

New Hampshire High School Graduation Rates

February 2022

The school funding model proposed by American Institutes for Research (AIR) and endorsed by the 2020 Commission to Study School Funding uses graduation rates among high schools as an important measure of student outcomes. The New Hampshire Department of Education (DoE) has published these rates every year for decades. AIR evidently used an average of eleven years of graduation rates for each high school in its statistical modeling.

This paper looks at high school graduation rates in New Hampshire in a number of ways.

Class of 2019 Public High School Graduation Rates

Table 1 displays the graduation rates of all New Hampshire public high schools for the graduating Class of 2019.ⁱ This is the rate for those who entered their freshman year in the fall of 2015 and graduated in the spring/summer of 2019. The schools are sorted by graduation rate for that class, from highest to lowest rate. The reason the Class of 2019 is used is that national data on the Classes of 2020 or 2021 are not yet available.

Within New Hampshire, there was a wide range of graduation rates among public high schools.ⁱⁱ Hinsdale High School, Lin-Wood Public School in Lincoln, Pittsburg School, and Sunapee Senior High School all reported high school graduation rates of 100 percent that year. Five other high schools reported graduation rates above 97 percent.

Comparison to the Nation

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) collects data from every state and publishes summaries and analyses. NCES requests that states use a common set of definitions about what constitutes graduation. The reported graduation rate is the percent of students who entered grade 9 and graduated at the end of 4 school years, known as the 4-year “adjusted cohort rate”. This is what is used in Table 1 for New Hampshire public high schools. By using this common definition, we can compare New Hampshire to other states.

The average rate for the Class of 2019 in New Hampshire was 88.4 percent. That is good and placed New Hampshire as the state with the thirteenth highest rate among the 50 states.

But it is also important to acknowledge that our average does not represent all public high schools.

Table 2 shows three of our public high schools with rates above that of Alabama, the two schools with rates closest to the New Hampshire average, the two schools with rates closest to the national average, and three schools with rates below that of New Mexico.

The most recent data from NCES is for the Class of 2019.ⁱⁱⁱ As noted above, New Hampshire’s rate that year was 88.4 percent, while the national average was 85.8 percent. The fact that New Hampshire was graduating students at a rate higher than the national average is certainly a positive statement. Again, New Hampshire was 13th among the states. Alabama had the highest rate at 91.7 percent, while New Mexico had the lowest rate at 75.1 percent.

Table 1. NH Public High School Graduation Rates - Class of 2019

School	Rate	School	Rate
Hinsdale High School	100.0%	Pembroke Academy	90.9%
Lin-Wood Public School (High)	100.0%	Epping High School	90.1%
Pittsburg School (High)	100.0%	Pinkerton Academy	90.1%
Sunapee Sr. High School	100.0%	Merrimack Valley High School	89.7%
Campbell High School	98.3%	Mascenic Regional High School	89.6%
Sanborn Regional High School	98.1%	Gilford High School	89.4%
Oyster River High School	97.8%	Newfound Regional High School	89.4%
Woodsville High School	97.6%	Belmont High School	89.2%
Profile Senior High School	97.1%	Merrimack High School	89.2%
Colebrook Academy and Elementary School (H)	96.9%	Spaulding High School	89.1%
Littleton High School	96.5%	Dover Senior High School	88.8%
Bow High School	96.0%	State Total	88.4%
Souhegan Coop High School	95.7%	Keene High School	87.8%
Pelham High School	95.6%	Alvirne High School	87.7%
Kennett High School	95.5%	Hillsboro-Deering High School	87.7%
Coe-Brown Northwood Academy	95.4%	Nashua High School North	87.6%
Portsmouth High School	95.3%	Laconia High School	87.4%
Londonderry Senior High School	95.3%	Berlin Senior High School	87.1%
Prospect Mountain High School	95.1%	Newmarket Jr.-Sr. High School	86.2%
Exeter High School	95.0%	Winnisquam Regional High School	85.8%
Hollis-Brookline High School	94.9%	Lisbon Regional School (High)	85.7%
Plymouth Regional High School	94.5%	Nute High School	85.4%
Lebanon High School	94.5%	Gorham High School	84.8%
Windham High School	94.5%	Inter-Lakes High School	84.8%
Kearsarge Regional High School	94.4%	Groveton High School	84.6%
Mascoma Valley Regional High School	94.1%	Concord High School	84.2%
Bedford High School	94.1%	Conant High School	82.2%
Hopkinton High School	93.9%	Farmington Senior High School	82.0%
Hanover High School	93.9%	Manchester Memorial High School	81.8%
Winnacunnet High School	93.9%	Nashua High School South	81.3%
White Mountains Regional High School	93.5%	Manchester School of Technology (High School)	80.5%
Milford High School	93.5%	Stevens High School	79.5%
Salem High School	93.4%	Moultonborough Academy	79.4%
Timberlane Regional High School	93.3%	Pittsfield High School	77.6%
Goffstown High School	93.2%	Somersworth High School	77.1%
John Stark Regional High School	92.7%	Monadnock Regional High School	76.4%
Fall Mountain Regional High School	92.6%	Newport Middle High School (High)	76.3%
Kingswood Regional High School	91.6%	Franklin High School	75.0%
Raymond High School	91.6%	Manchester Central High School	71.0%
Wilton-Lyndeboro Senior High School	91.2%	Manchester West High School	62.8%
Conval Regional High School	91.1%	Bud Carlson Academy	16.7%

