



ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Ann Arbor Public Schools 2025 Graduation Annual Report

Board of Education

May 6, 2026

Context

2025 Graduation Results

- The graduation report is based on the prior academic year based on lagging verified results from the Michigan Department of Education.
- Over time, AAPS team has continued **work to enhance strategies in support of on-time and 5 year & 6 year graduation** in the AAPS for all students
- This report reflects the prior **requirement of 22 credits for graduation**, above Michigan's required 18 credits
- **Limited use of the intensive 'credit recovery/graduation intensive focus' programs** - Grad Alliance - to those students for whom all other strategies have not proven effective - also used for recapture of students who have experienced a separation from school
- **Summary:** the approach has continued with high expectations around AAPS graduation requirements - the AAPS diploma signifies a level of achievement - while working diligently to extend a wide range of interventions & strategies to support students in meeting the goal

How is the Graduation Rate Calculated?

Michigan Graduation and Dropout Definitions

All graduation cohorts are based on the 9th grade enrollment

On-Track Graduated: Completed high school with a regular diploma in 4 years or less

GED Completer*: Earned a GED certificate

Other Completer*: Earned a Special Education certificate of completion, earned another certificate, or reached special education maximum age

Off-Track Continuing*: Did not complete high school in four years and is still continuing in school

Dropout: Left high school permanently at any time during the four-year period, or whereabouts unknown (missing expected record)

**Starred categories count as neither graduates nor dropouts, but are included in the cohort total, cohort total is the sum of all the above categories*

$$\text{Graduation Rate} = \frac{\text{On - Track Graduated}}{\text{Cohort Total}}$$

Corrections

Due to a reporting error, 51 summer graduates were not reported in our 4-Year On-Track graduate rate (3.6 percentage points).

In consultation with our county auditors and our Student Accounting team, the accurate number of 4-Year On-Track graduates, including those who were undercounted originally are reported here. Please note that the data presented tonight is an amended version of what is publicly available in mischooldata.org. This is carefully noted on each display.

An internal analysis of the past several years of AAPS graduation data has been completed revealing no significant errors in previous years.

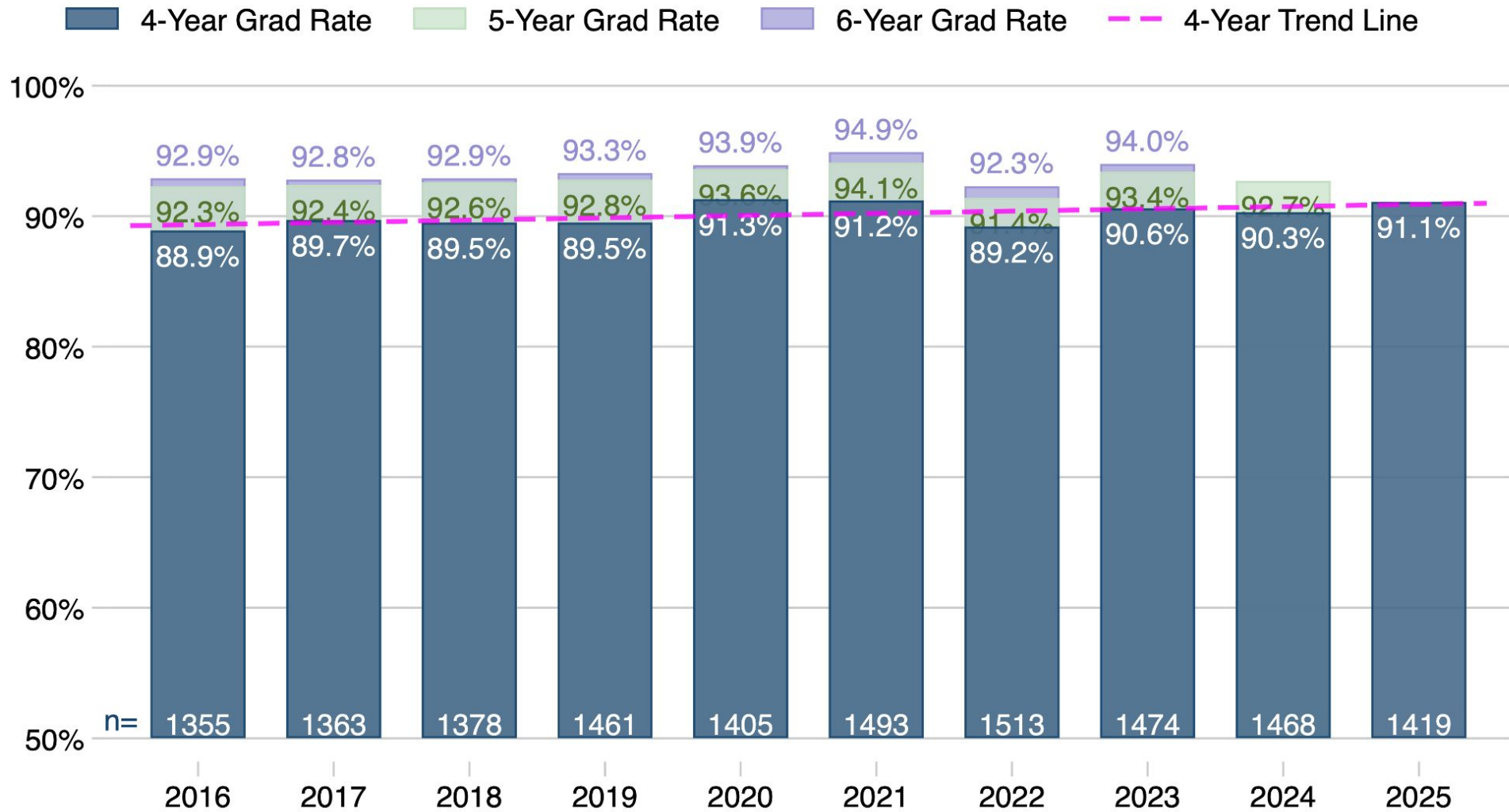
To ensure the 2025 error does not occur again, standard operating procedures were put in place immediately.

Graduation Amendment Standard Operating Procedures

1. Summer school course credit completion reports shared with respective school counselors and administrators by first week of August.
2. Pupil accounting coordinator sends Graduation and Dropout Report (4-year cohort non-graduate list) to building administrators/counselors at the start of of the amendment window.
3. Executive Director, Secondary Schools and Assistant Superintendent, Teaching & Learning meet with lead high school administrators to review graduation report to ensure accountability for building audit of the GAD list.
4. Building administrators/counselors review each student, identifying barriers and noting all efforts to support on time graduation, graduation plans and child find steps.
5. Counselors cross-check against graduation plans/transcripts and complete summer graduates amendment form for pupil accounting.
6. All amendments are shared with the Pupil Accounting Specialist by deadline and reviewed by Assistant Superintendent, Teaching & Learning.
7. Pupil Accounting Specialist then submits amendments by amendment deadline.

