## ED 2/79,13/1986-87

# REPORT ON COLORADO ANNUAL DROPOUT RATES GRADES SEVEN THROUGH TWELVE 

1986-87

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# REPORT ON ANNUAL DROPOUT RATES 

grades seven through TWELVE
1986-87
COLORADO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Prepared by<br>Jo Ann Keith<br>Judy Burnes, Supervisor Planning and Evaluation Unit

Colorado Department of Education
Ray E. Kilmer
Acting Commissioner

Acknowledgment

The Management Information Services Unit of the Department of Education provided valuable assistance in the development of computer programs for processing and reporting the data. Thanks to Tina Lovato, Senior Systems Analyst, and programmers Christine Warren, Jim Rafert, and Bob Falasco.

Ray E. Klimer Acting Commissioner of Education

The Honorable Roy Rome
Governor, State of Colorado
Members of the Colorado General Assembly
State Capitol
Denver, Colorado 80203
Dear Governor Romer and Legislators:
This document is presented in compliance with Colorado Revised Statutes $22-2-114.1(2)$ mandating the collection of the number of dropouts from Colorado's public schools in grades seven through twelve.

The data presented in this report provide annual dropout rates for each school district and state dropout rates by ethnic/racial groups and by sex.

The annual dropout rate for the state based on data gathered from grades seven through twelve for the $1986-87$ reporting period is $4.4 \%$. The dropout rate for grades ten through twelve for the same reporting period is $5.6 \%$.

In addition to collecting dropout data from grades seven through twelve, the Department of Education, with the assistance of an advisory committee, is developing a student accounting manual and recommendations for the data collection process.

The State Board of Education and the Department of Education welcome your comments and suggestions on any additional information you may require regarding the number of dropouts from Colorado's public schools.

Sincerely,


Thomas M. Howerton
Chairman
Colorado State Board of Education
TMH/jk


SENATE BILL NO. 141.
BY SENATORS Gallagher, Mendez, Peterson, Martinez, Lee, Baca, Beno, and Fenlon;
also REPRESENTATIVES Herzog, P. Hernandez, M.L. Bird, Bond, Bowen, Uambman;- T. .'Hernandez;;.. Knox, …Markert, Irujill.0, and Webb.

CONCERNING THE COLLECTION OF DROPOUT DATA AND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION OVERSIGHT OF PROGRAMS.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:
SECTION 1. Part 1 of article 2 of title 22, Colorado Revised Statutes, as amended, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEH SECTION to read:

22-2-114.1. Dropout rates - collection of data on orades seven through tweive and development of plans. (1) rate indicates a waste of economic and human potential. Therefore a correct assessment of numbers lost to the education system is necessary in order to fully recognize and correct the problem.
(2) The state board of education. shall develop and implement in. cooperatios with jocal boards $\cdots$ of ".education a model student accounting method and data collection system on dropouts in grades seven through twelve, with results to be reported to the general assembly by January 1, 1988.
(3) (a) For the purposes of this section, a "dropout" means a person who leaves school for any reason, except death, before completion of a high school diploma or its equivalent and who does not transfer to another public or private school or enroll in an approved home: study; program.

Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.
(b) The state board shall also collect data on the students who have dropped out of a regular course of study but who are enrolled and pursuing an alternative program of study.

SECTION 2. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.


This document was prepared in compliance with Colorado Revised Statutes $22-2-114.1(2)$ mandating the collection of the number of dropouts in grades seven through twelve with results to be reported to the General Assembly.

This report represents the first time dropout data has been collected and reported for grades 7,8 and 9. Dropout data for prior years was collected from only grades 10,11 and 12.

The dropout rates were calculated based on the total membership count and total number of dropouts from grades seven through twelve during two reporting periods: October 1986 through June 1987 and July 1987 through the October 1987 one-day count. The data from the two reports were combined to derive an annual dropout rate.

The use of two reporting periods to develop an annual dropout rate resulted in some students being counted as dropouts who would not have been counted as dropouts in previous years when reporting was done on an annual basis. In the previous (October to October) reporting period, a student was not counted as a dropout if he/she dropped in the spring but was back in school the following fall before the end of the reporting period. Under the current system of reporting twice a year, such students have been counted as a dropout in the June report and will be included in the annual dropout count. As a result, the 1986-87 dropout counts are somewhat higher than those reported earlier, and the dropout rates are not exactly comparable to those previously reported.*

For additional information contact JoAnn Keith in the Planning and Evaluaton Unit.

* Some school districts may be able to adjust their dropout counts to exclude those students who dropped in the spring but returned the following fall and publish a corrected dropout rate that is exactly comparable to those reported earlier. However, it is not possible to make these corrections statewide.


