



# State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

**Elizabeth Burmaster**  
State Superintendent

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707-7841  
125 South Webster Street, Madison, WI 53702  
(608) 266-3390 **TDD** (608) 267-2427 **FAX** (608) 267-1052  
**Internet Address:** [www.dpi.state.wi.us](http://www.dpi.state.wi.us)

## \*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\*

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**CONTACT:** Joseph Donovan, Communications Officer  
(608) 266-3559 / [joseph.donovan@dpi.state.wi.us](mailto:joseph.donovan@dpi.state.wi.us)

### Dropouts decline, graduation rate increases in 2001-02 SPR

*Burmater: Four years of data show hopeful trends in meeting New Wisconsin Promise*

MADISON—State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster announced that four years of School Performance Report data showing a steady decline in the state’s dropout rate as well as improvements in the graduation rate represents progress in meeting the New Wisconsin Promise.

“We pledge a quality education for our children and successful graduation from high school is one measure of that success,” Burmaster said.

Wisconsin had 60,575 graduates for the 2001-02 school year and a graduation rate of 90.83 percent, an increase from the prior year’s graduation rate of 89.95 percent. The graduation rate is calculated by dividing the number of students who earn a diploma after four years of high school by the number of students who dropped out (6,119) during that same four-year period. The cohort dropout number differs from the number of dropouts because cohort dropouts look at a group of students over four years and dropouts are the number of students leaving school during one year.

<b>Dropout and Graduation Rates In Wisconsin</b>		
	<b>Dropout Rate</b>	<b>Graduation Rate</b>
1998-99	2.351	89.73
1999-00	2.291	89.33
2000-01	2.120	89.95
2001-02	1.935	90.83

The state’s 2001-02 dropout rate fell to 1.935 percent from the prior year’s rate of 2.120 percent. Wisconsin had 5,533 of its 286,014 ninth- through 12th-grade students who left school at some time during the 2001-02 school year and did not return by the third Friday in September of this school year.

(more)

“The presence of even one dropout is troubling,” Burmaster said. “A young person who has left school before graduation has limited opportunities for success without a high school credential. We must continue our efforts to keep all students engaged and learning. Our continued focus on smaller class sizes in early grades, quality educators in every school and classroom, and strong parental and community involvement that supports student learning will help us fulfill our promise for every child in Wisconsin.”

Burmaster was encouraged by a decline in the dropout rate in Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) (from 10.536 percent in 2000-01 to 8.961 percent in 2001-02)

and an increase in the graduation rate (60.13 percent in 2001-02 from 54.73 percent in 2000-01). She also noted that

the dropout rate for African American and Hispanic

students declined over the last year while the graduation rate increased in both Milwaukee and

throughout the state. Burmaster was, however, disturbed that the truancy rate was so high at MPS and called for a continued focus on truancy issues in Milwaukee.

“While we are moving in the right direction in Milwaukee, we still have a lot of work to do on reducing truancy and dropouts and improving graduation rates among children of color,” Burmaster said. “This must be a top priority for not only the Milwaukee community but throughout our state. We should be proud of our progress, but committed to doing better.”

#### Highlights from the School Performance Report show

- Of the state’s 379 districts with high schools, 260 reported graduation rates of 95 percent or better. Eighty-six districts reported graduation rates of 100 percent, and 40 had all of their students graduate two years in a row.
- For the 2001-02 school year 102 districts reported no dropouts. Seven districts had a dropout rate that exceeded 4.0 percent, another 13 districts had dropout rates between 3.0 percent and 3.9 percent, and nine districts had dropout rates between 2.5 percent and 2.9 percent.
- Attendance rates have held steady at 94 percent over the past four years of the School Performance Report. Truancy rates have increased, likely the result of improved reporting and increased focus on the importance of school attendance. The expulsion rates and retention rates have fluctuated over four years, and suspension rates have declined.

