In 2018, the annual dropout rate for Boston Public Schools (BPS) was 5.4 percent, a 1 percentage point increase from 2017. This represents 849 students in grades 9–12 dropped out of school between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018. The graphs below illustrate the annual dropout rate (left) and the total number of dropouts (right). While both the rate and the number of dropouts increased from 2017 to 2018, the dropout rate trend from 2009 to 2018 shows a decrease of more than 400 students dropping out annually.
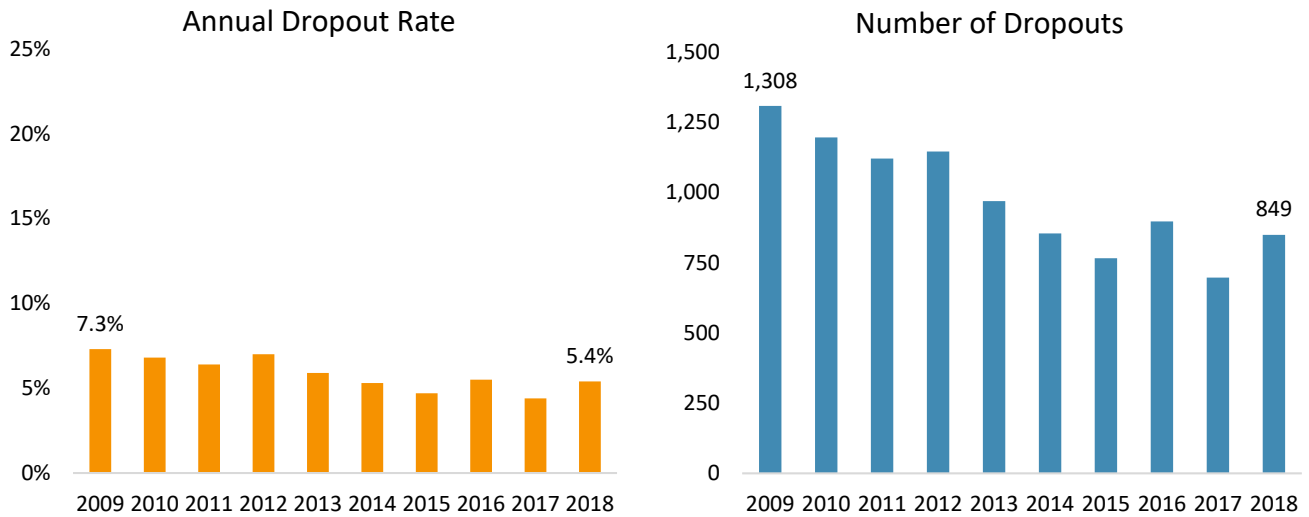
When disaggregated by grade level, grade 10 and grade 11 have experienced the largest decreases in dropout rate over ten years, decreasing by 3 and 2.6 percentage points respectively.
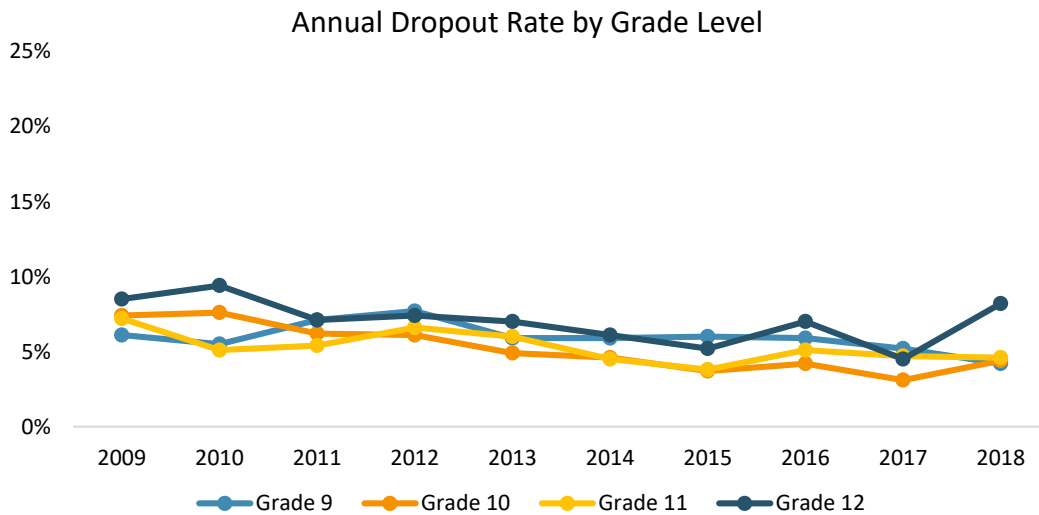
Dropout Rate Methodology:
The annual dropout rate is calculated by taking the total number of dropouts in a given academic year (summer and school year) and subtracting any students who were reported as returned to school, graduated, or earned a GED, and dividing that sum by the total high school enrollment (grades 9–12), as reported by SIMS. Dropouts are defined as students who leave school prior to graduation for reasons other than transferring to another school.

