



Knocking at the College Door

Projections of High School Graduates

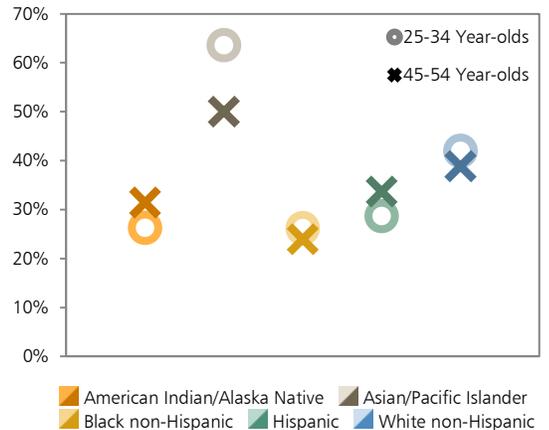
FLORIDA

National and regional trends mask important variation among states in the supply of high school graduates. This profile provides brief indicators for Florida related to: current levels of educational attainment, our projections of high school graduates into the future, and two common barriers to student access and success – insufficient academic preparation and inadequate finances.

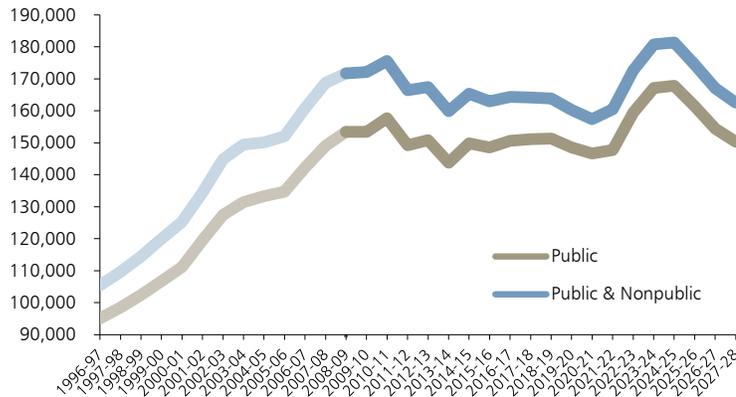
Educational Attainment by Race/Ethnicity¹

36% of both younger (aged 25-34) and older working-age adults (aged 45-54) in Florida have obtained a postsecondary degree. Large gaps in this key measure of educational attainment exist among different racial/ethnic groups, and data suggest those gaps are likely to grow in the coming years.

- Asians/Pacific Islanders have the highest rates for both age groups and also show the biggest gains by younger adults compared to older adults.
- Younger White non-Hispanics are also more-educated at 42%, compared with 38.9% for the older age group.
- Older Hispanics in Florida have one of the highest rates of postsecondary degree attainment in the nation at 33.7%; however, 5% fewer younger Hispanics have degrees.
- Black non-Hispanics have the lowest degree attainment rate of all groups, but younger adults are slightly better educated (26.2%) compared to older adults (23.9%).



Production of High School Graduates



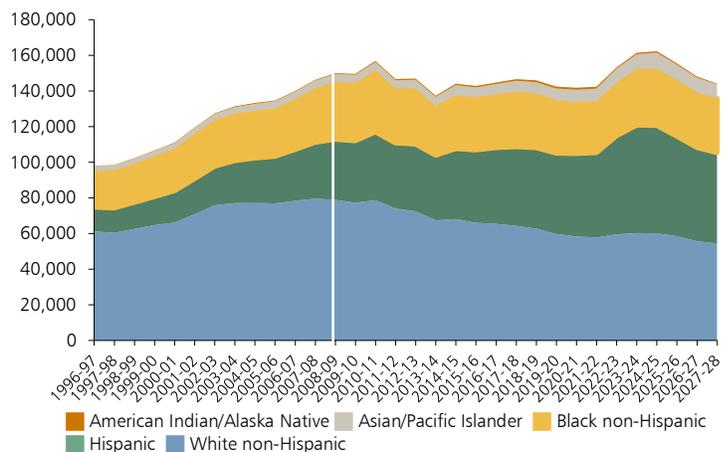
Florida is about to see a big change in the how many high school graduates it produces—only three states are expected to lose more graduates between 2008-09 and 2019-20.