Table 2. Class of 2019 Graduation Rates After Four Years

State/NH High School	4-Yr Graduation Rate
<i>Hinsdale High School</i>	100.0%
<i>Lin-Wood Public School (High)</i>	100.0%
<i>Pittsburg School (High)</i>	100.0%
Alabama	91.7%
Iowa	91.6%
West Virginia	91.3%
Kentucky	90.6%
New Jersey	90.6%
Tennessee	90.5%
Wisconsin	90.1%
Texas	90.0%
Missouri	89.7%
Delaware	89.0%
<i>Dover Senior High School</i>	88.8%
Connecticut	88.5%
Nebraska	88.4%
New Hampshire OVERALL	88.4%
North Dakota	88.3%
Massachusetts	88.0%
<i>Keene High School</i>	87.8%
Arkansas	87.6%
Virginia	87.5%
Maine	87.4%
Utah	87.4%
Florida	87.2%
Indiana	87.2%
Kansas	87.2%
Maryland	86.9%
Montana	86.6%
North Carolina	86.5%
Pennsylvania	86.5%

State/NH High School	4-Yr Graduation Rate
Illinois	86.2%
<i>Newmarket Jr.-Sr. High School</i>	86.2%
United States OVERALL	85.8%
<i>Lisbon Regional School (High)</i>	85.7%
Hawaii	85.2%
Mississippi	85.0%
Oklahoma	84.9%
California	84.5%
Vermont	84.5%
Nevada	84.1%
South Dakota	84.1%
Rhode Island	83.9%
Minnesota	83.7%
New York	82.8%
Wyoming	82.1%
Georgia	82.0%
Ohio	82.0%
Michigan	81.4%
Colorado	81.1%
South Carolina	81.1%
Washington	81.1%
Idaho	80.8%
Alaska	80.4%
Louisiana	80.1%
Oregon	80.0%
Arizona	77.8%
New Mexico	75.1%
<i>Franklin High School</i>	75.0%
<i>Manchester Central High School</i>	71.0%
<i>Manchester West High School</i>	62.8%

Table 3. Classes of 2017 through 2021 Graduation Rate

Public High School	Total of 5 Classes (2017-2021)	Graduated After 4 Years	Graduation Rate
Campbell High School	567	555	97.9%
Souhegan Coop High School	1,006	973	96.7%
Oyster River High School	957	924	96.6%
Hanover High School	912	880	96.5%
Bedford High School	1,835	1,768	96.3%
Profile Senior High School	162	156	96.3%
Coe-Brown Northwood Academy	844	810	96.0%
Portsmouth High School	1,339	1,283	95.8%
Bow High School	780	747	95.8%
Kennett High School	942	901	95.6%
Windham High School	1,124	1,074	95.6%
Milford High School	1,017	967	95.1%
Hollis-Brookline High School	1,056	1,004	95.1%
Hopkinton High School	330	313	94.8%
Sunapee Sr. High School	188	178	94.7%
Exeter High School	2,086	1,975	94.7%
Londonderry Senior High School	1,887	1,784	94.5%
Kearsarge Regional High School	673	636	94.5%
Lebanon High School	737	696	94.4%
Woodsville High School	251	237	94.4%
Salem High School	1,493	1,408	94.3%
Sanborn Regional High School	804	758	94.3%
Hinsdale High School	171	161	94.2%
Colebrook Academy and Elementary School (H)	133	125	94.0%
Plymouth Regional High School	798	750	94.0%
Gorham High School	164	154	93.9%
Prospect Mountain High School	574	538	93.7%
Mascoma Valley Regional High School	414	388	93.7%
Littleton High School	282	264	93.6%
Pelham High School	810	752	92.8%
Wilton-Lyndeboro Senior High School	204	189	92.6%
Goffstown High School	1,363	1,261	92.5%
Timberlane Regional High School	1,450	1,340	92.4%
Lin-Wood Public School (High)	118	109	92.4%
Newmarket Jr.-Sr. High School	316	291	92.1%
Kingswood Regional High School	951	875	92.0%
John Stark Regional High School	804	739	91.9%
Winnacunnet High School	1,308	1,198	91.6%
Conval Regional High School	941	860	91.4%
Mascenic Regional High School	364	331	90.9%