Race

The four major race groups in BPS all experienced an increase in the annual dropout rate from 2017 to 2018. The African American/Black and Hispanic/Latino subgroups both saw decreases over ten years that out-paced the district average, with each group decreasing 2.7 and 2.2 percentage points respectively, compared to the district's decrease of 1.9 percentage points in the same time period. Asian students experienced a decrease of 1.2 percentage points over ten years, while White students experienced almost no change over ten years, with an increase of 0.1 percentage points over ten years. Despite these trends, achievement gaps persist, as seen in the graph below.

**Annual Dropout Rate by Race**
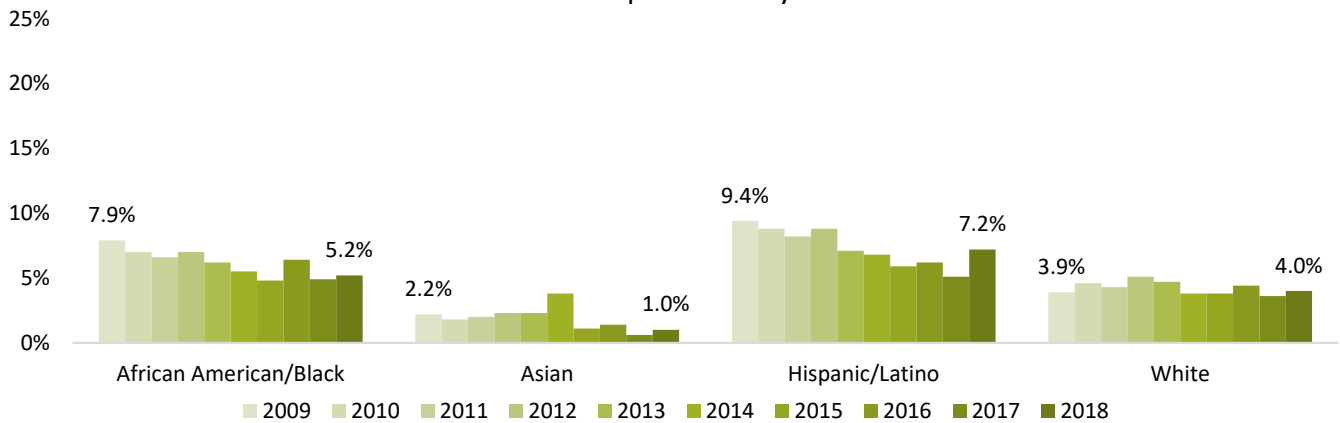
Similar to the trend in rates, all race groups have experienced a decrease in absolute number of dropouts, as shown in the table below. The number of African American/Black students dropping out has been halved from 2009 to 2018, decreasing from 576 students in 2009 to 286 students in 2018.

Number of Dropouts by Year and Race										
Race	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
African American/Black	576	481	444	431	411	352	299	373	277	286
Asian	37	31	33	38	39	82	18	23	9	16
Hispanic/ Latino	578	547	529	555	388	377	350	381	323	460
White	97	107	96	104	99	82	80	91	71	75

Gender

The dropout rates for male and female students have also decreased over the past ten years. The male cohort has outpaced the female cohort, with a decrease of 2.3 percentage points compared to 1.5 percentage points for female students.

