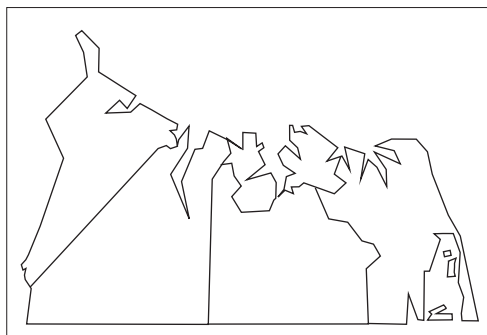


**AN INVESTMENT IN PRIORITIES**  
**FOR SOUTH HAMPTON ROADS**  
A Regional Human Services Initiative

# A Report on High School Graduation Rates in South Hampton Roads



## AN INVESTMENT IN PRIORITIES

**FOR SOUTH HAMPTON ROADS**

A Regional Human Services Initiative

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High school graduation rates measure how many public high school students acquire the minimum skills necessary to enter the workforce. When individuals do not have a high school diploma they are less likely to succeed in areas outside education as well. There are differences in income, crime and wellness indicators based on educational attainment. In South Hampton Roads, 80% of public high school students graduated on time in 2008 and 81% of students graduated on time in 2009.<sup>1</sup> Students graduated on time if they received a Board of Education approved diploma within four years of entering high school for the first time.

When students do not graduate high school they are unprepared to enter the workforce because most entry level jobs require basic technical skills that are gained during high school. Individuals without a high school diploma are more likely to be unemployed than those who complete high school. Nationally the unemployment rate for individuals who did not graduate from high school was 15% compared to 10% for those who graduated from high school but did not attend college. Even when they do find work, individuals who did not graduate from high school earn less than those with a high school or college degree. In 2004, the median income of male college graduates was 60% higher than male high school graduates and twice the income of high school dropouts.<sup>3</sup>

**Table 1: Unemployment Rate Based on Educational Attainment (Age 25 and Older)<sup>2</sup>, United States**

	November 2009
Less than a High School Diploma	15.0
High School Graduate, no college	10.4
Some College or Associate Degree	9.0
Bachelor's Degree and Higher	4.9

Individuals who do not complete high school are more likely to spend time in the correctional system. According to a 2004 report published by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, in 2002, 61% of jail inmates were high school dropouts. Also, in 2007, 51% of prisoners under sentence of death had not graduated from high school.<sup>4</sup>

High school graduation also affects an individual's health outcomes and the health outcomes of the family. Because not completing high school limits employment opportunities and people with lower income have worse health outcomes, individuals not graduating from high school are more likely to be in worse health than those who graduate from high school. Also, babies born to mothers without a high school education are twice as likely to die within the first year compared to those born to mothers with college degrees. Because they receive less prenatal care, women with less education are more likely to deliver premature and low weight babies, both of which lead to increased health risks.

<sup>1</sup> Virginia Department of Education, [www.doe.virginia.gov](http://www.doe.virginia.gov)

<sup>2</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)

<sup>3</sup> *Unnatural Causes*. California Newsreel. <http://www.unnaturalcauses.org/>

<sup>4</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics – <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/>

## Virginia On-Time Graduation Rate

The Virginia Department of Education began reporting the Virginia On-Time Graduation Rate for the 2007-2008 school year.<sup>5</sup> The Virginia On-Time Graduation Rate is a cohort graduation rate that expresses the percentage of students who earn a Board of Education approved diploma within four years of entering high school for the first time. When students enter the 9<sup>th</sup> grade for the first time they are assigned to a cohort of students expected to graduate four years later. For example, a student entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade during the 2009-10 school year would be assigned to graduate in the spring or summer of 2013. The formula for calculating the Virginia On-Time Graduation Rate also recognizes that students with disabilities and limited-English proficient students may take longer than the standard four years to earn a diploma and still count as “on-time” graduates. The cohort assignments for these students are adjusted based on when they are expected to graduate or complete high school.

The On-Time Graduation Rate takes into account student mobility. Students who transfer into Virginia public schools for the first time are assigned to a cohort based on the year and grade in which they transferred into the system. Students who transfer out of the system are removed from the cohort. Dropouts are not considered transfers out and are not removed from the cohort.

