



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Research, Assessment, and Accountability

501 North Dixon Street / Portland, OR 97227

Telephone: (503) 916-3081

Date: January 19, 2022
To: School Board
From: Renard Adams, Ed.D.
Subject: Annual Graduation Report

BACKGROUND

Oregon adopted a four-year cohort model for graduation in the spring of 2010. The cohort model considers students to be on-time graduates if they earn a regular or modified diploma within four years of entering high school. The cohort model is more rigorous than the prior models of graduation in that it requires that the individual progress of every student is accounted for throughout their high school career – both within and across individual schools and systems.

Since the implementation of the cohort model, there have been persistent gaps in graduation rates between and among student groups both across the State and within Portland Public Schools (PPS).

The following is a summary and school-by-school report of the graduation rates for the 2020-2021 academic year. As schools continued to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to note that the 2020-2021 school year was a year wherein PPS provided comprehensive distance learning to all students.

SUMMARY

PPS remains committed to Racial Equity and Social Justice and our resulting Theory of Action, which centers Black and Native students. Examining these graduation data with an equity lens requires us to both celebrate our accomplishments and highlight areas where additional improvement is still needed.

For 2020-2021, PPS students achieved an **84.4%** graduation rate. This is a 0.7% increase over last year and is the highest graduation rate for PPS students since the adoption of the cohort model.

This rate reflects a 25.8 percentage point increase in the overall graduation rate since 2009-2010, and a 4.8 percentage point increase in the last 3 years alone.

Selected graduation highlights:

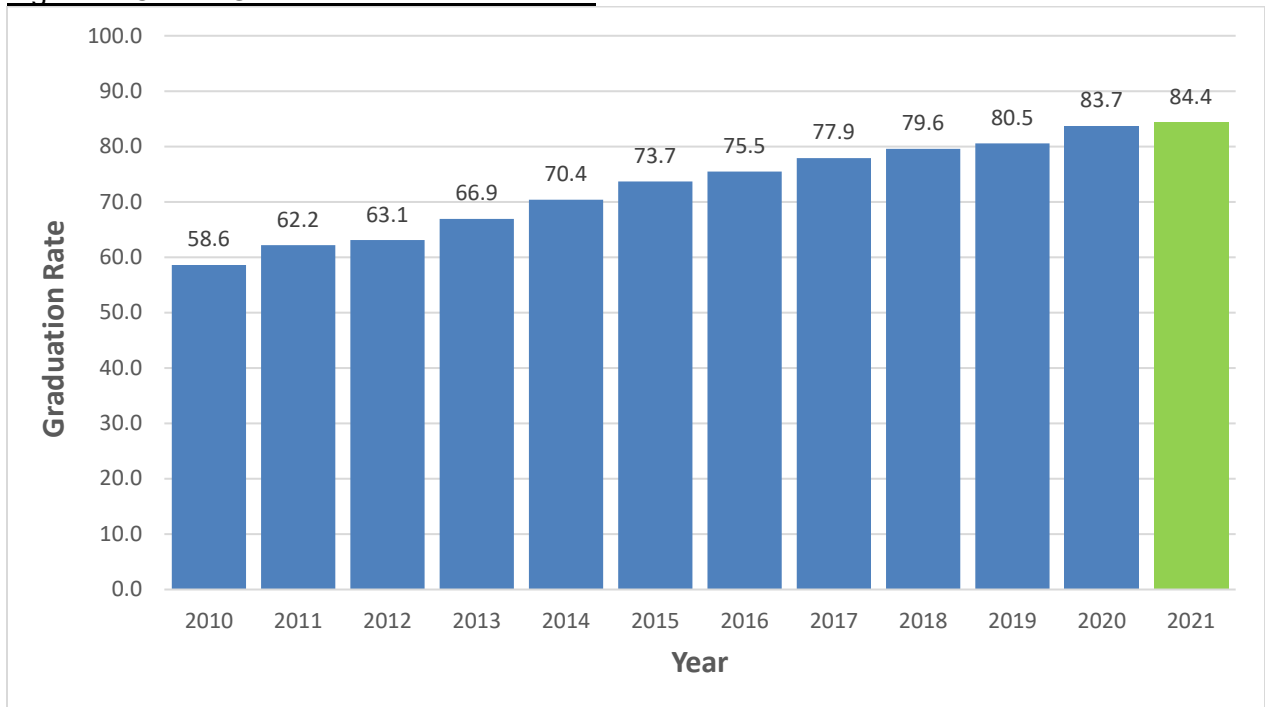
- Both statewide and in Multnomah County, overall graduation rates declined this year from 2019-20. During this same time, PPS's rate increased. PPS continues to outperform both the state and Multnomah County.
- All racial/ethnic groups had graduation rates at or above 75% except Native American Students (50.0%) and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Students (73.3%).