Annual Dropout Rate by Gender
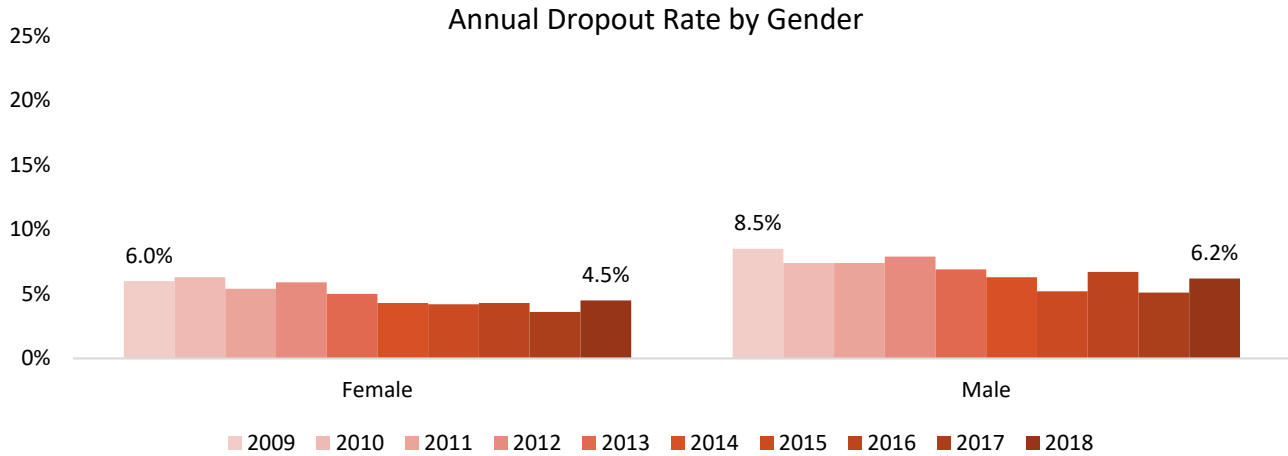
The number of dropouts has followed a similar trend, with both groups seeing a decrease, though the decline in the number of male dropouts has outpaced the progress for female students.

Number of Dropouts by Year and Gender										
Gender	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Female	529	537	461	477	393	335	326	332	276	338
Male	779	659	660	669	576	519	440	565	421	511

Subgroups: Students with Disabilities, English Learners, Economically Disadvantaged

The dropout rate for Students with Disabilities has decreased by 4.5 percentage points, which is over twice the decrease for All Students. The annual dropout rate for English Learners has fluctuated throughout the last ten years, with the 2018 dropout rate slightly exceeding the rate from 10 years ago by 0.2 percentage points.

Annual Dropout Rate: Students with Disabilites

Annual Dropout Rate: English Learners
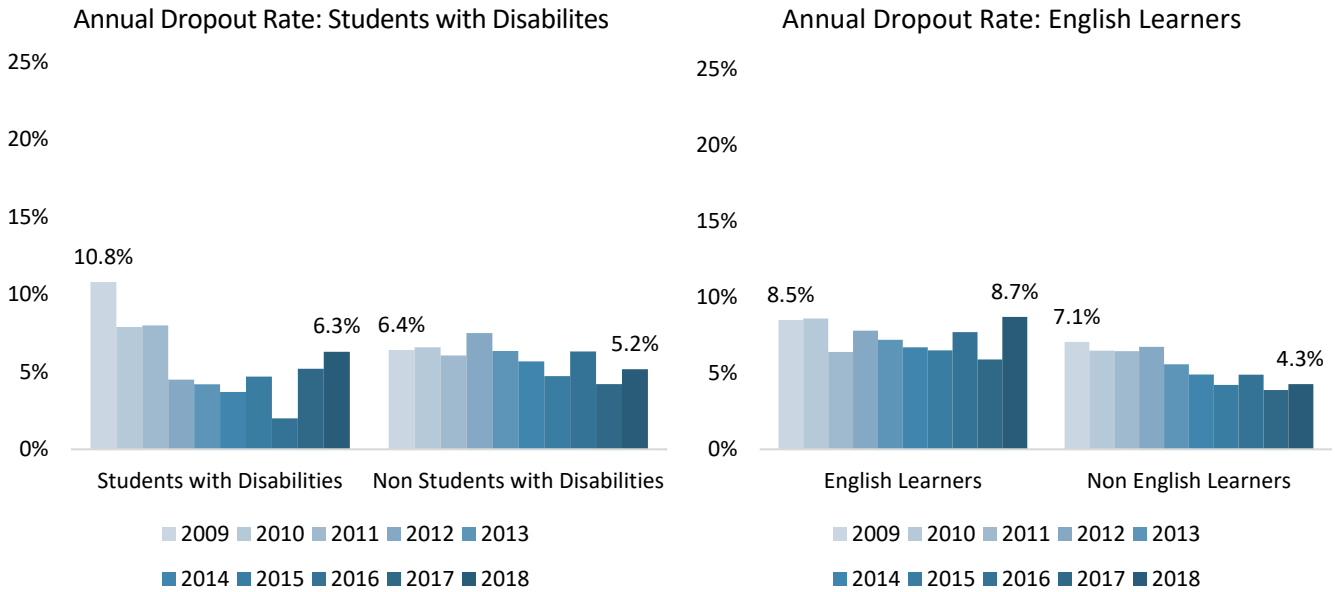
The dropout rate for Economically Disadvantaged students is equal to the rate for All Students. In 2015, the MA DESE transitioned from using free and reduced price lunch forms to identify Low Income students to using direct certification to identify Economically Disadvantaged students. This shift is indicated with a red line in the graph below. The change in identification method has not had a substantial effect on annual dropout rate, with a 0.1 percentage point decrease over ten years.

