

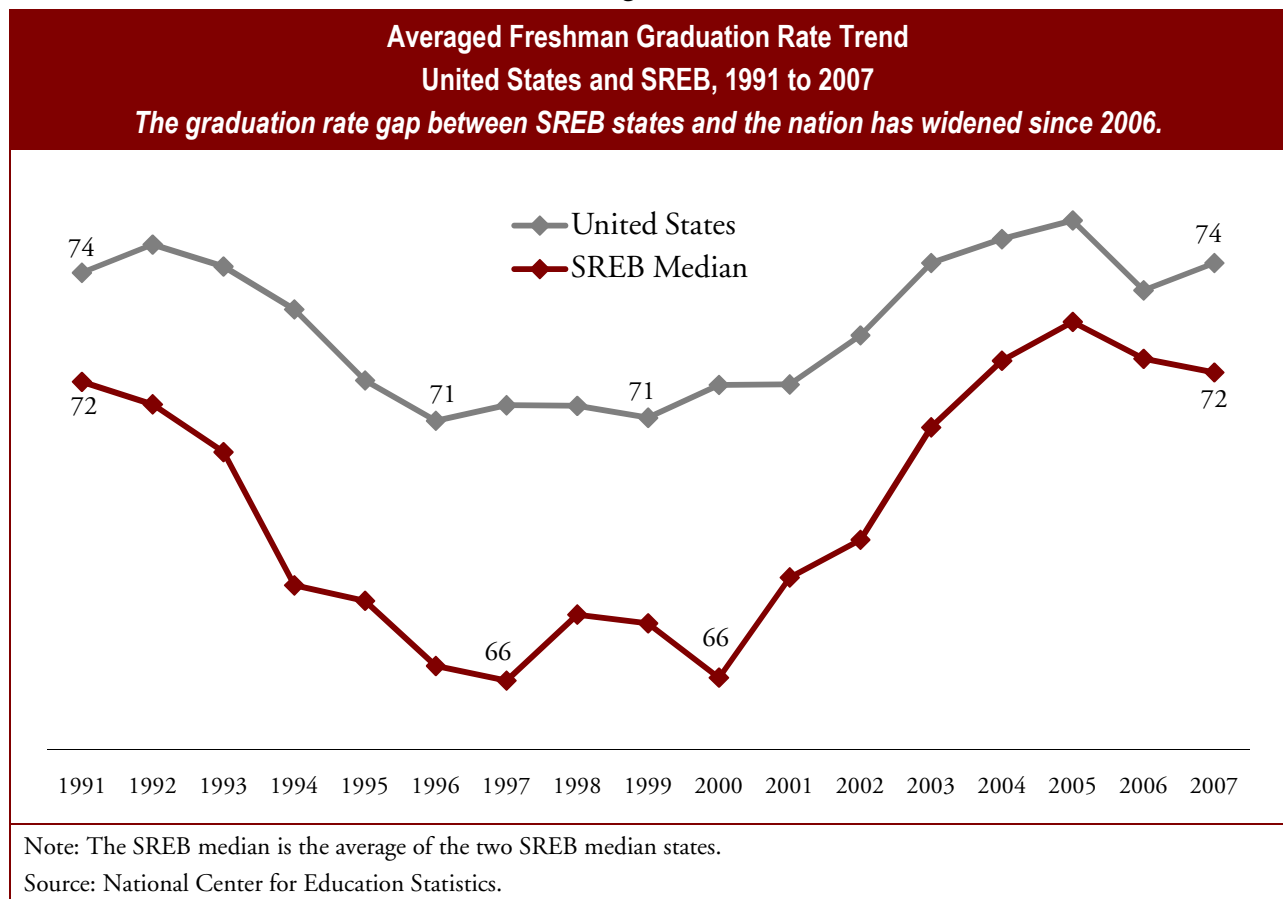
Update: Gaining Ground on High School Graduation Rates in SREB States: Milestones and Guideposts

All young adults have a high school diploma — or, if not, pass the GED tests.

One of the SREB *Challenge to Lead* Goals for Education

Soon after the Southern Regional Education Board published *Gaining Ground on High School Graduation Rates in SREB States: Milestones and Guideposts* (October 2009), which reported high school completion data for 1996 to 2006, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) released *First-Look*¹ data for 2007. SREB provides this update to reflect the NCES release. It includes updated information for high school graduation and dropout rates, as well as the ninth-grade enrollment bulge, promoting power and the seniors-to-graduates ratio. Cumulative Promotion Index (CPI) data have not changed.

