

## Q and A

## Boston Public Schools 2014-2015: Student Dropout Rates

This document presents answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about student dropout in the Boston Public Schools. As defined by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (MA DESE) and the National Center for Education Statistics, a student is considered to be a dropout at the end of the school year if he or she is not in school, has not graduated, and has not transferred to another school system\*. Please see the attached "Understanding Annual High School Dropout Calculations" for details on the methodology. It is the goal of Boston Public Schools to keep all high school students in schools and to prepare them for College, Career, and beyond.

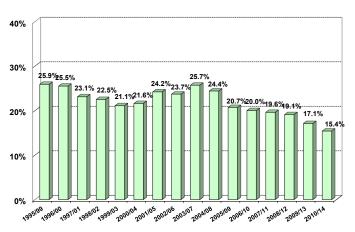
## How Have Systemwide Dropout Rates Varied Over Time?

#### Annual Dropout Rates\* Systemwide: Grades 9-12

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- The annual rate analysis answers the question, "How many students in grades 9-12 drop out in one year?"
- The grades 9–12 annual dropout rate in 2014-2015 was 4.4%. This represents a 0.6 percentage point increase from the previous year, and 111 more students.

#### **Ninth Grade Cohort Dropout Rates Systemwide**



Entering 9th Grade Year / Expected Graduation Year

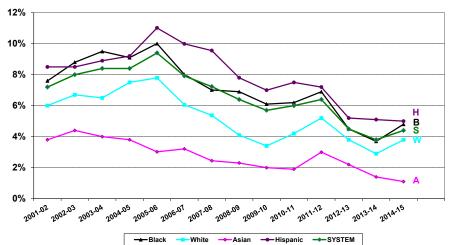
- The cohort rate analysis answers the question, "Of the students who entered BPS as 9<sup>th</sup> graders, what proportion dropped out over the next five years?"
- The 9<sup>th</sup> grade cohort dropout rate decreased to its lowest point ever at 15.4% for the 2010/2014 cohort.
- Although the 9<sup>th</sup> grade cohort dropout rate has fluctuated from year to year, the rate has declined steadily for the past seven years.

Note: Final annual dropout rates are reported in this document. These final dropout rates differ from the June rates shown in the School Report Cards because they account for changes in student status between June and the following October. This is done to conform with MA DESE guidelines. It should be noted that from SY2003-04 onward, the student status reported in the next school year October 1 Student Information Management System (SIMS) is used for the adjustment rather than identified by school personnel via a survey as done in previous years. Also, beginning with SY2006-07, BPS Student Discharge Codes have been changed to align with the enrollment status codes used by the MA DESE.

- \* Beginning in SY2006-07, students who died or were expelled are excluded from the population instead of being counted as other loss. Caution should be used when comparing data from 2006-07 and later with data from earlier years.
- \*\* Beginning with SY2010-11, BPS dropouts who were found enrolled in another district or Charter school based on the statewide October 1 SIMS for the subsequent school year are counted as returned dropouts.

# **Q and A** Boston Public Schools 2014-2015: Student Dropout Rates

#### How Have System Wide Dropout Rates Varied Over Time by Racial/Ethnic Group? Annual Dropout Rate by Racial/Ethnic Group: 2001-02 through 2014-15



	Black	White	Asian	Hispanic	SYSTEM
2001-02	7.6%	6.0%	3.8%	8.5%	7.2%
2002-03	8.8%	6.7%	4.4%	8.5%	8.0%
2003-04	9.5%	6.5%	4.0%	8.9%	8.4%
2004-05	9.1%	7.5%	3.8%	9.2%	8.4%
2005-06	10.0%	7.8%	3.0%	11.0%	9.4%
2006-07	8.0%	6.1%	3.2%	10.0%	7.9%
2007-08	7.0%	5.4%	2.4%	9.6%	7.2%
2008-09	6.9%	4.1%	2.3%	7.8%	6.4%
2009-10	6.1%	3.4%	2.0%	7.0%	5.7%
2010-11	6.2%	4.2%	1.9%	7.5%	6.0%
2011-12	6.9%	5.2%	3.0%	7.2%	6.4%
2012-13	4.5%	3.8%	2.2%	5.2%	4.5%
2013-14	3.7%	2.9%	1.4%	5.1%	3.8%
2014-15	4.8%	3.8%	1.1%	5.0%	4.4%

- Dropout rates have decreased steadily since 2005-06. In 2014-15, dropout rates were the lowest ever for Asian and Hispanic students groups.
- Over the last year, dropout rates for Black and White students increased by 1.1 and 0.9 percentage points, respectively; while Asian students experienced a 0.3 point decrease and Hispanic students saw a 0.1 point decrease.

