Summary of 2022-23 dropout release

# Statewide dropout rate improved in 2022-23

Overall, dropout rates in 2022-23 improved in comparison to 2021-22. This included:

* An improvement in the state dropout rate from 2.2% to 2.1%. This is a reduction of 0.1 percentage points and represents 859 fewer students in grades 7-12 who dropped out.
* About 80% of districts had dropout rates that were the same or better than the prior year (148 of the 185 local education agencies or BOCES).
* The dropout rate in 2021-22 increased substantially over the previous year. With the reduction in 2022-23, the rate is now similar to 2017-18.

## Race/Ethnicity subgroups show ongoing gaps

Historically, there have been gaps between different racial/ethnic groups in the dropout rate. In the 2022-23 data, this is evident between students of color and white students with some variation between different groups within those categories.

* The gap between students of color and white students decreased but remained 2 percentage points apart. This represents 6844 students of color in comparison to 2821 white students dropping out in 2022-23 which is significant when considering students of color make up half of the total 7th-12th grade membership base this year.

## Dropout Rate by Instructional Program Service Type (IPST)

Data from 2022-23 had gaps in the rates between student groups. This is similar to trends seen in previous years.

* A number of student groups improved at a faster rate than the statewide improvement; English Learners (0.3% change), Economically disadvantaged (0.4% change), Migrant students (1.0% change), students at a Title I school (0.4% change), and homeless students (0.4% change).
* Students in Foster care had a higher dropout rate than in 2021-22 and the highest rate among collected program types.

## Re-enrollment and re-engagement rates

Students who drop out can re-enroll in school and continue their education within the same year or in future years.

* 22.7 % of dropouts from 21-22 re-enrolled in 22-23. This was 2,385 students. Of this group of students:
  + 64.5% reengaged in their education by graduating, completing, attending an HSED preparation program, or remaining in school (1,539 students). The remainder left school again.
  + 16.6% graduated or completed in 22-23
  + 46.0% were still enrolled at the end of 22-23

## Concentrations of Dropouts

While student engagement may be a challenge facing a number of districts across the state, the majority of dropouts are often concentrated in a smaller subset of regions, districts, or grade levels.

* Districts below 1,200 students have substantially lower dropout rates and given the smaller enrollment numbers, this is also a small number of students.
* About 80% of the state’s dropouts last attended one of 20 districts (about 10% of the state’s districts)
* Twelfth grade students have the highest dropout rate and numbers of any grade level.

## Resources

* [CDE’s office of Dropout Prevention and Student Re-engagement](https://www.cde.state.co.us/dropoutprevention/attendance) has compiled resources on evidence-based practices to improve student engagement.
  + [Dropout Prevention Framework:](https://www.cde.state.co.us/dropoutprevention/dpframework) CDE has revised the Dropout Prevention Framework to provide a framework for prevention efforts to engage students in learning and provide strategies for response when students start to disengage.
* [CDE’s Data Services team](https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdereval/gradratecurrent) collects and publishes annual graduation/completion data.