



Utah 2021 Graduation Rates

4-Year Graduation Report

Graduation Rate Highlights

- Utah’s state graduation rate for the 2021 cohort is 88.1%
- Students who are Asian had the highest graduation rate – 91.7% for the 2021 cohort.
- Utah’s 2021 graduation rate has remained consistent with the 2020 graduation rate.
- Due to a larger cohort size, 1,233 more students graduated in 2021 than in 2020.

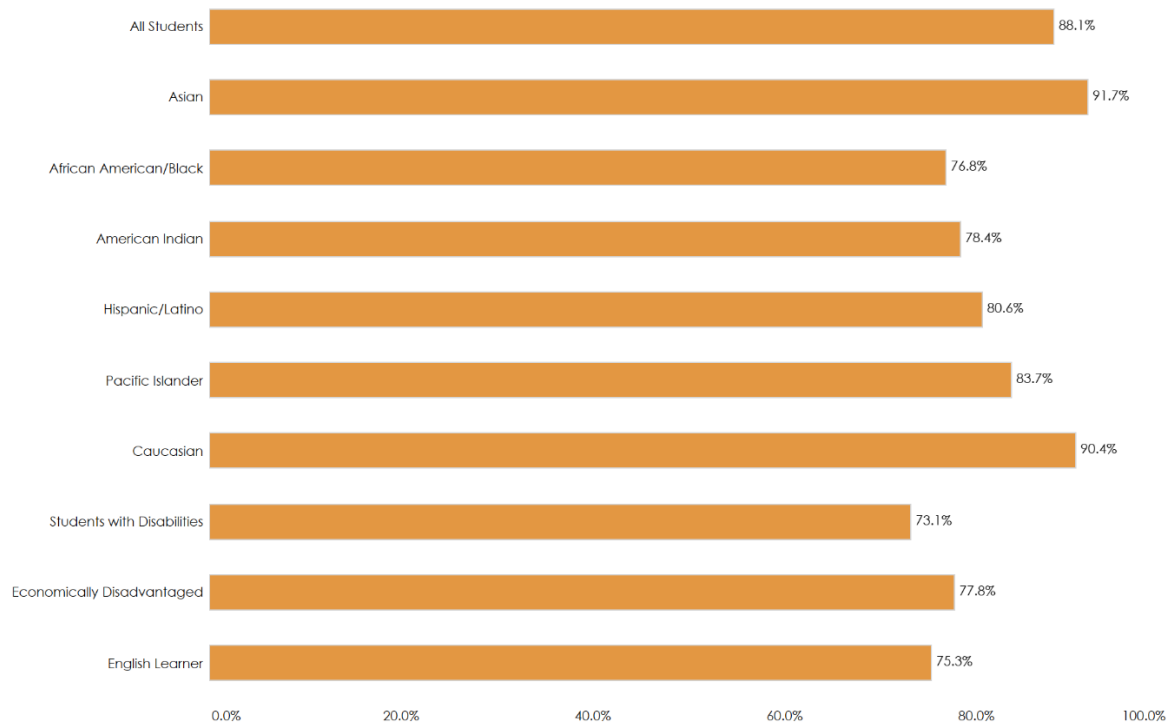
Contents

- [Current Graduation and Dropout Rates](#)
- [Historical Graduation Rates](#)
- [Appendix A: Background on Graduation Rates](#)
- [Appendix B: State Cohort Rates, 2017-2021](#)