## How Do Dropout Rates Vary by Racial/Ethnic Group and Gender?

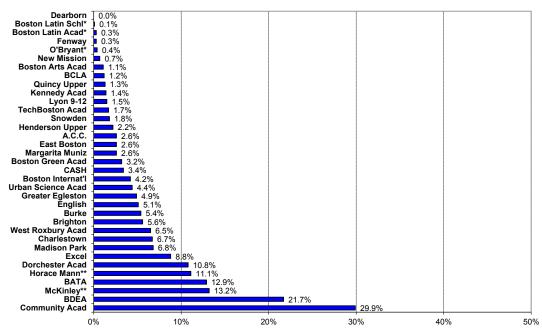
Annual Dro	pout Rates b	y Racial/Eth	nic Group a	ınd Gender:	Grades 9-12	2, 2014-2015			
	Ov	erall	М	ale	Fer	Female			
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	Percent	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>			
Black	4.8%	365	5.6%	218	4.0%	147			
White	3.8%	87	4.2%	51	3.3%	36			
Asian	1.1%	19	1.2%	11	0.9%	8			
Hispanic	5.0%	335	5.2%	179	4.9%	156			
TOTALS**	4.4%	812	4.9%	463	3.9%	349			
** Totals include 4	Multiracial and 2	Native American o	dropouts who are	e not shown sepa	arately by gender				

- · Overall, more males than females dropped out.
- The dropout rate is lowest among Asian female students and highest among Black males.
- Gender differences are most pronounced among Black students.

## **Q and A** Boston Public Schools 2014-2015: Student Dropout Rates

#### How do Dropout Rates Differ Across Schools?

#### Annual Dropout Rate by School: Grades 9-12, 2014-15



Dropout rates vary substantially across schools.

- Dropout rates range from a low of 0% to a high of 29.9%.
- School enrollments in grades 9-12 ranged from 36 to slightly over 1,600.

Students in

Neighborhood

1095

1235

408

611

657

1487

646

## How do Dropout Rates Vary

- Dropout rates vary substantially according to where students live.
- The percentage of dropouts varies from a low of 0.9% in Boston Central to a high of 6.1% in Grove Hall.
- There is also considerable variation in the number of students from each neighborhood who attend Boston Public Schools.

Allston	3.3%	8	244
Back Bay/Kenmore*	5.2%	19	368
Boston Central**	0.9%	2	235
Brighton	2.1%	11	535
Charlestow n	4.8%	19	395
Codman Square	4.8%	117	2449
East Boston	3.0%	56	1868
Fields Corner	4.4%	49	1126
Grove Hall	6.1%	97	1584
Hyde Park	3.5%	51	1460
Jamaica Plain	4.0%	31	778
Mattapan	4.1%	45	1090

Annual Dropout Rate by Neighborhood (Zip Code): Grades 9-12, 2014-2015

Number

45

72

18

32

17

82

15

Percent

Roslindale

Roxbury Crossing

South Boston

Uphams Corner

West Roxbury

South End

Roxbury

4.1%

5.8%

4.4%

5.2%

2.6%

5.5%

2.3%

<sup>\*</sup> Examination School \*\* Special Needs School. Note: Students who dropped out are attributed to the last school to which they were assigned.

<sup>\* 02115, 02116, 02215, 02199</sup> 

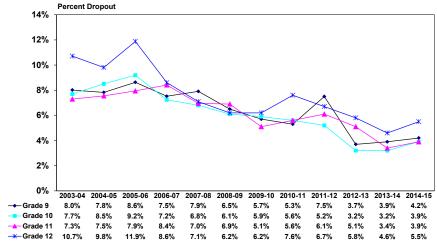
 $<sup>^{\</sup>star\star}~~02\,108~through~02\,111,~02\,113,~02\,114,~022\,10~(Downtown,~West~End,~North~End,~Chinatown)$ 

Office of Data and Accountability, Boston Public Schools: January, 2016

# $oldsymbol{Q}$ and $oldsymbol{A}$ Boston Public Schools 2014-2015: Student Dropout Rates

#### How do Dropout Rates Vary Across Grade Levels?

Annual Dropout Rates by Grade Level: 2003-04 to 2014-15



- Dropout rates across grade levels have fluctuated over the years; the 12th grade dropout rate has been the highest for the last three years.
- Compared to 2013-14, dropout rates for every grade increased; the differences ranged from a low of 0.3 percentage point in grade 9 to a high of 0.9 percentage points in grade 12.

