



2023 Graduation Rate Interpretation Guide

To provide a frame of reference for the 2022-2023 data, the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) has calculated the year-over-year change in state-level graduation rates for both the four- and five-year cohorts from school years 2018-2019 to 2022-2023 for several key student groups (i.e., ethnicity and underserved groups). Comparing the magnitude of the differences of the various student groups provides critical information about how stable graduation rates are year-to-year. DEED advises users of statewide graduation rate data to assess the usability of the 2022-2023 data in the context of the previous year-to-year differences.

The differences can be found on the second page of this interpretation guide. The following procedure was used to generate the table. First, four- and five-year graduation rates were calculated at state-levels for each of the student groups for school years 2018-2019 to 2022-2023. Second, the between year differences were calculated for each consecutive pair of years. For example, for the 'All Students' group in cohort 4, there was a graduation rate of 77.85% in 2022 and 77.91% in 2023. The difference between the 2023 and 2022 graduate rate is 0.06% (as seen in the table). Compared to the differences between prior years for all students in cohort 4 (i.e., -.24%, -0.95%, -1.35%), the magnitude of the difference between 2022 and 2023 is somewhat smaller but the direction of the difference has changed.

If you have any questions about the data or this interpretation guide, please contact John Jones (john.jones2@alaska.gov) or Nancy Eagan, Data Manager (Nancy.eagan@alaska.gov) for the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

Questions to Consider

- 1) Is the difference between the current year and last year larger or smaller than differences between prior pairs of years?
- 2) How do the differences for my district/school compare to the state-level differences?
- 3) Are there any differences in instructional delivery in my district/school that could explain any differences observed above?

Table 1. Between Year Graduation Rate Differences from School Year 2018-2019 to 2022-2023

Cohort	Student Groups	SY 22-23 - SY 21-22 %	SY 21-22 - SY 20-21 %	SY 20-21 - SY 19-20 %	SY 19-20 - SY 18-19 %
4	All Students	0.06	-0.24	-0.95	-1.35
4	Male	1.33	-0.71	-1.1	-0.58
4	Female	-1.31	0.3	-0.79	-2.33
4	African American	-8.96	-1.69	1.9	-5.33
4	Alaska Native/American Indian	2.34	-1.81	-1.41	-0.77
4	Asian/Pacific Islander	-1.35	-0.11	-2.72	-0.08
4	Caucasian	0.28	-0.01	-0.69	-1.31
4	Hispanic	-0.61	0.36	-0.17	-3.28
4	Two or More Races	-0.52	2.1	-2.68	-0.96
4	Economically Disadvantaged	2.09	0.46	-2.5	-2.38
4	Students With Disabilities	-4.55	2.26	0.23	-0.79
4	English Learners	-0.46	-4.04	1.54	2.3
5	All Students	-0.21	-1.03	-0.84	0.98
5	Male	-0.55	-1.24	-0.59	0.72
5	Female	0.21	-0.83	-1.22	1.3
5	African American	-1.4	0.36	-2.47	1.97
5	Alaska Native/American Indian	-0.93	-1.16	0.26	-2.08
5	Asian/Pacific Islander	-0.1	-1.9	-0.12	1.06
5	Caucasian	-0.42	-0.45	-1.4	2.11
5	Hispanic	0.51	-1.4	-1.95	1.41
5	Two or More Races	2.26	-4.22	0.15	2.29
5	Economically Disadvantaged	-0.69	-0.92	-0.89	0.33
5	Students With Disabilities	0.8	0.39	-1.03	1.28
5	English Learners	-3.56	2.37	2.67	-0.31

Note: "SY 22-23– SY 21-22" means: The graduation rate from the 2022-2023 school year subtracted from the 2022-2023 graduation rate.