AAPS 4- 5- and 6-Year Graduation Rates Over Time

All Students



Note: Due to a reporting error, the number of 4-year On-Track graduates was undercounted this year. This display includes corrected values.



Our 2025 graduation results show that:

- Overall, the graduation rate has increased by +0.8 percentage points (pp) since 2024.
- The AAPS achieves higher graduation rates than the state overall as well as across demographic groups except for English Learners.
- The AAPS has maintained similar rank order position overall compared to other districts.
- We have had a mix of basically flat (2), increased (4) and decreased (2) graduation rates since 2024 (numbers are change in percentage points):

Asian/Asian Amer +1.0	Black/Afr Amer +4.3	Econ Disadv +0.6	English Learners -6.9
Hispanic/Latinx +1.9	Students w/ IEPs -0.2	Two or More Races -1.4	White +0.4

- The AAPS has a slightly higher (+0.1 pp) 4-year dropout rate for 2025.

Initial Takeaways

2025 Graduation Results

Strategies and Supports

Early Intervention

- Overall strong focus on student connection and engagement: relationships with students & families
- High School Deans and Counselors continue to support earlier and higher levels of intervention for students to support a path to graduation
- Credit recovery options at all high schools beginning at the end of each trimester/semester rather than waiting for summer school
- Enhanced systems to enable support and intervention for students struggling with life, social-emotional, & mental health challenges:
 - GradAlliance, A2 Virtual+, etc. when attendance in the traditional school day is not possible
 - TRAILS, SAEBRS, PBIS
 - Revision of the Rights & Responsibility Handbook



Strategies and Supports

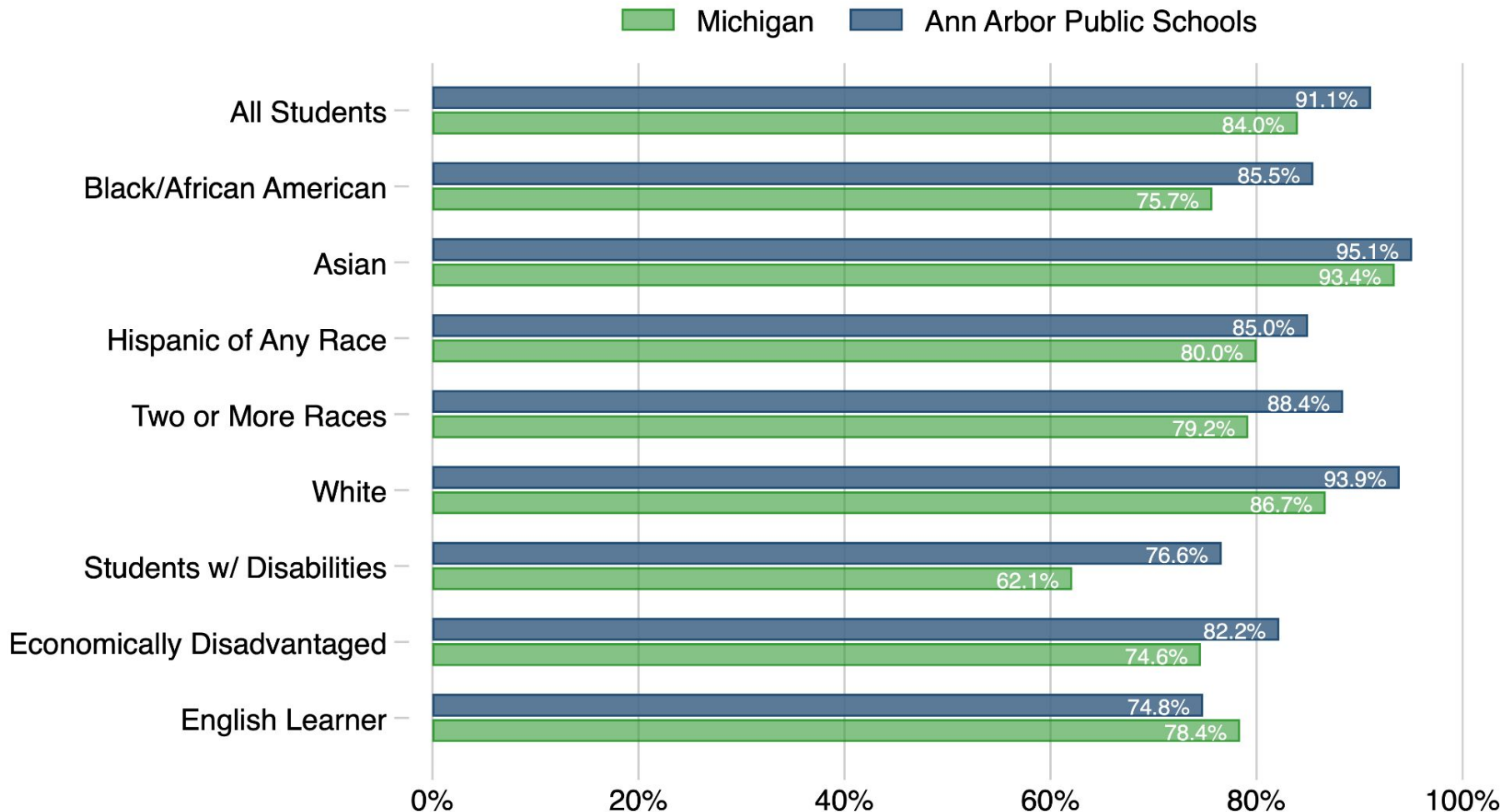
Early Intervention

- High school options to meet students' goals and needs
- Personalized Curricula as appropriate for some students with specialized learning needs (IEP's)
- Graduation plans, developed in partnership with students and parents
- Achievement team plans intervention to coordinate additional supports for the whole child, including attendance, behavior and academics.
- Strategic outreach to students for summer school credit recovery & interventions & provision of free tuition for recovery



The AAPS continues to outpace State of Michigan graduation rates overall and across most demographic groups.