# How do Dropout Rates Differ Between Competency Determination (CD) Earners and Students Without a CD?

- Students who did not pass grade 10 MCAS had multiple opportunities to pass MCAS through re-tests and/or MCAS Performance Appeals process before their scheduled graduation date.
- Students who have not yet earned a CD (grade 11: 12.8%; grade 12: 20.8%) are more likely to drop out than students who have fully or partially met the CD requirements (grade 11: 4.2%; grade 12: 7%).
- Among those dropouts, 35% of 11th graders had already attained or partially attained a CD, and 53% of 12th graders had done so before dropping out of school.

2014-15 Dropout Rates and % of Dropouts by CD Attainment Status

		Total	# of	Dropout	% of All
Grade	CD Status	Enrollment	Dropouts	Rate	Dropouts
	Met CD*	2,294	22	1.0%	12.9%
11 (Class of 2016)	Partially Met CD**	,		3.2%	22.2%
	Did Not Meet CD	867	ent         Dropouts         Rate         Dropouts           22         1.0%         12.9%           38         3.2%         22.2%           111         12.8%         64.9%           53         2.2%         19.7%           89         4.8%         33.1%	64.9%	
	Met CD*	2,457	53	2.2%	19.7%
12 (Class of 2015)	Partially Met CD**	1,836	89		33.1%
	Did Not Meet CD	612	127	20.8%	47.2%

<sup>\*</sup> Earned a scaled score of at least 240 (Proficient or Advanced) on both the grade 10 MCAS ELA and Mathematics tests, also earned a minimum of 220 (Needs Improvement) on one of the high school Science and Technology/Engineering (STE) tests through the spring 2015 administration.

## How do Dropout Rates Vary Among Special Populations?

2014-15 Dropout Rates and % of Dropouts for Special Populations

	Total	# of	Dropout	% of All
	Enrollment	Dropouts	Rate	Dropouts
Special Education	3,465	192	5.5%	23.6%
Non-Special Education	14,961	620	4.1%	76.4%
LEP	3,649	220	6.0%	27.1%
Non LEP	14,777	592	4.0%	72.9%
Econ. Disadvantaged*	12,537	545	4.3%	67.1%
Non Econ. Disadvantaged	5,889	267	4.5%	32.9%

Annual Dropout Rates for Special Populations: 2009-10 to 2014-15

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Special Education	5.1%	7.7%	7.5%	6.1%	5.5%	5.5%
Non-Special Education	5.9%	5.7%	6.2%	4.1%	3.4%	4.1%
LEP	5.1%	5.1%	7.1%	5.1%	4.8%	6.0%
Non LEP	5.9%	6.3%	6.3%	4.3%	3.6%	4.0%
Low-Income*	4.6%	5.1%	6.0%	4.2%	3.9%	4.3%
Non Low-Income	8.2%	8.1%	7.7%	5.2%	3.4%	4.5%

\*Beginning with SY2014-15, Economically Disadvantaged replaced Low-Income group.

Econ. Disadvantaged includes students participated in one of the following state-administered programs: SNAP (food stamps); TAFDC (welfare); DCF (foster care); MassHealth (Medicaid).

- The SY2014-15 dropout rates for students with disabilities (SPED) and Limited English Proficient students (LEP) are somewhat higher than for students without disabilities and Non-Limited English Proficient students (1.4 and 2.0 points higher, respectively).
- Economically disadvantaged students saw a 0.2 percentage point lower dropout rate in SY2014-15 than their peers who are not economically disadvantaged. The trend is similar to that of Low-income vs Non Lowincome prior to SY2013-14.
- Compared to SY2013-14, dropout rates in SY2014-15 for LEP students increased 1.2 percentage points while the rate for SPED students remained unchanged.
- Over the 6-year reporting period, since 2009-10, all except SPED and LEP students groups showed a noticeable decrease in their dropout rates.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Earned a scaled score between 220 and 238 (Needs Improvement) on the grade 10 MCAS ELA and/or Mathematics test, and earned at least 220 on one of the high school STE tests through the spring 2015 administration. These students needed to complete an Educational Proficiency Plan (EPP) in ELA and/or Math.

