Worcester Public Schools

Press Release



Contacts:

Melinda Boone, Superintendent, 508-799-3115 Marco Rodrigues, Chief Academic Officer, 508-799-3644 David Perda, Chief Research & Accountability Officer, 508-799-3060

The Massachusetts Department of Education (DESE) has released the most recent high school graduation rates. In the Worcester Public Schools (WPS), the data reported indicate that the percentage of students graduating in four years is currently at its highest point since the DESE began calculating cohort graduation rates in 2006.

Of the high school seniors attending school in the WPS in 2014, 79.2 percent graduated within four years, compared to 73.4 percent in 2013. It is the sixth consecutive year that the four-year graduation rate of high school students in the WPS has increased and represents a 12 percentage point increase from 2006 when the rate was 67.2 percent. The 12 percentage point increase in the WPS compares to a 6.2 percentage point increase statewide over the same period of time. The four-year graduation rate statistic represents a cohort of students from 9th grade through high school and is the percentage of the cohort that has graduated within that period.

Since last year, the four-year rates improved at Burncoat High School (increase of 2.8 percentage points to 75), Claremont Academy (increase of 18 percentage points to 90.5), North High School (increase of 5.8 percentage points to 71), South High School (increase of 6.5 percentage points to 71.2) and Worcester Technical High School (increase of 1.8 percentage points to 96.8). In 2014, University Park Campus School had a four-year graduation rate of 100 percent for the second consecutive year.

All of the schools for which the state calculated four-year graduation rates in 2006¹ have higher rates in 2014, including Burncoat High School (increase of 11.3 percentage points), Doherty Memorial High School (increase of 10.4 percentage points), North High School (increase of 4 percentage points), South High School (increase of 7.8 percentage points), University Park Campus School (increase of 9.1 percentage points) and Worcester Technical High School (increase of 17.5 percentage points).

When a cohort of students is followed over a five-year period, the district-wide graduation rate is 78.7 percent, up 1.1 percentage points from the previous year. The five-year graduation rate for the WPS has increased by 7.5 percentage points since 2006. This compares to a 5 percentage point increase statewide over the same period of time. Since 2006, all WPS high schools have shown increases in the five-year graduation rate – Burncoat High School (increase of 10.4 percentage point percent), Doherty High School

¹ The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education did not calculate graduation or dropout rates for Claremont Academy in 2006.

(increase of 9 percentage points), North High School (increase of 3 percentage points), South High School (increase of 5 percentage points), University Park Campus School (increase of 3 percentage points) and Worcester Technical High School (increase of 13.7 percentage points).

The annual dropout rate was also released today. This statistic provides information about high school students and the rate at which students in grades 9-12 dropped out of school in the 2013-14 school year.

The adjusted annual dropout rate across the district dropped in 2014 to 2.4 percent. This represents a single percentage point decrease from last year and a 1.8 percentage point decrease from 2006. Decreases in WPS dropout rates have also outpaced statewide reductions. Statewide, the dropout rate in 2014 is 2 percent, down from 2.2 percent in 2013 and 3.3 percent in 2006. According to DESE archival statistics available from 1993, the 2014 annual dropout rate for the Worcester Public Schools has reached its lowest point during this period of time spanning two decades. In 1993, the adjusted annual dropout rate for the district was 7.4 percent.

"This is wonderful news for Worcester," said Mayor Joseph M. Petty. "Under Superintendent Boone's leadership, teachers, administrators and families have come together to raise standards and improve the quality of education in the Worcester Public Schools. These rates are further evidence that the schools in our city are on the right track and that more of our graduates are prepared for the challenges that await them after graduation."

"I am very pleased with the continued increase in our graduation rates and the reduction in high school dropout," said Superintendent Melinda J. Boone. "These are significant accomplishments that are a result of hard work on many levels, including that of students, schools and staff. By relentlessly focusing on students and improving systems of support, I believe that we can continue to progress and ensure that all of our students are achieving at high levels and are ready for college and careers."

