



St. Johns County graduation rates jump a percentage point

By The Record
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Graduation rates in St. Johns County increased one percentage point from 2017-18 to 2018-19, according to Florida Department of Education data released Thursday.

St. Johns County ranks second in the state behind the 98.8% graduation rate of the Lafayette County School District, which saw 78 students graduate out of a cohort of 79 students. The rural county has a population of about 8,500 compared to about 250,000 for St. Johns County.

Over a five-year period, St. Johns County School District's 94.3% graduation rate increased from 90.5% in 2014-15. The district's overall graduation rate increased 2.4 percentage points from 2016-17 to 2017-18, following a 1.3-percentage point drop from 2015-16 to 2016-17.

According to DOE data, Creekside High School increased to 99.5% for the 2018-19 school year from 98.8% in 2017-18. Ponte Vedra High School's graduation rate went from 98% to 98.7%.

Graduation rates rose at St. Augustine High School (87% to 89.1%), St. Johns Technical High School (81% to 87%) and Pedro Menendez High School (86.5% to 90.3%).

Only two schools saw slight decreases: Nease High School fell from 95.9% in 2017-18 to 94.7%, and Bartram Trail High School dropped from 97.6% in 2017-18 to 96.9% in 2018-19.

St. Johns County Superintendent Tim Forson said the current graduation rate was the culmination of years of work and that the district sought to bring the graduation rate higher every year.

"(The graduation rate) is demonstrating what our schools are doing," Forson said. "It takes a lot to move a percentage point."

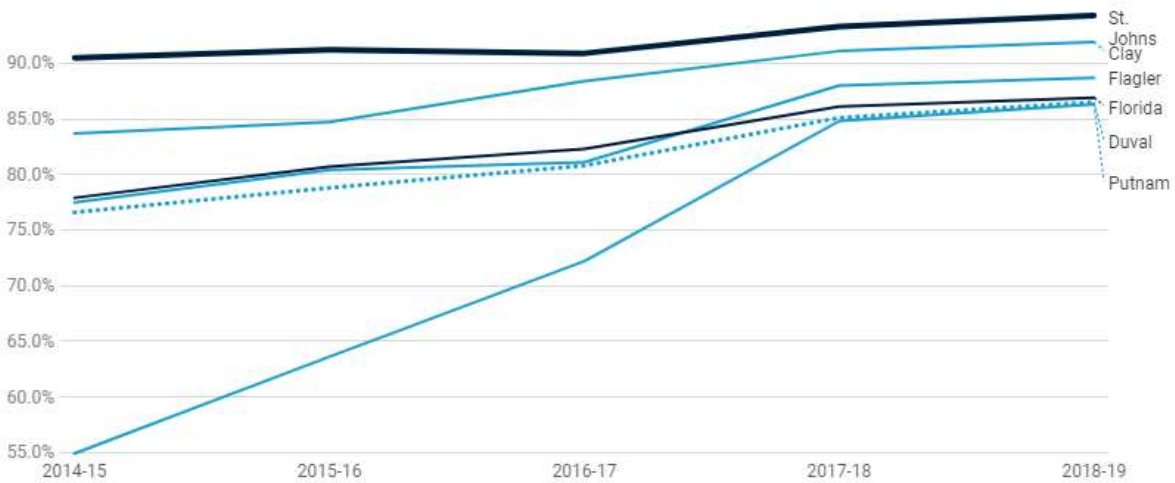
According to the DOE, the state's graduation rate is a cohort graduation rate, defined as a group of students who are on the same schedule to graduate.

Graduation rate measures the percentage of students graduating within four years of their first enrollment in ninth grade.

Florida's graduation rate was 86.9%, up from 86.1% in 2017-18. A decade ago, the statewide graduation rate was 65.5%.

Non-graduates, which made up 9.6% of the statewide cohort, include students retained or still in school, attending adult education, receiving certificates of completion, or have received GED-based diplomas. In 2018-19, about 3.4% of the state cohort, or 7,257, dropped out.

St. Johns County and neighboring counties' graduation rates since the 2014-15 school year



Source: Source: Florida Department of Education • Get the data • Created with Datawrapper