# Boston Public Schools Annual Dropout Rate by School: Grades 9-12

	2009-10		2010	)-11*** 2011-12***		-12***	2012	2-13***	2013-14***		2014-15***	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
A.C.C.	4.9%	[11/223]	6.5%	[15/231]	4.1%	[9/218]	0.0%	[0/228]	1.3%	[3/227]	2.6%	[6/234]
BATA	22.1%	[90/408]	6.0%	[19/315]	10.1%	[36/358]	6.5%	[25/384]	9.9%	[37/373]	12.9%	[50/387]
BCLA	1.2%	[5/419]	0.7%	[3/437]	2.6%	[12/470]	1.4%	[7/502]	0.8%	[4/522]	1.2%	[6/520]
BDEA	11.8%	[58/491]	17.8%	[100/561]	24.8%	[149/602]	30.7%	[158/514]	16.1%	[78/485]	21.7%	[108/498]
Boston Arts Acad	4.1%	[17/416]	1.6%	[6/379]	1.2%	[5/404]	0.7%	[3/411]	0.4%	[2/448]	1.1%	[5/439]
Boston Green Acad	NA	NA	NA	NA	3.1%	[10/318]	3.9%	[13/330]	3.6%	[12/337]	3.2%	[10/314]
Boston Internat'l	8.5%	[19/224]	2.7%	[6/224]	0.7%	[2/270]	2.9%	[8/276]	4.0%	[11/273]	4.2%	[13/307]
Boston Latin Acad*	0.2%	[2/1162]	0.7%	[8/1123]	0.6%	[7/1096]	0.5%	[5/1060]	0.0%	[0/1101]	0.3%	[4/1167]
Boston Latin Schl*	0.2%	[3/1606]	0.0%	[0/1591]	0.0%	[0/1549]	0.1%	[1/1570]	0.1%	[1/1571]	0.1%	[1/1609]
Brighton	9.3%	[123/1319]	10.7%	[147/1369]	9.8%	[131/1343]	6.2%	[74/1196]	7.2%	[77/1073]	5.6%	[56/995]
Burke	13.9%	[118/851]	10.8%	[75/696]	13.0%	[84/646]	5.5%	[32/578]	4.3%	[22/512]	5.4%	[30/560]
CASH	7.8%	[34/434]	6.3%	[26/415]	10.9%	[53/485]	4.2%	[19/449]	2.3%	[10/430]	3.4%	[14/409]
Charlestown	8.5%	[85/995]	10.4%	[111/1063]	8.9%	[96/1075]	5.6%	[56/1008]	2.2%	[21/972]	6.7%	[69/1027]
Community Acad	16.7%	[18/108]	23.1%	[27/117]	16.5%	[18/109]	18.6%	[21/113]	11.9%	[13/109]	29.9%	[46/154]
Dearborn	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0%	[0/30]	0.0%	[0/84]
Dorchester Acad	12.0%	[58/484]	14.7%	[75/510]	13.2%	[63/476]	6.6%	[31/469]	5.4%	[24/445]	10.8%	[44/408]
East Boston	2.4%	[33/1397]	3.2%	[44/1364]	5.2%	[74/1412]	3.7%	[51/1385]	4.3%	[64/1489]	2.6%	[39/1485]
English	2.9%	[22/753]	4.6%	[34/741]	7.3%	[57/783]	12.0%	[83/692]	9.7%	[59/609]	5.1%	[32/630]
Excel	7.8%	[32/409]	3.7%	[16/428]	11.5%	[85/741]	4.0%	[27/672]	8.3%	[54/650]	8.8%	[53/602]
Fenway	1.7%	[5/293]	1.3%	[4/301]	1.6%	[5/318]	0.6%	[2/320]	0.0%	[0/330]	0.3%	[1/323]
Greater Egleston	14.0%	[26/186]	21.4%	[45/210]	20.4%	[55/270]	8.3%	[20/240]	8.7%	[21/242]	4.9%	[12/247]
Henderson Upper	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0%	[0/34]	8.8%	[7/80]	2.2%	[3/134]
Horace Mann**	0.0%	[0/33]	0.0%	[0/42]	2.2%	[1/46]	4.7%	[2/43]	9.8%	[4/41]	11.1%	[4/36]
Kennedy Acad	0.5%	[1/215]	0.0%	[0/211]	0.0%	[0/220]	0.7%	[2/270]	1.2%	[4/327]	1.4%	[5/366]
Lyon 9-12	0.0%	[0/25]	1.7%	[1/60]	1.3%	[1/76]	0.7%	[1/135]	1.5%	[2/131]	1.5%	[2/134]
Madison Park	7.0%	[97/1383]	5.3%	[68/1295]	5.4%	[68/1251]	4.2%	[48/1146]	5.0%	[57/1149]	6.8%	[65/952]
Margarita Muniz	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0%	[0/81]	0.6%	[1/156]	2.6%	[6/230]
McKinley**	8.3%	[26/314]	14.0%	[43/307]	11.6%	[32/275]	19.1%	[54/282]	8.7%	[22/254]	13.2%	[33/250]
New Mission	2.3%	[6/260]	0.0%	[0/249]	0.0%	[0/247]	0.0%	[0/267]	0.0%	[0/280]	0.7%	[2/293]
O'Bryant*	0.7%	[7/993]	0.6%	[6/1006]	1.0%	[10/1025]	0.7%	[7/1063]	0.1%	[1/1071]	0.4%	[4/1120]
Quincy Upper	1.4%	[3/213]	2.3%	[5/218]	2.1%	[5/235]	0.0%	[0/227]	0.0%	[0/228]	1.3%	[3/232]
Snowden	4.5%	[18/402]	3.7%	[15/403]	8.4%	[37/439]	4.1%	[17/417]	4.5%	[18/399]	1.8%	[7/391]
TechBoston Acad	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.5%	[8/518]	0.5%	[3/560]	3.3%	[19/571]	1.7%	[10/579]
Urban Science Acad	2.2%	[7/323]	8.7%	[31/357]	7.2%	[50/692]	5.1%	[32/626]	2.9%	[16/545]	4.4%	[23/527]
West Roxbury Acad	NA	NA	NA	NA	7.1%	[52/728]	3.4%	[23/686]	5.1%	[34/670]	6.5%	[39/601]