The WPS has focused district-wide and school-based efforts to improve graduation rates, decrease dropout rates and recover school leavers for several years. During the 2010-11 school year the district collaborated with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in a study to explore early indicators of students at-risk of dropping out. The district enhanced its strategic approach with the appointment of a Graduation Improvement Specialist and establishment of a Graduation Improvement Team at North High School in the 2012-13 school year. The Graduation Improvement Team includes administrators, guidance counselors, school adjustment counselors, the focused instructional coach, and faculty members and analyzes a variety of data including the Early Warning Indicator System (EWIS), attendance, course completion, and suspension rates. The team meets regularly to design interventions and supports and monitor the progress of off-track students. During the 2013-14 school year, the district expanded its efforts by establishing Graduation Improvement Teams at all high schools and created a Returnee Program to conduct outreach and re-engagement efforts focused on recent dropouts.

The teams collaborate with families, social service agencies, college access programs, and other cultural organizations to successfully shepherd students to graduation. The teams continue to strengthen their work through professional learning focused on dropout prevention and recovery, restorative justice, collaborative case management, and building effective coalitions and partnerships. These learning opportunities also provide for networking to learn about successful local, state, and national graduation improvement initiatives.

High School Graduation Improvement Teams collaborate with personnel from the middle schools to plan and host transition programs for all rising eighth graders. During these sessions students learn about the high school curriculum, graduation requirements, academic supports, and athletic and other extracurricular activities. During the summer the teams planned and hosted additional orientation/jump start programming for students that focused on academics, achievement motivation, and building a sense of community.

Middle schools are also establishing Graduation Improvement Teams. These teams will draw on lessons learned from high school teams to analyze data and carefully track student progress. The district will continue to coordinate 8th to 9th grade transition programming and strengthen middle/high school collaborations.

The Graduation Improvement teams will continue to meet regularly to share best practices. While the development of these teams has been supported by grants from the DESE, the intent is to build structures and procedures that will become part of the fabric of each school.

Additional school-level detail on graduation and dropout rates can be found on the School Profiles section of the DESE web site. See http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/.

$Worcester\ Public\ Schools\ -\ District-wide\ 4\ year\ graduation\ rates\ from\ 2006-2014$

				%		%	%
	# in	%	% Still	Non- Grad		Dropped	Permanently
Year	Cohort	Graduated	In School	Completers	% GED	Out	Excluded
2014	1742	79.2	7.9	1.1	2.1	9.6	0.1
2013	1885	73.4	11.3	1.3	2.8	11.0	0.2
2012	1780	72.3	9.8	1.5	3.3	12.9	0.2
2011	1853	72.0	9.8	2.9	4.2	10.5	0.5
2010	1914	71.4	9.5	2.4	3.9	12.2	0.6
2009	1991	70.1	8.0	2.1	4.9	14.5	0.4
2008	1964	69.2	11.0	1.0	3.8	14.8	0.3
2007	1888	69.8	9.6	2.4	3.2	14.7	0.2
2006	1849	67.2	9.1	5.1	2.7	15.5	0.4

Worcester Public Schools - High School 4 year graduation rates from 2006-2014

Burncoat High School

				%		%	%
	# in	%	% Still	Non- Grad		Dropped	Permanently
Year	Cohort	Graduated	In School	Completers	% GED	Out	Excluded
2014	296	75.0	6.4	1.4	3.7	13.5	0.0
2013	273	72.2	8.8	1.5	4.0	13.2	0.4
2012	291	68.4	10.7	2.1	4.5	14.1	0.3
2011	304	66.1	8.2	3.9	7.6	13.5	0.7
2010	327	66.1	9.8	2.1	4.9	17.1	0.0
2009	381	63.0	6.3	1.8	6.8	21.3	0.8
2008	393	62.6	13.0	1.3	6.4	16.3	0.5
2007	348	63.5	11.8	3.7	3.7	16.4	0.9
2006	372	63.7	10.2	5.9	3.0	16.1	1.1

