

CALL TO ACTION

Dropout Statistics in Nebraska

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	Total Dropout Rate	Female	Male	White	Black	Asian	Hispanic	Native
2001/2002	2.81%	2.36%	3.23%	2.10%	7.62%	2.28%	6.66%	8.67%
2002/2003	2.71%	2.37%	3.03%	2.03%	7.02%	2.61%	6.13%	7.18%
2003/2004	2.31%	1.93%	2.67%	1.71%	5.95%	1.43%	4.96%	7.03%
2004/2005	2.19%	1.84%	2.51%	1.58%	5.31%	1.80%	4.78%	6.72%
2005/2006	1.99%	1.67%	2.28%	1.42%	4.50%	1.72%	4.32%	6.30%

Source: Nebraska Department of Education Data Center, "Graduation Rates by Race/Gender, All Districts- NCES Formula", "Membership by Grade, Race, and Gender". Accessed April 28, 2008 from <http://ess.nde.state.ne.us/DataCenter/DataInformation/DataDownloads.htm#Membership>

Calculating the Dropout Rate in Nebraska

A district dropout rate is calculated by dividing the total number of 7th-12th grade students who dropped out by the official fall enrollment for grades 7-12.

A dropout is a student who:

- Enrolled in school the previous school year but did not enroll at the beginning of the current school year.
- Has not graduated from high school or completed a state or district-approved education program.

A school's dropout numbers do not include students who:

- Transferred to another public school.
- Were suspended, expelled or verified as having an illness.
- Left school during the previous school year but returned before the last Friday in September of the current school year.
- Died.

Enrollment or membership is the number of students enrolled on the last Friday in September of each school year.

The Nebraska Department of Education's definition for dropout is comparable to that used by the National Cooperative Education Statistics project sponsored by the National Center for Education Statistics.

DATA SOURCE: School District Membership Report and the Dropout Report

Research Based Risk Factors for Dropping Out

1. Students social background

- poor, minorities, male, high mobility in elementary and middle school, overage for their grade
- children in single-parent families, mothers who are dropouts, parents support for learning is low, parents who don't know the parents of the child's friends
- teens with adult responsibilities, i.e. becoming a parent, getting married, holding a job

2. Students educational experiences

- Academic Performance: students who struggle in the classroom and fall behind academically are more likely to dropout. Low grades, low test scores, F's in English and Math, falling behind in course credits, and being held back one or more times have all been linked to lower chances for graduation.
- Educational Engagement: students who become disengaged from school and develop disciplinary problems are more likely to dropout. High rates of absenteeism or truancy, poor classroom behavior, less participation in extracurricular activities and bad relationships with teachers and peer all have been linked to lower chances for graduation.

3. School Characteristics

- High schools with smaller enrollments, better interpersonal relationships among students and adults, teachers who are more supportive of students', and a curriculum that is both more focused and more rigorous exhibit lower dropout rates.

Source: Achieve, Inc. American Diploma Project Network. "Identifying Potential Dropouts: Key Lessons for Building an Early Warning Data System. A Dual Agenda for High Standards and High Graduation Rates." A white paper prepared for Staying the Course: High Standards and Improved Graduation Rates, a joint project of Achieve and Jobs for the Future. Funded by the Carnegie Corp. of New York. June, 2006.