

New Jersey high school graduation rate continues to climb

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For the sixth year in a row, the number of students graduating from high school in New Jersey has grown.

According to data released Friday by the state Department of Education, the high school graduation rate for 2017 is 90.5 percent, up 1.9 percentage points since 2014.

“These increases in high school graduation rates are exciting, as they demonstrate we are on a path toward closing our achievement gaps and achieving excellent and equitable educational opportunities for our children,” said acting Education Commissioner Lamont Repollet.

New Jersey’s graduation rate continues to be among the highest in the nation, with an additional 2,219 more students earning diplomas in 2017 than in 2014.

In the Press coverage area, the Atlantic County Institute of Technology had the highest percentage of students graduate in 2017 at 98.7 percent, down less than 1 percentage point from 2016.

Bridgeton High School saw the lowest graduation rate at 73.2 percent, down 5.5 percentage points from 2016.

Pleasantville High School had the largest increase in its graduation rate from 2016 to 2017 at nearly 6 percentage points. Last year, 86.6 percent of students there graduated, up from 80.9 percent the year prior.

Pinelands Regional High School and Atlantic City High School also saw large increases from the prior year’s graduation rate.

Data shows not only is the state doing better as a whole in 2017, but student subgroups saw a greater increase in graduation rates than the New Jersey average over 2016 particularly for Hispanic, black, Native American, economically disadvantaged, English language learners and homeless students.

This is also the first year the state DOE is releasing district and state-level School Performance Reports. It previously only released school-level reports. Education officials say the new information offers parents and other education stakeholders a perspective that tells how an entire school district is performing.

School, district and state report cards are at nj.gov/education.