

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Carey M. Wright, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Schools

DATE: February 25, 2025

SUBJECT: Cohort Graduation and Dropout Rates



Purpose

To provide the State Board with the 2024 4-year Adjusted Cohort Graduation and Dropout Rates and the 2023 5-year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate. College enrollment data will also be presented.

Background

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) collects data from local education agencies (LEAs) to meet federal and state requirements. The 4-year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate is a federally required measure for reporting the percentage of students that successfully complete high school in four years with a regular high school diploma. This uniform measure is comparable across states, LEAs, and individual schools, and allows for consistent reporting over time. Additionally, Maryland calculates a 5-year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate and a 4-year Adjusted Cohort Dropout Rate.

Executive Summary

This presentation provides updates on the following data:

1. School year 2023-2024 Adjusted Cohort 4-year Graduation Rate;
2. School year 2022-2023 Adjusted Cohort 5-year Graduation Rate;
3. School year 2023-2024 Adjusted Cohort 4-year Dropout Rate;
4. Postsecondary enrollment data trends and information specific to the 2023 graduating class from Maryland public schools.

Data presented will be published on the Maryland Report Card website, <https://reportcard.msde.maryland.gov> on February 25, 2025.

Action

No action is required; this information is for discussion only.

Attachments

Cohort Rates.pptx

Cohort Rates.pdf

DIVISION OF ASSESSMENT, ACCOUNTABILITY, PERFORMANCE REPORTING AND RESEARCH

Cohort Graduation Rates

February 25, 2025

Presented By | Geoff Sanderson, Deputy State Superintendent, Office of Accountability

Maryland Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rates Overview

An **adjusted graduation cohort** is a group of students who begin as first-time ninth graders in a particular school year.

- It is called “adjusted cohort” because students who transferred in during the four years of high school are added to the cohort, while students who transferred out and others are removed.
- Maryland measures a four-year and a five-year adjusted cohort graduation rate, and a four-year dropout rate.