- Multi-racial (other ancestries) students had a 3.6 percentage point gain from 2019-20.
- White students had a 1.3 percentage point gain from 2019-2020.
- Asian students had a 5.1 percentage point gain from 2019-2020.
- African American and Latinx students had a 1.5 percentage point loss from 2019-2020.

Additional analyses follow.

ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION

Figure 1. Cohort Graduation Rates over Time



Portland Public Schools has seen a steady increase in the on-time graduation rate of its students from 2009-2010 to the present. The rate has increased by nearly five percentage points in the past three years, by over 10 percentage points since 2014-2015, and by nearly 26 percentage points since the implementation of the cohort model. This is significant and steady progress in the aggregate.

Table 1. District, County and State 5-Year Comparison

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
PPS	77.9%	79.6%	80.5%	83.7%	84.4%
Mult. County	75.0%	*	77.8%	80.6%	77.4%
Statewide	76.7%	78.7%	80.0%	82.6%	80.6%

*Not available

Over the past five years, PPS has outperformed and outpaced both the state of Oregon and Multnomah County's graduation rates. In 2020-2021, PPS' graduation rate was 3.8 percentage points higher than the state and 7 percentage points higher than Multnomah County.

Table 2. Portland Public Schools 4 Year Graduation Rates by Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	2020-21 4-Year Cohort Grad and Completion Rates				
	Cohort	Grads	Grad Rate	Completers *	Completion Rate
American Indian/Alaska Native	26	13	50.0%	13	50.0%
Asian	263	244	92.8%	245	93.2%
Black/African American	323	244	75.5%	245	75.9%
Latinx	613	460	75.0%	467	76.2%
Multi-Racial (Asian/White Only)	143	131	91.6%	133	93.0%
Multi-Racial (Other Ancestries)	229	181	79.0%	185	80.8%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	30	22	73.3%	22	73.3%
White	1,876	1,660	88.5%	1,688	90.0%
District Totals	3,503	2,955	84.4%	2,998	85.6%

*Completion includes Regular, Modified, Adult, and Extended Diplomas, as well as GEDs.

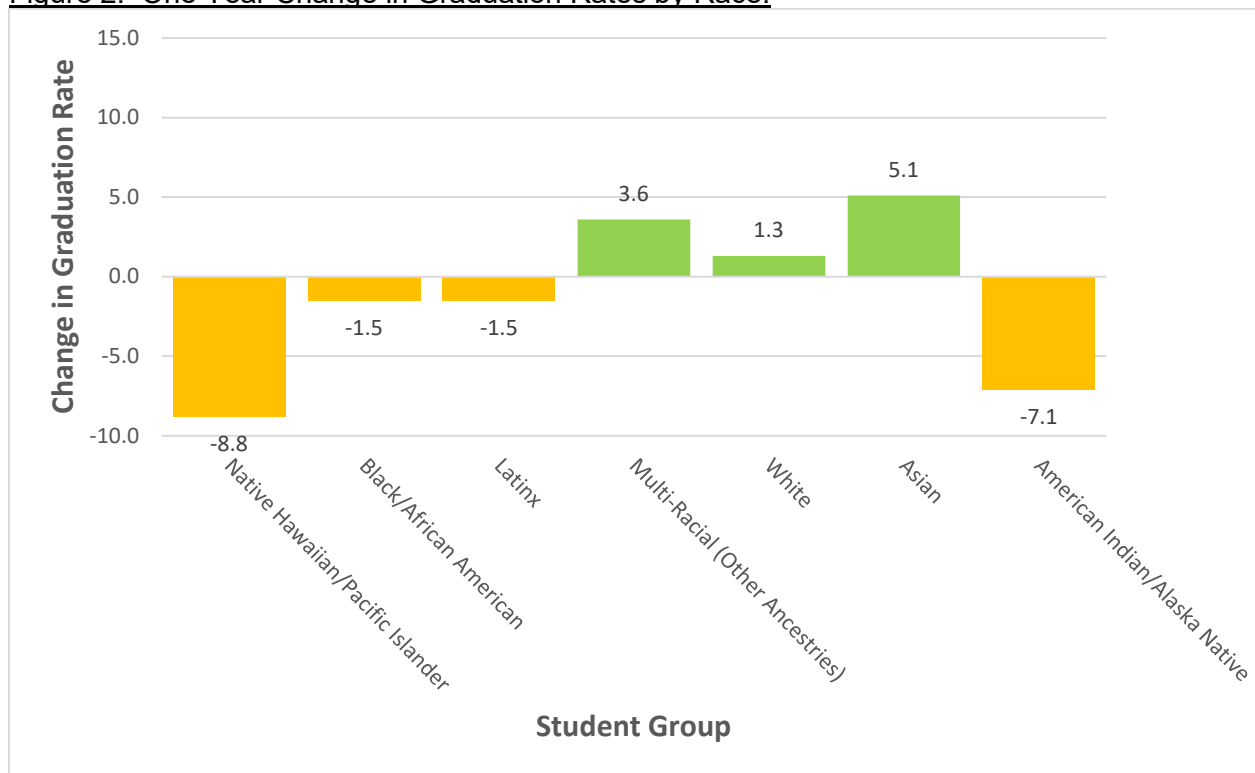
While the overall graduation rate increased, persistent gaps between student groups continue and require focused attention. For example, there is a 13 percentage point gap between African American students and White students and a 13.5 percentage point gap between Latinx students and White students. Moreover, the largest gap is currently between Native students and White students (38.5 percentage points).

