

Colorado High Schools

DROPOUTS AND POORLY PREPARED STUDENTS HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE ECONOMY

Nearly 17,400 students did not graduate from Colorado's high schools in 2009; the lost lifetime earnings in Colorado for that class of dropouts alone total more than **\$4.5 billion**.¹

Colorado would save more than **\$280 million** in health care costs over the lifetimes of each class of dropouts had they earned their diplomas.²

If Colorado's high schools graduated all of their students ready for college, the state would save almost **\$52.1 million** a year in community college remediation costs and lost earnings.³

Colorado's economy would see a combination of crime-related savings and additional revenue of about **\$92 million** each year if the male high school graduation rate increased by just 5%.⁴

THE BEST ECONOMIC STIMULUS IS A DIPLOMA

Colorado High School Graduation Rates (Class of 2006)

State-Reported ⁵	U.S. Department of Education-Reported ⁶	Independently Reported ⁷
74%	76%	73%

Colorado High School Graduation Rates by Race (Class of 2006)⁸

	Colorado	Nation
All Students	73%	69%
White	80%	76%
Black	59%	51%
Hispanic	51%	55%
Asian	81%	79%
Native American	46%	50%

Colorado College Graduation Rates⁹

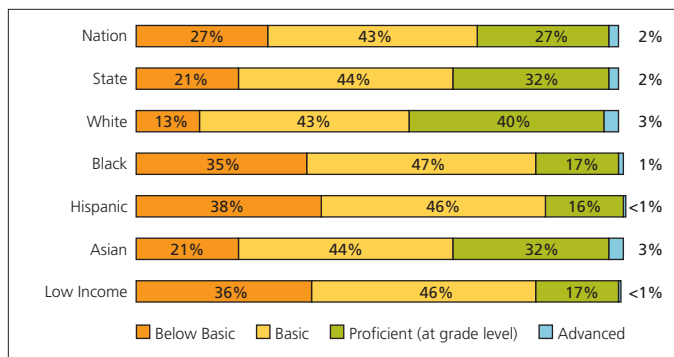
	Four-Year Institution*	National Average*	Two-Year Institution**	National Average**
All Students	54%	56%	40%	32%
White	56%	59%	41%	33%
Black	43%	41%	42%	27%
Hispanic	44%	48%	37%	34%
Asian	56%	66%	36%	34%
Native American	34%	39%	28%	29%

*Graduation within six years of entrance (Cohort from 2000–2006)

**Graduation within three years of entrance (Cohort from 2003–2006)

THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP REMAINS A CHALLENGE

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Reading Scores for Colorado Eighth Graders¹⁰



Insufficient or no data was reported for other subgroups.

33% of Colorado eighth graders report being eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.¹¹

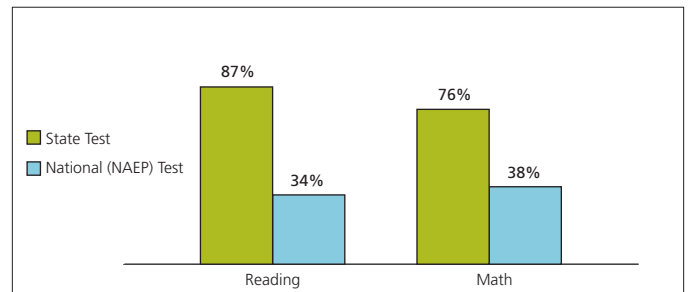
THE HIGH SCHOOL CRISIS IS CONCENTRATED IN THE NATION'S DROPOUT FACTORIES

Dropout factories are high schools in which the number of seniors is routinely 60% or fewer than the number of freshmen three years earlier. These dropout factories generally have high proportions of minority and/or low-income students.

	Number of Federally Reported Regular High Schools ¹²	Number of Dropout Factories ¹³ (three-year average)
Colorado	280	23
Nation	15,813	1,907

STATE AND FEDERAL PROFICIENCY MEASURES DIFFER

Colorado Eighth-Grade Proficiency as Measured by Colorado State Tests and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)¹⁴



The average gap nationally between state- and NAEP-reported **reading** scores is **39** percentage points.

The average gap nationally between state- and NAEP-reported **math** scores is **30** percentage points.

COMPREHENSIVE DATA SYSTEMS ARE NEEDED

Colorado has in place seven of the ten elements recommended by the Data Quality Campaign as the start of a robust P–12 longitudinal data system.¹⁵

	Colorado
1. The ability to track individual students over time	YES
2. Student-level demographic information	YES
3. The ability to track individual students' test records from year to year to measure academic growth	YES
4. The ability to know which students have not been tested	YES
5. The ability to match teachers to students by classroom and subject	NO
6. Student-level transcript information	NO
7. Information on student performance on college-readiness examinations like the SAT, ACT, and AP	YES
8. Student-level graduation and dropout data	YES
9. The ability to match student records between the K–12 and higher education systems	NO
10. System in place to evaluate data system quality	YES

To date, only six states have all ten elements in place.

1. Alliance for Excellent Education 2009
2. Alliance for Excellent Education 2006
3. Alliance for Excellent Education 2006
4. Alliance for Excellent Education 2006
5. (For Federal Accountability Reporting) Colorado Department of Education 2009
6. U.S. Department of Education 2007
7. Editorial Projects in Education Research Center 2009
8. Editorial Projects in Education Research Center 2009
9. National Center for Education Statistics 2007
10. National Center for Education Statistics 2007
11. National Center for Education Statistics 2007
12. National Center for Education Statistics 2008
13. Center for Social Organization of Schools, Johns Hopkins University 2009
14. National Center for Education Statistics 2007; Colorado Department of Education 2007
15. National Center for Education Accountability 2008