National and regional trends mask important variation among states in the supply of high school graduates. This profile provides brief indicators for Florida related to: current levels of educational attainment, our projections of high school graduates into the future, and two common barriers to student access and success – insufficient academic preparation and inadequate finances.

**Educational Attainment by Race/Ethnicity**

36% of both younger (aged 25-34) and older working-age adults (aged 45-54) in Florida have obtained a postsecondary degree. Large gaps in this key measure of educational attainment exist among different racial/ethnic groups, and data suggest those gaps are likely to grow in the coming years.

- Asians/Pacific Islanders have the highest rates for both age groups and also show the biggest gains by younger adults compared to older adults.
- Younger White non-Hispanics are also more-educated at 42%, compared with 38.9% for the older age group.
- Older Hispanics in Florida have one of the highest rates of postsecondary degree attainment in the nation at 33.7%; however, 5% fewer younger Hispanics have degrees.
- Black non-Hispanics have the lowest degree attainment rate of all groups, but younger adults are slightly better educated (26.2%) compared to older adults (23.9%).

**Production of High School Graduates**

Florida is about to see a big change in the how many high school graduates it produces—only three states are expected to lose more graduates between 2008-09 and 2019-20.

- Graduates are projected to have peaked by 2010-11 at about 175,600, marking the end of uninterrupted growth since 1993-94, during which time it added about 78,000 graduates (80%).
- Three years after this peak, graduates are projected to fall by nearly 16,000 (9%) before production stabilizes at between 160,000 and 165,000 through 2019-20.
- At their height in 2002-03, nonpublic schools produced 12% of all graduates in Florida; that share is projected to fall to about 7% by 2021-22.

**Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity**

After reaching a high point in 2007-08 at almost 79,600, White non-Hispanic graduates from public high schools will trend downward, to fewer than 60,000 by 2019-20.

- In contrast, Hispanic graduates from public high schools are expected to climb by over 11,000 by 2019-20, a 33% increase. Hispanic graduates surpassed Black non-Hispanics as the largest minority in 2005-06.
- Black non-Hispanics are projected to have peaked in 2010-11 at about 34,500, followed a steep drop of nearly 20% to below 28,000 by 2013-14, after which they will hold steady between 28,000 and 31,000.
- Asians/Pacific Islanders will increase 45%, about 2,000 graduates, by 2019-20.
- Florida’s American Indians/Alaska Natives, though a small group, project the fastest rate of increase among all states.
Florida’s public high school graduating class is projected to become majority-minority as early as 2012-13.

- The non-White portion is expected to fall rapidly from 53% in 2008-09 to 42% in 2019-20.
- Hispanic graduates are projected to increase by 9 percentage points during that timeframe, to nearly two-thirds of the total by 2019-20.
- The share of Asians/Pacific Islanders also rises throughout the projected period; in 2019-20, 5% of public high school graduates are expected to come from that group.
- Black non-Hispanics are projected to hold a steady share at 21% throughout most of the projected period; dipping briefly to 19% in 2022-23.

Composite Math and Reading Scores by Race/Ethnicity

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