



An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day

2024 Dropout Rate Interpretation Guide

To provide a frame of reference for the 2023-2024 data, the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) has calculated the year-over-year change in state-level dropout rates from school years 2019-2020 to 2023-2024 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 dropout rates are year-to-year. DEED advises users of statewide dropout rate data to assess the usability of the 2023-2024 data in the context of the previous year-to-year differences.

The differences can be found in the table on the next page. The following procedure was used to generate the table. First, dropout rates were calculated at state-levels for each of the student groups for school years 2019-2020 to 2023-2024. Second, the between year differences were calculated for each consecutive pair of years. For example, for the 'All Students' group, there was a dropout rate of 3.56% in 2024 and 3.55% in 2023. The difference between the 2023 and 2024 dropout rate is 0.01% (as seen in the table). Compared to the difference between 2022 and 2023 for all students (-0.13%), the magnitude of the difference between 2023 and 2024 is smaller, and the direction of the difference changed, i.e., the dropout rate increased from 2023 to 2024.

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?



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Table 1. Between Year Dropout Rate Differences from School Year 2019-2020 to 2023-2024

Student Groups	SY 23-24 - SY 22-23	SY 22-23 - SY 21-22	SY 21-22 - SY 20-21	SY 20-21 - SY 19-20
All Students	0.01	-0.13	0.57	0.36
Male	-0.07	-0.21	0.36	0.52
Female	0.09	-0.05	0.79	0.2
African American	-1.52	-0.52	2.19	-0.8
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.62	-0.94	2.19	-0.12
Asian/Pacific Islander	-0.28	0.55	0.74	-0.33
Caucasian	-0.12	0.16	-0.3	0.75
Hispanic	-0.16	-0.4	0.91	0.09
Two or More Races	0	-0.09	0.36	0.64
Economically Disadvantaged	0.28	-0.32	1.05	0.51
Students With Disabilities	0.3	0.19	0.83	-0.24
English Learners	1.06	-0.86	3.64	-0.84

Note: "SY 23-24 – SY 22-23" means: The dropout rate from the 2022-2023 school year subtracted from the 2023-2024 dropout rate.