241	92	40	0	0	3	0	1	22	26
non-Foster Youth	491,737	429,901	644	97	4,638	389	2,598	16,180	37,290	20,725	18,948	34	8	184	11	113	481	946
Homeless	33,370	24,629	15	13	322	54	369	2,538	5,430	677	443	1	1	6	0	6	73	147
non-Homeless Youth	463,962	408,708	630	87	4,429	345	2,299	14,363	33,101	20,140	18,545	33	7	181	11	108	430	825
Students with Disabilities	63,360	46,744	43	21	4,751	58	426	5,373	5,944	2,526	1,880	3	2	187	1	18	187	248
non-Students with Disabilities	433,972	386,593	602	79	0	341	2,242	11,528	32,587	18,291	17,108	31	6	0	10	96	316	724
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	346,503	293,402	261	81	3,720	289	2,363	15,193	31,194	9,594	8,147	11	5	123	7	103	412	786
non-Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	150,829	139,935	384	19	1,031	110	305	1,708	7,337	11,223	10,841	23	3	64	4	11	91	186