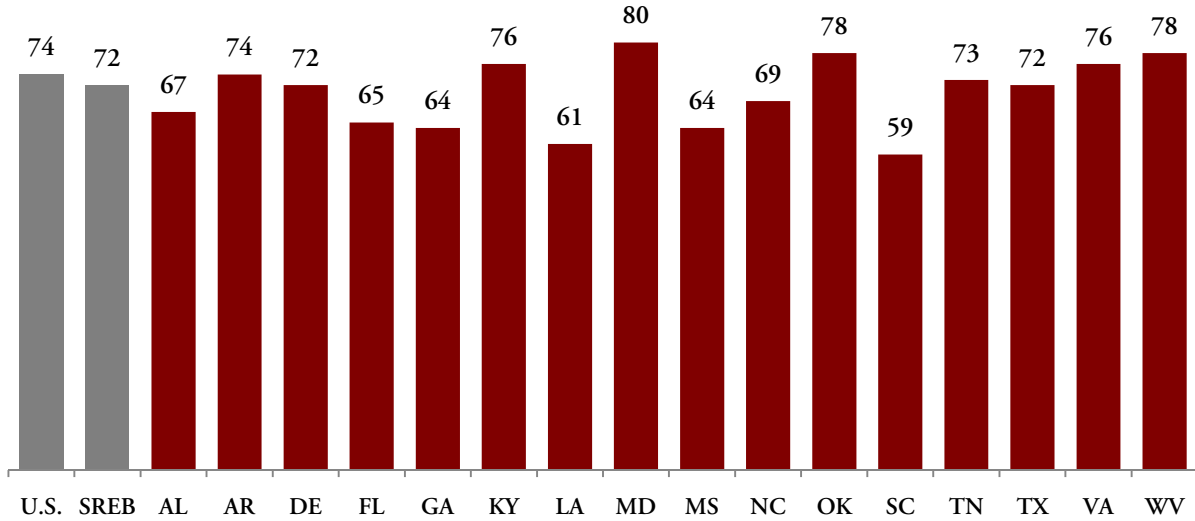
Figure 1



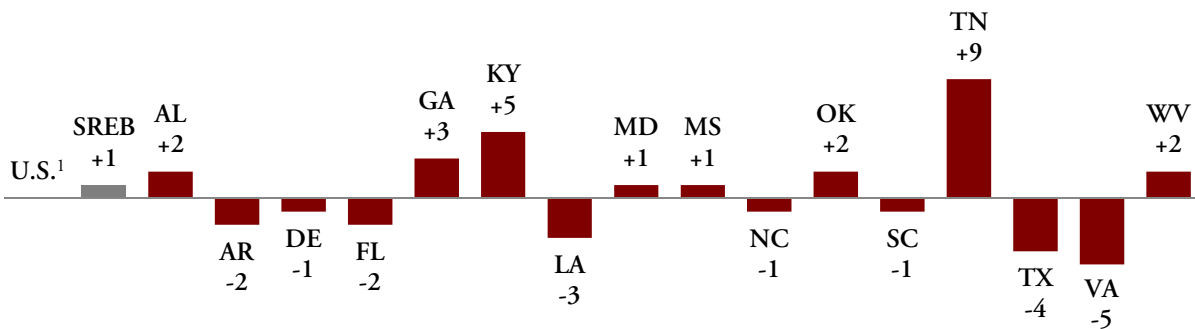
¹ Tables and figures shown are based on *Public School Graduates and Dropouts From the Common Core of Data: School Year 2006-07: First Look*. National Center for Education Statistics, October 2009.

Figures 2a and Figure 2b

Averaged Freshman Graduation Rates in SREB States, 2007
Six SREB states met or exceeded the national graduation rate.



Half of SREB states gained in percent of students getting on-time diplomas, 2003 to 2007.



Note: SREB is the average of the two SREB median states.

¹ The U.S. averaged freshman graduation rate was 73.9 percent in 2003 and in 2007.

Source: National Center for Education Statistics.