2025 4-Year On-Time Graduation Rate Comparisons AAPS and State of Michigan, Overall and by Student Groups

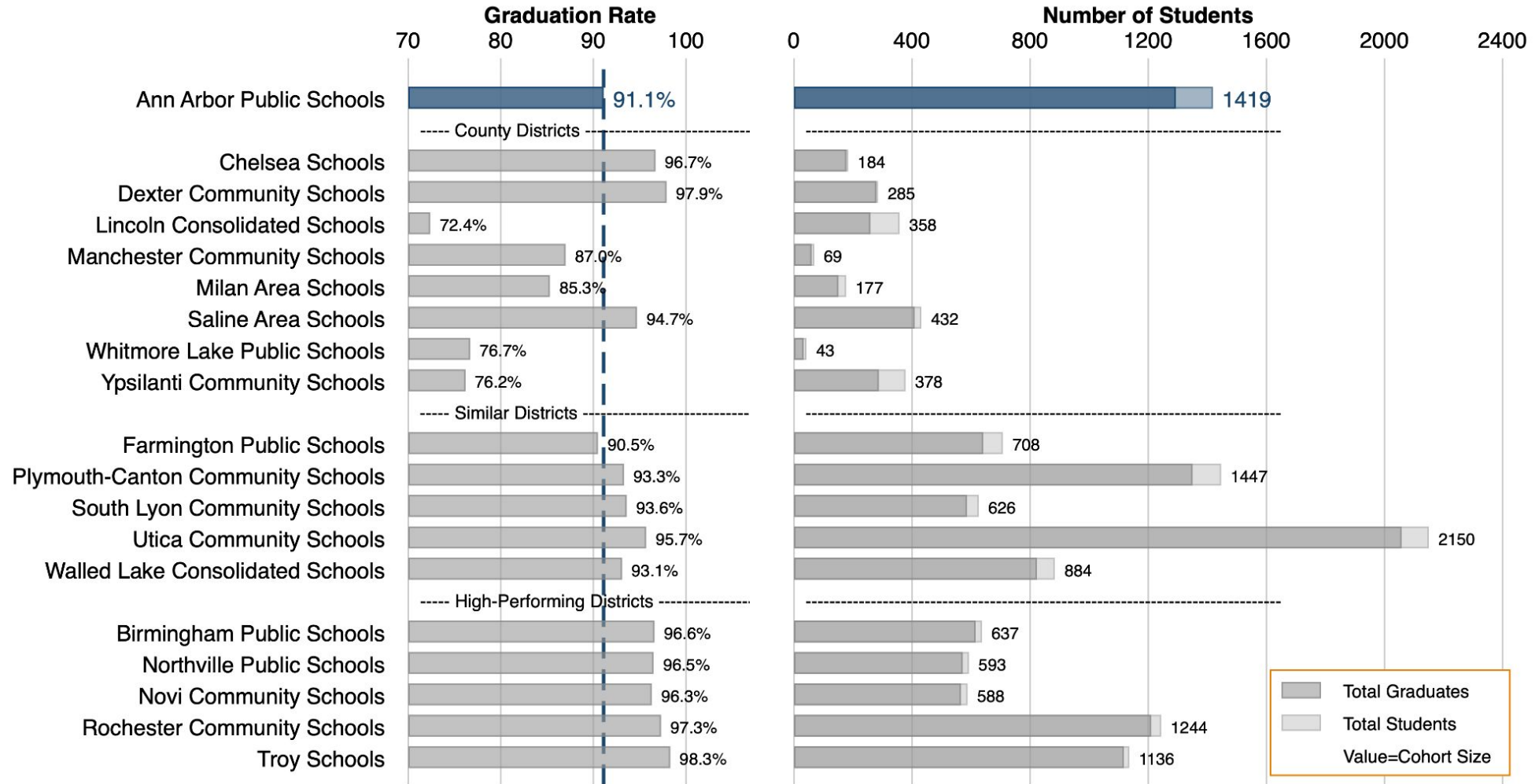


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2025 4-Year On-Time Graduation Rate Comparisons

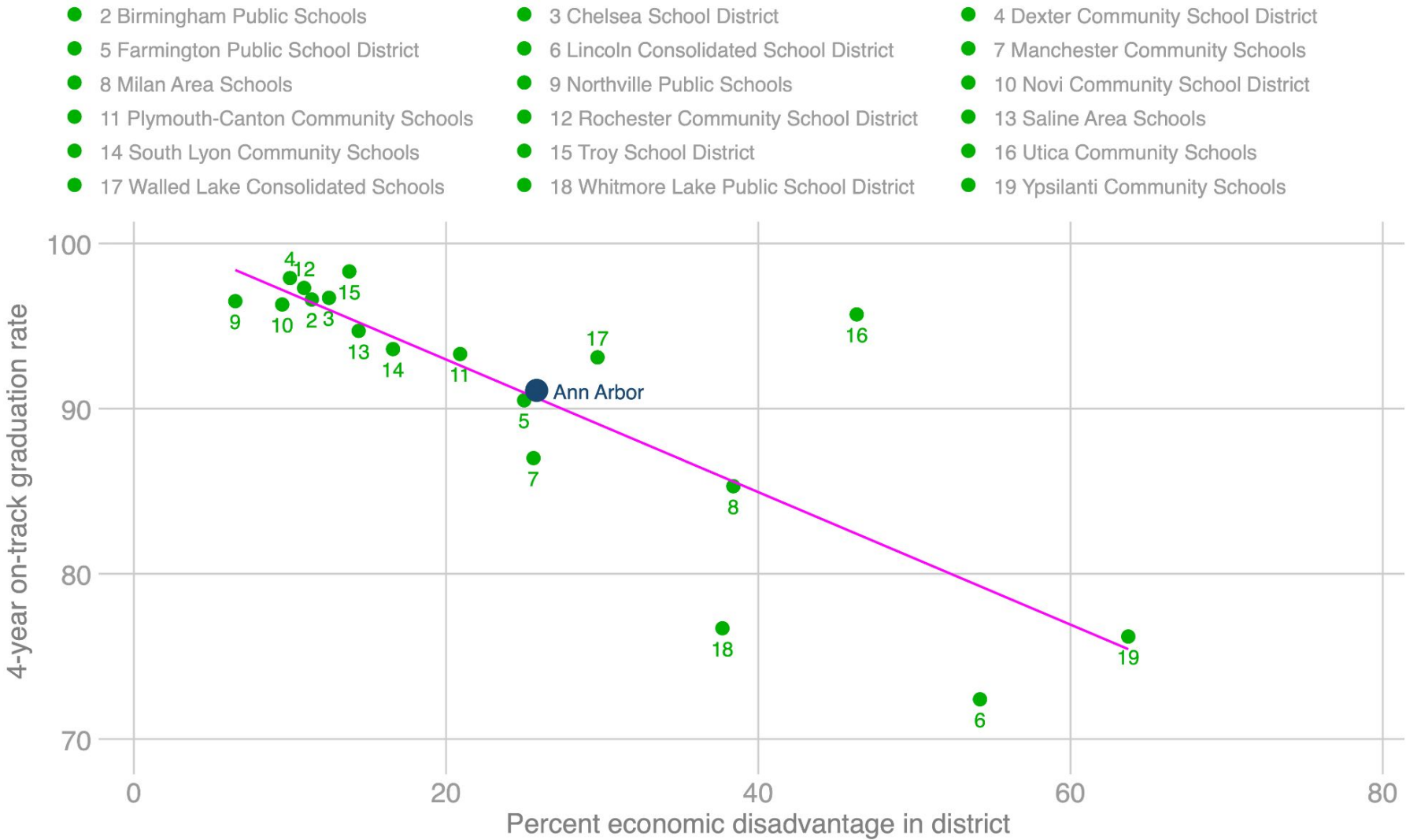
4-Year Graduation Rates, Students Graduated, Students in Cohort



Note: Although no Michigan districts are wholly comparable to the AAPS, comparison of similar districts is based on those districts most comparable across socio-economic, race-ethnicity, and special populations. Due to a reporting error, the number of 4-year On-Track graduates was undercounted this year. This display includes corrected values.