Claremont Academy

				%		%	%	
	# in	%	% Still	Non- Grad	%	Dropped	Permanently	
Year	Cohort	Graduated	In School	Completers	GED	Out	Excluded	
2014	63	90.5	3.2	0.0	1.6	4.8	0.0	
2013	80	72.5	8.8	3.8	1.3	11.3	2.5	
2012	56	64.3	12.5	3.6	3.6	16.1	0.0	
2011	63	85.7	1.6	3.2	3.2	6.3	0.0	
2010	56	75.0	3.6	3.6	0.0	17.9	0.0	
2009	47	78.7	4.3	4.3	2.1	10.6	0.0	
2008	50	84.0	8.0	2.0	0.0	6.0	0.0	
2007	47	87.2	6.4	0.0	0.0	6.4	0.0	
2006								

						1	ANNEX A
						1	os #5-1
Doborty I	High School						page 5
Doner ty 1	ingh School						
	<i>u</i> •	0/	0/ 0:11	%	0.4	%	%
3 7	# in	%	% Still	Non- Grad	%	Dropped	Permanently
Year	Cohort	Graduated	In School	Completers	GED	Out	Excluded
2014	348	82.5	4.3	0.6	2.6	10.1	0.0
2013	363	83.2	4.7	2.2	3.0	6.6	0.3
2012	340	82.1	5.0	0.9	3.2	8.8	0.0
2011	376	78.7	5.6	3.5	4.8	6.4	1.1
2010	426	81.0	4.5	1.6	4.0	8.0	0.9
2009	432	77.8	5.1	0.9	3.9	12.0	0.2
2008	407	76.2	7.9	1.0	3.4	11.1	0.5
2007	409	76.0	8.3	0.5	3.9	11.2	0.0
2006	380	72.1	7.1	3.7	2.6	13.9	0.5
North His	gh School						
	6			%		%	%
	# in	%	% Still	Non- Grad	%	Dropped	Permanently
Year	Cohort	Graduated	In School	Completers	GED	Out	Excluded
2014	321	71.0	10.9	1.6	2.5	13.7	0.3
2013	333	65.2	12.0	0.9	3.9	18.0	0.0
2012	323	57.3	13.3	2.2	5.0	21.7	0.6
2011	303	55.1	16.2	4.0	6.6	18.2	0.0
2010	321	58.6	13.7	3.4	6.5	17.1	0.6
2009	355	62.5	11.3	3.4	6.2	16.6	0.0
2008	325	67.7	12.3	0.9	1.5	17.5	0.0
2007	356	64.9	8.4	2.2	3.4	20.8	0.3
2006	327	67.0	7.3	3.7	3.1	18.3	0.6
South Hig	gh School						%

							%
	# in		% Still In	% Non- Grad		% Dropped	Permanently
Year	Cohort	% Graduated	School	Completers	% GED	Out	Excluded
2014	323	71.2	11.5	4.3	1.5	11.5	0.0
2013	388	64.7	13.4	4.6	2.8	14.4	0.0
2012	341	65.4	12.3	1.8	4.4	16.1	0.0
2011	354	63.6	14.7	3.1	3.1	14.7	0.8
2010	382	63.1	10.7	4.2	5.2	15.2	1.6
2009	398	64.6	9.3	2.8	5.3	17.3	0.8
2008	440	62.3	11.4	0.9	3.9	20.9	0.7
2007	392	68.1	8.2	3.1	3.6	17.1	0.0
2006	415	63.4	8.7	4.3	1.9	21.2	0.5

University Park Campus School

				%		%	%
	# in	%	% Still	Non- Grad	%	Dropped	Permanently
Year	Cohort	Graduated	In School	Completers	GED	Out	Excluded
2014	37	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2013	43	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2012	38	81.6	13.2	0.0	0.0	2.6	2.6
2011	42	95.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	2.4
2010	33	87.9	3.0	0.0	3.0	6.1	0.0
2009	41	97.6	0.0	0.0	2.4	0.0	0.0
2008	33	93.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.1	0.0
2007	39	89.7	7.7	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
2006	33	90.9	6.1	0.0	0.0	3.0	0.0