Annual Dropout Rate: Low Income/Economically Disadvantaged
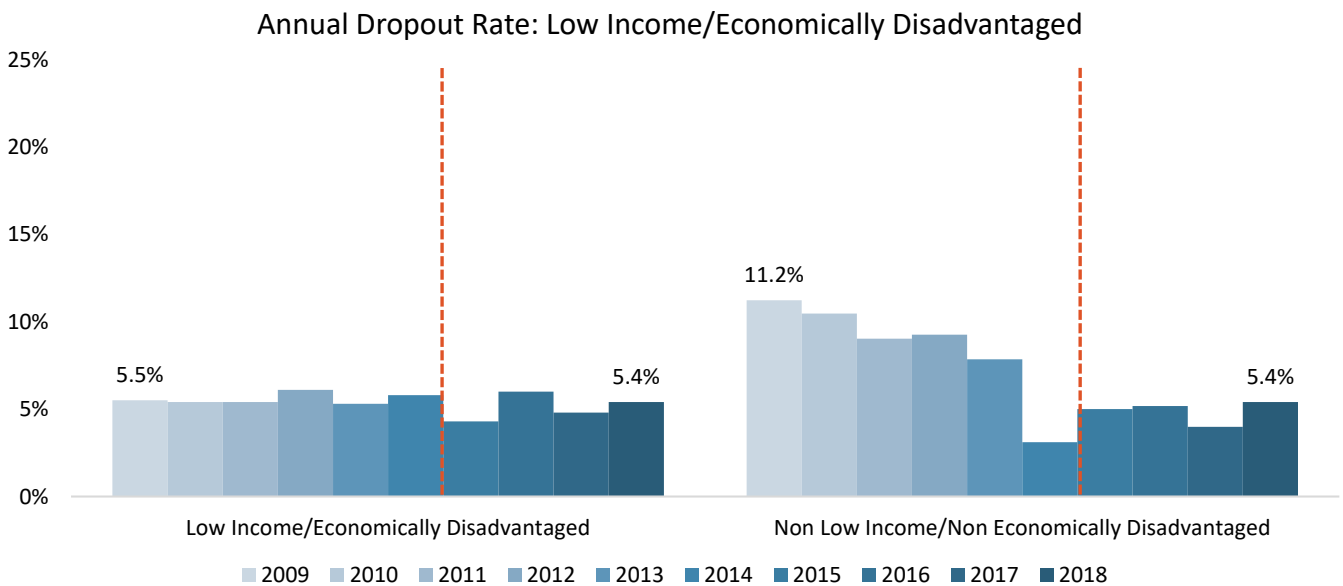
Number of Dropouts by Year and Subgroup										
Subgroup	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Students with Disabilities	373	261	268	138	130	114	129	56	143	181
Non Students with Disabilities	935	935	853	1008	839	740	637	841	554	668
English Learners	212	248	208	265	255	238	229	287	227	341
Non English Learners	1096	948	913	881	714	616	537	610	470	508
Low income	698	669	664	731	651	757	--	--	--	--
Non Low Income	610	527	457	415	318	97	--	--	--	--
Economically Disadvantaged	--	--	--	--	--	--	304	428	391	466
Non Economically Disadvantaged	--	--	--	--	--	--	462	469	306	383

About the Data

All data presented in this report is from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Dropout rate data can be found online at *http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/statereport/dropout.aspx*. This website includes school and district level data for all subgroups dating back to 2008.