Table 3. Classes of 2017 through 2021 Graduation Rate (cont'd)

Public High School	Total of 5 Classes (2017- 2021)	Graduated After 4 Years	Graduation Rate
Merrimack Valley High School	928	842	90.7%
Pembroke Academy	951	850	89.4%
Gilford High School	617	551	89.3%
Spaulding High School	1,611	1,437	89.2%
Fall Mountain Regional High School	591	526	89.0%
New Hampshire Total	68,022	60,535	89.0%
Keene High School	1,678	1,491	88.9%
Lisbon Regional School (High)	132	117	88.6%
Pittsburg School (High)	44	39	88.6%
Pinkerton Academy	4,002	3,534	88.3%
Inter-Lakes High School	398	349	87.7%
Moultonborough Academy	210	184	87.6%
White Mountains Regional High School	435	380	87.4%
Berlin Senior High School	482	421	87.3%
Nashua High School North	2,133	1,853	86.9%
Alvirne High School	1,513	1,313	86.8%
Merrimack High School	1,498	1,298	86.6%
Dover Senior High School	1,713	1,482	86.5%
Raymond High School	480	415	86.5%
Belmont High School	466	401	86.1%
Nashua High School South	2,219	1,903	85.8%
Newfound Regional High School	452	387	85.6%
Epping High School	333	285	85.6%
Groveton High School	152	130	85.5%
Concord High School	1,977	1,689	85.4%
Conant High School	448	382	85.3%
Winnisquam Regional High School	559	472	84.4%
Hillsboro-Deering High School	448	375	83.7%
Farmington Senior High School	322	269	83.5%
Laconia High School	655	546	83.4%
Monadnock Regional High School	602	500	83.1%
Somersworth High School	549	451	82.1%
Manchester School of Technology (High School)	358	293	81.8%
Manchester Memorial High School	1,846	1,471	79.7%
Stevens High School	629	492	78.2%
Newport Middle High School (High)	423	326	77.1%
Nute High School	204	155	76.0%
Pittsfield High School	198	146	73.7%
Manchester Central High School	1,943	1,426	73.4%
Franklin High School	386	278	72.0%
Manchester West High School	1,098	697	63.5%
Bud Carlson Academy	184	27	14.7%

Graduation Rates and Small High Schools

The use of single-year graduation rates for particular schools can be misleading. There is a natural statistical variation from year to year and this is particularly true for smaller high schools.

Groveton High School's average graduating class size has been as few as 26 students in recent years. Its graduation rate of 93.8 percent for the Class of 2017 was followed by 78.8 percent for the Class of 2018, a difference of roughly 15 percentage points. The situation in that high school and other small schools should not be judged by any single year.

To smooth out these annual variations we can use 5 year averages of high school graduation rates. The Classes of 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 are the most recent data available for New Hampshire. Table 3 shows the average graduation rate for each New Hampshire high school over that span.

Five Year Graduation Rate

Some students require more than four years to graduate. While they may be known as the "Class of 20xx" they may actually graduate in 20xx+1. Typically, this happens because they have insufficient credits at the end of their fourth year. Those who may continue for at least part of a fifth year and then graduate are not counted in the published cohort rates. NCEES only collects the four-year rate and thus DoE only reports the four-year rate. NHSFFP requested and received from the DoE data on the number of graduates after five years for the classes of 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018.^{iv}

Based on DoE's published data, the 4-year cohort graduation rate for all public schools in New Hampshire for the Classes of 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 combined was 89.2 percent. However, once students who graduated in five years during that time frame are included, the graduation rate climbs to 91.4 percent. The students that comprise that additional 2.2 percent are indeed high school graduates, but just not counted in the 4-year cohort data.

The difference for some high schools is greater than the average of 2.2 percent. Table 4 lists the high schools in order of the amount of change in graduation rate when 5 years are included.