Worcester Technical High School

				%		%	%
	# in	%	% Still	Non- Grad	%	Dropped	Permanently
Year	Cohort	Graduated	In School	Completers	GED	Out	Excluded
2014	311	96.8	1.6	0.3	0.3	1.0	0.0
2013	320	95.0	1.9	1.6	0.3	1.3	0.0
2012	330	96.4	1.5	0.3	0.3	1.5	0.0
2011	358	95.8	3.1	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0
2010	319	92.5	3.8	0.6	0.3	2.5	0.3
2009	283	87.3	4.2	1.1	2.8	4.6	0.0
2008	261	85.4	6.1	0.0	4.2	4.2	0.0
2007	258	79.5	7.4	1.6	3.1	8.5	0.0
2006	232	79.3	4.7	5.2	3.9	6.5	0.4

$Worcester\ Public\ Schools\ -\ District-wide\ 5\ year\ graduation\ rates\ from\ 2006-2013$

				%		%	%	
	# in	%	% Still	Non- Grad		Dropped	Permanently	
Year	Cohort	Graduated	In School	Completers	% GED	Out	Excluded	
2013	1885	78.7	4.2	2.5	3.3	11.0	0.2	
2012	1780	77.6	2.2	0.0	4.2	12.6	0.2	
2011	1853	77.7	2.1	2.6	5.3	11.0	0.5	
2010	1914	75.0	2.5	4.1	5.1	12.8	0.5	
2009	1991	74.0	2.2	3.3	6.1	14.3	0.2	
2008	1965	76.0	2.2	1.6	5.6	14.2	0.4	
2007	1888	75.3	2.7	2.8	4.4	14.5	0.2	
2006	1849	71.2	2.2	5.8	2.7	16.0	0.5	

Worcester Public Schools - High School 5 year graduation rates from 2006-2013

Burncoat High School

				%		%	%
	# in	%	% Still	Non- Grad		Dropped	Permanently
Year	Cohort	Graduated	In School	Completers	% GED	Out	Excluded
2013	273	78.4	2.6	0.7	4.8	13.2	0.4
2012	291	75.6	1.4	0.0	5.5	13.4	0.3
2011	304	72.7	1.6	2.3	8.9	13.5	0.7
2010	327	70.0	0.9	4.9	6.4	17.7	0.0
2009	381	67.2	0.3	2.6	8.4	21.3	0.3
2008	393	71.5	1.5	2.3	9.4	14.8	0.5
2007	348	68.1	4.6	3.7	5.5	17.2	0.9
2006	372	68.0	1.6	6.7	3.0	18.3	1.3

Claremont Academy

				%		%	%
	# in	%	% Still	Non- Grad	%	Dropped	Permanently
Year	Cohort	Graduated	In School	Completers	GED	Out	Excluded
2013	80	81.3	0.0	3.8	1.3	11.3	2.5
2012	56	71.4	0.0	0.0	1.8	17.9	0.0
2011	63	90.5	0.0	0.0	3.2	6.3	0.0
2010	56	75.0	0.0	5.4	3.6	16.1	0.0
2009	47	83.0	0.0	4.3	6.4	6.4	0.0
2008	50	86.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	8.0	2.0
2007	47	91.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.5	0.0
2006			•	•	•		

Doherty High School

				%		%	%	
	# in	%	% Still	Non- Grad	%	Dropped	Permanently	
Year	Cohort	Graduated	In School	Completers	GED	Out	Excluded	
2013	363	84.8	1.1	3.0	4.1	6.6	0.3	
2012	340	85.6	0.9	0.0	4.4	7.6	0.0	
2011	376	82.7	0.3	3.2	6.4	5.9	1.1	
2010	426	83.8	0.7	1.9	5.2	7.7	0.7	
2009	432	81.3	0.7	1.4	5.6	10.9	0.2	
2008	407	82.1	1.0	1.2	5.7	9.6	0.5	
2007	409	81.9	1.0	1.0	4.9	11.2	0.0	
2006	380	75.8	0.5	4.5	2.6	14.5	0.5	