Table 3. Portland Public Schools 4 Year Graduation Rates by Service

Service Memberships	2020-21 4-Year Cohort Grad and Completion Rates				
	Cohort	Grads	Grad Rate	Completers	Completion Rate
Economically Disadvantaged	1,801	1,409	78.2%	1,434	79.6%
LEP	211	133	63.0%	135	64.0%
Special Ed	529	364	68.8%	380	71.8%
TAG	744	714	96.0%	721	96.9%

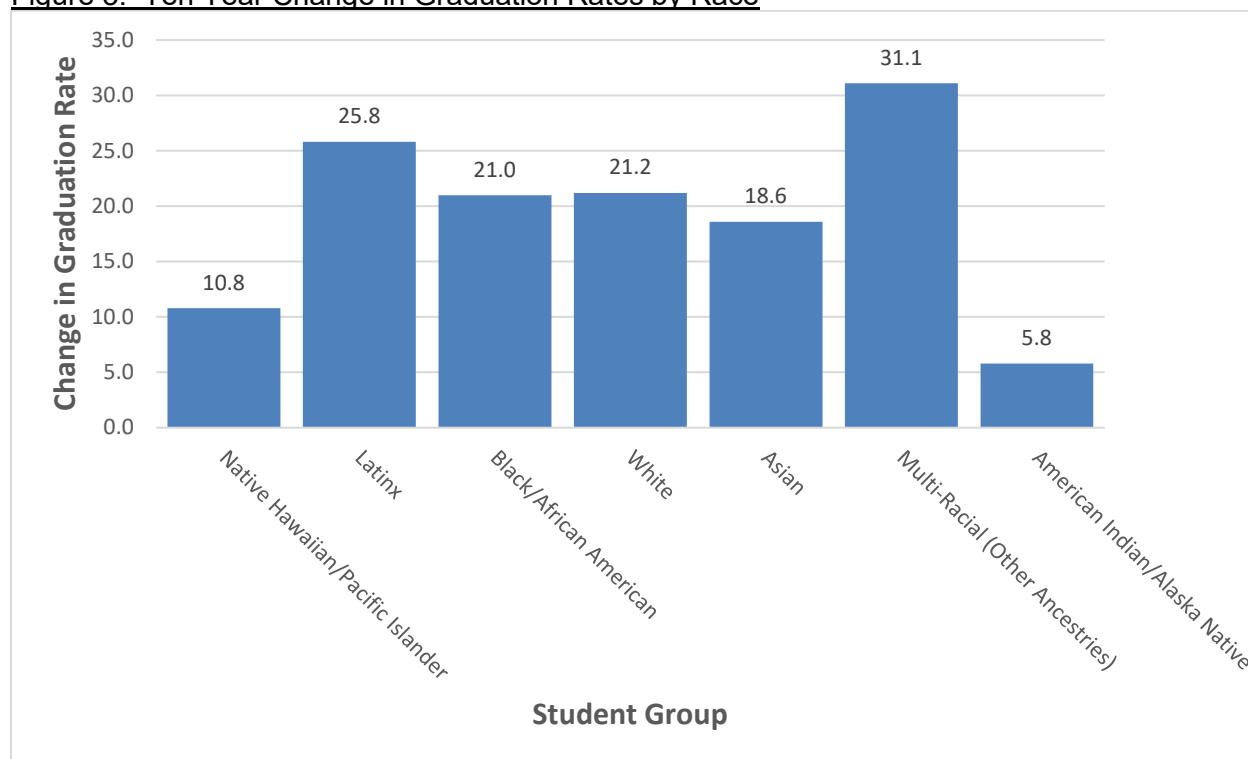
*Completion includes Regular, Modified, Adult, and Extended Diplomas, as well as GEDs.