Dropout rates, number of dropouts, and total enrollments (excludes transfers out) are shown for each school.

Students who dropped out are attributed to the last school to which they were assigned.

<sup>\*</sup> Examination School

<sup>\*\*</sup> Special Needs School

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Beginning with SY2010-11, BPS dropouts who were found enrolled in another district or Charter school based on the statewide October 1 SIMS for the subsequent school year are counted as returned dropouts.

#### Boston Public Schools Annual Dropout by Racial/Ethnic Group and Systemwide: 1987-1988 through 2014-2015: Grades 9-12\*

	Black White		Asian Hispanic		Native American		Multiracial		Systemwide					
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent Number	
2014-2015##	4.8%	[365/7554]	3.8%	[87/2302]	1.1%	[19/1759]	5.0%	[335/6644]	2.4%	[2/82]	4.7%	[4/85]	4.4% [812/18426	]
2013-2014##	3.7%	[275/7495]	2.9%	[69/2357]	1.4%	[24/1768]	5.1%	[322/6360]	0.0%	[0/56]	4.0%	[11/277]	3.8% [701/18313	]
2012-2013##	4.5%	[355/7826]	3.8%	[87/2313]	2.2%	[40/1815]	5.2%	[319/6127]	11.3%	[6/53]	7.5%	[21/280]	4.5% [828/18414	]
2011-2012##	6.9%	[573/8261]	5.2%	[123/2369]	3.0%	[56/1846]	7.2%	[442/6101]	8.2%	[5/61]	7.2%	[20/277]	6.4% [1219/18915	]
2010-2011##	6.2%	[478/7757]	4.2%	[101/2408]	1.9%	[34/1827]	7.5%	[531/7087]	7.3%	[4/55]	11.0%	[17/155]	6.0% [1165/19289	]
2009-2010#	6.1%	[490/8026]	3.4%	[84/2505]	2.0%	[36/1828]	7.0%	[484/6884]	5.2%	[3/58]	11.2%	[19/169]	5.7% [1116/19470	]
2008-2009#	6.9%	[574/8315]	4.1%	[109/2654]	2.3%	[41/1808]	7.8%	[520/6628]	9.9%	[7/71]	8.2%	[13/159]	6.4% [1264/19635	]
2007-2008#	7.0%	[608/8668]	5.4%	[150/2790]	2.4%	[44/1799]	9.6%	[626/6552]	10.3%	[7/68]	8.8%	[12/137]	7.2% [1447/20014	]
2006-2007#	8.0%	[727/9075]	6.1%	[171/2825]	3.2%	[59/1838]	10.0%	[642/6427]	4.1%	[3/73]	8.1%	[8/99]	7.9% [1610/20337	]
2005-2006****	10.0%	[965/9648]	7.8%	[234/3003]	3.0%	[55/1821]	11.0%	[670/6081]	10.1%	[7/69]	9.3%	[5/54]	9.4% [1936/20676	]
2004-2005****	9.1%	[887/9789]	7.5%	[226/3029]	3.8%	[69/1806]	9.2%	[510/5551]	8.1%	[6/74]		[1/5]	8.4% [1699/20254	]
2003-2004***	9.5%	[932/9845]	6.5%	[197/3036]	4.0%	[75/1864]	8.9%	[463/5201]	9.7%	[7/72]	-	-	8.4% [1674/20018	]
2002-2003***	8.8%	[872/9932]	6.7%	[203/3033]	4.4%	[82/1855]	8.5%	[404/4774]	11.4%	[8/70]	-	-	8.0% [1569/19664	]
2001-2002***	7.6%	[756/9923]	6.0%	[185/3065]	3.8%	[73/1924]	8.5%	[395/4629]	9.1%	[7/77]	-	-	7.2% [1416/19618	-
2000-2001***	8.6%	[824/9625]	7.4%	[225/3059]	3.8%	[71/1883]	10.6%	[469/4416]	7.2%	[5/64]	-	-	8.4% [1594/19052	]
1999-2000***	8.7%	[839/9624]	7.1%	[221/3103]	3.9%	[72/1862]	10.3%	[451/4394]	8.2%	[5/61]	-	-	8.3% [1588/19044	]
1998-1999***	9.6%	[899/9337]	8.1%	[254/3153]	5.0%	[92/1840]	11.6%	[498/4288]	10.9%	[6/55]	-	-	9.4% [1749/18673	]
1997-1998***	8.6%	[781/9088]	6.3%	[194/3094]	4.3%	[76/1769]	9.9%	[416/4188]	13.5%	[7/52]	-	-	8.1% [1474/18191	]
