

# Worcester Public Schools

Press Release

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For immediate release



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The Massachusetts Department of Education (DESE) released high school graduation rates today. 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 2015, 80.8 percent graduated within four years, compared to 79.2 percent in 2014. It is the seventh consecutive year that the four-year graduation rate of high school students in the WPS has increased and represents a 13.6 percentage point increase from 2006 when the rate was 67.2 percent. The 13.6 percentage point increase compares to a 7.4 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 6 percentage points to 81), Doherty High School (increase of 0.2 percentage points to 82.7), North High School (increase of 6.6 percentage points to 77.6), South High School (increase of 2.7 percentage points to 73.9) and Worcester Technical High School (increase of 1.7 percentage points to 98.5).

All of the schools for which the state calculated four-year graduation rates in 2006<sup>1</sup> have higher rates in 2014, including Burncoat High School (increase of 17.3 percentage points), Doherty Memorial High School (increase of 10.6 percentage points), North High School (increase of 10.6 percentage points), South High School (increase of 10.5 percentage points), University Park Campus School (increase of 5.7 percentage points) and Worcester Technical High School (increase of 19.2 percentage points).

When a cohort of students is followed over a five-year period, the district-wide graduation rate is 82.5 percent, up 3.8 percentage points from the previous year. The five-year graduation rate for the WPS has increased by 11.3 percentage points since 2006. This compares to a 5.8 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 10.7 percentage point percent), Doherty High School (increase of 7.8 percentage points), North High School (increase of 5.7 percentage points), South High School (increase of 8.3 percentage points), University Park Campus School (increase of 3

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

percentage points) and Worcester Technical High School (increase of 15.5 percentage points). Claremont Academy's five year graduation rates have improved by 2.2 percentage points since 2007.

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 2014-15 school year.

The adjusted annual dropout rate across the district dropped in 2015 to 1.7 percent. This represents a 0.7 percentage point decrease from last year and a 2.5 percentage point decrease from 2006. Statewide, the dropout rate in 2014 is 1.9 percent, down from 2.0 percent in 2014 and 3.3 percent in 2006. The WPS annual dropout rate is not only lower than the statewide rate but it has decreased at a faster rate than statewide reductions. According to DESE archival statistics available from 1993, the 2015 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.

"These rates represent a new milestone for the district and provide further evidence that the Worcester Public Schools is getting the job done," said Mayor Joseph M. Petty. "Our graduates are leaving the city's schools confident that they have been prepared for their lives beyond high school. I am proud of our students and schools."

"I am very pleased with the progress of our schools in meeting and exceeding the ambitious targets we have set for improving these rates," said Interim Superintendent Marco C. Rodrigues. "There is a lot of hard work behind these numbers, and I congratulate students, schools and staff for this accomplishment. We will continue to stay focused, and we will not rest until all of our students are achieving at high levels and leaving the Worcester Public Schools prepared for college and careers."

The WPS commitment and focused efforts to ensure that every student graduates career and college ready continue to pay dividends. Since 2010-2011 school year, the district, in collaboration with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) studied and developed strategic approaches to graduation improvement.

Graduation Improvement Teams have been established in all high schools and a re-alignment of alternative programs enhanced the district's capacity to support returnees and to actively re-engage recent dropout students. Transition programs for rising eighth graders have also been a focus of the high school Graduation Improvement Teams. Transition programs offer grade eight students the opportunity to learn about the high school curriculum, graduation requirements, academic supports, athletics, and extracurricular activities. The high school Graduation Improvement Teams continue to strengthen their work through professional learning focused on dropout prevention and recovery.

Graduation improvement efforts also include opportunities for collaboration with families, community organizations, college access programs, and other cultural organizations to successfully support students to graduation.