- Graduates are projected to have peaked by 2010-11 at about 175,600, marking the end of uninterrupted growth since 1993-94, during which time it added about 78,000 graduates (80%).
- Three years after this peak, graduates are projected to fall by nearly 16,000 (9%) before production stabilizes at between 160,000 and 165,000 through 2019-20.
- At their height in 2002-03, nonpublic schools produced 12% of all graduates in Florida; that share is projected to fall to about 7% by 2021-22.

Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

After reaching a high point in 2007-08 at almost 79,600, White non-Hispanic graduates from public high schools will trend downward, to fewer than 60,000 by 2019-20.

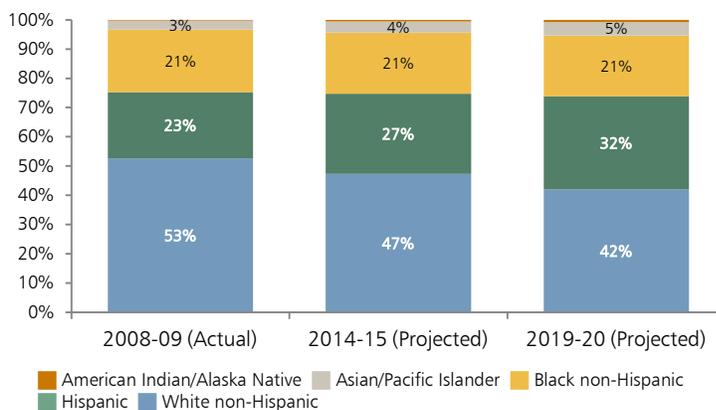
- In contrast, Hispanic graduates are expected to climb by over 11,000 by 2019-20, a 33% increase. Hispanic graduates surpassed Black non-Hispanics as the largest minority in 2005-06.
- Black non-Hispanics are projected to have peaked in 2010-11 at about 34,500, followed a steep drop of nearly 20% to below 28,000 by 2013-14, after which they will hold steady between 28,000 and 31,000.
- Asians/Pacific Islanders will increase 45%, about 2,000 graduates, by 2019-20.
- Florida's American Indians/Alaska Natives, though a small group, project the fastest rate of increase among all states.



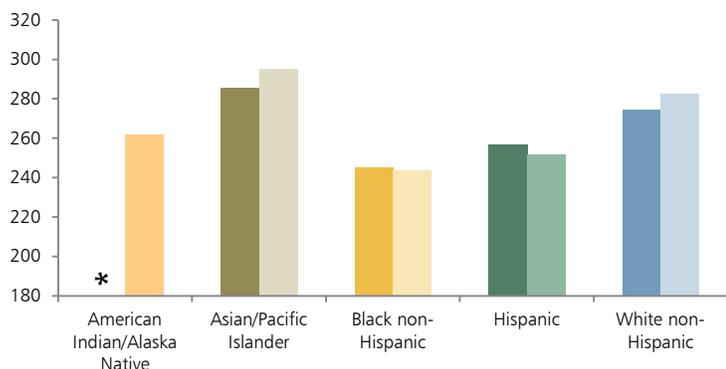
Composition of Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

Florida's public high school graduating class is projected to become majority-minority as early as 2012-13.

- The non-White portion is expected to fall rapidly from 53% in 2008-09 to 42% in 2019-20.
- Hispanic graduates are projected to increase by 9 percentage points during that timeframe, to nearly two-thirds of the total by 2019-20.
- The share of Asians/Pacific Islanders also rises throughout the projected period; in 2019-20, 5% of public high school graduates are expected to come from that group.
- Black non-Hispanics are projected to hold a steady share at 21% throughout most of the projected period; dipping briefly to 19% in 2022-23.