Figure 2. One Year Change in Graduation Rates by Race.



Year over year comparisons reveal increases in graduation rates for Asian, Multi-racial (other ancestries), and White students and slight decreases in graduation rates for African American and Latinx students. The large changes in graduation rates for American Indian/Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander should be carefully and cautiously considered due to the small sizes of each cohort (26 and 30 students in each group, respectively).

Figure 3. Ten Year Change in Graduation Rates by Race



When graduation rates are examined across the past decade, the rise in the graduation rate and the closing of gaps in graduation rates is remarkable. All student racial groups demonstrated increases in the graduation rate from 2009-2010 to the present. For some groups, the rise in graduation rate clearly outpaced the increases in the rate for PPS as a whole. Multi-Racial (other ancestries) showed the largest gains to date, followed by Latinx students, White students and African American students.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

This is an information item.

The attached appendix contains graduation data trends by race/ethnicity and graduation rate trends by school.

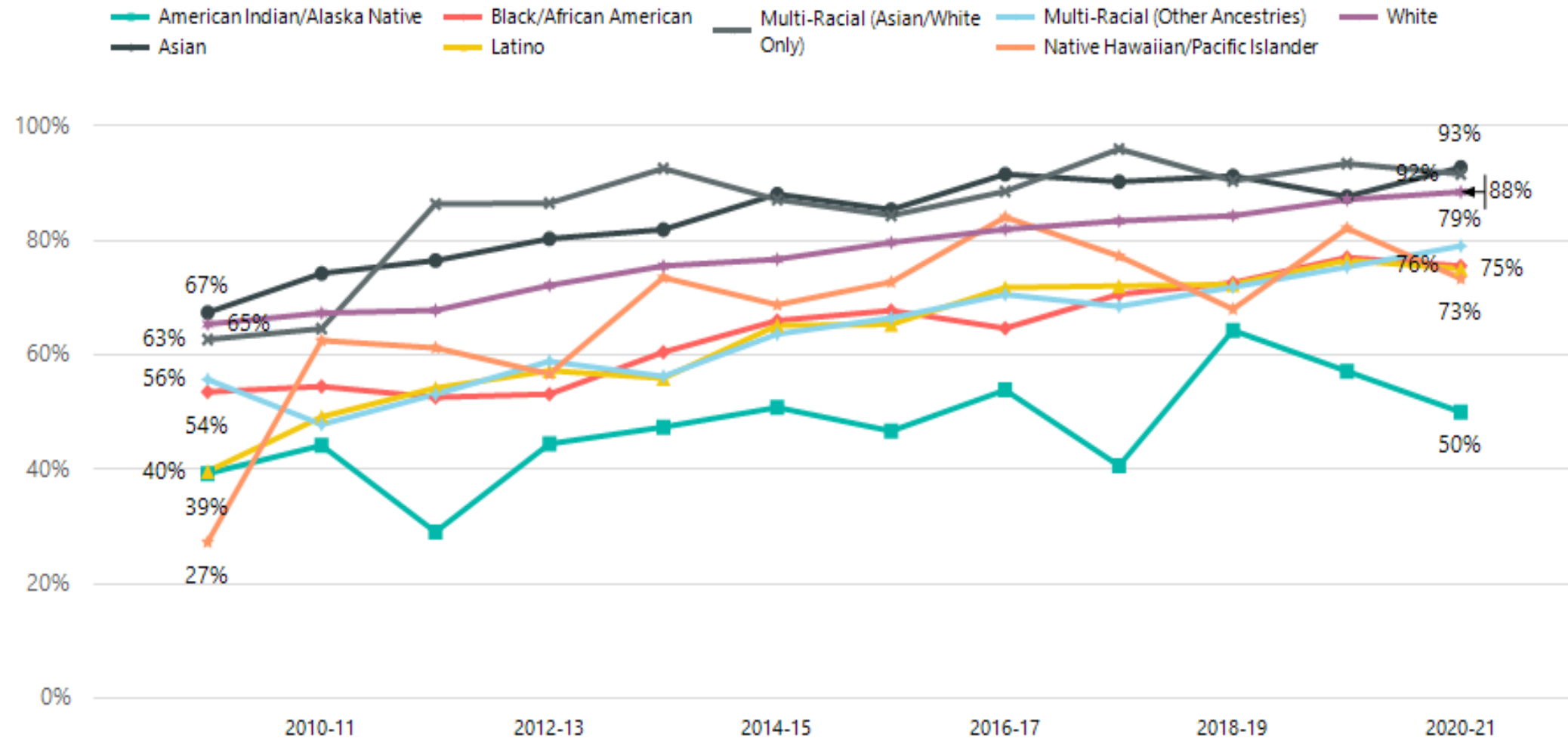
As a member of the PPS Executive Leadership Team, I have reviewed this staff report.