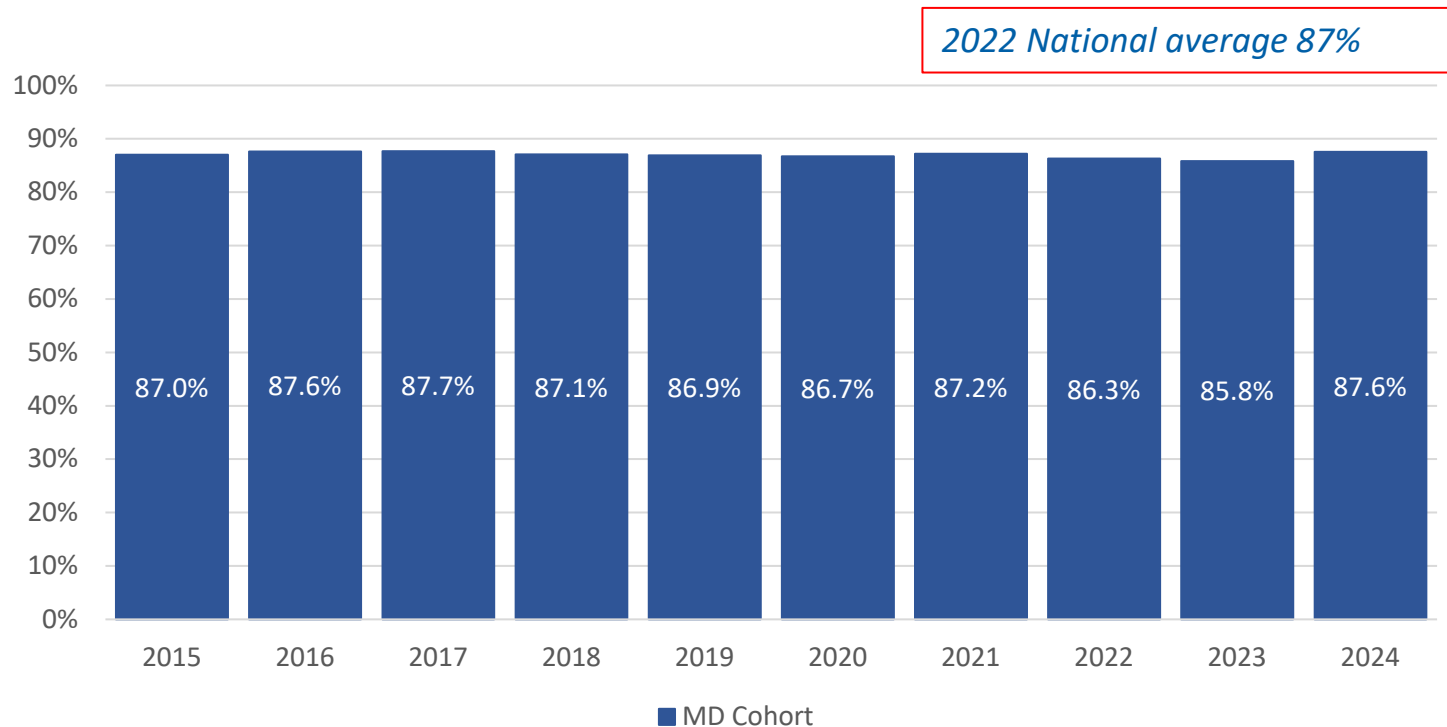
Example

- There were 67,349 students in the class of 2024 4-year adjusted cohort; these students were first-time ninth graders in SY 2020-2021.
- Out of those, 58,965 obtained a high school diploma within four years, resulting in a four-year graduation rate of 87.6%.



Maryland Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate Trend

The four-year cohort graduation rate was 1.8 percentage points higher in the 2023-2024 school year as compared to the prior year.