1996-1997***	7.7%	[683/8890]	7.3%	[227/3096]	6.3%	[113/1794]	10.2%	[421/4140]	8.2%	[4/49]	-	-	8.1% [1448/17969	]
1995-1996***	7.5%	[649/8626]	5.9%	[182/3102]	3.5%	[62/1796]	8.3%	[325/3925]	13.0%	[7/54]	-	-	7.0% [1225/17505	]
1994-1995**	9.7%	[822/8501]	7.2%	[220/3055]	5.4%	[99/1837]	10.4%	[393/3773]	7.0%	[3/43]	=	-	8.9% [1537/17209	]
1993-1994**	8.1%	[682/8412]	8.6%	[274/3192]	4.3%	[81/1880]	10.3%	[382/3697]	22.4%	[11/49]	-	-	8.3% [1430/17230	]
1992-1993**	9.0%	[745/8319]	8.5%	[284/3328]	3.4%	[65/1888]	10.6%	[379/3567]	21.4%	[12/56]	-	-	8.7% [1485/17158	]
1991-1992**	9.5%	[787/8323]	8.5%	[281/3313]	7.4%	[140/1898]	13.1%	[451/3448]	11.8%	[6/51]	-	-	9.8% [1655/17033	]
1990-1991**	10.3%	[848/8199]	7.6%	[251/3292]	4.8%	[88/1816]	13.5%	[432/3211]	10.0%	[6/60]	-	-	9.8% [1625/16578	]
1989-1990**	10.3%	[833/8118]	9.2%	[319/3485]	5.6%	[98/1753]	13.8%	[409/2971]	15.3%	[9/59]	-	-	10.2% [1668/16386	]
1988-1989	11.2%	[929/8330]	10.7%	[406/3799]	4.7%	[76/1628]	14.7%	[412/2808]	10.0%	[7/70]	-	-	11.0% [1830/16635	]
1987-1988	13.5%	[1145/8502]	13.0%	[541/4156]	6.3%	[97/1545]	17.7%	[481/2713]	16.4%	[12/73]	-	-	13.4% [2276/16989	]

<sup>\*</sup> Transfers from BPS are excluded from these analyses. Dropout rates, number of dropouts, and total populations are shown for each group. Please contact Office of Data and Accountability for data prior to SY1986-1987.

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<sup>\*\*</sup> New methods of counting and reporting dropouts were introduced in 1991-1992 to conform to new guidelines from the Massachusetts Department of Education (MA DOE) and the National Center for Educational Statistic In order to present consistent historical data, the dropout data were recalculated back to 1989-1990 according to the new methods. The impact of the changes was relatively small (less than one percentage point), but the change do mean that the data for years before 1989-1990 are not directly comparable with the data from more recent years. Note: Effective in 1993-1994, the discharge code '28' ("Special Services", such as commitment to DYS with participation in an approved educational program) is no longer considered a dropout discharge code.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> For annual rate data from 1995-1996 on, BPS accounts for "returned dropouts" who re-enroll by the following October 1 or process a request to transfer out of the system. 1995-1996 and later data are therefore not directl comparable with data from earlier years.

<sup>\*\*\*\*</sup> Beginning from 2004-05, students who turn age of 22 are counted as "Other Loss" rather than dropouts. Also, as a result of the revised federal government's reporting categories on student race codes, "Multiracial" categories added. "Multiracial" refers to any student with multiple non-Hispanic race/ethnic codes. Dropout rate is not reported if a student group has fewer than 10 students.