School Level Dropout Rate Trends

School Name	SY13-14		SY14-15		SY15-16		SY16-17		SY17-18		5 Year Change
	N Students	Rate	N Students	Rate	N Students	Rate	N Students	Rate	N Students	Rate	
District	*16,090*	*5.3%*	*16,241*	*4.7%*	*16,165*	*5.5%*	*15,905*	*4.4%*	*15,772*	*5.4%*	*0.1*
Another Course to College	231	2.6%	236	3.4%	237	1.7%	223	4.9%	224	2.7%	0.1
Boston Adult Technical Acad	211	21.8%	191	25.7%	170	50.0%	197	38.6%	154	33.1%	11.3
Boston Arts Academy	445	0.9%	441	1.1%	437	1.8%	447	0.7%	469	1.5%	0.6
Boston Collaborative					183	14.2%	184	35.3%	182	24.2%	--
Boston Community Leadership Acad	517	1.5%	518	1.5%	502	1.8%	496	1.2%	474	2.3%	0.8
Boston Day & Evening Acad*	368	19.8%	380	21.1%	380	23.7%	404	21.0%	404	23.5%	3.7
Boston Green Academy*	315	3.2%	311	2.9%	288	2.8%	291	3.8%	304	3.0%	-0.2
Boston International	345	4.9%	381	4.5%	375	4.3%	378	4.8%	366	6.3%	1.4
Boston Latin	1582	0.1%	1621	0.1%	1648	0.1%	1630	0.2%	1656	0.1%	0.0
Boston Latin Academy	1113	0.0%	1174	0.3%	1172	0.4%	1167	0.1%	1224	0.3%	0.3
Brighton High	974	9.1%	960	6.8%	922	10.5%	797	11.5%	682	7.8%	-1.3
Burke High	534	6.4%	535	6.5%	531	9.0%	488	5.9%	472	7.4%	1.0
Carter School	15	0.0%	17	0.0%	18	0.0%	19	0.0%	24	4.2%	4.2
Charlestown High	897	5.6%	921	9.0%	916	7.0%	867	4.4%	920	6.8%	1.2
Community Academy	67	29.9%	62	58.1%	40	0.0%	44	52.3%	79	50.6%	20.7
Community Acad of Sci. & Health	381	5.0%	349	4.6%	392	4.8%	342	5.6%	389	5.4%	0.4
Dearborn	31	3.2%	92	0.0%	108	2.8%	146	2.7%	174	2.9%	-0.3
Dorchester Academy	387	9.3%	372	11.3%	69	31.9%	99	23.2%	42	14.3%	5.0
East Boston High	1342	6.1%	1502	4.5%	1489	4.9%	1480	4.3%	1344	6.4%	0.3
English High	589	14.1%	557	6.3%	585	10.8%	537	5.2%	539	4.3%	-9.8
Excel High	547	11.3%	534	9.9%	515	8.0%	524	2.9%	491	2.6%	-8.7
Fenway High	327	0.3%	328	0.3%	337	1.5%	360	0.3%	364	1.9%	1.6
Greater Egleston High	174	12.1%	200	7.0%	180	20.0%	224	7.6%	105		
Henderson K-12			125	1.6%	172	0.6%	202	4.0%	229	3.9%	--
Horace Mann	30	16.7%	26	19.2%	22	13.6%	33	0.0%	33	0.0%	-16.7
Kennedy Health Careers*	331	0.9%	359	0.3%	341	1.2%	359	0.3%	380	0.5%	-0.4
Lyon High	138	4.3%	134	2.2%	130	3.8%	125	0.0%	124	5.6%	1.3
Madison Park High	1138	6.4%	899	6.0%	885	6.6%	818	3.5%	859	6.1%	-0.3
McKinley School	197	17.8%	188	13.8%	173	18.5%	186	10.8%	212	16.0%	-1.8
Muniz Academy	156	0.6%	229	2.2%	302	2.0%	284	2.5%	298	2.3%	1.7
New Mission High	293	1.4%	301	1.0%	319	2.5%	320	0.3%	320	0.3%	-1.1
O'Bryant Math & Science	1072	0.3%	1123	0.6%	1140	0.6%	1129	0.1%	1223	0.6%	0.3
Quincy Upper School	214	0.0%	211	0.9%	207	0.0%	218	0.0%	229	0.0%	0.0
Snowden International	397	5.8%	388	2.6%	373	4.0%	439	1.1%	444	3.8%	-2.0
TechBoston Academy	574	3.3%	587	1.4%	601	2.5%	585	2.1%	559	1.3%	-2.0
Urban Science Academy	493	4.1%	462	4.5%	489	6.5%	430	4.9%	392	8.7%	4.6
West Roxbury Academy	609	8.0%	577	6.2%	526	7.6%	487	4.9%	475	4.2%	-3.8

*Horace Mann Charter School