Composite Math and Reading Scores by Race/Ethnicity²



Note: Florida in darker shades; U.S. in lighter shades. *Reporting standards were not met and no score is available.

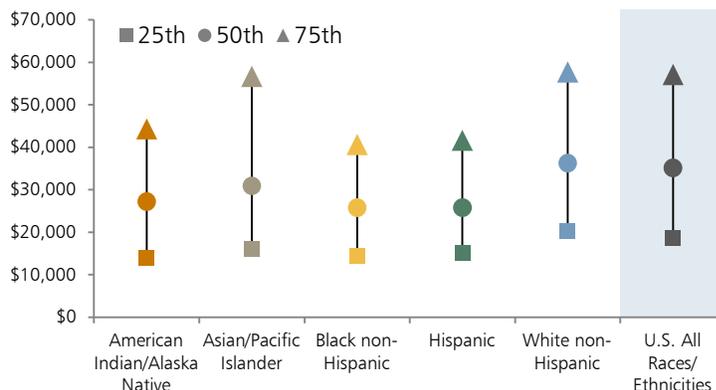
Academic preparation is a major factor in access to and success in college. One indicator of readiness comes from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) math and reading scores for twelfth graders in 2009.

- Black non-Hispanics and Hispanics scored substantially lower than White non-Hispanics and Asians/Pacific Islanders. At 245.1, Black non-Hispanics' composite score was lowest, followed by Hispanics, who scored 257. Both scores were not statistically different from the national average for the respective groups.
- Meanwhile, White non-Hispanics and Asians/Pacific Islanders scored 274.3 and 285.6, respectively; but both groups' state scores were lower than the national score.
- No state-level score was available for American Indians/Alaska Natives.

Annual Income by Race/Ethnicity³

A second major barrier is access to the financial resources needed to pay for college. Among the working-age population (25-64) in Florida from 2006 to 2010:

- The statewide median income was \$31,969, compared with \$35,147 for the nation. At \$36,274, White non-Hispanics' median income was the only one to exceed the statewide and national medians beyond the margin of error; a quarter or more earned at least \$57,737.
- With a median income of \$30,938, Asians/Pacific Islanders, like White non-Hispanics, had a wide range of incomes.
- The median income for Hispanics and Black non-Hispanics was \$25,782, and three-quarters of both groups earned about \$40,000 or less.



Projections of high school graduates are from WICHE, *Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates*, 2012. 1996-97 to 2008-09 are actual reported graduates and 2009-10 to 2027-28 are projections. The National Center for Higher Education Management Systems supplied the data used in the first and last figures. State-level estimates for those figures are only reported for a racial/ethnic group when the coefficients of variation for all estimates do not exceed 25% and sample size is 50 or greater. Readers should understand that estimates for small samples can be imprecise due to large standard errors. WICHE provides relevant data tables at <http://wiche.edu/knocking-8th/technicalNotes>.

¹Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) File. Average annual percent of population aged 25-34 and 45-54 with an Associate's degree or higher in 2008-10.

²Source: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2009 and 2011 Mathematics and Reading Assessments, generated using the NAEP Data Explorer. <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata/>. Notes: Composite scores are the average of the Math and Reading scores for 12th graders tested in 2009; Math scores (0 to 300) were converted to fit the Reading scale of 0 to 500.

³Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-10 American Community Survey Five-Year Public Use Microdata Sample File. Note: Percentiles for wage/salary income were calculated for persons age 25-64 with positive earnings; unemployed persons with \$0 income were also included. Figures are in 2010 dollars. Native Hawaiians are included in Asian/Pacific Islander.

For more information email knocking@wiche.edu or contact Peace Bransberger, Research Analyst, 303.541.0257, pbransberger@wiche.edu, or Brian Prescott, Director of Policy Research, 303.541.0255, bprescott@wiche.edu. Visit <http://wiche.edu/knocking> to obtain the full publication and download these projections as [graphs](#) or [data files](#).