<b>Milwaukee Public Schools Dropout and Graduation Rates</b>		
	<b>2000-01</b>	<b>2001-02</b>
Dropout Rate	10.536	8.961
Graduation Rate	54.73	60.13

(more)

“Simple logic holds that children make greater academic progress if they have solid attendance at school,” Burmaster said. “The School Performance Report provides valuable insight on schools that educators and community residents can use to meet the educational needs of all our children.”

<b>Selected SPR Indicators for Education in Wisconsin</b>				
	<b>1998-99</b>	<b>1999-00</b>	<b>2000-01</b>	<b>2001-02</b>
Attendance Rate	94.03	94.37	94.19	94.34
Dropout Rate	2.351	2.291	2.120	1.935
Expulsion Rate	0.060	0.057	0.069	0.071
Graduation Rate	89.73	89.33	89.95	90.83
Habitual Truancy Rate	8.677	9.127	9.353	10.049
Retention Rate	2.884	2.864	2.942	2.658
Suspension Rate	0.175	0.162	0.181	0.166

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**ATTACHMENT:** Tables that provide additional information about graduates and dropouts follow.

**NOTE:** Information on dropout and graduation rates are part of the School Performance Report website at <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/spr>. Click on “Search Data” to find information for individual districts for the past four school years.

## 2001-02 Dropout and Graduation Rates

### 2001-02 Graduation Rate

	<b>Cohort Dropouts</b>	<b>Graduates</b>	<b>Graduation Rate 2001-02</b>	<b>Graduation Rate 2000-01</b>
<b>Asian</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>1,757</b>	<b>91.08</b>	<b>88.58</b>
Female	73	899	92.49	91.29
Male	99	858	89.66	85.80
<b>Black</b>	<b>2,110</b>	<b>3,148</b>	<b>59.87</b>	<b>55.22</b>
Female	976	1,794	64.77	59.03
Male	1,134	1,354	54.42	51.13
<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>598</b>	<b>1,792</b>	<b>74.98</b>	<b>70.48</b>
Female	263	893	77.25	73.29
Male	335	899	72.85	67.79
<b>Indian</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>76.82</b>	<b>73.13</b>
Female	85	319	78.96	78.23
Male	103	304	74.69	68.09
<b>White</b>	<b>3,051</b>	<b>53,255</b>	<b>94.58</b>	<b>94.16</b>
Female	1,150	26,746	95.88	95.32
Male	1,901	26,509	93.31	93.03
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,119</b>	<b>60,575</b>	<b>90.83</b>	<b>89.95</b>
Female	2,547	30,651	92.33	91.34
Male	3,572	29,924	89.34	88.58

### 2001-02 Dropout Rates (9-12)

	<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>Dropouts</b>	<b>Dropout Rate 2001-02</b>	<b>Dropout Rate 2000-01</b>
<b>Asian</b>	<b>8,549</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>1.85</b>	<b>2.28</b>
Female	4,247	51	1.20	1.07
Male	4,302	107	2.49	2.68
<b>Black</b>	<b>22,051</b>	<b>1,823</b>	<b>8.27</b>	<b>9.21</b>
Female	11,095	837	7.54	8.95
Male	10,956	986	9.00	9.45
<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>10,579</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>5.56</b>	<b>6.15</b>
Female	5,053	259	5.13	5.30
Male	5,526	329	5.95	6.91
<b>Indian</b>	<b>3,821</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>4.08</b>	<b>5.26</b>
Female	1,892	68	3.59	4.69
Male	1,929	88	4.56	5.80
<b>White</b>	<b>241,014</b>	<b>2,808</b>	<b>1.17</b>	<b>1.26</b>
Female	117,387	1,101	0.94	0.98
Male	123,627	1,707	1.38	1.53
<b>Total</b>	<b>286,014</b>	<b>5,533</b>	<b>1.93</b>	<b>2.12</b>
Female	139,674	2,316	1.66	1.81
Male	146,340	3,217	2.20	2.40

### 2001-02 Dropouts by Grade

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>Dropouts</b>	<b>Rate</b>
7	67,369	206	0.31
8	66,507	526	0.79
9	77,688	1,218	1.57
10	73,293	970	1.32
11	69,926	1,085	1.55
12	65,107	2,260	3.47