HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE U.S.

THE STUDENTS

Number of high school students: **14,370,902**
(NCES School Year Report, 2003–2004)

Number of limited English proficient high school students, 2001–02: **861,875**
(Kindler, 2002)

Spanish is the native language of the majority of limited English proficient students: **79.2%**
(Kindler, 2002)

Number of students served under the Individuals with Disabilities Act ages 14–18: **1,995,961** in 2002

High school student demographics

**Demographic Distribution, 2003–2004**

- **Alaskan/Native American** 1%
- **Asian/Pacific Islander** 5%
- **Black** 16%
- **Hispanic** 16%
- **White** 62%

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, 2003–04, Common Core of Data

THE SCHOOLS

Number of high schools, 2004: **18,435**
(NCES, 2005)

Average High School Size: **768**
(NCES School Year Report, 2003–2004)

Number of high schools identified as in need of improvement, 2004–05: **11%**
(IES, National Assessment of Title I, 2006)

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

About **50%** of 17-year-old students can understand moderately complex mathematical procedures and only **38%** can understand the complicated information they read. (NAEP, 2004)

**22.7%** of high school students took an AP Exam in high school in 2005.
(Advanced Placement Report to the Nation, 2006)

Students representing **14,573** secondary schools took AP Exams in 2005.
(Advanced Placement Report to the Nation, 2006)

- **11,498** of schools with students taking AP exams are public schools, an increase of 302 over 2005 figures
- **3,075** of schools with students taking AP exams are nonpublic schools, an increase of 127 over 2005 figures
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

High school exit examinations, 2004
(The Condition of Education, 2005)
Twenty states have mandatory exit examinations in both
English/language arts and mathematics. Ten states also
tested science knowledge, and 9 of these 10 states also
tested social studies knowledge.

By 2009, a total of 25 states will have exit examinations
in place and all but 6 will use these examinations
to meet certain accountability requirements of the

As of 2006:

• 23 states required students to pass exit exams
  in order to get a diploma
• 15 states offer an appeals process whereby
  students can bypass the exit exam
• 6 states offer ‘multiple standard diploma’ options
• 24 states will give students who complete
  required coursework early ‘advanced recognition’
• 26 states offer ‘alternative credentials’ to students
  who do not meet all standard requirements
• 17 states track individual graduation rates
• 77% is the average graduation rate objective
  as outlined in states’ AYP plans to the U.S.
  Department of Education

HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE

The number of students entering college after high
school increased in the past 30 years. The enrollment
rate of those who entered college immediately after
high school increased from 49 percent in 1972 to 67
percent in 2004.
(Condition of Education, 2005)

813,000 high school students took college level classes
in the 2002–2003 academic school year. 84% of these
students did so through a dual enrollment program.
(NCES Enrollment of High School Students at Postsecondary
Institutions, 2002–03)

For full citations and more information regarding high
schools in individual states, please visit the National High
School Center Website (www.betterhighschools.org).
THE STUDENTS


THE SCHOOLS


HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT


SCHOOL FUNDING


HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

The National High School Center will update this statistic with information produced by the National Governors Association’s method of calculating the graduation rate, once all states that have agreed to implement that method are able to do so. [Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate (ACGR)]=[on time grads in yr x]+[first time 9th graders in yr x-4] + (transfers in)-(transfers out)]

Researchers continue to debate the best way to calculate graduation rates, but almost all agree that more accurate information on who completes high school is needed. Depending on who is providing data and what method is being used to calculate the graduation rate, there is a great variance in actual figures. For example, a collection of Alaska’s graduation rate from a variety of sources report the rate as being anywhere from 85% to 73.4% to 59%. Additionally, not only are there different ways to calculate the graduation rate, but states vary in how they collect and analyze their data. The NGA method provides states not only with a consistent way of calculating graduation rates, but suggests a uniform method for collecting data, and allows for comparability across states. Once states are able to use the NGA developed method of calculating, then a clearer picture will be available.


HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS


HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE
