

WCPSS High School Graduation Rates by Gender and Race Over 10 Years, 2009-2018



Background

Wake County Public School's (WCPSS) strategic plan "Vision 2020" set a district goal of annually graduating at least 95% of its students ready for productive citizenship as well as higher education or a career. In 2018, for the sixth year in a row, the district's four-year cohort graduation rate rose again. Over the past 10 years, WCPSS' graduation rate has increased over 10 percentage points, from 78.4% in 2009 to 89.1% in 2018. Impressive gains have been made by most student subgroups, and have led to a narrowing of the graduation gap between subgroups. For example, gaps between White and Hispanic/Latino students and White and Black students are now half of what they were in 2009, with the largest increases in graduation rates shown by Hispanic/Latino male and female students.

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 @WCPSSData





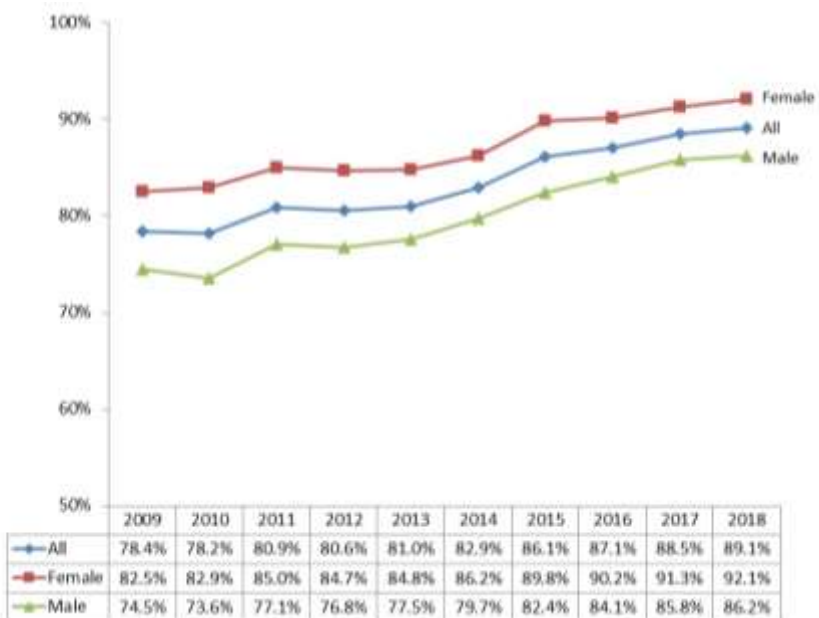
Changes in Graduation Rates by Gender and Race

Between 2009 and 2018:

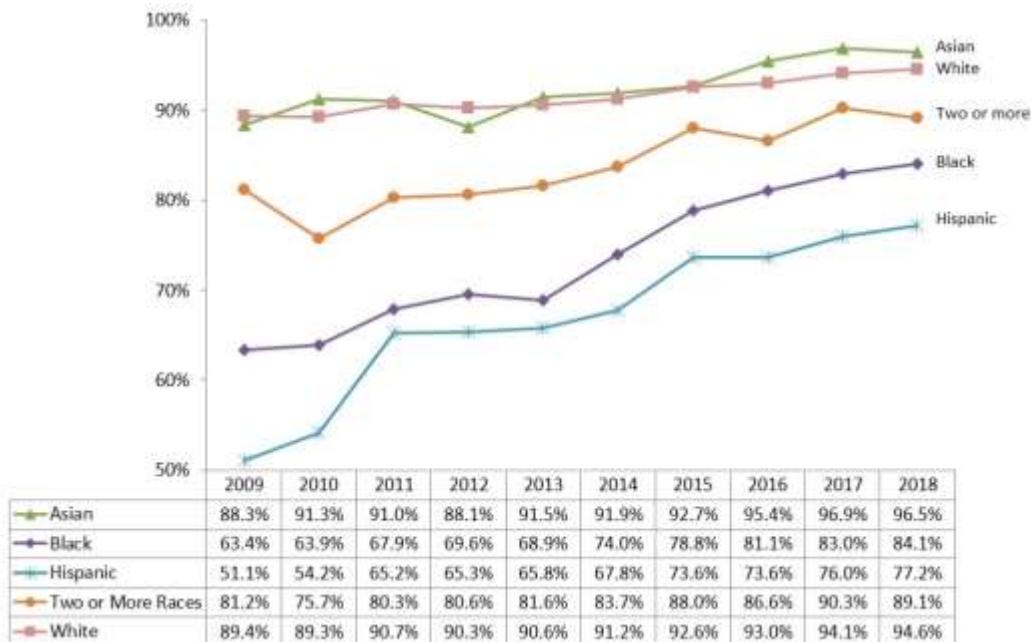
- Graduation rates rose for both female and male students.
 - The rate for all female students rose from 82.5% in 2009 to 92.1% in 2018, a gain of 9.6 percentage points.
 - The rate for all male students rose from 74.5% to 86.2%, a gain of 11.7 points.
- Graduation rates also increased for students in all racial/ethnic categories.
 - The graduation rate for Hispanic/Latino students rose the most, from 51.1% in 2009 to 77.2% in 2018, a gain of 26.1 percentage points.
 - The graduation rate for Black students improved substantially from 63.4% in 2009 to 84.1% in 2018, a gain of 20.7 points.
- Graduation rates for Asian, White and Multiracial students rose by less than 10 percentage points each over the 10-year period, but rates for these groups were much higher in 2009 than those for Black and Hispanic/Latino students.
- Changes in graduation rates for female and male students by race/ethnicity were similar to overall trends in rates by race. Rates increased for all racial/ethnic groups, with the groups that had the lowest rates in 2009 posting the largest gains.
 - The largest increases were for Hispanic/Latino males (25.8 percentage points) and Hispanic/Latino females (24.7 points).
 - The gains for Black males was 22.6 points, and for Black females, 18.8 points.
 - Despite these gains, graduation rates for Hispanic/Latino and Black students still lag those of White students by 17.4 and 10.5 percentage points, respectively.



Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rates by Gender 2009 to 2018



Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rates by Race 2009 to 2018





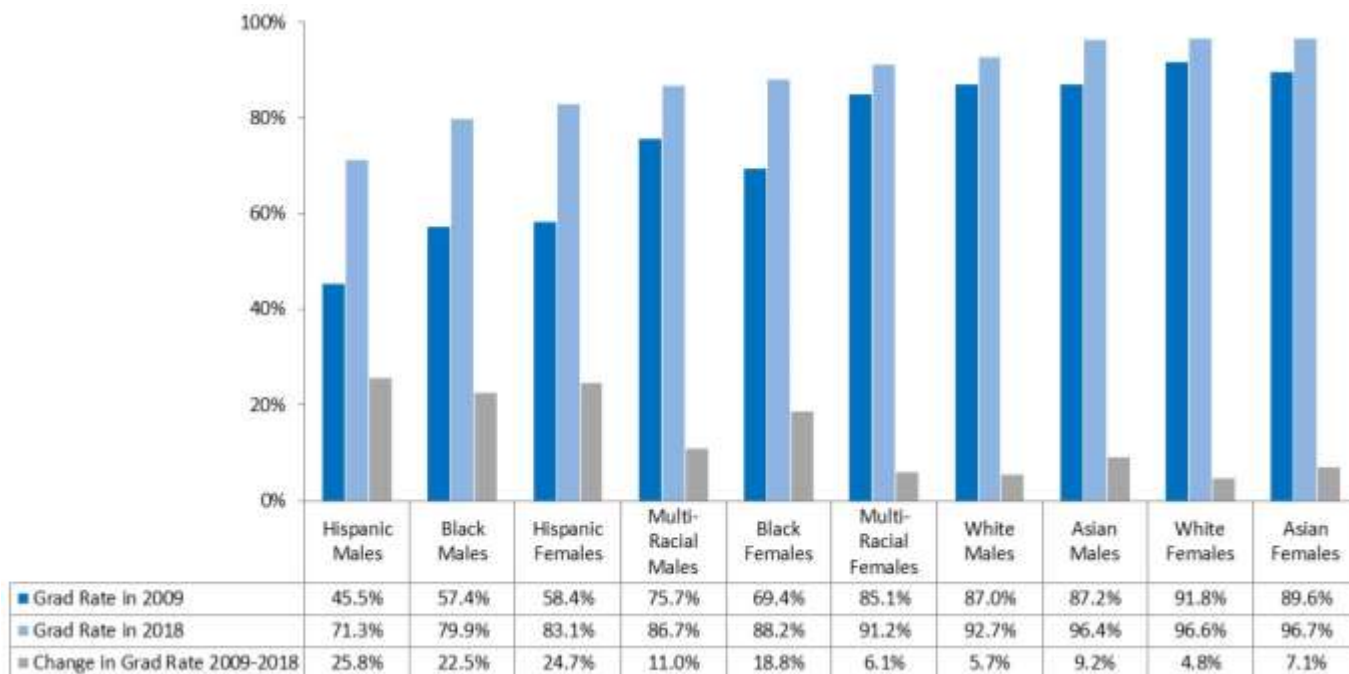
Changes in Graduation Rate Gaps by Gender and Race

Between 2009 and 2018:

- Gaps in graduation rates by race/ethnicity narrowed substantially.
 - The gap between White students and Hispanic/Latino students decreased from 38.3 percentage points in 2009 to 17.4 points in 2018, a reduction of 20.9 percentage points.
 - The gap between White students and Black students decreased from 26.0 percentage points in 2009 to 10.5 percentage points in 2018, a decline of 15.5 points.
- The narrowing of gaps by race (White-Hispanic/Latino, and White-Black) occurred for both female and male students within each racial/ethnic category.
- The gap between female and male students overall narrowed only slightly over the past 10 years, from 8.0 percentage points in 2009 to 5.8 points in 2018, a reduction of just 2.2 points.
- Gaps in graduation rates between female and male students varied significantly by race/ethnicity:
 - The gap between Asian female and male students was only 0.3 percentage points in 2018, the smallest of all subgroups.
 - The gap between White female and male students was 3.9 points in 2018, down by 0.9 points since 2009.
 - The gap between Black female and male students was 8.3 points in 2018, down 3.8 points from 2009.
 - The gap between Hispanic/Latino female and male students was 11.8 points in 2018, the largest of all subgroups, and down only 1.1 points from 2009.



Change in Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rates by Race and Gender 2009 to 2018



Summary

- The 10.7 percentage point rise in WCPSS' graduation rate from 2009 (78.4%) to 2018 (89.1%) is attributable to increases in rates for female and male students across all races/ethnicities.
- The largest increases in graduation rates occurred among Hispanic/Latino and Black students, both female and male.
- Gaps between Hispanic/Latino and White students and Black and White students are now half of what they were 10 years ago.
- The gap between female and male rates narrowed slightly since 2009 but remains at 5.8 points.
- The gap between female and male students is largest among Hispanic/Latino students at 11.8 points, followed by Black students at 8.3 points.
- Graduation rates for Hispanic/Latino and Black male students are still in need of improvement, but based on evidence from the past 10 years, they are trending in the right direction.

