# Q and A
Boston Public Schools 2013-2014:
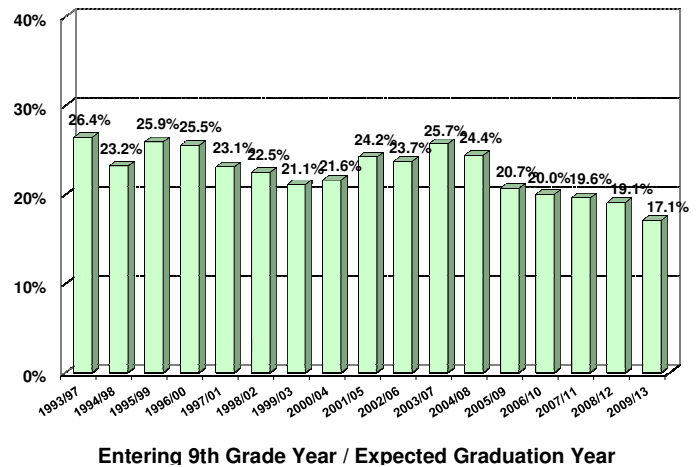## Student Dropout Rates

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.

How Have Systemwide Dropout Rates Varied Over Time?

Annual Dropout Rates* Systemwide: Grades 9-12

School Year
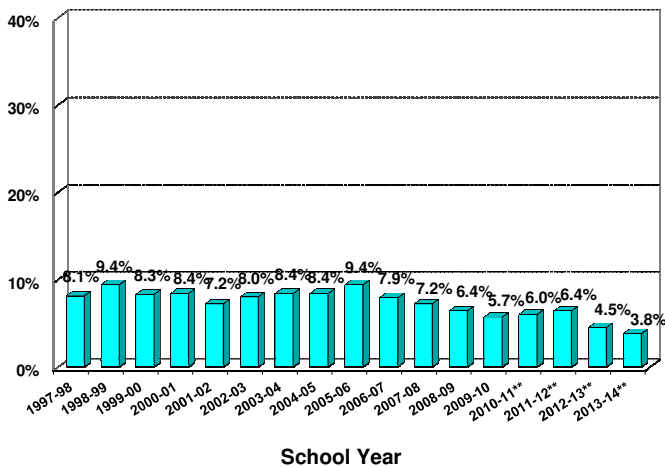
Ninth Grade Cohort Dropout Rates Systemwide

Entering 9th Grade Year / Expected Graduation Year

- 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 2013-2014 was 3.8%. This represents a 0.7 percentage point decrease from the previous year, and 127 fewer students. This is the second consecutive year that the district has achieved its lowest dropout rate ever.

- The cohort rate analysis answers the question, "Of the students who entered BPS as 9th graders, what proportion dropped out over the next **five** years?"

- The 9th grade cohort dropout rate decreased to its lowest point ever at 17.1% for the 2009/2013 cohort.

- Although the 9th grade cohort dropout rate has fluctuated from year to year, the rate has declined steadily for the past six 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.

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Q and A Boston Public Schools 2013-2014: 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 2013-14
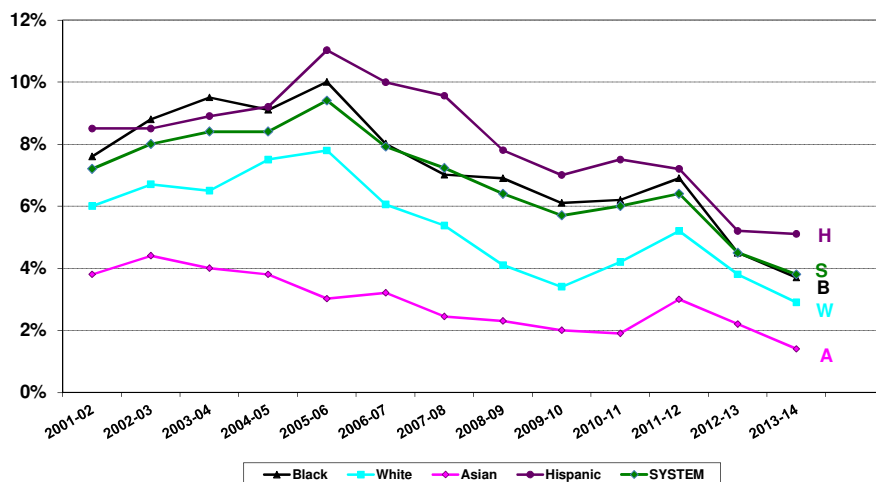
	Black	White	Asian	Hispanic	SYSTEM
2001-02	7.6%	6.0%	3.8%	8.5%	7.2%
2002-03	8.8%	6.7%	4.4%	8.5%	8.0%
2003-04	9.5%	6.5%	4.0%	8.9%	8.4%
2004-05	9.1%	7.5%	3.8%	9.2%	8.4%
2005-06	10.0%	7.8%	3.0%	11.0%	9.4%
2006-07	8.0%	6.1%	3.2%	10.0%	7.9%
2007-08	7.0%	5.4%	2.4%	9.6%	7.2%
2008-09	6.9%	4.1%	2.3%	7.8%	6.4%
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%