_____ (Initials)

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Graduation Trends by Race/Ethnicity
- B. School Level Graduation Trends

4-Year Cohort Grad Rates: Trends by Subgroup Race



School Level Graduation Trends

School	2020-2021			Prior Years											Changes		
	Cohort	Grads	Graduation Rate	2019-2020	2018-2019	2017-2018	2016-2017	2015-2016	2014-2015	2013-2014	2012-2013	2011-2012	2010-2011	2009-2010	1 Year	3 Year	10 Year
Benson	252	235	93.3%	91.7%	92.4%	87.3%	87.4%	89.0%	88.0%	85.0%	86.0%	82.0%	85.0%	80.0%	1.6%	6.0%	8.3%
Cleveland	407	360	88.5%	91.4%	86.8%	91.2%	87.9%	86.0%	85.0%	83.0%	82.0%	76.0%	80.0%	73.0%	-2.9%	-2.7%	8.5%
Franklin	497	439	88.3%	85.6%	86.0%	83.4%	85.3%	85.0%	88.0%	86.0%	85.0%	78.0%	71.0%	74.0%	2.7%	4.9%	17.3%
Grant	421	402	95.5%	94.3%	94.3%	92.6%	92.0%	89.0%	89.0%	90.0%	86.0%	84.0%	82.0%	86.0%	1.2%	2.9%	13.5%
Ida B. Wells-Barnett	398	367	92.2%	92.5%	87.5%	90.1%	88.3%	90.0%	91.0%	87.0%	83.0%	84.0%	78.0%	76.0%	-0.3%	2.1%	14.2%
Jefferson	208	189	90.9%	83.6%	88.2%	84.0%	83.4%	84.0%	80.0%	66.0%	67.0%	58.0%	55.0%	56.0%	7.3%	6.9%	35.9%
Leodis V. McDaniel	285	235	82.5%	83.2%	78.6%	82.8%	80.7%	74.0%	74.0%	75.0%	62.0%	71.0%	63.0%	57.0%	-0.7%	-0.3%	19.5%
Lincoln	396	378	95.5%	94.8%	92.9%	94.3%	94.9%	94.0%	93.0%	91.0%	87.0%	89.0%	89.0%	89.0%	0.7%	1.2%	6.5%
Roosevelt	307	237	77.2%	77.1%	73.0%	70.2%	72.6%	65.0%	62.0%	53.0%	64.0%	57.0%	53.0%	45.0%	0.1%	7.0%	24.2%
Total	3,171	2,842	89.6%	89.2%	87.2%	87.2%	86.7%	85.0%	85.0%	82.0%	80.0%	78.0%	74.0%	72.0%	0.4%	2.4%	15.6%

Accountable Alternatives

Alliance	110	48	43.6%	61.0%	35.2%	29.3%	24.1%	23.0%	13.0%	21.0%	16.0%	21.0%	15.0%	33.0%	-17.4%	14.3%	28.6%
MLC	24	17	70.8%	80.0%	57.1%	57.7%	66.7%	91.0%	72.0%	81.0%	58.0%	63.0%	67.0%	85.0%	-9.2%	13.1%	3.8%
Total	134	65	48.5%	64.9%	38.4%	34.5%	33.3%	39.0%	28.0%	35.0%	25.0%	32.0%	24.0%	41.0%	-16.4%	14.0%	24.5%

Students not assigned to accountable school

Unassigned	198	48	24.2%	24.6%	21.3%	20.2%	15.6%	11.0%	11.0%	9.0%	8.0%	9.0%	15.0%	17.0%	-0.4%	4.0%	9.2%
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District Totals

Total	3,503	2,955	84.4%	83.7%	80.5%	79.6%	77.9%	75.0%	74.0%	70.0%	67.0%	63.0%	62.0%	58.6%	0.7%	4.8%	22.4%
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Note: Numbers in this table may vary slightly from other figures in this report due to differences in rounding.