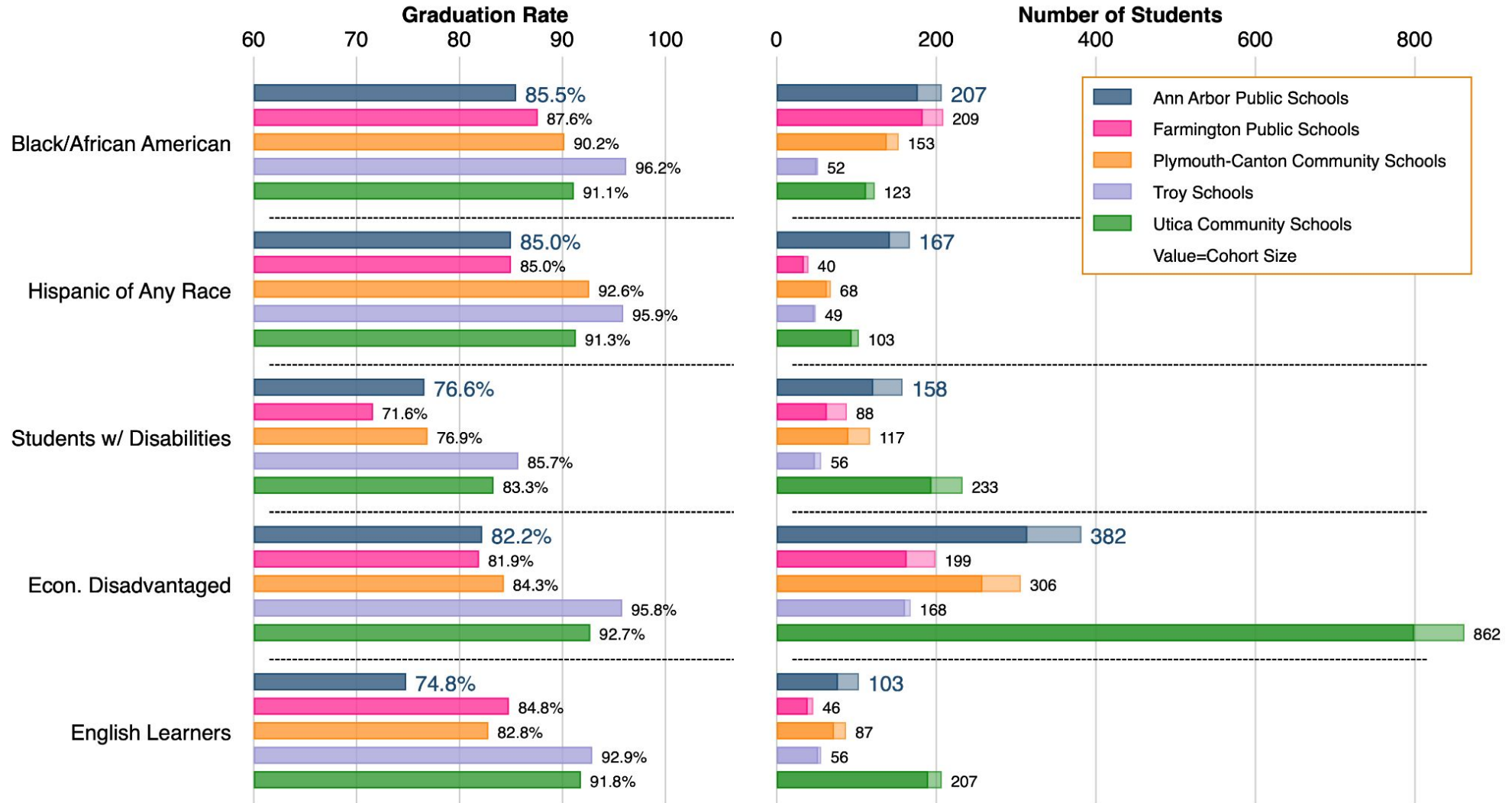
The percent of a district that is economically disadvantaged is a very strong predictor of the 4 year on-time graduation rate.

Percent Economic Disadvantage vs. Graduation Rate, 2025 (Correlation= -0.8292)



2025 4-Year On-Time Graduation Rate Comparisons

AAPS and Similar Districts, by Student Groups



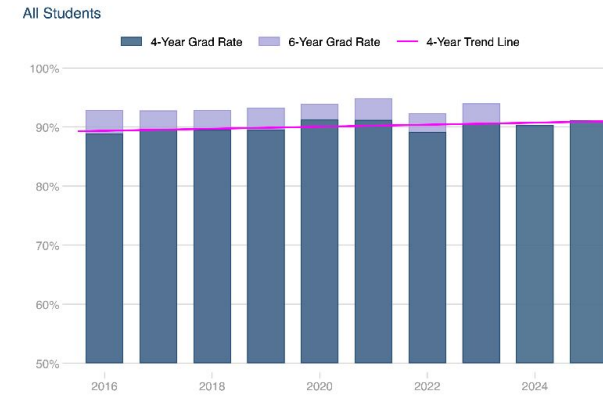
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Graduation Rate Highlights

For All Students:

- This represents our third highest 4-year graduation rate in the past decade, only behind the years that were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in which students were provided extra grace.

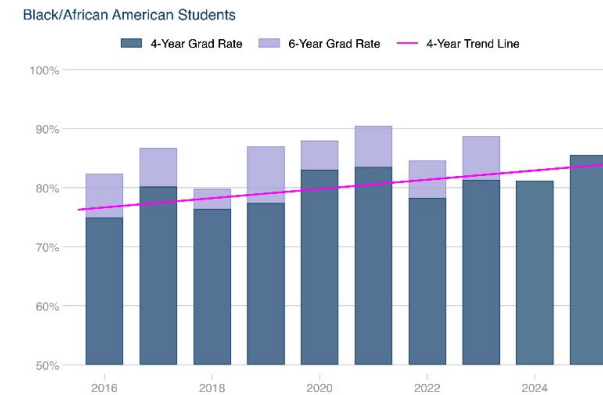
- We have an overall trend of +0.35 percentage points per year over the last decade.



For Black/African American Students:

- This represents our highest 4-year graduation rate in the past decade.

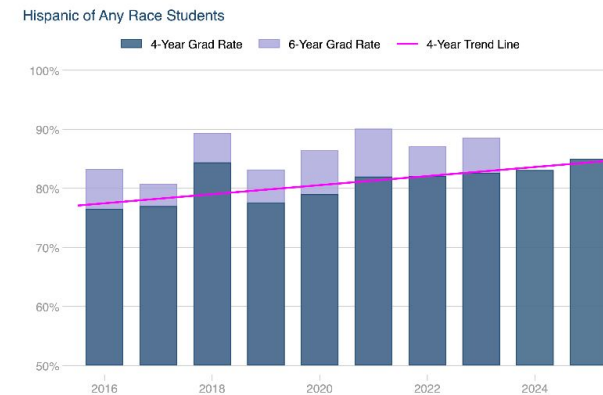
- While we still have work to do for this group, the overall graduation rate trend over the past decade is +0.52 percentage points per year.



For Hispanic/Latino Students:

- This represents our highest 4-year graduation rate in the past decade.

- While we still have work to do for this group, the overall graduation rate trend over the past decade is +0.62 percentage points per year.



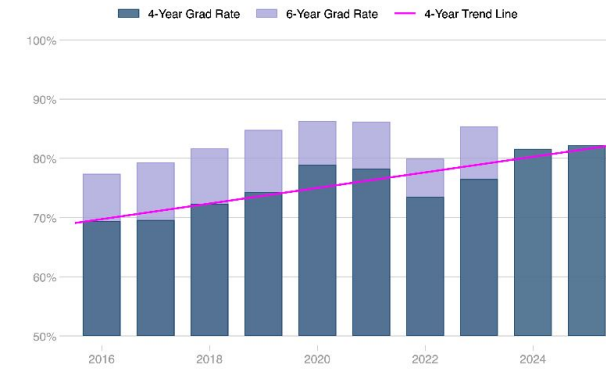
Graduation Rate Highlights (continued)

For Economically Disadvantaged Students:

- This represents our highest 4-year graduation rate in the past decade.

- While we still have work to do for this group, the overall graduation rate trend over the past decade is +0.90 percentage points per year.

Economically Disadvantaged Students

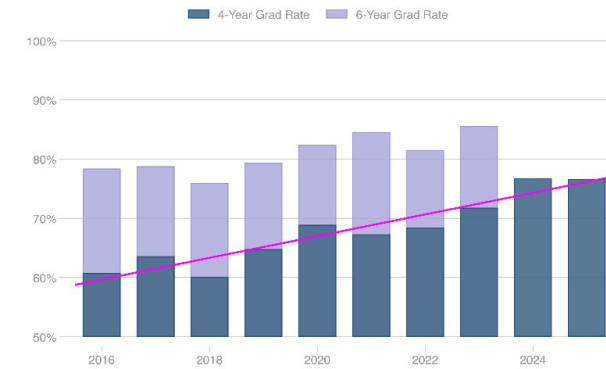


For Students with Disabilities:

- This represents our second highest 4-year graduation rate in the past decade (only 0.2 percentage points lower than our highest last year).

- While we still have work to do for this group, the overall graduation rate trend over the past decade is +1.09 percentage points per year.

Students with Disabilities

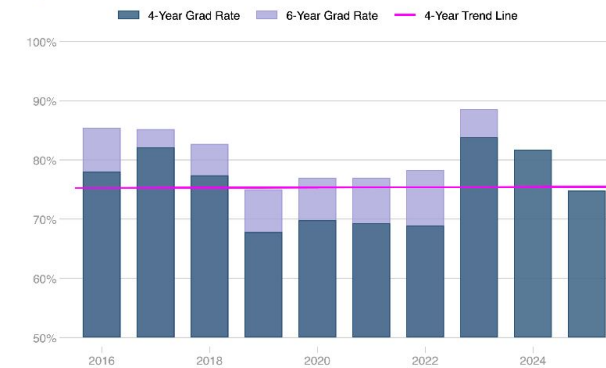


For English Learners:

- This represents a 4-year graduation rate in the middle of the last decade, not as low as 2019-2022, but lower than the prior two years.

- This is the group of students in our five focus groups for which we have the most work to do, especially as this population grows across Michigan.

English Learner Students



Time in AAPS v. Grad Rate

In looking at the various demographics of students who did not achieve graduation in 4 years we also considered time in district and high school entry. We found a correlation between time in district and likelihood of graduating within 4 years:

Students who came to us:	Graduated at a rate of:
Before high school	92.9%
In their freshman year	89.5%
In their sophomore year	88.0%
In their junior year	80.8%
In their senior year	73.2%