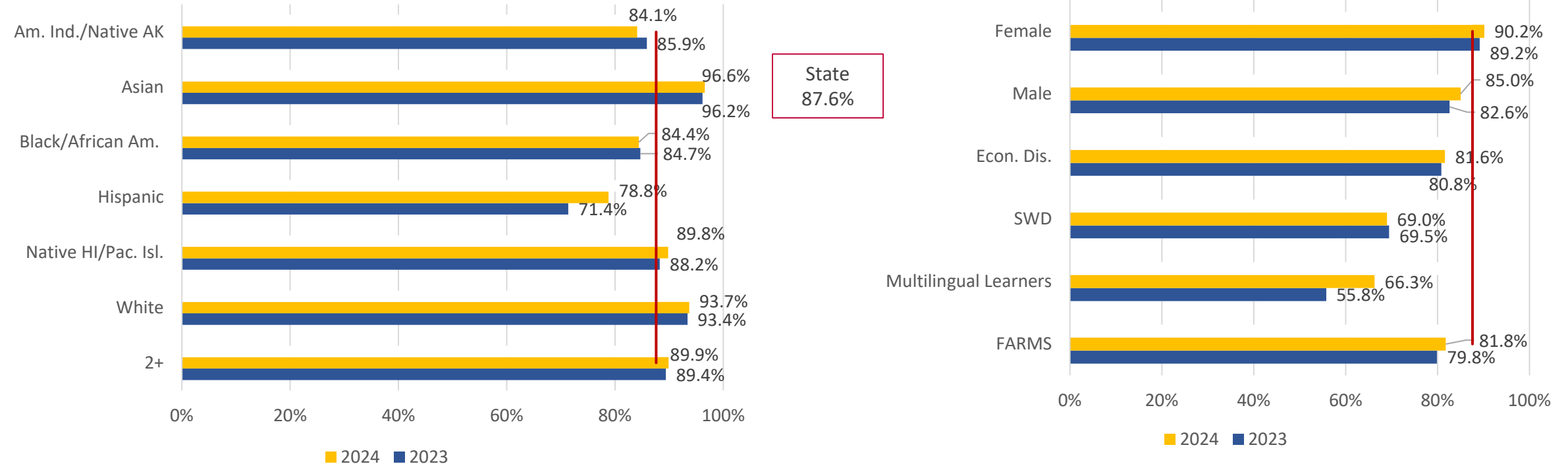


Year	Maryland Diploma Count	Maryland 4-Year Cohort
2015	55,473	63,775
2016	55,586	63,446
2017	55,438	63,238
2018	56,704	65,089
2019	55,734	64,164
2020	58,275	67,178
2021	57,423	65,850
2022	57,860	67,056
2023	58,206	67,829
2024	58,965	67,349

Source of national four-year ACGR: National Center for Education Statistics. (2024). High School Graduation Rates. *Condition of Education*. U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences. Retrieved from <https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator/coi>. The 2022 national average graduation rate is the most recent one available.

Maryland Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate by Student Groups

Four-year cohort graduation rates were higher in the 2023-2024 school year compared to the 2022-2023 school year for several student groups, with the largest increases seen for Hispanic students and multilingual students.



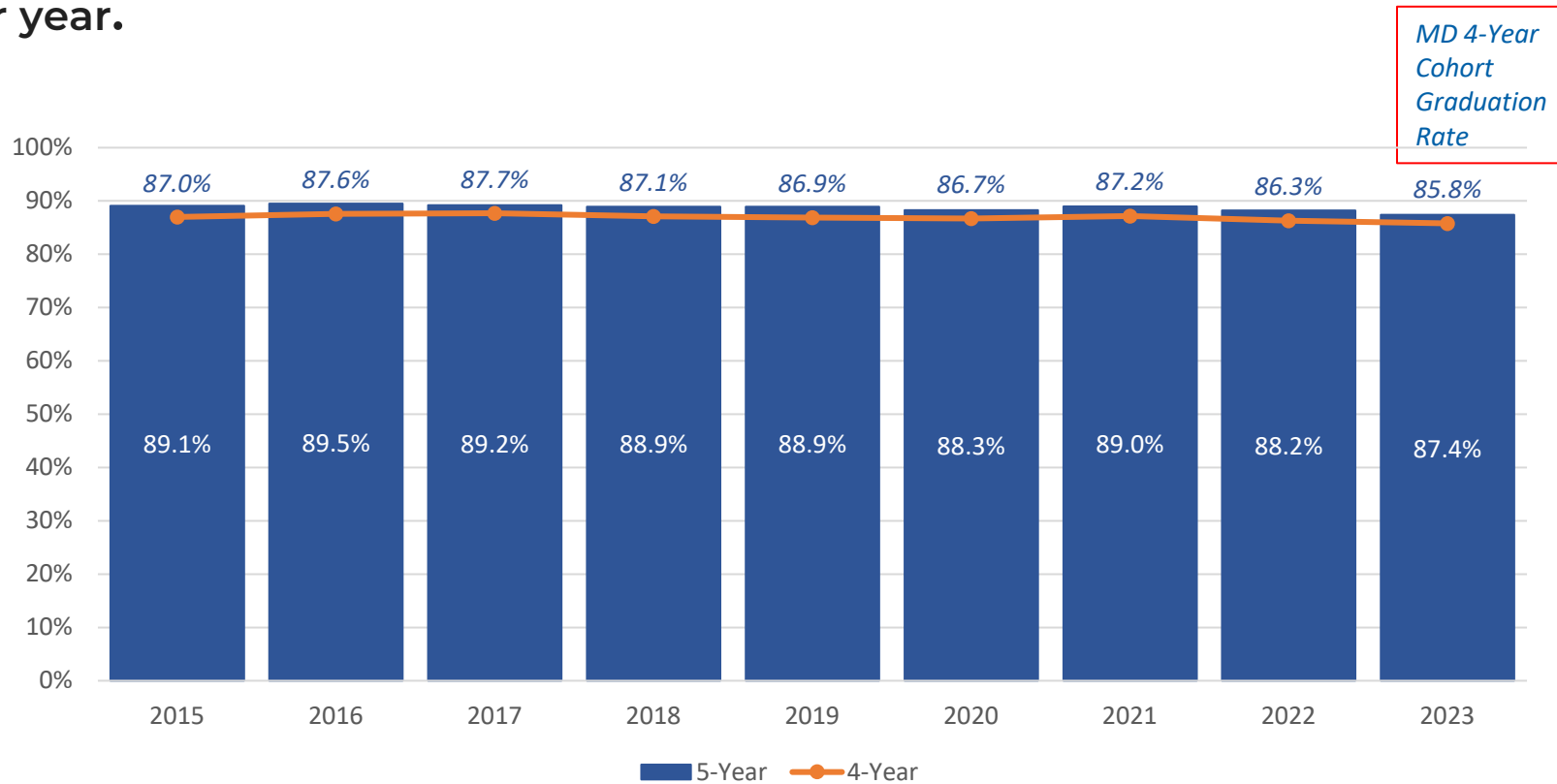
Maryland Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate by LEA