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 2006-2015**

Year	# in Cohort	% Graduated	% Still In School	% Non- Grad Completers	% GED	% Dropped Out	% Permanently Excluded
2015	1780	80.8	8.6	2.4	0.9	7.2	0.0
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 2006-2015**

**Burncoat High School**

Year	# in Cohort	% Graduated	% Still In School	% Non- Grad Completers	% GED	% Dropped Out	% Permanently Excluded
2015	252	81.0	7.5	4.8	0.0	6.7	0.0
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**

Year	# in Cohort	% Graduated	% Still In School	% Non- Grad Completers	% GED	% Dropped Out	% Permanently Excluded
2015	66	78.8	10.6	1.5	1.5	7.6	0.0
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	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

**Doherty High School**

Year	# in Cohort	% Graduated	% Still In School	% Non- Grad Completers	% GED	% Dropped Out	% Permanently Excluded
2015	364	82.7	5.5	2.5	1.4	8.0	0.0
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 High School**

Year	# in Cohort	% Graduated	% Still In School	% Non- Grad Completers	% GED	% Dropped Out	% Permanently Excluded
2015	335	77.6	10.4	3.0	1.8	7.2	0.0
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 High School**

Year	# in Cohort	% Graduated	% Still In School	% Non- Grad Completers	% GED	% Dropped Out	% Permanently Excluded
2015	341	73.9	11.4	4.1	0.6	10.0	0.0
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

Year	# in Cohort	% Graduated	% Still In School	% Non- Grad Completers	% GED	% Dropped Out	% Permanently Excluded
2015	29	96.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4	0.0
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

Year	# in Cohort	% Graduated	% Still In School	% Non- Grad Completers	% GED	% Dropped Out	% Permanently Excluded
2015	338	98.5	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.6	0.0
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 2006-2015**

Year	# in Cohort	% Graduated	% Still In School	% Non- Grad Completers	% GED	% Dropped Out	% Permanently Excluded
2014	1742	82.5	2.6	2.6	1.5	10.7	0.1
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 2006-2015**

**Burncoat High School**

Year	# in Cohort	% Graduated	% Still In School	% Non- Grad Completers	% GED	% Dropped Out	% Permanently Excluded
2014	296	78.7	1.4	2.7	0.7	16.2	0.3
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**

Year	# in Cohort	% Graduated	% Still In School	% Non- Grad Completers	% GED	% Dropped Out	% Permanently Excluded
2014	63	93.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.3	0.0
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**

Year	# in Cohort	% Graduated	% Still In School	% Non- Grad Completers	% GED	% Dropped Out	% Permanently Excluded
2014	348	83.6	1.7	1.4	2.3	10.9	0.0
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

Year	# in Cohort	% Graduated	% Still In School	% Non- Grad Completers	% GED	% Dropped Out	% Permanently Excluded
2014	321	76.3	2.8	3.7	2.2	15.0	0.0
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

Year	# in Cohort	% Graduated	% Still In School	% Non- Grad Completers	% GED	% Dropped Out	% Permanently Excluded
2014	323	76.5	4.3	5.0	2.2	12.1	0.0
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

Year	# in Cohort	% Graduated	% Still In School	% Non- Grad Completers	% GED	% Dropped Out	% Permanently 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	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

Year	# in Cohort	% Graduated	% Still In School	% Non- Grad Completers	% GED	% Dropped Out	% Permanently Excluded
2014	311	97.4	0.0	1.3	0.0	1.3	0.0
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 to 2015**

School	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2015 Total Dropout Count
<b>Worcester Public Schools</b>	4.2	6.0	4.7	5.1	3.8	3.7	4.1	3.4	2.4	1.7	121
Burncoat Senior High	5.0	7.3	8.0	7.1	4.8	4.9	4.4	3.6	2.9	2.1	21
Claremont Academy	.	3.9	3.2	2.3	2.7	3.6	2.8	4.2	0.7	1.7	5
Doherty Memorial High	4.2	4.9	2.9	4.2	2.5	2.3	3.8	2.6	3.4	1.8	26
North High	4.9	7.0	6.1	6.1	7.1	7.5	6.6	5.5	2.7	1.8	24
South High Community	5.3	8.2	5.4	7.9	5.0	4.8	5.8	4.8	3.5	3.2	42
University Park Campus School	0.7	0.0	1.4	0.7	1.4	0.6	0.6	1.3	0.0	0.0	0
Worcester Technical High	1.8	2.1	1.3	1.0	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	3