English Learners

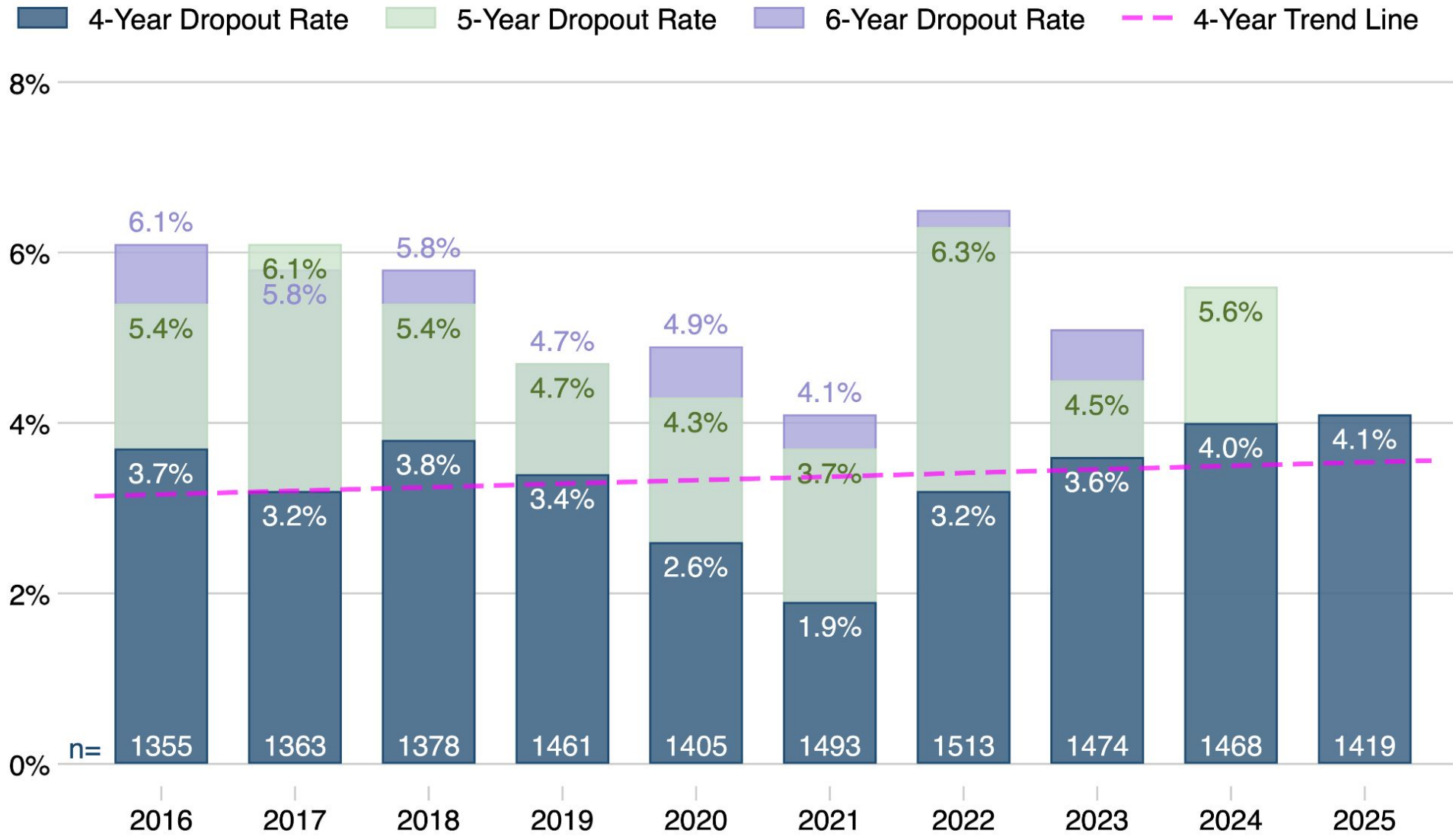
In looking at the various demographics of students who did not achieve graduation in 4 years, we also focused on outcomes for our English Learners. We found that:

54% of English Learners not graduating on-track in 2025 did not enter AAPS until High School, some without transcripts, and 35% entered in either their junior or senior year.

69% of English Learners not graduating on-track in 2025 were also economically disadvantaged.

77% of English Learners not graduating on-track in 2025 continue working towards graduation in one of our buildings or programs.

AAPS 4- 5- and 6-Year Dropout Rates Over Time



Note: Due to a reporting error, the number of 4-year On-Track graduates was undercounted this year. This display includes corrected values.

Exploration of Non-On-Track 4-year Graduates

Student Demographics and Graduation Statuses for Non-On-Track 4 Year Graduates 2025

	2025	
	<i>n</i>	<i>% of off-track</i>
Total not "On-Track 4-Year Graduating"	126	
Asian	10	7.9%
Black/African American	30	23.8%
Hispanic/Latino	25	19.8%
Multiethnic	20	15.9%
White	41	32.5%
Economically Disadvantaged	68	54.0%
English Learner	26	20.6%
Students with IEPs	37	29.4%
Drop Out	23	18.3%
GED Completer	7	5.6%
Missing Expected Record	35	27.8%
Off-Track Continuing	57	45.2%
Other Completers	4	3.2%
Finished via other means/continuing (GED Completer, Off-Track Continuing, Other Completers)	68	54.0%

Source: mischooldata.org, calculations are author's own. Due to a reporting error, the number of 4-Year On-Track graduates was undercounted this year. This table includes corrected values.

Next Steps

- Ensure a **clear and accountable graduation amendment process** for post summer school graduation data to be communicated and reported in a timely, accurate manner
- Continue to provide administrators with **proactive, early warning system data** for early identification of students in need of intervention strategies and enhance
- Investigate the AAPS use of **Personal Curricula** to identify potential opportunities to support on-time graduation for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).
- Strengthen MTSS **Tier 1, 2 and 3 practices** to improve student **engagement, attendance, peer connections, and caring adult relationships.**
- Evaluate and strengthen current AAPS **pathways to graduation**
- Tap into **student voice** to identify **system barriers** and **innovations** to serve AAPS students better.

Detailed Displays

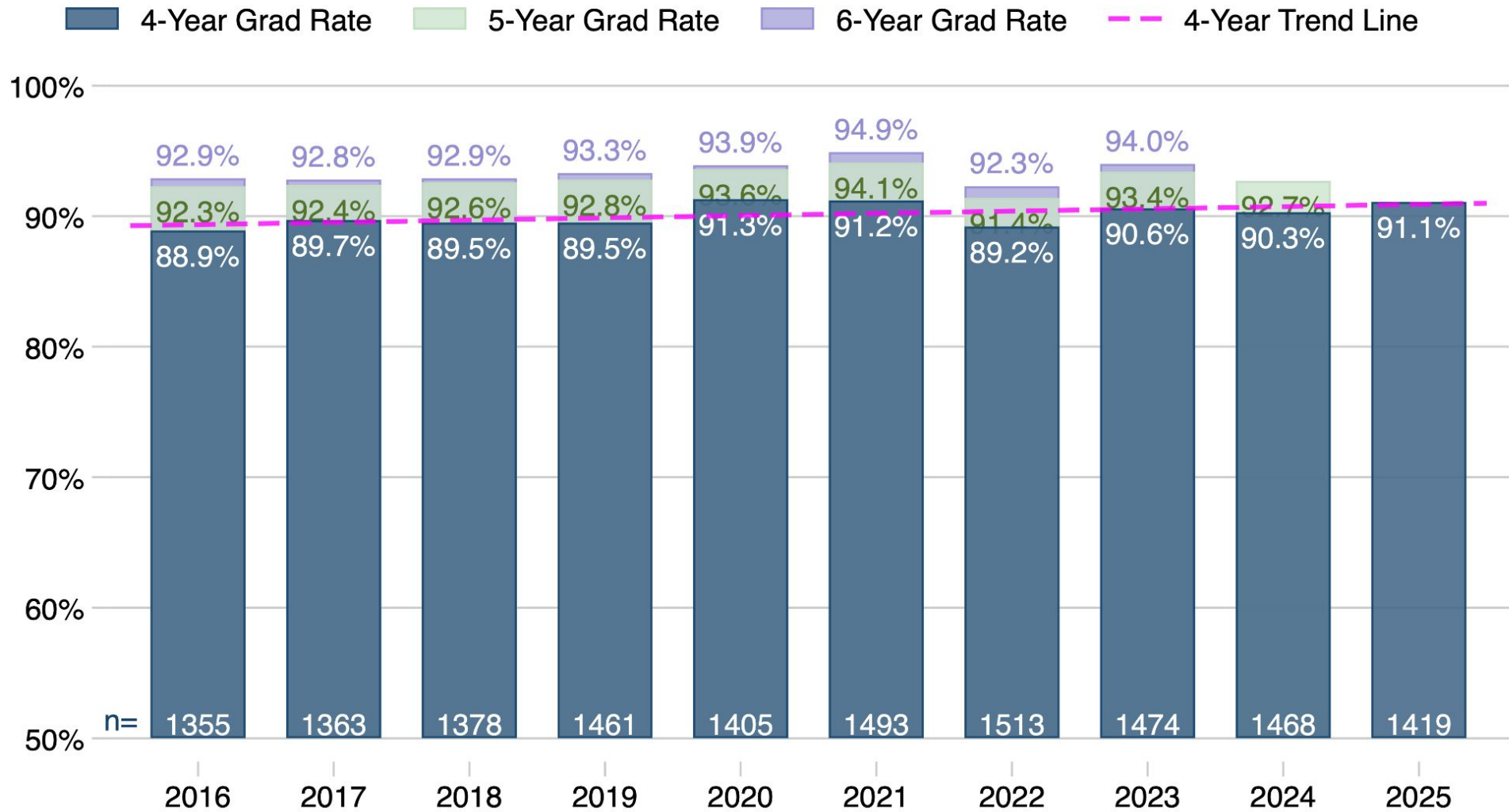
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AAPS 4- 5- and 6-Year Graduation Rates Over Time