<sup>#</sup> Beginning with SY2006-07, death and expulsion are excluded from the population. Also, BPS Student Discharge Codes have been changed to align with the enrollment status codes used by the MA DESE's SIMS. Hence, caution should be made when comparing data from 2006-07 and later with data from earlier years.

<sup>##</sup> Beginning with SY2010-11, BPS dropouts who were found enrolled in another district or Charter school based on the statewide October 1 SIMS for the subsequent school year are counted as returned dropouts.

# Boston Public Schools Dropout by Racial/Ethnic Group for 9th Grade Cohorts: 1982/86 through 2010/14

	Black		White		As	ian	His	panic	Native American Multiracial		Systemwide			
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
2010/14***	14.6%	[215/1470]	10.0%	[49/488]	5.7%	[22/388]	20.6%	[288/1396]	**	[1/9]	**	[5/24]	15.4%	[580/3775]
2009/13***	15.9%	[252/1582]	11.4%	[56/492]	9.0%	[38/420]	22.8%	[310/1360]	**	[1/11]	**	[11/32]	17.1%	[668/3897]
2008/12***	19.5%	[321/1647]	14.2%	[80/563]	9.5%	[38/402]	23.1%	[307/1327]	**	[7/19]	**	[7/31]	19.1%	[760/3989]
2007/11***	21.6%	[365/1688]	13.8%	[82/594]	7.4%	[30/405]	23.0%	[310/1349]	**	[4/15]	**	[10/37]	19.6%	[801/4088]
2006/10***	21.4%	[384/1796]	11.7%	[66/566]	6.9%	[28/407]	25.2%	[344/1367]	**	[3/9]	**	[10/30]	20.0%	[835/4175]
2005/09***	20.3%	[381/1874]	15.1%	[96/635]	8.2%	[34/415]	27.3%	[370/1356]	**	[4/15]	**	[6/14]	20.7%	[891/4309]
2004/08***	24.1%	[472/1959]	19.9%	[137/687]	11.8%	[47/398]	31.2%	[404/1295]	**	[2/14]			24.4%	[1062/4353]
2003/07***	27.9%	[561/2011]	21.5%	[145/673]	9.9%	[42/426]	29.8%	[365/1226]	**	[6/16]			25.7%	[1119/4352]
2002/06***	24.9%	[519/2087]	17.6%	[117/665]	7.3%	[28/384]	31.0%	[330/1063]	**	[3/12]			23.7%	[997/4211]
2001/05***	26.1%	[540/2067]	21.0%	[140/666]	9.5%	[39/409]	28.2%	[291/1031]	**	[3/20]			24.2%	[1013/4193]
2000/04***	23.8%	[459/1932]	17.6%	[114/646]	7.6%	[29/380]	25.0%	[245/979]	**	[6/15]			21.6%	[853/3952]
1999/03*	20.7%	[422/2036]	19.9%	[141/707]	10.7%	[42/394]	26.9%	[256/953]	**	[5/17]			21.1%	[866/4107]
1998/02*	23.3%	[451/1939]	20.9%	[139/665]	8.0%	[32/402]	28.4%	[260/914]	**	[3/13]			22.5%	[885/3933]
1997/01*	24.1%	[456/1889]	18.3%	[121/662]	10.7%	[40/374]	29.4%	[266/906]	**	[4/12]			23.1%	[887/3843]
1996/00*	25.2%	[460/1822]	22.2%	[142/641]	12.3%	[43/350]	33.4%	[303/907]	**	[4/9]			25.5%	[952/3729]
1995/99*	27.3%	[498/1821]	21.6%	[148/686]	14.6%	[55/378]	31.3%	[268/855]	**	[4/13]			25.9%	[973/3753]
1994/98*	23.9%	[417/1744]	21.0%	[139/661]	9.2%	[31/338]	29.1%	[239/821]	**	[3/9]			23.2%	[829/3573]
1993/97*	27.3%	[458/1678]	24.1%	[142/588]	12.0%	[39/324]	32.7%	[242/471]	**	[2/9]			26.4%	[883/3340]
1992/96*	25.9%	[415/1602]	20.8%	[144/692]	11.5%	[39/338]	25.7%	[189/736]	**	[6/14]			23.4%	[793/3382]
1991/95*	26.2%	[447/1703]	25.4%	[178/702]	12.3%	[41/334]	37.3%	[269/721]	**	[4/11]			27.1%	[939/3471]
1990/94*	26.6%	[422/1585]	27.2%	[182/670]	13.7%	[39/285]	33.8%	[230/680]	**	[7/12]			27.2%	[880/3232]
1989/93*	25.6%	[408/1593]	25.2%	[174/691]	13.3%	[44/332]	38.8%	[264/680]	**	[6/11]			27.1%	[896/3307]
1988/92*	28.9%	[490/1698]	27.7%	[220/794]	9.9%	[34/343]	36.4%	[220/604]	**	[8/15]			28.1%	[972/3454]
1987/91*	31.0%	[515/1663]	29.0%	[238/822]	15.2%	[53/348]	40.5%	[244/602]	**	[9/19]			30.7%	[1059/3454]
1986/90*	33.5%	[608/1814]	31.3%	[287/916]	17.4%	[58/333]	39.9%	[252/631]	**	[8/15]			32.7%	[1213/3709]
1985/89*	31.6%	[577/1825]	33.3%	[337/1013]	17.8%	[53/297]	44.2%	[275/622]	**	[4/14]			33.0%	[1246/3771]
1984/88*	35.6%	[699/1964]	37.9%	[447/1180]	20.7%	[63/305]	48.5%	[311/641]	**	[9/18]			37.2%	[1529/4108]
1983/87*	37.0%	[719/1942]	40.8%	[468/1147]	22.7%	[68/299]	53.8%	[314/584]	**	[9/16]			39.6%	[1578/3988]
1982/86*	38.8%	[819/2111]	40.6%	[516/1271]	24.3%	[72/296]	49.1%	[272/554]	**	[7/19]			39.7%	[1686/4251]

