

Sources and Notes for August 2009 Update of “Understanding Graduation Rate” Fact Sheet

Almost 90 percent of the fastest-growing and highest-paying jobs require some postsecondary education: U.S. Department of Labor. 2008. *America's Dynamic Workforce*. Washington, DC: Author. Available online at <http://www.dol.gov/asp/media/reports/workforce2008/>.

One third of students—about 1.3 million each year—leave high school without a diploma: * Editorial Projects in Education. (2009). Diplomas count 2009. Broader horizons: The challenge of college readiness for all students. *Education Week*, 28(34). Available online at <http://www.edweek.org/ew/toc/2009/06/11/index.html>.

Who's graduating in [State X]?* Editorial Projects in Education. (2009). Diplomas count 2009. Broader horizons: The challenge of college readiness for all students. *Education Week*, 28(34). Available online at <http://www.edweek.org/ew/toc/2009/06/11/index.html>.

Graphic: Graduation Gaps and Inequities* Editorial Projects in Education. (2009). Diplomas count 2009. Broader horizons: The challenge of college readiness for all students. *Education Week*, 28(34). Available online at <http://www.edweek.org/ew/toc/2009/06/11/index.html>. The inclusion of these charts—and the variation of subgroups in them—is determined by the availability of subgroup data.

* This data was generated by Chris Swanson at the EPE Research Center by using the Cumulative Promotion Index to calculate graduation rates. He arrived at this estimation by multiplying each grade's promotion ratio together for the 2005–06 school year (i.e., multiplying the percentage of students from the fall of 2005 who were enrolled in the next grade during the fall of 2006 or had received a diploma).



Problematic Calculations

All graduation rates are from the 2005–06 school year. The average difference between state and independent sources reported on the National sheet is also based on rates from the 2005–06 school year. Since that time, a number of states have changed their method of calculation. As of the 2007–08 school year some, but not necessarily all, of those states are Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, and New Mexico.

State reported graduation rate for NCLB: SY 2006-2007 Consolidated State Performance Reports Part I. Available online at <http://www.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/consolidated/sy06-07part1/index.html>.

U.S. Department of Education-reported graduation rate:

U.S. Department of Education. National Center for Education Statistics. 2009. *Digest of Education Statistics 2008* (NCES 2009-020), Table 106. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office. Available online at http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d08/tables/dt08_106.asp?referrer=list
Note: This is the Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate (AFGR) as calculated by NCES.

Education Week-reported graduation rate:* Editorial Projects in Education. (2009). Diplomas count 2009. Broader horizons: The challenge of college readiness for all students. *Education Week*, 28(34). Available online at <http://www.edweek.org/ew/toc/2009/06/11/index.html>.

Annual earnings gap of nearly \$10,000:

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. 2007. *2006 Current Population Survey: Educational Attainment in the United States*, Table 9. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office. Available online at <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/education/cps2006.html>.

Cost of dropouts from the Class of 2008:

Alliance for Excellent Education. 2008. *The High Cost of High School Dropouts: What the Nation Pays for Inadequate High Schools*. Washington, DC: Author. Available online at <http://www.all4ed.org/files/HighCost.pdf>.

For more information please visit www.all4ed.org