Current Graduation and Dropout Rates

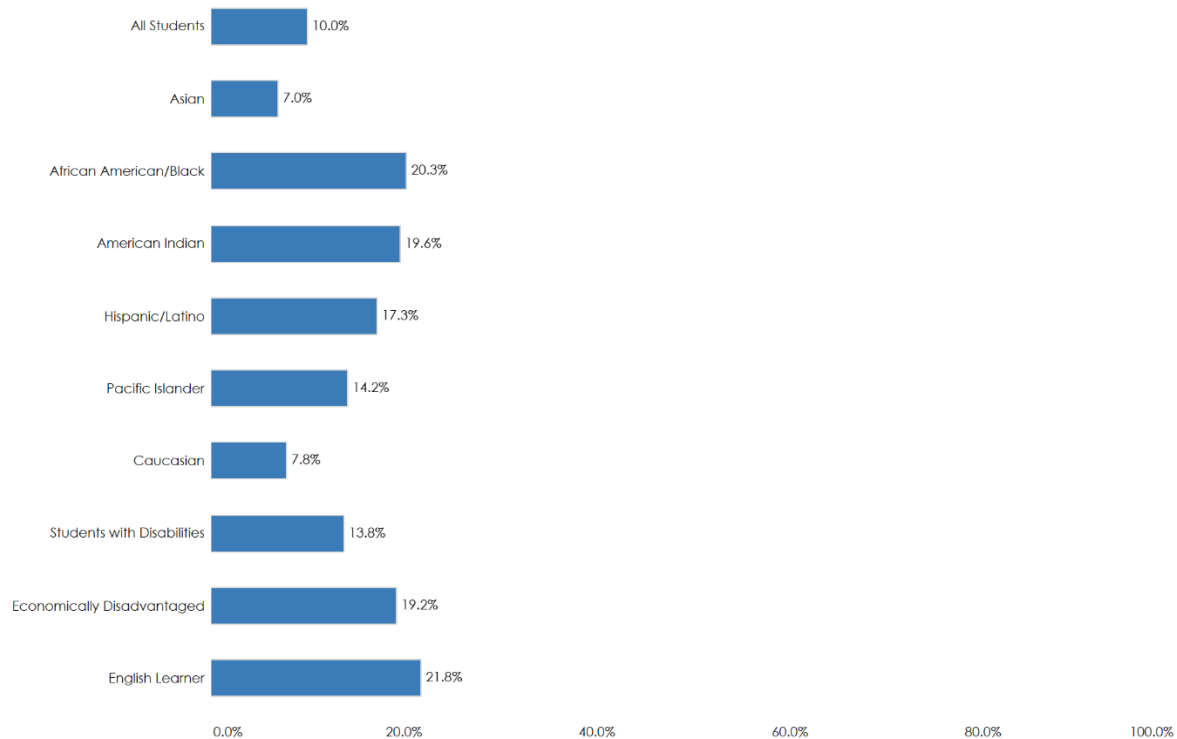
The state graduation rate for the 2021 cohort is 88.1%. This is consistent with the 2020 cohort’s graduation rate of 88.2%. Students who are Asian graduated at a rate of 91.7% and students who are Caucasian graduated at 90.4%. These two student groups have the highest state graduation rates for 2021, and the only student groups above 90%.

Exhibit 1: Utah’s 2021 Graduation Rates by Student Group



The state dropout rate for the 2021 cohort is 10.0%. This is identical to the dropout rate for 2020 and continues the steady decrease of Utah students that are not completing high school with a diploma. Focus should be drawn to students who are African American or Black, students who are American Indian, students who are economically disadvantaged, and students who are learning English. These student groups have the greatest dropout rates for the 2021 cohort and would most benefit from steps taken to reduce the dropout rate.

Exhibit 2: Utah's 2021 Dropout Rates by Student Group

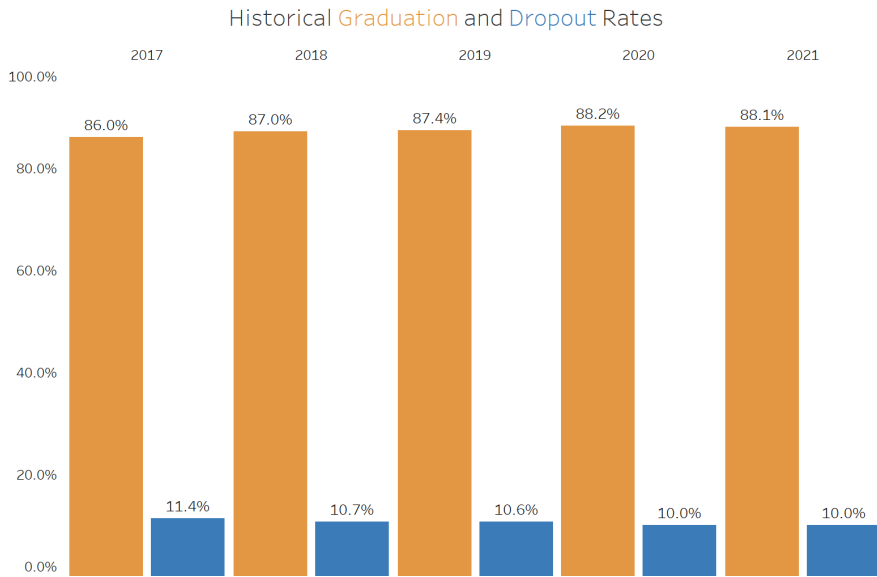


Historical Graduation and Dropout Rates

Utah's graduation rates have been able to maintain consistency or improve over the past five years, even with the size of the cohorts increasing each year. Dropout rates have also declined steadily over the same period, from 11.4% in 2017 to 10.0% in 2020 and 2021. With numerous student groups of graduation rates consistently below 90% and dropout rates greater than 10%, there are many students and student groups that would benefit from continued efforts to increase graduation rates of Utah students.

Utah's student groups have continued to see growth over the same period. Students who are Asian and American Indian had drops in their 2020 graduation rates, but both groups have seen increases in 2021 that are close to or exceeding their graduation rates in 2019. Students who are Hispanic/Latino or learning English still have rates well below the state average, but have continually improved their graduation rates since 2017.