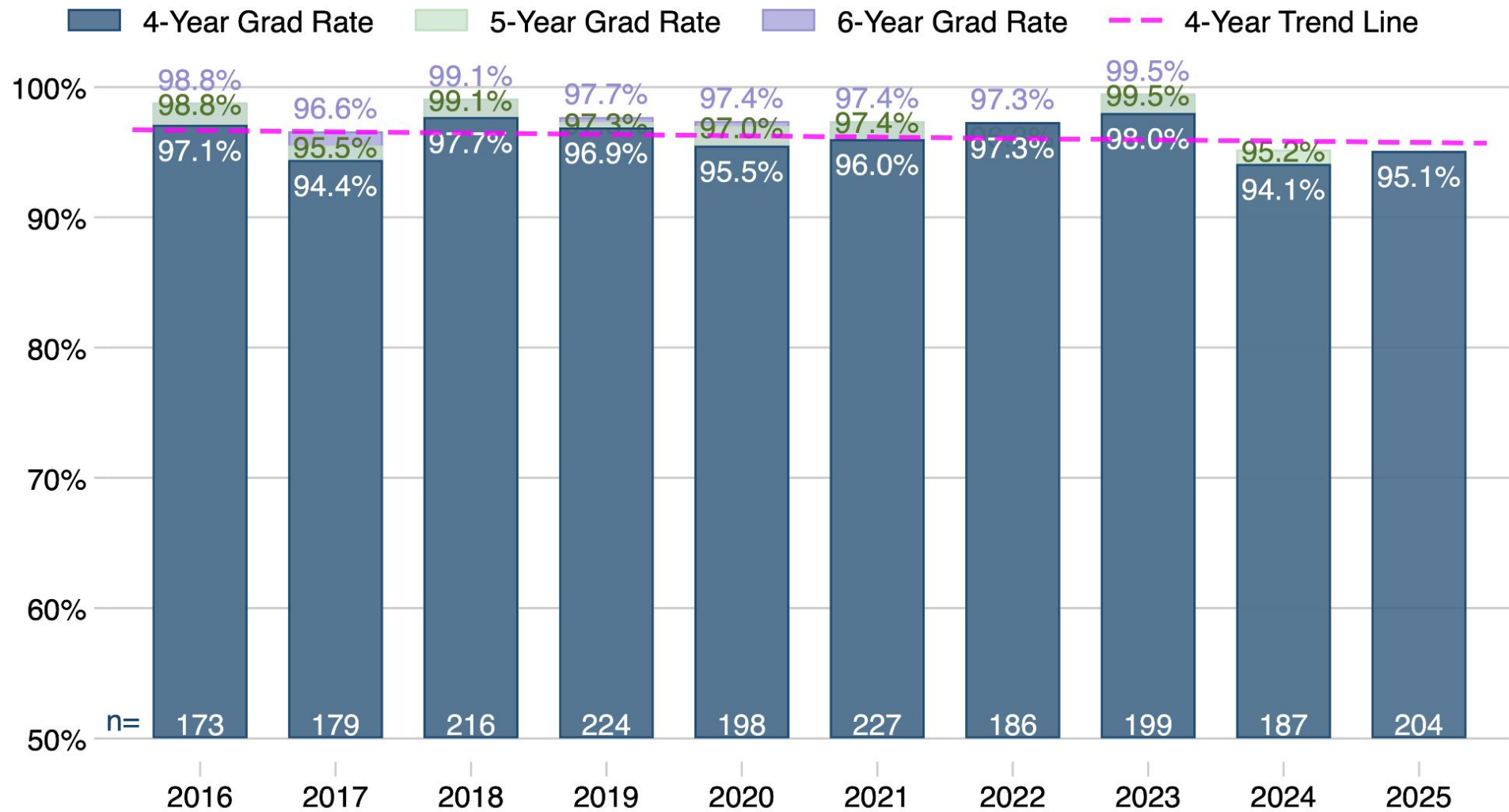
All Students



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AAPS 4- 5- and 6-Year Graduation Rates Over Time