North High School

				%		%	%
	# in	%	% Still	Non- Grad	%	Dropped	Permanently
Year	Cohort	Graduated	In School	Completers	GED	Out	Excluded
2013	333	73.6	2.1	2.1	5.1	17.1	0.0
2012	323	66.3	1.9	0.0	6.2	22.0	0.6
2011	303	66.3	1.7	4.0	9.2	18.2	0.0
2010	321	65.1	4.0	4.7	7.8	17.8	0.6
2009	355	67.3	2.0	4.7	7.3	18.6	0.0
2008	325	74.8	2.8	1.8	3.1	17.5	0.0
2007	356	70.8	1.7	2.2	5.3	19.7	0.3
2006	327	70.6	1.8	4.0	3.1	16.8	0.6

South High School

							%
	# in		% Still In	% Non- Grad		% Dropped	Permanently
Year	Cohort	% Graduated	School	Completers	% GED	Out	Excluded
2013	388	73.2	5.2	3.6	2.8	15.2	0.0
2012	341	71.3	2.9	0.0	5.9	16.4	0.0
2011	354	71.2	3.1	3.4	3.7	16.9	0.8
2010	382	67.3	2.6	6.3	6.3	16.2	1.3
2009	398	68.3	3.8	3.6	6.3	17.6	0.5
2008	440	69.8	2.3	1.4	5.5	20.2	0.9
2007	392	73.0	2.8	3.1	4.3	16.8	0.0
2006	415	68.2	1.7	5.3	1.9	20.0	0.5

University Park Campus School

				%		%	%
	# in	%	% Still	Non- Grad	%	Dropped	Permanently
Year	Cohort	Graduated	In School	Completers	GED	Out	Excluded
2013	43	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2012	38	89.5	2.6	0.0	0.0	5.3	2.6
2011	42	95.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	0.0
2010	33	90.9	0.0	0.0	3.0	6.1	0.0
2009	41	97.6	0.0	0.0	2.4	0.0	0.0
2008	33	93.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.1	0.0
2007	39	97.4	0.0	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
2006	33	97.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	0.0

Worcester Technical High School

				%0		%0	%0
	# in	%	% Still	Non- Grad	%	Dropped	Permanently
Year	Cohort	Graduated	In School	Completers	GED	Out	Excluded
2013	320	95.6	2.2	0.0	0.6	1.6	0.0
2012	330	97.3	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.5	0.0
2011	358	96.9	0.3	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.0
2010	319	93.7	0.6	1.6	0.6	3.1	0.3
2009	283	90.1	1.1	1.1	2.8	4.9	0.0
2008	261	89.7	1.1	0.0	5.0	4.2	0.0
2007	258	84.9	1.9	1.9	4.3	7.0	0.0
2006	232	81.9	0.9	5.6	3.9	6.9	0.4

$Worcester\ Public\ Schools-Annual\ Dropout\ Rates\ (adjusted)\ by\ School:\ 2006-2014$

School	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2013-14 High School Enrollment	2013-14 Total Dropout Count
Worcester Public Schools	4.2	6.0	4.7	5.1	3.8	3.7	4.1	3.4	2.4	6665	209
Burncoat High	5.0	7.3	8.0	7.1	4.8	4.9	4.4	3.6	2.9	996	36
Claremont Academy		3.9	3.2	2.3	2.7	3.6	2.8	4.2	0.7	267	3
Doherty Memorial High	4.2	4.9	2.9	4.2	2.5	2.3	3.8	2.6	3.4	1337	59
North High	4.9	7.0	6.1	6.1	7.1	7.5	6.6	5.5	2.7	1295	47
South High University Park Campus	5.3	8.2	5.4	7.9	5.0	4.8	5.8	4.8	3.5	1264	57
School	0.7	0.0	1.4	0.7	1.4	0.6	0.6	1.3	0.0	148	0
Worcester Technical High	1.8	2.1	1.3	1.0	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	1358	7