In a few cases, judging a high school by its 4-year cohort graduation rate may be a little misleading. White Mountains Regional High School, for example, has a 4-year rate of 87.1 percent in this analysis, which is below the state average. But once students who graduate in their fifth year are also included, that high school's rate becomes 92.0 percent, slightly above the state average for the 5-year rate.

Of the students who entered their freshman year of high school in 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014, 50,609 had graduated with their class in 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018. An additional 980 students also graduated after their fifth year.

Table 4. Classes of 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 Graduation Rates

Public High School	After 4 years	After 5 years	Additional graduation rate
Bud Carlson Academy	23.9%	31.0%	7.1%
Winnisquam Regional High School	84.1%	89.8%	5.8%
Groveton High School	82.7%	88.5%	5.8%
White Mountains Regional High School	87.1%	92.0%	4.9%
Concord High School	84.1%	88.9%	4.7%
Newport Middle High School	79.1%	83.6%	4.5%
Sunapee Sr. High School	93.5%	97.8%	4.3%
Manchester School of Technology	80.4%	84.6%	4.2%
Pittsfield High School	68.3%	72.2%	3.8%
Franklin High School	72.1%	75.9%	3.8%
Manchester Central High School	76.7%	80.4%	3.7%
Lin-Wood Public School (High)	89.5%	93.1%	3.6%
Raymond High School	80.5%	84.1%	3.6%
Hillsboro-Deering High School	84.0%	87.6%	3.5%
Newfound Regional High School	88.8%	92.1%	3.3%
Nashua High School South	87.3%	90.5%	3.2%
Wilton-Lyndeboro Senior High School	89.7%	92.9%	3.2%
Laconia High School	81.1%	84.2%	3.1%
Nashua High School North	88.4%	91.5%	3.1%
Monadnock Regional High School	83.7%	86.5%	2.7%
John Stark Regional High School	90.3%	93.0%	2.7%
Spaulding High School	90.0%	92.6%	2.6%
Manchester Memorial High School	81.2%	83.8%	2.6%
Portsmouth High School	93.8%	96.4%	2.5%
Pinkerton Academy	88.9%	91.4%	2.5%
Nute High School	79.4%	81.8%	2.4%
Sanborn Regional High School	91.0%	93.4%	2.4%
Londonderry Senior High School	95.2%	97.6%	2.4%
Keene High School	90.0%	92.3%	2.3%
Conant High School	88.3%	90.5%	2.2%
Merrimack High School	87.8%	90.0%	2.2%
Milford High School	94.0%	96.1%	2.1%
Newmarket Jr.-Sr. High School	93.2%	95.3%	2.1%
Timberlane Regional High School	94.3%	96.4%	2.1%
Prospect Mountain High School	92.4%	94.4%	2.1%
Goffstown High School	92.2%	94.2%	2.0%
Belmont High School	83.0%	85.0%	2.0%
Oyster River High School	95.3%	97.3%	2.0%
Merrimack Valley High School	91.6%	93.6%	2.0%
Hopkinton High School	94.1%	96.1%	2.0%
Kearsarge Regional High School	96.1%	98.0%	2.0%
Pelham High School	92.4%	94.3%	1.8%

Table 4. Classes of 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 Graduation Rates (cont'd)