The 2023-2024 school year four-year adjusted cohort graduation rates vary by LEA, from less than 71% to 95% or higher.

LEA	4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate
Allegany	91.6
Anne Arundel	88.5
Baltimore City	71.0
Baltimore County	85.8
Calvert	94.3
Caroline	87.5
Carroll	94.5
Cecil	89.6
Charles	90.5
Dorchester	84.4
Frederick	94.3
Garrett	≥ 95.0
Harford	91.6
Howard	93.5
Kent	92.7
Montgomery	91.8
Prince George's	80.0
Queen Anne's	≥ 95.0
Saint Mary's	90.8
Somerset	82.2
Talbot	≥ 95.0
Washington	89.7
Wicomico	85.2
Worcester	≥ 95.0

Maryland Five-Year Cohort Graduation Rate Trend

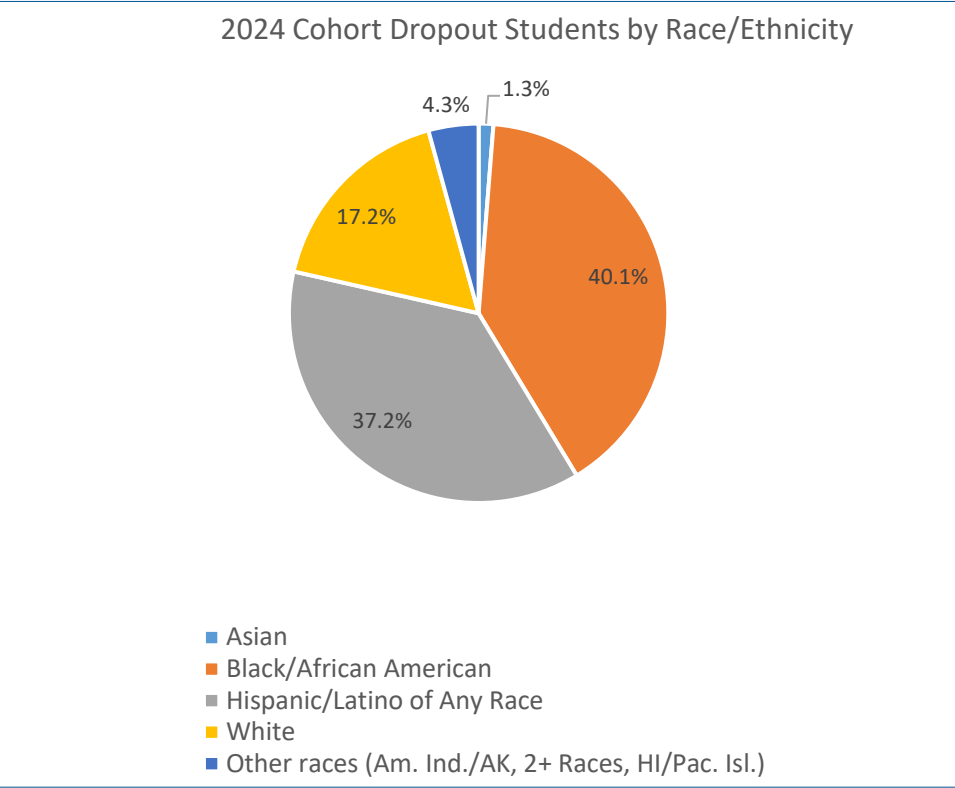
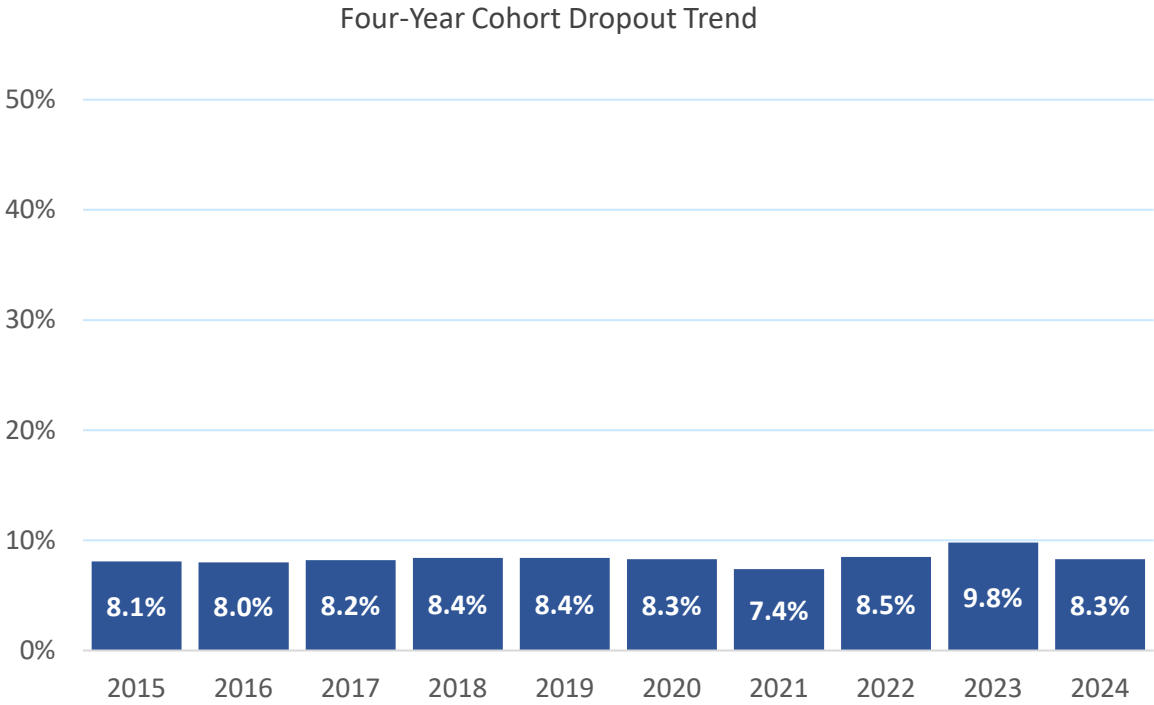
The five-year cohort graduation rate was slightly lower in the 2022-2023 school year as compared to the prior year.