Table 1

High School Graduation Rates in SREB States, 2007			
<i>Nine SREB states reported rates using a cohort-based calculation in 2007.</i>			
<i>All states must use a USDOE-approved cohort graduation rate by 2011.</i>			
	Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate	Cumulative Promotion Index (2006)	State-Reported Graduation Rates
United States	74	69	Not Applicable
SREB Median	72	66	— ¹
Alabama	67	61	83 ²
Arkansas	74 ³	72	86 ⁴
Delaware	72	66	81 ²
Florida	65	58	70 ⁴
Georgia	64	56	72 ²
Kentucky	76	72	84 ²
Louisiana	61	62	66 ⁴
Maryland	80	74	85 ²
Mississippi	64	61	87 ⁴
North Carolina	69	63	69 ⁴
Oklahoma	78	71	77 ²
South Carolina	59	66	71 ⁴
Tennessee	73	70	82 ²
Texas	72	65	78 ⁴
Virginia	76	69	79 ⁴
West Virginia	78	72	85 ⁴

Notes: The SREB median is the average of the two SREB median states.
 State rates that exceed the national rate are shown in **bold**.

¹ Because individual state rates are not calculated the same way, it is not appropriate to report an SREB median rate.

² These states reported graduation rates to the USDOE using a **leaver rate**. See Box 1, Page 4 in *Gaining Ground on High School Graduation Rates in SREB States: Milestones and Guideposts* for graduation rate definitions.

³ Arkansas's averaged freshman graduation rate in 2007 was 74.4 percent, compared with the U.S. rate of 73.9 percent.

⁴ These states reported graduation rates to the USDOE using a **cohort rate**. See Box 1, Page 4 in *Gaining Ground on High School Graduation Rates in SREB States: Milestones and Guideposts* for graduation rate definitions.

Sources: National Center for Education Statistics, *Education Week's Diplomas Count 2009*, and state departments of education as reported to the USDOE.

Table 3

Graduation Success Indicators in SREB States, 2007				
<i>SREB states can pinpoint problems by studying hurdles revealed by various measures.</i>				
Measures ¹	Ninth-Grade Bulge [U.S. Rank]	Promoting Power [U.S. Rank]	Seniors-to-Graduate Ratio [U.S. Rank]	AFGR [U.S. Rank]
United States	112	78	88	74
SREB	115	70	90	72 ²
Alabama	109 [24]	71 [38]	87 [35]	67 [43]
Arkansas	104 [5]	79 [29]	92 [20]	74 [32]
Delaware	112 [34]	68 [42]	96 [5]	72 [36]
Florida	115 [44]	64 [48]	87 [36]	65 [44]
Georgia	118 [46]	67 [44]	86 [37]	64 [45]
Kentucky	113 [37]	74 [37]	97 [3]	76 [27]
Louisiana	113 [36]	66 [45]	89 [30]	61 [47]
Maryland	115 [43]	77 [33]	95 [10]	80 [16]
Mississippi	108 [19]	68 [43]	90 [26]	64 [46]
North Carolina	115 [42]	69 [41]	90 [27]	69 [42]
Oklahoma	107 [14]	78 [31]	96 [4]	78 [23]
South Carolina	120 [48]	60 [50]	84 [40]	59 [49]
Tennessee	113 [36]	76 [36]	91 [23]	73 [35]
Texas	119 [47]	70 [39]	92 [21]	72 [37]
Virginia	113 [39]	77 [32]	89 [29]	76 [29]
West Virginia	110 [28]	78 [30]	94 [13]	78 [22]

Note: States performing at or better than U.S. rate are shown in **bold**.

¹ **Ninth-grade bulge** is the ratio of ninth-grade to eighth-grade enrollment. **Promoting power** is the percentage of ninth-graders who progress to 12th grade in three years. The **seniors-to-graduates ratio** is the percentage of enrolling seniors who earn a regular diploma at the end of the school year. **AFGR** is the averaged freshman graduation rate. See Page 8 in *Gaining Ground on High School Graduation Rates in SREB States: Milestones and Guideposts* for more information on these various measures.

² AFGR reported for SREB is the average of the two SREB median states. All other “SREB” data indicate the average of all 16 states.

Source: National Center for Education Statistics.

Table 4

Event Dropout Rates by Grade, U.S. and SREB States, 2007
Event dropout rates in SREB states exceeded national rates in grades 9 and 10.

	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
U.S. Event Dropout Rate ¹	3.4	3.7	4.2	6.5
SREB Median Event Dropout Rate ²	3.5	3.9	4.2	4.0

¹ The **event dropout rate** for a grade is the number of dropouts from that grade divided by the number of students enrolled in that grade at the beginning of the school year.

² The SREB median is the average of the two SREB median states.

Source: The National Center for Education Statistics.

Appendix A

Historical Averaged Freshman Graduation Rates in SREB States, 1997 to 2007

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
United States	71	71	71	72	72	73
SREB Median	66	67	67	66	68	69
Alabama	62	64	61	64	64	62
Arkansas	71	74	74	75	74	75
Delaware	72	74	70	67	71	70
Florida	63	62	61	61	61	63
Georgia	62	58	57	60	59	61
Kentucky	71	70	70	70	70	70
Louisiana	59	61	61	62	64	64
Maryland	77	76	77	78	79	80
Mississippi	60	60	59	59	60	61
North Carolina	65	66	65	66	67	68
Oklahoma	75	75	76	76	76	76
South Carolina	60	59	59	59	57	58
Tennessee	62	58	58	60	59	60
Texas	67	69	69	71	71	74
Virginia	77	77	76	77	78	77
West Virginia	77	77	78	77	76	74
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Change, 1997-2007
United States	74	74	75	73	74	2.6
SREB Median	71	72	73	72	72	5.6
Alabama	65	65	66	66	67	4.7
Arkansas	77	77	76	80	74¹	3.8
Delaware	73	73	73	76	72	0.2
Florida	67	66	65	64	65	2.3
Georgia	61	61	62	62	64	2.1
Kentucky	72	73	76	77	76	5.3
Louisiana	64	69	64	60	61	2.0
Maryland	79	80	79	80	80	3.4
Mississippi	63	63	63	64	64	4.0
North Carolina	70	71	73	72	69	3.1
Oklahoma	76	77	77	78	78	3.0
South Carolina	60	61	60	61 ²	59	-0.7
Tennessee	63	66	68	71	73	11.0
Texas	75	77	74	73	72	4.9
Virginia	81	79	80	75	76	-1.1
West Virginia	76	77	77	77	78	1.5

Notes: The SREB median is the average of the two SREB median states.

State rates that exceed the national rate are shown in **bold**.

¹ Arkansas's averaged freshman graduation rate in 2007 was 74.4 percent, compared with the U.S. rate of 73.9 percent.

² This rate is based on estimated high school graduates from *Projection of Education Statistics to 2017* (NCES 2008-078).

Source: National Center for Education Statistics.

Appendix B

High School Graduation Rates in SREB States for Black, Hispanic and White Students						
Calculation used ¹	Black		Hispanic		White	
	AFGR (2007)	CPI (2006)	AFGR (2007)	CPI (2006)	AFGR (2007)	CPI (2006)
United States	60	51	62	55	80	76
SREB Median	63	55	65	55	75	71
Alabama	59	51	61	42	72	68
Arkansas	66	64	71	60	75	75
Delaware	64	54	65	—	76	71
Florida	52	43	62	54	69	59
Georgia	55	46	53	41	69	65
Kentucky	—	59	—	55	—	70
Louisiana	50	51	63	74	71	69
Maryland	72	63	77	65	84	80
Mississippi	60	55	66	43	67	66
North Carolina	58	45	58	50	73	70
Oklahoma ²	71	55	75	57	79	73
South Carolina	51	—	44	—	66	70
Tennessee	64	58	71	52	75	73
Texas	65	53	63	56	81	76
Virginia	63	55	67	57	80	76
West Virginia	74	61	94	—	78	73

Notes: The SREB median is the average of the two SREB median states.

State rates that exceed the national rate are shown in **bold**.

“—” indicates results were unavailable.

¹ See Box 1, Page 4 in *Gaining Ground on High School Graduation Rates in SREB States: Milestones and Guideposts* for graduation rate definitions.

² In Oklahoma, the AFGR in 2007 for American Indians was 77 percent, compared with 61 percent for American Indians in the nation. The CPI in 2006 for American Indians was 64 percent, compared with 50 percent in the nation.

Sources: National Center for Education Statistics and *Education Week's Diplomas Count 2009*.