

Public High School Graduation: Legacy Rates

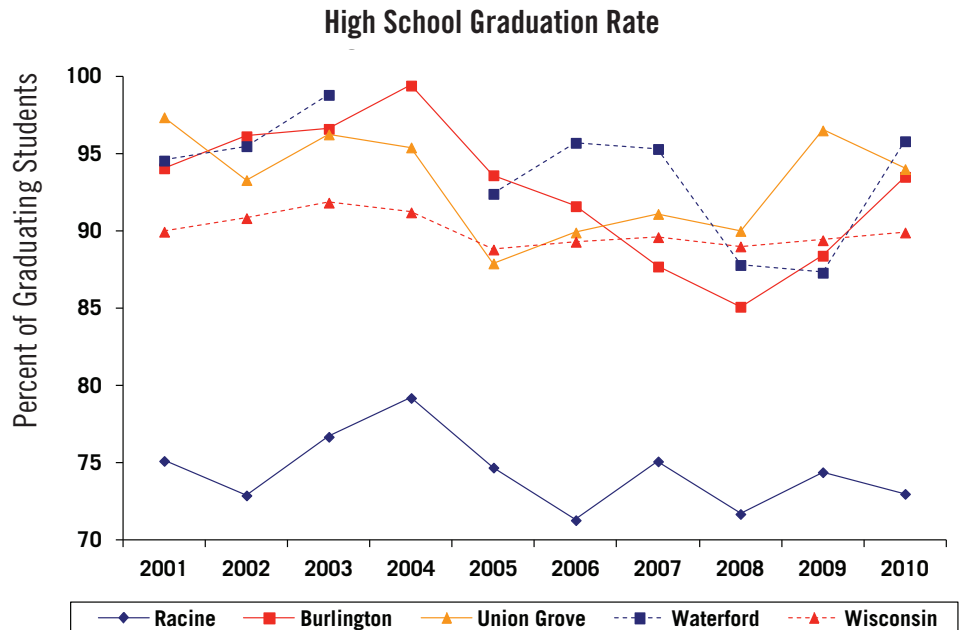
About the Indicator: In Wisconsin, students graduate when they complete a course of study established by their local school district. A school board may also issue a graduation diploma to students who complete the school-sponsored general education program (GED) or attain a high school equivalency diploma. This indicator, however, only tracks those students who receive regular diplomas. Graduation rate reporting requirements changed in 1998-99 and in 2003-2004. Four-year rates were first available in 2009-2010. Before 2009-2010, legacy rates were the only formula used to determine graduation rate. Legacy rates include all students up to 21 years of age who may have taken longer than four years to complete high school. Data differences between four-year and legacy rates are depicted on the next page.

Comparisons: Regardless of the formula used, Racine Unified School District (RUSD) is still lagging behind surrounding public districts and the state of Wisconsin.

High School Graduation Rates – Comparison of Districts

	2000	2009	2010
Racine	73.0	74.4	73.0
Burlington	93.8	88.4	93.5
Union Grove	92.5	96.5	94.0
Waterford	96.1	87.3	95.8
Wisconsin	89.3	89.4	89.9

Trend: The graduation rates in Waterford and Burlington school districts decreased from 2003-04 to 2008-09, which could be due to the change in reporting requirements. However, Union Grove’s high school graduation rate has steadily increased since 2005. RUSD’s high school completion rates have remained fairly consistent over the past ten years. Note: Data unavailable for Waterford school district in 2004.



Source: Wisconsin’s Information Network for Successful Schools (WINSS), Department of Public Instruction.