Year	Maryland Diploma Count	Maryland 5-Year Cohort
2015	56,860	63,809
2016	56,804	63,491
2017	56,442	63,267
2018	57,929	65,157
2019	57,064	64,201
2020	59,323	67,213
2021	58,636	65,868
2022	59,175	67,072
2023	59,348	67,868

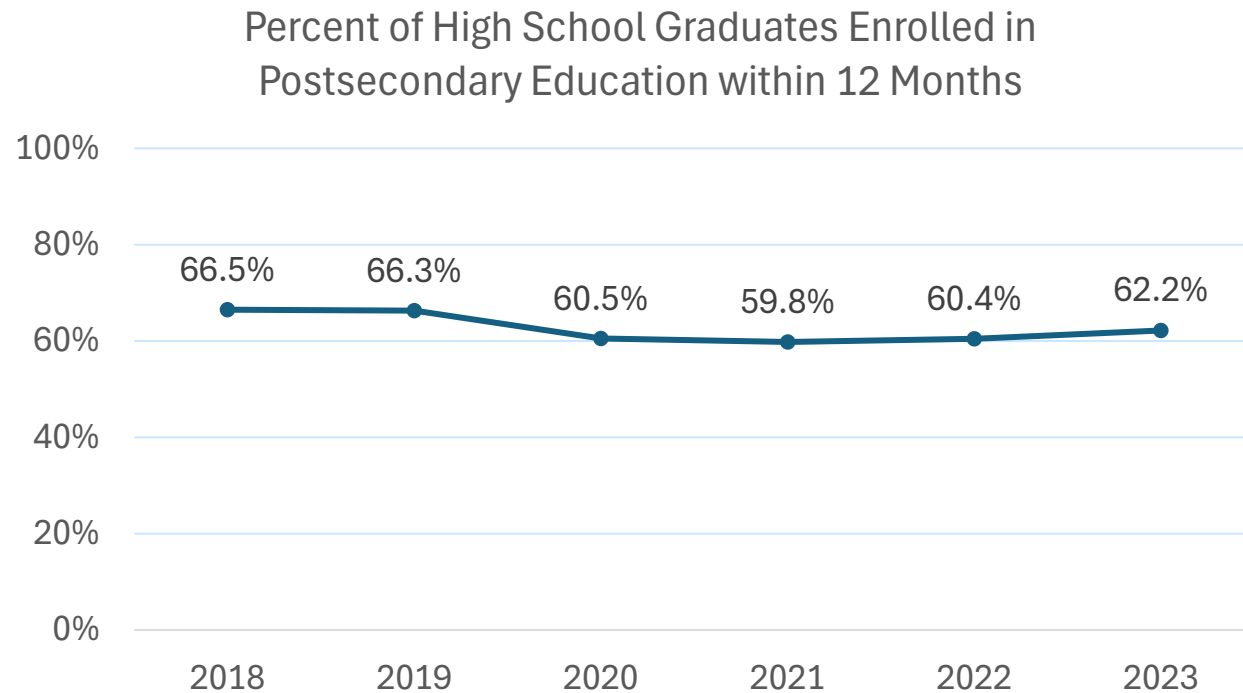
Four-Year Cohort Dropout Trend

The 2023-2024 school year four-year cohort dropout rate was lower than the 2022-2023 school year dropout rate.



Postsecondary Enrollment (12 Months) Trend

More than 62% of students in the 2023 graduating class enrolled in postsecondary education within 12 months, slightly higher than the prior year.



College enrollment information for 2023 high school graduates who enrolled within 12 months (n = 37,476)

Enrolled in	Number Enrolled	Percentage
Public Institutions	30,768	82.1%
Private Institutions	6,708	17.9%
Two-year Institutions	14,490	38.7%
Four-year Institutions	22,986	61.3%
In-State Institutions	26,533	70.8%
Out-of-State Institutions	10,940	29.2%

Data source: National Student Clearinghouse. The class of 2023 had 60,272 graduates; 37,476 enrolled in college within 12 months. The totals for In-State and Out-of-State institutions do not add up to 37,476 because three MD graduates have a college registration outside of the US within 12 months of their high school graduation.