## South Hampton Roads On-Time Graduation Rates

In 2009, 81% of public high school students in South Hampton Roads graduated on time compared to 83% of public school students graduating on time in Virginia. Chesapeake had the highest graduation rate (86.5%) in South Hampton Roads in 2009. Across the region graduation rates vary by race and ethnicity; the graduation rate for white students in 2009 was 85% and the rate for black students was 75%. The graduation rate for white males in South Hampton Roads in 2009 was 82%; however, only 71% of black males graduated on time. In Virginia, 85% of white males and 71% of black males graduated on time. Similar patterns occurred among female students as well: 88% of white female students and 79% of black female students graduated on time in South Hampton Roads

	2008	2009
Total	80.0	81.1
White	84.4	85.2
Black	72.9	75.2
Asian	92.1	92.7
Hispanic	81.9	84.0

Note: South Hampton Roads includes Chesapeake, Franklin, Isle of Wight, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Southampton, Suffolk and Virginia Beach

<sup>5</sup> Virginia Department of Education – Virginia School Report Card, [http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/src/ontime\\_grad\\_rate.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/src/ontime_grad_rate.shtml)

**Percent of South Hampton Roads Public School Students Graduating On Time by Race, Ethnicity and Gender, 2009**

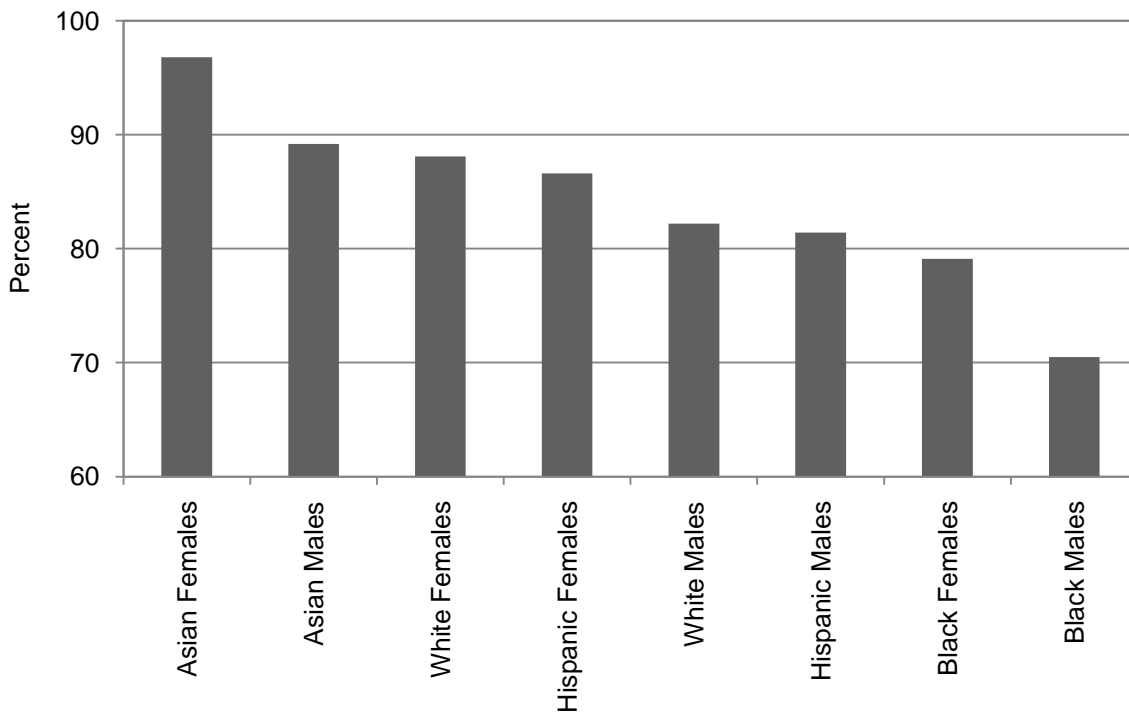
	Male	Female	Difference
Total	77.7	84.4	6.7
White	82.2	88.1	5.9
Black	70.5	79.1	8.6
Asian*	89.2	96.8	7.6
Hispanic**	81.4	86.4	5.0

Note: To maintain confidentiality, data is suppressed when there are less than ten students in a category.

