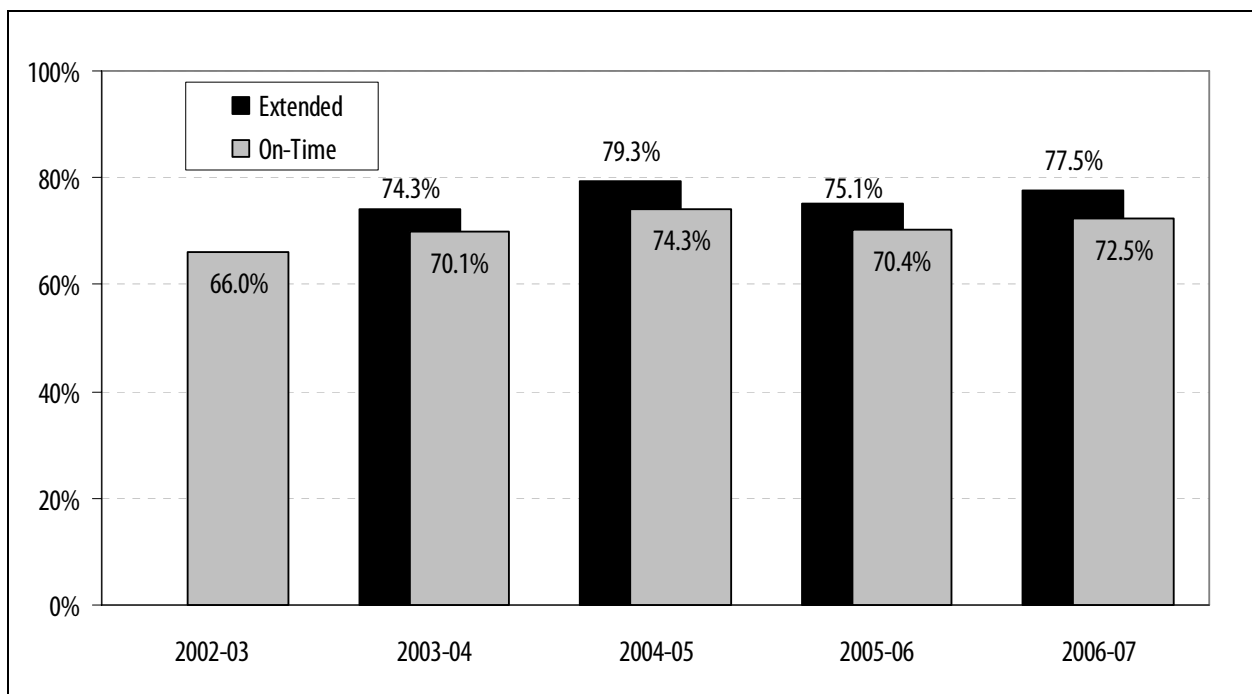


HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES

A high school education is a critical stepping stone to college, work, and post-secondary job training. Nationally, the unemployment rate for those without a high school diploma is more than 60 percent higher¹ than that of high school graduates.² Those without a high school diploma have incomes over 30 percent less than high school graduates with no college.³ Finally, those with less than a high school education are more likely to require social services. A Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) report for Washington state indicates that 34 percent of the 1-parent families served by TANF are headed by a parent who does not have a high school diploma⁴. Overall in Washington, 88 percent of women age 18 to 44 have at least a high school diploma.⁵

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES:



RELATED DATA:

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
On-Time Graduation Rate	66.0%	70.1%	74.3%	70.4%	72.5%
Extended Graduation Rate	-	74.3%	79.3%	75.1%	77.5%
Total Graduates (on-time + extended)	60,525	61,394	61,317	60,649	62,938

¹ U.S. Census Bureau: Statistical Abstract of the United States, Table 613 [www.census.gov/prod/2006pubs/07statab/labor.pdf]

² High school graduates include those with a General Educational Development (GED) credential.

³ U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey, 2006, Table 8, [www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/education/cps2006.html]

⁴ A Study of Washington State TANF Leavers and TANF Recipients, Department of Social and Health Services, March 2000.

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey, 2006, Table 14, [www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/education/cps2005.html]

DEFINITION:

A student is considered to be a graduate if he or she received a high school diploma or an adult diploma from a community college program during the reporting period. The on-time graduation rate is equal to the number of students who graduate in a particular year as a percentage of the number of students who entered high school with an expected graduation in that year. The extended graduation rate includes (in the numerator) students who graduated after the year they were expected to graduate. Additional information concerning these calculations is available in the annual Graduation and Dropout Statistics reports available on the OSPI website.

On-Time Graduation Rate (e.g., class of 2004): This rate represents only those students with an expected graduation year of 2004. These students would have started grade 9 in the fall of 2000 and were expected to graduate “on-time” (in four years).

Extended Graduation Rate: This rate includes students who graduated after their expected graduation year. Late graduates are added to the total number of on-time graduates in the year they graduate when calculating the extended graduation rate.

SOURCE: Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
[www.k12.wa.us/DataAdmin (2001-02 through 2004-05), reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us (2005-06 on)]

DISCUSSION:

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2002 requires states to report graduation rates as the percentage of students who graduate from high school with a regular diploma in the expected number of years. Many states were unable to comply with this requirement. Washington was cited by the Education Trust⁶ as an example of a state where graduation rate reporting has been accurate and meaningful.

ADDITIONAL DETAIL:

ON-TIME GRADUATION RATE	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
All students	65.7%	70.1%	74.3%	70.4%	72.5%
American Indian or Alaska Native (non-Hispanic)	41.8%	47.2%	54.7%	48.0%	48.9%
Asian and Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic)	71.0%	78.0%	80.2%	76.5%	79.8%
Black/African-American (non-Hispanic)	48.3%	53.9%	60.8%	53.6%	60.6%
White (non-Hispanic)	69.7%	73.6%	77.7%	74.1%	75.6%
Hispanic (may be of any race)	49.5%	54.0%	60.2%	57.5%	60.4%
Special Education	49.7%	52.3%	59.1%	54.3%	54.7%
Limited English	49.7%	57.8%	63.4%	55.5%	55.4%
Low Income	58.6%	62.3%	64.8%	58.0%	61.9%
Female	69.8%	73.6%	77.9%	73.9%	76.0%
Male	61.9%	66.6%	70.9%	67.1%	69.1%

⁶ Education Trust. 2005. Getting Honest About Grad Rates: How States Play the Numbers and Students Lose. [www2.edtrust.org/NR/rdonlyres/C5A6974D-6C04-4FB1-A9FC-05938CB0744D/0/GettingHonest.pdf]

EXTENDED GRADUATION RATE	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
All students	74.3%	79.3%	75.1%	77.5%
American Indian or Alaska Native (non-Hispanic)	52.6%	60.6%	54.0%	55.8%
Asian and Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic)	82.6%	85.2%	80.5%	85.2%
Black/African-American (non-Hispanic)	60.2%	68.4%	60.4%	67.8%
White (non-Hispanic)	77.4%	82.1%	78.3%	79.9%
Hispanic (may be of any race)	60.0%	67.4%	65.3%	68.9%
Special Education	63.3%	73.1%	68.2%	68.8%
Limited English	67.7%	75.2%	66.2%	68.3%
Low Income	68.4%	72.1%	64.8%	68.9%
Female	77.3%	82.4%	78.0%	80.3%
Male	71.4%	76.4%	72.4%	74.7%