

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES

GOAL: All students in Calhoun County will complete high school or an equivalency program.

RATIONALE FOR CHOOSING INDICATOR: High school completion is critical to social and economic independence. In order for a society to be active and involved, its citizens must be educated and informed. Our future is dependent on our community commitment to producing successful children with the ability to learn and benefit from education

COHORT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION / DROPOUT RATES BY DISTRICT ¹ , 2007, 2008 & 2009						
DISTRICT	GRADUATION RATE			DROPOUT RATE		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
State of Michigan	75.45%	75.50%	75.23%	15.09%	14.19%	11.33%
Albion Public Schools	74.55%	74.29%	64.49%	17.58%	18.57%	20.29%
Athens Area Schools	89.74%	88.89%	80.65%	7.69%	5.56%	8.06%
Battle Creek Public Schools	57.89%	57.82%	55.25%	24.09%	24.81%	21.92%
Harper Creek Community Schools	84.73%	86.21%	85.78%	8.37%	7.33%	9.00%
Homer Community Schools	84.62%	76.34%	86.14%	10.58%	16.13%	5.94%
Lakeview School District	91.87%	94.66%	92.93%	4.88%	3.91%	3.53%
Marshall Public Schools	80.16%	78.23%	79.44%	9.52%	10.89%	8.47%
Pennfield School District	93.18%	91.73%	87.66%	3.03%	2.26%	5.84%
Tekonsha Community Schools	82.61%	86.49%	88.24%	8.70%	2.70%	5.88%
Union City Community Schools	87.50%	92.39%	89.19%	10.23%	4.35%	5.41%

HOW ARE WE DOING? The 2007, 2008, & 2009 data can not accurately be compared to previous years' data because there has been a change in the calculation method. Previously, graduation and dropout rates were generated based on a single year. Beginning in 2007 the Center for Education Performance and Information (CEPI) began using data which tracks the movements of a cohort of students entering Grade 9 throughout Michigan for 4 years to determine the actual number of those students that achieve a high school diploma compared to those that don't.

SOURCE:

1. Calhoun County Intermediate School District, Center for Educational Performance & Information. www.michigan.gov/cepi, 2010

NOTES:

* Figures do not reflect students completing special education requirements or those attending alternative high school programs.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

GOAL: All residents in Calhoun County will have opportunities for increased earning potential through education.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF PERSONS 25 YEARS AND OLDER ¹ , 2009			
	Calhoun	MI	U.S.
Dropouts	12.1%	12.1%	14.7%
H.S. Diploma or GED	31.8%	31.1%	28.5%
Some College	27.4%	24.1%	21.3%
Associate Degree	9.1%	8.2%	7.5%
Bachelor's Degree	12.7%	15.2%	17.6%
Graduate Degree	6.9%	9.4%	10.3%
High School Graduate or Higher	87.9%	87.9%	85.3%

RATIONALE FOR CHOOSING INDICATOR: To be blunt, **education matters in economic development.** Areas that house an educated workforce are more likely to compete effectively in today's demanding world economy. Moreover, educational attainment is strongly tied to personal income growth. The incomes of both men and women increased significantly with higher educational attainment and the increase becomes larger with each level of education. **Graduating from high school alone increases, on average, median yearly earnings by \$12,986.²**

A critical challenge facing any region, and particularly Michigan as its manufacturing base transitions, is the ability to attract, retain, and develop talented workers to support the area's economic growth. The emergence of the knowledge economy increasingly places more emphasis on skills and mental competencies than on physical strength and manual competencies. This is true across all sectors from manufacturing to health and business services. In short, educational attainment of area residents is increasingly important to the success of local businesses to traverse changing markets by adopting new technologies and practices, and to enter a promising emerging economy.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF PERSONS 25-34 YEARS OLD ¹ , 2009			
	Calhoun	MI	U.S.
High School Graduate or Higher	88.2%	89.4%	87.0%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	22.5%	27.5%	30.9%

HOW ARE WE DOING? Although educational levels exceed the national average for individuals graduating from high school, educational levels are still relatively low for those levels beyond high school. County residents age 25 and older have a slightly higher rate of completing high school and some college than the national average. However, **approximately one out of every eight adult residents in Calhoun County did not complete high school** which is a rate only slightly more promising than the nation as a whole. Moreover, the tables still illustrate that a relatively small share of Calhoun County residents age 25 and older hold a bachelor's degree or higher level of education and these rates are considerably lower than national averages, leaving Calhoun County's workforce less competitive than Michigan as a whole and less than the nation.

MEDIAN EARNINGS FOR WORKERS, BY GENDER, AGE 25 AND OLDER CALHOUN COUNTY ¹ , 2009		
	Male	Female
Less Than High School Graduate	\$16,771	\$16,637
High School Graduate/GED	\$28,746	\$17,648
Some College	\$32,356	\$24,268
Bachelor's Degree	\$53,441	\$34,937
Graduate or Professional Degree	\$76,794	\$51,021

Most disturbing, the county's younger adults are less educated than the state, as a whole. Only 22.5% of Calhoun County residents between the ages of 25 and 34 hold a bachelor's degree or higher level of education compared to 27.5% of the same age group statewide. Because educated young adults are highly mobile, this may also reflect on the county's perceived quality of life. Many could be choosing to take jobs in more attractive and often larger metropolitan areas or to live outside the county if they do work in the county. Finally, the income disparity by gender is a concern across all educational levels.

SOURCE:

1. U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010
2. W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, 2010