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| Grade | Number of Dropouts | $\begin{gathered} \text { Dropout } \\ \text { Rate } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 7 | 295 | . 6 |
| 8 | 898 | 1.8 |
| 9 | 2,322 | 4.5 |
| 10 | 3,174 | 6.2 |
| 11 | 3,197 | 6.7 |
| 12 | 1,318 | 3.5 |
| Ungraded | 97 | 3.7 |
| Alternative/Second Chance | 1,475 | 30.0 |
| Total | 12,776 | 4.4 |
| Grades 7-9 | 3,515 | 2.4 |
| Grades 10-12 | 7,786 | 5.6 |
| Grades 7-12 | 12,776 | 4.4 |

- A total of 12,776 Colorado public school students in Grades 7-12 dropped out of school between October 1,1986 and September 30,1987 . These dropouts represent 4.4 percent of the student membership during this time period.
- The largest number of dropouts continue to occur in Grade 11, which had a dropout rate of 6.7 . A total of 3,197 students in Grade 11 dropped out in 1986-87.
- Of the 12,776 students who dropped out, 3,515 or slightly more than one-fourth, were from Grades 7-9; 2,322 were from Grade 9.
- Alternative schools and Second Chance Programs reported higher dropout rates, a total dropout rate of 30.0 . The higher rates in these schools and programs are not surprising since their entire membership consists of high-risk students.
Table 2:
Dropout Rates by Ethnic/Racial Group by Grade, 1986-87






 | Ethnic/Racial |
| :--- |
| Group | American Indian Asian Black Hispanic White

Total
Overall Hispanic students had the highest dropout rate of any racial/ethnic group (8.1), followed by American Indians (7.5) and Blacks (6.4).
The dropout rate for Hispanics was higher than that for all other groups in Grades $7,9,11$ and 12.
Although the dropout rate for White students was lower than that for the other racial/ethnic groups (except Asians), the number of White student dropouts is very large $-8,035$. White student dropouts accounted for 63 percent of all Colorado dropouts in Grades 7-12.
Hispanic and American Indian students showed a pattern of dropping out earlier than other groups. For these two groups, the highest dropout rates occured in Grade lo. For all other groups the highest rates occurred in Grade 11. (Illustration on Page 3 )
COLORADO ANNUAL DROPOUT RATES 1986-87
Ethnic/Racial Groups by Grade

Dropout Rates by Sex and Grade, 1986-87

| Total |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | :---: |
| Number | Rate |  |

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Schools/
Second Chance
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| Grade |  |
| :---: | ---: |
| 8 |  |
| Number | Rate |
| 516 | 2.0 |
| 382 | 1.6 |


| Grade |  |
| :---: | ---: |
| 7 |  |
| Number | Rate |
| 180 | 0.8 |
| 115 | 0.5 |


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7,03 out of school in 1986-87.

| 1976-77 1981-82 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1986-87 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ethnic/Racial Group | Pupil <br> Count | DropOuts | Rate | Pupil <br> Count | DropOuts | Rate | Pupil <br> Count | DropOuts | Rate |
| American Indian | 697 | 104 | 14.9 | 913 | 142 | 15.6 | 1,023 | 130 | 12.7 |
| Asian | 1,388 | 174 | 12.5 | 2,787 | 256 | 9.2 | 3,133 | 169 | 5.4 |
| Black | 5,972 | 615 | 10.3 | 6,613 | 546 | 8.3 | 6,717 | 629 | 9.4 |
| Hispanic | 19,042 | 2,931 | 15.4 | 19,043 | 2,469 | 13.0 | 18,627 | 2,226 | 12.0 |
| White | 125,430 | 10,391 | 8.3 | 113,250 | 7,060 | 6.2 | 114,185 | 6,107 | 5.3 |
| Total | 152,529 | 14,215 | 9.3 | 142,606 | 10,473 | 7.3 | 143,685 | 9,261 | 6.4 |
| Rates for all groups declined over the ten year period. However, the dropout rate for Black students was higher for 1986-87 than 1981-82. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The $1986-87$ dropout rate reported on this table for grades $10-12$ includes the alternative schools Therefore, the rate is different from the rate reported in Table 5 which excludes the Alternative schools. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |


|  | OTAL <br> PUPIL <br> COUNT |  |  | DROP <br> OUTS | RATE |
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 COL．ORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
ANNUAL DROPOUT RATE FOR GRADES $7-1 \varepsilon$
BY SCHOOL DISTRICT 6－$\angle$ sョayys

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ANNUAL DROPOUT RATE FOR GRADES $7-12$ ANNUAL DROPOUT RATE FOR GRADE
BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

GRADES $10-12$

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BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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 COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
ANNUAL DROPOUT RATE FOR GRADES $7-12$
BY SCHOOL DISTRICT ＋



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| 424 326 347 428 3.81 2.607 246 541 186 205 200 31 | 21 6 6 5 24 82 18 18 0 0 0 0 | $\begin{array}{r} 5.0 \\ 2.5 \\ 1.7 \\ 1.7 \\ 7.7 \\ 2.9 \\ 3.0 \\ 4.8 \\ 4.8 \\ .0 \\ .0 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | 392 250 282 365 251 2.543 243 498 198 149 21 21 23 31 | 32 10 12 124 309 20 35 35 5 1 0 0 |  |
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| 47, 304 | 3.515 | 2. | 138,768 | 7.786 | 5.6 |



Dropout:

> A "dropout" means a person who leaves school for any reason, except death, before completion of a high school diploma or its equivalent and who does not transfer to another public or private school or enroll in an approved home study program.

Annual Dropout Rate:
This is the percentage of the student body which dropped during the two reporting periods of October 1986 through June 1987 and July 1987 to the October 1987 one-day membership count.

Alternative Schools:
Some districts have established alternative educational programs for dropouts and potential dropouts. Because of the educational characteristics of their student bodies the alternative schools have very high dropout rates.

Pupil Count:
This count reflects the total number of students reported as being in membership at any time during the reporting period. It is used as the base for calculating the dropout rate.

Retrievals:
Students who have re-entered school after dropping out during the prior reporting period.

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