\*Includes Chesapeake, Norfolk, Suffolk and Virginia Beach

\*\*Includes Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth and Virginia Beach

**South Hampton Roads On-Time Graduation Rate by Race and Gender, 2009**



**Number and Percent of Public School Students  
Graduating On Time by Race and Ethnicity**

		2007-08		2008-09	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
South Hampton Roads	Total	11,243	80.0	11,807	81.1
	White	5,898	84.4	5,938	85.2
	Black	4,220	72.9	4,645	75.2
	Asian	492	92.1	496	92.7
	Hispanic	372	81.9	409	84.0
Virginia	Total	78,859	81.3	81,572	83.2
	White	50,125	85.3	50,463	87.0
	Black	18,952	72.7	20,009	75.7
	Asian	4,407	92.8	4,621	93.3
	Hispanic	4,133	70.3	4,925	84.0
	Other	1,242	80.1	n/a	n/a

**Number and Percent of Public School Students Graduating On Time by Gender**

		2007-08		2008-09	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
South Hampton Roads	Male	5,228	76.5	5,585	77.7
	Female	5,948	83.4	6,222	84.4
Virginia	Male	38,252	78.3	40,010	80.1
	Female	40,594	84.3	41,552	86.4

**Number and Percent of Male Public School Students  
Graduating On Time by Race and Ethnicity**

		2007-08		2008-09	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
South Hampton Roads	Total	5,228	76.5	5,585	77.7
	White	2,991	82.1	2,906	82.2
	Black	1,879	67.6	2,068	70.5
	Asian	255	90.4	249	89.2
	Hispanic	169	81.3	193	81.4
Virginia	Total	38,252	78.3	40,010	80.1
	White	24,819	83.8	25,182	84.8
	Black	8,639	68.6	9,341	70.5
	Asian	2,269	91.8	2,317	91.9
	Hispanic	2,014	68.4	2,398	67.9

**Number and Percent of Female Public School Students  
Graduating On Time by Race and Ethnicity**

		2007-08		2008-09	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
South Hampton Roads	Total	5,948	83.4	6,222	84.4
	White	3,058	87.4	3,028	88.1
	Black	2,341	77.8	2,570	79.1
	Asian	229	95.0	241	96.8
	Hispanic	187	83.1	206	86.6
Virginia	Total	40,594	84.3	41,552	86.4
	White	25,342	88.0	25,278	89.3
	Black	10,348	79.1	10,665	80.9
	Asian	2,141	95.1	2,303	94.7
	Hispanic	2,128	74.6	2,526	77.0

## On-Time Graduation Rates for South Hampton Roads Cities

### Public School Students Graduating On Time by Race and Ethnicity

		2007-08		2008-09	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Chesapeake	Total	2,886	87.7	3,022	86.5
	White	1,716	90.2	1,754	88.8
	Black	968	83.5	1,042	82.2
	Asian	94	96.9	94	94.9
	Hispanic	64	82.1	72	82.8
Franklin	Total	74	64.9	98	71.5
	White	20	76.9	24	85.7
	Black	51	60.7	74	67.9
	Asian	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Hispanic	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Isle of Wight	Total	370	80.4	398	83.6
	White	262	85.1	248	85.5
	Black	98	70.0	133	80.1
	Asian	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Hispanic	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Norfolk	Total	1,461	71.9	1,578	73.8
	White	447	78.7	465	79.6
	Black	856	68.1	929	70.0
	Asian	58	86.6	64	88.9
	Hispanic	43	67.2	52	80.0
Portsmouth	Total	707	61.4	841	63.5
	White	210	68.4	203	64.2
	Black	483	58.7	610	63.0
	Asian	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Hispanic	10	66.7	19	79.2
Southampton	Total	176	74.9	180	77.8
	White	98	78.4	97	87.4
	Black	76	70.4	77	72.0
	Asian	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Hispanic	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Suffolk	Total	799	72.2	888	77.8
	White	338	75.4	329	78.1
	Black	434	69.4	530	77.1
	Asian	8	72.7	15	88.2
	Hispanic	14	87.5	10	83.3
Virginia Beach	Total	4,770	84.3	4,802	85.4
	White	2,807	85.8	2,818	86.8
	Black	1,254	78.6	1,250	80.9
	Asian	332	92.5	323	93.1
	Hispanic	241	85.8	256	85.6