- Dropout rates have decreased steadily since 2005-06. In 2013-14, dropout rates were the lowest ever for students in all racial groups.
- Over the last year, dropout rates for every group decreased by 0.1 to 0.9 percentage points, with the largest drop experienced by White students (0.9 points), followed by Black and Asian students (0.8 points each), and Hispanic students (0.1 points).

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

Annual Dropout Rates by Racial/Ethnic Group and Gender: Grades 9-12, 2013-2014

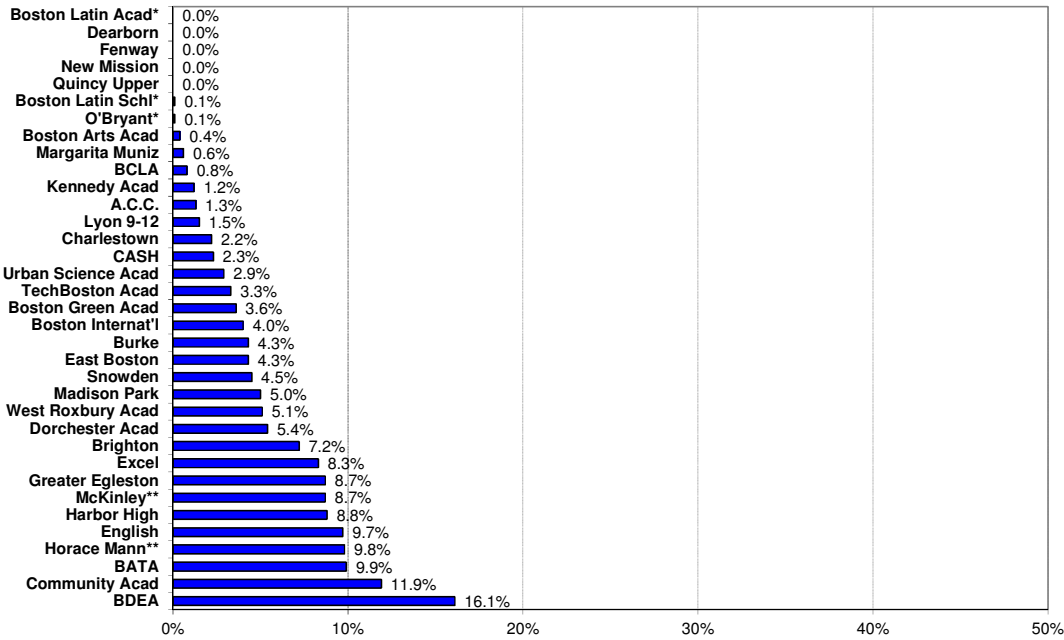|	Overall		Male		Female	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Black	3.7%	275	4.6%	175	2.7%	100
White	2.9%	69	3.4%	42	2.4%	27
Asian	1.4%	24	0.8%	7	2.0%	17
Hispanic	5.1%	322	6.1%	200	4.0%	122
TOTALS**	3.8%	701	4.6%	429	3.0%	272

** Totals include 11 Multiracial dropouts who are not shown separately by gender.

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

How do Dropout Rates Differ Across Schools?

Annual Dropout Rate by School: Grades 9-12, 2013-14

School	Dropout Rate
Boston Latin Acad*	0.0%
Dearborn	0.0%
Fenway	0.0%
New Mission	0.0%
Quincy Upper	0.0%
Boston Latin Schl*	0.1%
O'Bryant*	0.1%
Boston Arts Acad	0.4%
Margarita Muniz	0.6%
BCLA	0.8%
Kennedy Acad	1.2%
A.C.C.	1.3%
Lyon 9-12	1.5%
Charlestown	2.2%
CASH	2.3%
Urban Science Acad	2.9%
TechBoston Acad	3.3%
Boston Green Acad	3.6%
Boston Internat'l	4.0%
Burke	4.3%
East Boston	4.3%
Snowden	4.5%
Madison Park	5.0%
West Roxbury Acad	5.1%
Dorchester Acad	5.4%
Brighton	7.2%
Excel	8.3%
Greater Egleston	8.7%
McKinley**	8.7%
Harbor High	8.8%
English	9.7%
Horace Mann**	9.8%
BATA	9.9%
Community Acad	11.9%
BDEA	16.1%

(Horizontal axis: 0% to 50%)

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

- Dropout rates vary substantially across schools.

