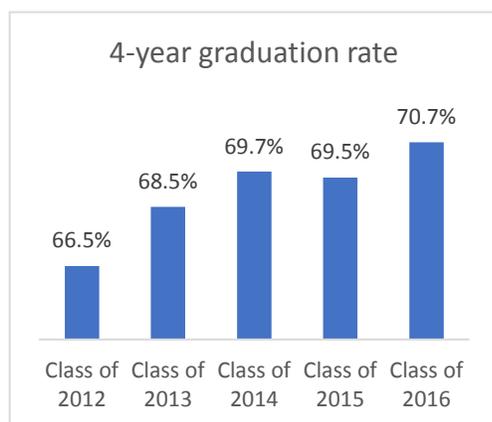


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## City Schools Graduation Rate Increases Slightly, Dropout Rate Holds Steady

(Baltimore, MD) – After two years of flat results, Baltimore City Public Schools’ four-year graduation rate has increased slightly, according to data released today by the Maryland State Department of Education. Of the 5,131 students in the Class of 2016, 3,628 (70.7%) graduated in four years.



The 1.2 percentage point increase over results for the Class of 2015 is not statistically significant, but the gain of 4.2 percentage points since 2012 does reach statistical significance.

Within subgroups, increases over 2015 were seen across students from the district’s three largest racial and ethnic groups. The graduation rate for African American students increased from 70.1 to 71.1 percent, for Hispanic/Latino students from 57.5 to 60.2 percent, and for white students from 65.7 to 70.3 percent. The graduation rate decreased among students with disabilities (from 50.7 percent in 2015 to 47.6 percent in 2016), low-income students (from 67.4 to 66.5 percent), and English language learners (from 62.3 to 58.8 percent).

“While the latest graduation data show some growth, the small rate of increase and the fact that too few of our students overall are completing high school in four years reinforces the urgency of our work,” said Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises, City Schools’ chief executive officer. “I am particularly concerned about the decreased graduation rates for some of our highest needs students. We must increase our efforts to ensure that these students—and all students—receive the support and resources they need for success.”

Data on the rate of students dropping out of high school, also released today by the state, show a slight increase, from 13.2 percent in 2015 to 13.9 percent in 2016. Increases were seen across all subgroups, with the exception of Hispanic/Latino students. Increases were highest among low-income students, students with disabilities, and English language learners, at 2 to 3 percentage points.

“Providing options for students who have fallen behind on credits is an area of renewed focus for the district’s academics team,” said Chief Academic Officer Sean Conley. “We’re seeing success with our re-engagement center, where students who have dropped out are connected to resources and services both in and out of the classroom to make it possible for them to return to school. We must also provide more programs where students can accelerate their progress and get back on track to graduation, and we need to provide relevant, engaging instruction across schools and grade levels to motivate young people to stay in school.”

In the 2016-17 school year, City Schools has 174 schools and 7 programs serving 82,354 students, including more than 21,000 students in high school grades.