



NEWS RELEASE

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Analysis: County students' graduation rate exceeds state's, but rate for Hispanic students lags

SAN JOSE, CA – Santa Clara County students are graduating from high school at a somewhat higher rate than their statewide peers, but county districts' schools trail the state average in graduating Hispanic students, according to an analysis of 2011-12 graduation and dropout data completed by the Santa Clara County Office of Education's Assessment and Accountability Department.

The graduation rate for the group of students who started high school in 2008-09 and graduated with their class in 2012 was 81.1 percent in Santa Clara County, compared to 78.5 percent for the rest of the state. That rate has remained relatively steady in the county over the past three years.

However, the graduation rate last year for Hispanic students was only 66.1 percent, compared to 73.2 percent for their statewide counterparts. Similarly, the dropout rate for the county's Hispanic students was nearly one in four: 24 percent, compared to 16.2 percent statewide.

Also, the gap in the county between white and Hispanic graduates who completed A-G requirements necessary for admission to the state university system has grown since 2008 by 4.4 percentage points, to over 33 points—56.6 percent for white students vs. 23 percent for Hispanic students. (Statewide, the figure for Hispanic students was 28 percent.)

Asian students graduated at the highest rate—94.3 percent in Santa Clara County in 2012, and 91 percent statewide. Nearly 72 percent of Asian students in the county completed the A-G requirements.

The SCCOE analysis was based on the California Department of Education's cohort graduation and dropout rates and counts for the Class of 2011-12, released on Tuesday, April 9. The entire SCCOE analysis of the graduation and dropout rates, complete with statewide comparisons and historical data, is available at www.sccoe.org.