Public High School	After 4 years	After 5 years	Additional graduation rate
Profile Senior High School	94.2%	95.9%	1.7%
Kennett High School	96.1%	97.8%	1.7%
Stevens High School	78.4%	80.1%	1.7%
Conval Regional High School	90.2%	91.9%	1.7%
Winnacunnet High School	91.5%	93.1%	1.6%
Campbell High School	96.9%	98.6%	1.6%
Lisbon Regional School (High)	93.3%	94.9%	1.6%
Bow High School	95.4%	97.0%	1.5%
Inter-Lakes High School	86.9%	88.3%	1.5%
Mascenic Regional High School	90.2%	91.7%	1.5%
Farmington Senior High School	81.8%	83.3%	1.5%
Hinsdale High School	92.0%	93.5%	1.4%
Fall Mountain Regional High School	89.6%	91.1%	1.4%
Gorham High School	98.0%	99.3%	1.4%
Gilford High School	91.2%	92.6%	1.4%
Somersworth High School	81.4%	82.7%	1.3%
Dover Senior High School	87.6%	88.9%	1.3%
Pembroke Academy	89.8%	91.1%	1.3%
Kingswood Regional High School	93.2%	94.5%	1.3%
Epping High School	82.8%	84.0%	1.2%
Salem High School	94.3%	95.5%	1.2%
Bedford High School	97.1%	98.3%	1.2%
Exeter High School	94.3%	95.4%	1.2%
Alvirne High School	87.9%	89.1%	1.2%
Moultonborough Academy	91.6%	92.6%	1.0%
Hanover High School	97.0%	98.0%	1.0%
Littleton High School	91.2%	92.2%	1.0%
Lebanon High School	95.3%	96.3%	1.0%
Souhegan Coop High School	96.0%	96.9%	0.9%
Colebrook Academy	93.7%	94.6%	0.9%
Woodsville High School	94.3%	95.2%	0.9%
Berlin Senior High School	88.2%	88.9%	0.7%
Coe-Brown Northwood Academy	96.8%	97.6%	0.7%
Windham High School	96.5%	97.1%	0.6%
Hollis-Brookline High School	95.4%	95.9%	0.5%
Mascoma Valley Regional High School	95.0%	95.3%	0.3%
Plymouth Regional High School	97.1%	97.2%	0.0%
Pittsburg School (High)	87.8%	87.8%	0.0%
Manchester West High School	72.6%	72.0%	-0.6%
State Total	89.2%	91.4%	2.2%

Charter High School Graduation Rates

The DoE reports on graduation also include public chartered schools with high school grades. Table 5 displays the graduation rate for those schools for the class of 2019. This is similar to Table 1 for public high schools.

The charter schools are much smaller than the public high schools and therefore are even more adversely affected by statistical variation from year to year.

Table 6 contains the graduation rates by combining the four classes of 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018. As was done with the public high schools in Table 4, both the 4-year cohort rate and 5-year cohort rate are displayed. This table is in alphabetical order.

The graduation rates among chartered high schools are much more diverse than among the public high schools and are also, on average, much lower.

After 4 years, 60.8 percent of charter school students graduated, compared to 89.2 percent of public school students. After 5 years, the graduation rate of charter school students increased to 73.7 percent, still well below the rate of 91.4 percent for public high school students after 5 years.

**Table 5. Class of 2019
Public Chartered School Graduation Rates**

Public Chartered School	Rate
Granite State Arts Academy Charter School	89.7%
North Country Charter Academy (H)	81.3%
Great Bay Charter School (H)	79.4%
Cochecho Academy for the Arts	76.9%
Academy for Science and Design Charter (H)	73.5%
The Founders Academy Charter School (H)	70.6%
Ledyard Charter School	69.2%
LEAF Charter School	66.7%
Next Charter School	66.7%
Virtual Learning Academy (H)	64.2%
CSI Charter School	35.7%
PACE Career Academy Charter School	31.8%
Making Community Connections Charter School - Monadnock	17.4%
Kreiva Academy Public Charter School (H)	0.0%
Making Community Connections Charter School (H)	0.0%
TEAMS Charter School	0.0%

Table 6. Classes of 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 Graduation Rates

Chartered High School	After 4 years	After 5 years	Additional graduation rate
Academy for Science and Design Charter (H)	83.2%	96.5%	13.3%
Cochecho Academy for the Arts	71.4%	82.4%	10.9%
CSI Charter School	28.1%	43.5%	15.4%
Granite State Arts Academy Charter School	79.5%	87.5%	8.0%
Great Bay Charter School (H)	76.1%	82.5%	6.4%
Ledyard Charter School	61.8%	67.6%	5.8%
Making Community Connections Charter School - Monadnock	0.0%	4.3%	4.3%
Making Community Connections Charter School (H)	2.9%	39.4%	36.5%
Next Charter School	50.0%	94.6%	44.6%
North Country Charter Academy (H)	83.2%	87.6%	4.4%
PACE Career Academy Charter School	32.9%	50.0%	17.1%
TEAMS Charter School	14.3%	15.4%	1.1%
Virtual Learning Academy (H)	63.5%	87.9%	24.3%
State Total	60.8%	73.7%	12.8%

ⁱ When citing class years, the spring of the year they would graduate after four high school years is used. The graduating Class of 2019, for example, entered high school in the fall of 2015.

ⁱⁱ https://www.education.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt326/files/inline-documents/2020-04/cohort_report_18-19.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/tables/ACGR_RE_and_characteristics_2018-19.asp

^{iv} The fifth year of the Class of 2019 ended in the spring of 2020. Graduation data for 2020 and 2021 were not available at the time of our request.