- Dropout rates range from a low of 0% to a high of 16.1%.

- School enrollments in grades 9-12 ranged from 30 to nearly 1,600.

How do Dropout Rates Vary Across Neighborhoods?

- Dropout rates vary substantially according to where students live.

- The percentage of dropouts varies from a low of 0.9% in West Roxbury to a high of 6.7% in South Boston.

- There is also considerable variation in the number of students from each neighborhood who attend Boston Public Schools.

Annual Dropout Rate by Neighborhood (Zip Code): Grades 9-12, 2013-2014

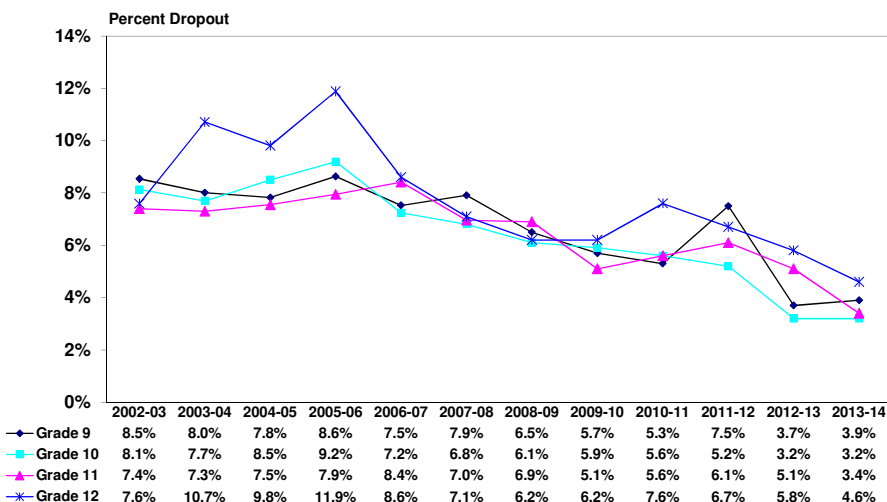|	Percent	Number	Students in Neighborhood
Allston	3.2%	8	250
Back Bay/Kenmore*	2.7%	10	370
Boston Central**	2.4%	6	254
Brighton	3.0%	15	504
Charlestow n	3.5%	14	402
Codman Square	4.1%	100	2417
East Boston	3.5%	63	1802
Fields Corner	4.7%	52	1108
Grove Hall	4.2%	64	1527
Hyde Park	2.4%	35	1444
Jamaica Plain	3.8%	29	773
Mattapan	4.5%	51	1127
Roslindale	3.1%	35	1121
Roxbury	5.5%	67	1227
Roxbury Crossing	4.8%	21	442
South Boston	6.7%	40	594
South End	3.5%	22	627
Uphams Corner	3.7%	58	1584
West Roxbury	0.9%	6	647

*   02115, 02116, 02215, 02199
** 02108 through 02111, 02113, 02114, 02210 (Downtown, West End, North End, Chinatown)

Q and A Boston Public Schools 2013-2014: Student Dropout Rates

How do Dropout Rates Vary Across Grade Levels?

Annual Dropout Rates by Grade Level: 2002-03 to 2013-14

Percent Dropout

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Grade 9	8.5%	8.0%	7.8%	8.6%	7.5%	7.9%	6.5%	5.7%	5.3%	7.5%	3.7%	3.9%
Grade 10	8.1%	7.7%	8.5%	9.2%	7.2%	6.8%	6.1%	5.9%	5.6%	5.2%	3.2%	3.2%
Grade 11	7.4%	7.3%	7.5%	7.9%	8.4%	7.0%	6.9%	5.1%	5.6%	6.1%	5.1%	3.4%
Grade 12	7.6%	10.7%	9.8%	11.9%	8.6%	7.1%	6.2%	6.2%	7.6%	6.7%	5.8%	4.6%

- Dropout rates across grade levels have fluctuated over the years; the 12th grade dropout rate has been the highest for the last two years.

- 11th graders experienced the largest reduction in the dropout rate in 2013-14 (1.7 points).

- Compared to 2012-13, dropout rates for grades 11 and 12 decreased by 1.7 and 1.2 points, respectively; while the rate for grade 9 increased by 0.2 points. The dropout rate for grade 10 remained unchanged.

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

- Students who have not yet earned a CD are more likely to drop out than students who have fully or partially met the CD requirements.

- Among those who dropped out, nearly 40% of 11th graders had already attained or partially attained a CD, and about 58% of 12 graders had done so.

