



GRADUATION RATE CONTINUES TO CLIMB IN WEST COUNTY SCHOOLS

Nearly 8 in 10 West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) students who entered high school in 2009-10 have earned their high school diploma, according to data released by the California Department of Education.

The 79.9 percent cohort graduation rate for the class of 2013 is a 4.2 percent increase from the class of 2012. The class of 2013 had a 13.2 percent dropout rate, down five percent from 2012.

“The numbers reflect this district’s continued focus on preparing students for college and career,” Superintendent Dr. Bruce Harter said. “We are excited to see that the supportive programs we’ve put into place are resulting in even more students graduating on time. We are on the right path and look forward to the day when every student graduates from our schools on time and prepared for success on their chosen path.”

Additionally, 2.1 percent of students completed the requirements for a special education certificate of completion and 4.8 percent were still enrolled in school at the time the data was collected.

The class of 2013 began with 1,983 students. Of those, 1,585 graduated with a high school diploma and 41 received a special education certificate of completion.

There are 95 students still enrolled and working on completing the requirements for a high school diploma. There are 262 who left without completing their education.

The increase was seen across student populations. The graduation rate for Latino students increased from 71.4 percent to 77.1 percent. African American students rose from 71.5 percent to 74.5 percent. Graduation rates for Asian and white students increased by 2.9 percent and 1.2 percent, respectively.

Statewide, 80.2 percent of students who began high school in 2009-10 graduated with their class, a 1.3 percent increase from the previous year.

“For the first time in our state's history, more than 80 percent of our students are graduating—a clear sign of their hard work and the support they receive from their teachers, families, and communities,” State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson said in a statement. “We are continuing toward our goal of graduating 100 percent of our students with the skills and knowledge they will need to succeed.”

Graduation and dropout rates in California are calculated based on four-year cohort information using the state's California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System. Data on the district's graduation and dropout rates can be found [here](#).