Exhibit 2: Utah's Graduation and Dropout Rates, Cohort Years 2017 to 2021¹



¹ All visualizations were made using Microsoft Excel and Tableau Software.

Note: You will soon be able to access graduation rate visualizations at <https://datagateway.schools.utah.gov/>.



Appendix A: Background on Graduation Rates

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires the state to calculate a four-year cohort rate. Utah implemented a federally defined cohort graduation rate in 2008. The graduation rate for the 2021 cohort includes all students who started ninth grade in the 2017-18 school year, plus students who transferred into the Utah public education system after ninth grade.

Students in the cohort have four possible final outcomes:

- Graduate
- Continuing student
- Other completer
- Dropout

The “graduate” category includes students who have earned a basic high school diploma, Alternate Diploma (for students with a significant cognitive disability as defined in Board Rule R277-705-2), or an adult education high school diploma by September 30 following the end of their cohort school year. “Continuing students” are students who have been allowed to continue attending school beyond their senior year, or those who transferred to higher education or the Utah System of Technological Colleges (formerly UCAT) without first receiving a high school diploma. Students considered “other completers” include those who completed the General Education Development test (GED) or a certificate of completion; or are a student with a disability who participated in the Utah Alternate Assessment (UAA). The “dropout” category includes students who have not completed graduation requirements, such as those who have withdrawn, dropped out, or have been expelled.

Appendix B: State Cohort Rates, Cohort Years 2017 to 2021

		All Students	Asian	African American/Black	American Indian	Hispanic/Latino	Pacific Islander	Caucasian	Students with Disabilities	Economically Disadvantaged	English Learner
2017	Graduation Rate	86.0%	88.5%	73.1%	74.2%	77.3%	85.6%	88.3%	69.4%	76.6%	67.4%
	Cohort Count	46,651	880	700	581	7,786	780	34,828	4,615	14,190	1,759
	Dropout Rate	11.4%	9.8%	20.3%	22.0%	20.3%	12.8%	9.1%	14.7%	19.2%	27.8%
	Continuing Student Rate	1.6%	1.3%	5.0%	2.9%	1.6%	<1%	1.6%	14.1%	3.0%	4.0%
	Other Completer Rate	1.0%	<1%	1.6%	<1%	<1%	<1%	1.1%	1.9%	1.2%	<1%
2018	Graduation Rate	87.0%	92.4%	75.9%	77.0%	78.1%	85.4%	89.3%	70.0%	77.4%	70.3%
	Cohort Count	47,487	936	729	540	8,004	739	35,396	4,705	13,931	2,191
	Dropout Rate	10.7%	6.2%	18.0%	20.6%	19.7%	13.8%	8.4%	14.8%	18.9%	25.4%
	Continuing Student Rate	1.6%	1.2%	5.3%	1.9%	1.7%	<1%	1.5%	13.1%	2.8%	3.7%
	Other Completer Rate	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	2.2%	<1%	<1%
2019	Graduation Rate	87.4%	91.4%	74.8%	79.3%	79.5%	83.5%	89.7%	72.4%	77.3%	72.8%
	Cohort Count	48,170	873	767	570	8,433	798	35,523	4,797	13,598	2,520
	Dropout Rate	10.6%	7.2%	20.7%	18.3%	18.3%	15.0%	8.4%	14.2%	19.5%	23.5%
	Continuing Student Rate	1.3%	<1%	3.7%	1.8%	1.5%	1.0%	1.2%	11.7%	2.3%	3.4%
	Other Completer Rate	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	1.8%	<1%	<1%
2020	Graduation Rate	88.2%	89.7%	79.2%	72.9%	80.2%	84.4%	90.7%	73.3%	78.4%	73.3%
	Cohort Count	49,197	864	792	542	8,918	808	36,049	4,934	13,410	2,854
	Dropout Rate	10.0%	9.1%	17.7%	23.8%	17.8%	14.2%	7.7%	13.4%	18.5%	23.1%
	Continuing Student Rate	1.3%	1.0%	2.7%	2.4%	1.6%	1.1%	1.1%	10.9%	2.4%	3.2%
	Other Completer Rate	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	2.3%	<1%	<1%
2021	Graduation Rate	88.1%	91.7%	76.8%	78.4%	80.6%	83.7%	90.4%	73.1%	77.8%	75.3%
	Cohort Count	50,661	928	734	588	9,152	840	37,077	5,064	12,335	2,896
	Dropout Rate	10.0%	7.0%	20.3%	19.6%	17.3%	14.2%	7.8%	13.8%	19.2%	21.8%
	Continuing Student Rate	1.2%	1.0%	2.6%	1.4%	1.4%	<1%	1.1%	10.8%	2.1%	2.2%
	Other Completer Rate	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	1.5%	<1%	2.2%	1.0%	<1%