Public School Students Graduating On Time by Gender

		2007-08		2008-09	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Chesapeake	Male	1,370	86.2	1,478	84.0
	Female	1,516	89.1	1,543	89.0
Franklin	Male	35	56.5	45	64.3
	Female	39	75.0	53	79.1
Isle of Wight	Male	182	77.1	189	82.5
	Female	188	83.9	209	84.6
Norfolk	Male	618	66.6	689	69.4
	Female	840	76.6	889	77.6
Portsmouth	Male	326	56.5	371	56.6
	Female	381	66.3	470	70.3
Southampton	Male	68	59.6	84	77.8
	Female	108	89.3	96	82.1
Suffolk	Male	395	68.1	422	73.4
	Female	403	76.6	466	82.3
Virginia Beach	Male	2,294	81.3	2,307	82.5
	Female	2,473	87.2	2,496	88.3

Male Public School Students Graduating On Time by Race and Ethnicity

		2007-08		2008-09	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Chesapeake	Total	1,370	86.2	1,478	84.0
	White	828	89.3	855	86.1
	Black	440	80.3	500	79.7
	Asian	52	98.1	53	93.0
	Hispanic	25	75.8	40	81.6
Franklin	Total	35	56.5	45	64.3
	White	7	58.3	10	76.9
	Black	26	55.3	35	61.4
	Asian	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Hispanic	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Isle of Wight	Total	182	77.1	189	82.5
	White	128	81.5	122	85.9
	Black	48	66.7	59	75.6
	Asian	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Hispanic	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Norfolk	Total	618	66.6	689	69.4
	White	207	74.7	215	77.1
	Black	330	60.8	386	64.0
	Asian	34	82.9	31	88.6
	Hispanic	24	70.6	21	72.4
Portsmouth	Total	326	56.5	371	56.6
	White	256	64.0	104	58.4
	Black	211	53.1	251	55.2
	Asian	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Hispanic	n/a	n/a	9	75.0
Southampton	Total	68	59.6	84	77.8
	White	39	65.0	44	84.6
	Black	29	53.7	36	70.6
	Asian	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Hispanic	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Suffolk	Total	395	68.1	422	73.4
	White	173	71.8	172	74.5
	Black	207	64.9	235	71.9
	Asian	n/a	n/a	9	90.0
	Hispanic	8	80.0	n/a	n/a
Virginia Beach	Total	2,294	81.3	2,307	82.5
	White	1,353	83.5	1,384	84.1
	Black	588	73.4	566	77.1
	Asian	169	89.9	156	88.1
	Hispanic	112	85.5	123	83.7

Female Public School Students Graduating On Time by Race and Ethnicity

		2007-08		2008-09	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Chesapeake	Total	1,516	89.1	1,543	89.0
	White	887	91.0	899	91.5
	Black	528	86.4	542	84.6
	Asian	42	95.5	41	97.6
	Hispanic	39	86.7	32	84.2
Franklin	Total	39	75.0	53	79.1
	White	13	92.9	14	93.3
	Black	25	67.6	39	75.0
	Asian	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Hispanic	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Isle of Wight	Total	188	83.9	209	84.6
	White	134	88.7	126	85.1
	Black	50	73.5	66	84.1
	Asian	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Hispanic	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Norfolk	Total	840	76.6	889	77.6
	White	240	82.5	250	82.0
	Black	526	73.7	543	75.0
	Asian	24	92.3	33	89.2
	Hispanic	19	63.3	31	86.1
Portsmouth	Total	381	66.3	470	70.3
	White	105	73.4	99	71.7
	Black	272	63.8	359	69.8
	Asian	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Hispanic	n/a	n/a	10	83.3
Southampton	Total	403	76.6	466	82.3
	White	59	90.8	53	89.8
	Black	47	87.0	41	73.2
	Asian	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Hispanic	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Suffolk	Total	403	76.6	466	82.3
	White	165	79.7	157	82.6
	Black	50	73.5	295	81.9
	Asian	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Hispanic	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Virginia Beach	Total	2,473	87.2	2,496	88.3
	White	1,455	88.1	1,430	89.4
	Black	666	83.9	685	84.4
	Asian	163	95.3	167	98.2
	Hispanic	129	86.0	133	87.5

Prepared by



130 West Plume St. Norfolk, Virginia 23510

757-622-9268

[www.theplanningcouncil.org](http://www.theplanningcouncil.org)

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