2013-14 Dropout Rates and % of Dropouts by CD Attainment Status

Grade	CD Status	Total Enrollment	# of Dropouts	Dropout Rate	% of All Dropouts
11 (Class of 2015)	Met CD*	2,174	18	0.8%	13.0%
	Partially Met CD**	1,049	37	3.5%	26.8%
	Did Not Meet CD	826	83	10.0%	60.1%
12 (Class of 2014)	Met CD*	2,421	33	1.4%	14.6%
	Partially Met CD**	1,850	97	5.2%	42.9%
	Did Not Meet CD	626	96	15.3%	42.5%

* 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 2014 administration.
** 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 2014 administration. These students needed to complete an Educational Proficiency Plan (EPP) in ELA and/or Math.

How do Dropout Rates Vary Among Special Populations?

2013-14 Dropout Rates and % of Dropouts for Special Populations

	Total Enrollment	# of Dropouts	Dropout Rate	% of All Dropouts
Special Education	3,480	193	5.5%	27.5%
Non-Special Education	14,833	508	3.4%	72.5%
LEP	3,747	178	4.8%	25.4%
Non LEP	14,566	523	3.6%	74.6%
Low-Income	14,516	572	3.9%	81.6%
Non Low-Income	3,797	129	3.4%	18.4%

Annual Dropout Rates for Special Populations: 2008-09 to 2013-14

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Special Education	9.2%	5.1%	7.7%	7.5%	6.1%	5.5%
Non-Special Education	5.8%	5.9%	5.7%	6.2%	4.1%	3.4%
LEP	6.2%	5.1%	5.1%	7.1%	5.1%	4.8%
Non LEP	6.5%	5.9%	6.3%	6.3%	4.3%	3.6%
Low-Income	4.9%	4.6%	5.1%	6.0%	4.2%	3.9%
Non Low-Income	9.2%	8.2%	8.1%	7.7%	5.2%	3.4%

- The SY2013-14 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 (Non LEP) students (2.1 points and 1.2 points higher, respectively).

- Reversing a past trend, low-income students saw a higher dropout rate in SY2013-14 than non low-income students.

- Compared to SY2012-13, dropout rates in SY2013-14 for LEP and Low-Income students dropped 0.3 percentage points each; the rate for SPED students also saw a 0.6 point decrease.

- Over the 6-year reporting period, since 2008-09, all students groups showed a noticeable decrease in their dropout rates.

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

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

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.

* Examination School

** Special Needs School

*** 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:
1986-1987 through 2013-2014: 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
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]
1986-1987	13.4%	[1167/8735]	14.3%	[659/4621]	8.0%	[123/1536]	18.0%	[482/2678]	17.6%	[13/74]	-	-	13.9%	[2444/17644]

* 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.

** 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 chang 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.

*** 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.

**** 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" categ is 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.

\# 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.

\## 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:
1981/85 through 2009/13

	Black		White		Asian		Hispanic		Native American		Multiracial		Systemwide	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
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]
1981/85*	36.5%	[794/2175]	40.0%	[606/1514]	29.3%	[79/270]	49.9%	[254/509]	**	[10/19]			38.8%	[1743/4487]

* 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.

*** 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)]

To Determine Eligibility for the Dropout Sample:

Students are "expected to be in attendance" if, at the end of the previous year they were active (not withdrawn) and they have not graduated or transferred to another system.

- Match (1) & (3) to determine if a student was active or withdrawn (or Did Not Report-DNR) at the end of the prior year.
- Match (2) & (3) to determine if a student was DNR all year long (a student may be DNR in the last school but not in an earlier transferred school.)

Dropouts[1]:

- Students reported in the cumulative EOY Student file with a Discharge Code of 21(Work), 22 (Military), 23 (GED), 24 (Over 16-No plans known), 25 (Illness), 26 (Marriage, Pregnant, or Parenting), 27 (Non-diploma educational program-non GED), 28 (Incarcerated), 32 (Job Corps), 51 (Registered, Did not Report), 52 (Moved, No Forwarding Address), and 'D1' (DNR more than 8 days).

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(2)
Student Transfer Records

(1)
Prior Year End-of-Year Student File

(3)
End-of-Year (EOY) Student File

(4)
Next Year October 1 SIMS

High School (Grades 9-12) Enrollment[1]:

The High School Enrollment is based on this end-of-year cumulative[2] enrollment minus death, expelled or transfers out of BPS. This is the denominator when calculating dropout rates.

Returned Dropouts:

- Check if any Dropouts are reported in the Next Year October 1 SIMS (prior to SY2003-04 – Returned Dropouts Survey sent by OIIT).
- Students reported as enrolled, transferred, or graduated in any BPS school are removed from the total dropout count.

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[1] Students newly assigned to BPS who never attend are not counted as dropouts and are not included among enrolled students.

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