<sup>\*</sup> The beginning (9th grade) year (for September) is shown along with the expected year of graduation for the cohort. Dropout rates, number of dropouts, and total populations are shown for each group.

\*\* The numbers of Native Americans and Multiracial are too small to permit reliable comparison of percentages.

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<sup>\*\*\*</sup> From 2004-05 and onward, students who turned 22 and with a discharge code of dropout are counted as "Other Loss" rather than dropouts. Also, as a result of the revised federal government's reporting categories on student race codes a new, "Multiracial" category, is added. "Multiracial" refers to any student with multiple non-Hispanic race/ethnic codes. Since the cohort dropout rate is reported by 9th grade race/ethnicity code, the "Multiracial" category was not used before SY2004-05.

Note: In 1991-1992 and again in 1995-1996 there were changes in the procedures for counting dropouts which were introduced to conform to guidelines from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the National Center for Educational Statistics. Because of the specifics of how cohorts are defined, these changes had a very small impact on cohort dropout rates. For practical purposes, the data across all years are essentially comparable.



### Boston Public Schools Understanding Annual High School (Grades 9-12) Dropout Calculations

The dropout rate for any given year is impacted by four different student datasets (boxes 1 through 4 below). The picture below illustrates the process of calculating the dropout rate for any given school year (in the gray box).

The **final dropout rate** = [All Dropouts – Returned Dropouts] / [Cumulative High School Enrollment – (Transfers out/Expelled/Death)]

#### **Dropouts**<sup>1</sup>: To Determine Eligibility for the Dropout Sample: Students are "expected to be in attendance" if, at the end of the Students reported in the cumulative EOY Student file previous year they were active (not withdrawn) and they have not with a Discharge Code of 21(Work), 22 (Military), 23 graduated or transferred to another system. (GED), 24 (Over 16-No plans known), 25 (Illness), 26 ■ Match (1) & (3) to determine if a student was active or (Marriage, Pregnant, or Parenting), 27 (Non-diploma withdrawn (or Did Not Report-DNR) at the end of the prior year. educational program-non GED), 28 (Incarcerated), 32 Match (2) & (3) to determine if a student was DNR all year long (Job Corps), 51 (Registered, Did not Report), 52 (Moved, (a student may be DNR in the last school but not in an earlier No Forwarding Address), and 'D1' (DNR more than 8 transferred school.) days). **(2) Student Transfer Records (3) (1) (4) Next Year October 1 SIMS** Prior Year End-of-Year **End-of-Year (EOY) Student File Student File Returned Dropouts: High School (Grades 9-12) Enrollment<sup>1</sup>:** Check if any Dropouts are reported in the Next The High School Enrollment is based on Year October 1 SIMS (prior to SY2003-04 – this end-of-year cumulative<sup>2</sup> enrollment Returned Dropouts Survey sent by OIIT). minus death, expelled or transfers out of Students reported as enrolled, transferred, or BPS. This is the denominator when graduated in any BPS school are removed from

the total dropout count.

calculating dropout rates.

All students who were assigned at any time during the school year.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Students newly assigned to BPS who never attend are not counted as dropouts and are not included among enrolled students.