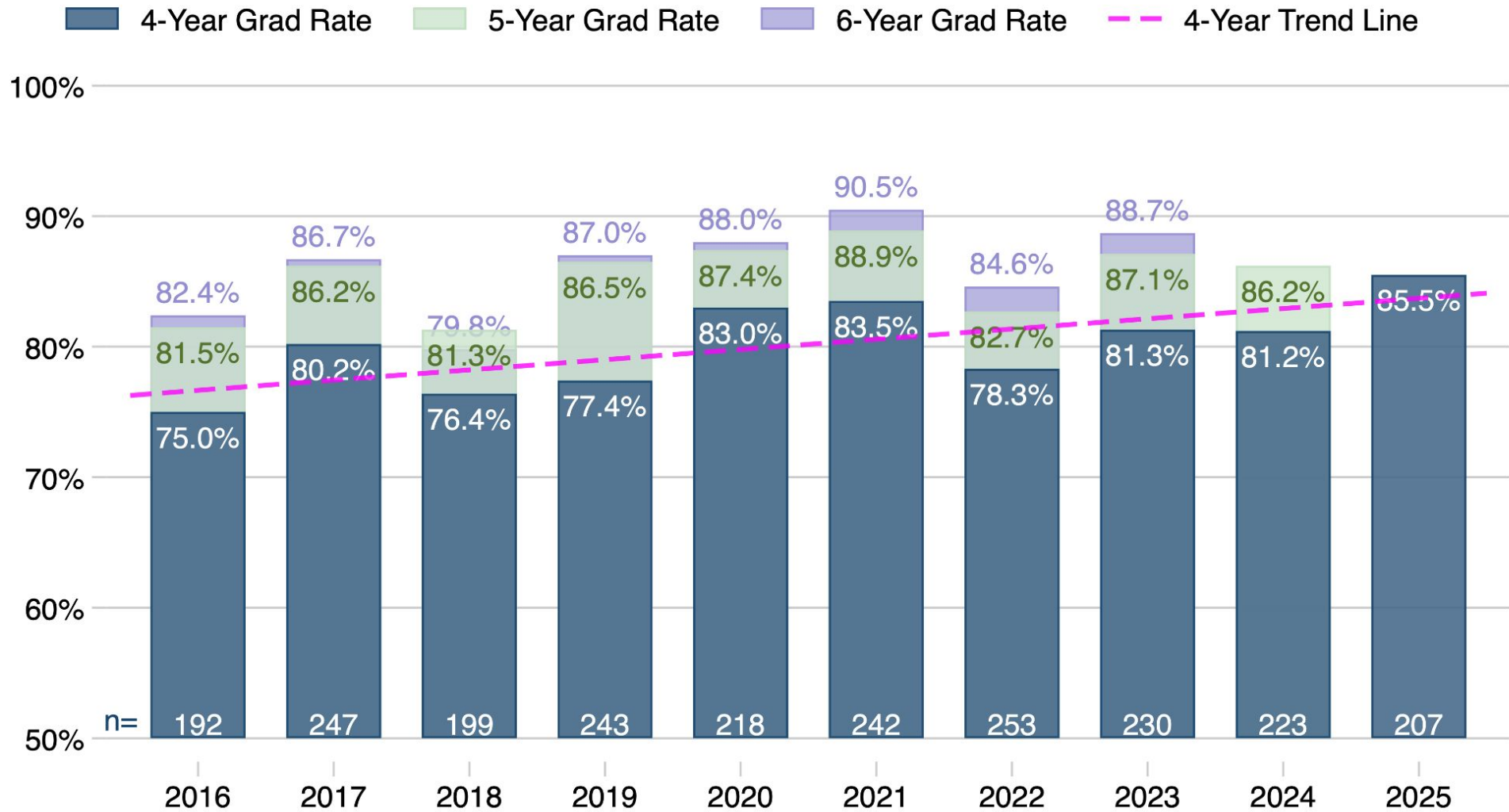
Asian Students



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AAPS 4- 5- and 6-Year Graduation Rates Over Time

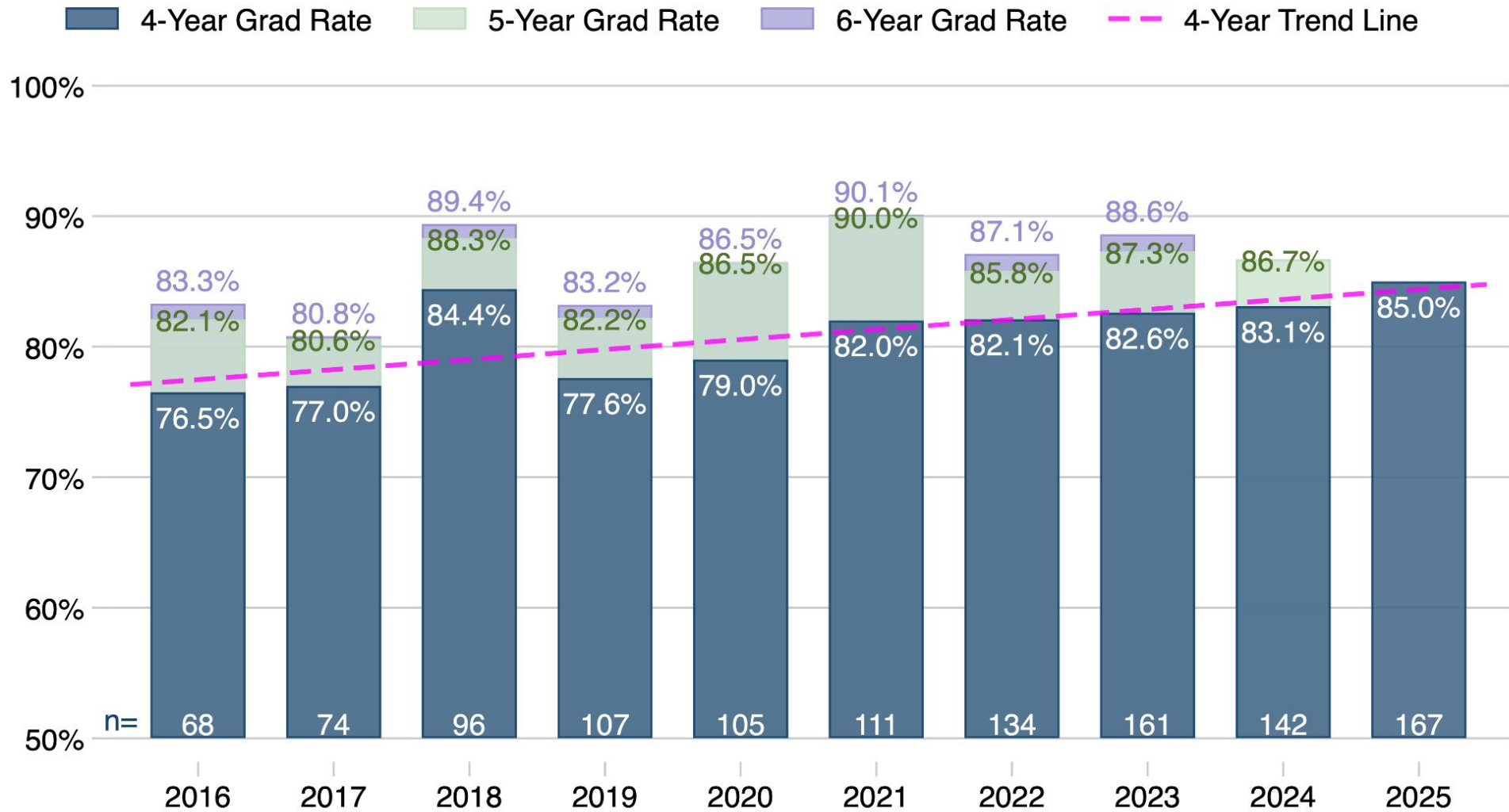
Black/African American Students



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AAPS 4- 5- and 6-Year Graduation Rates Over Time

Hispanic of Any Race Students

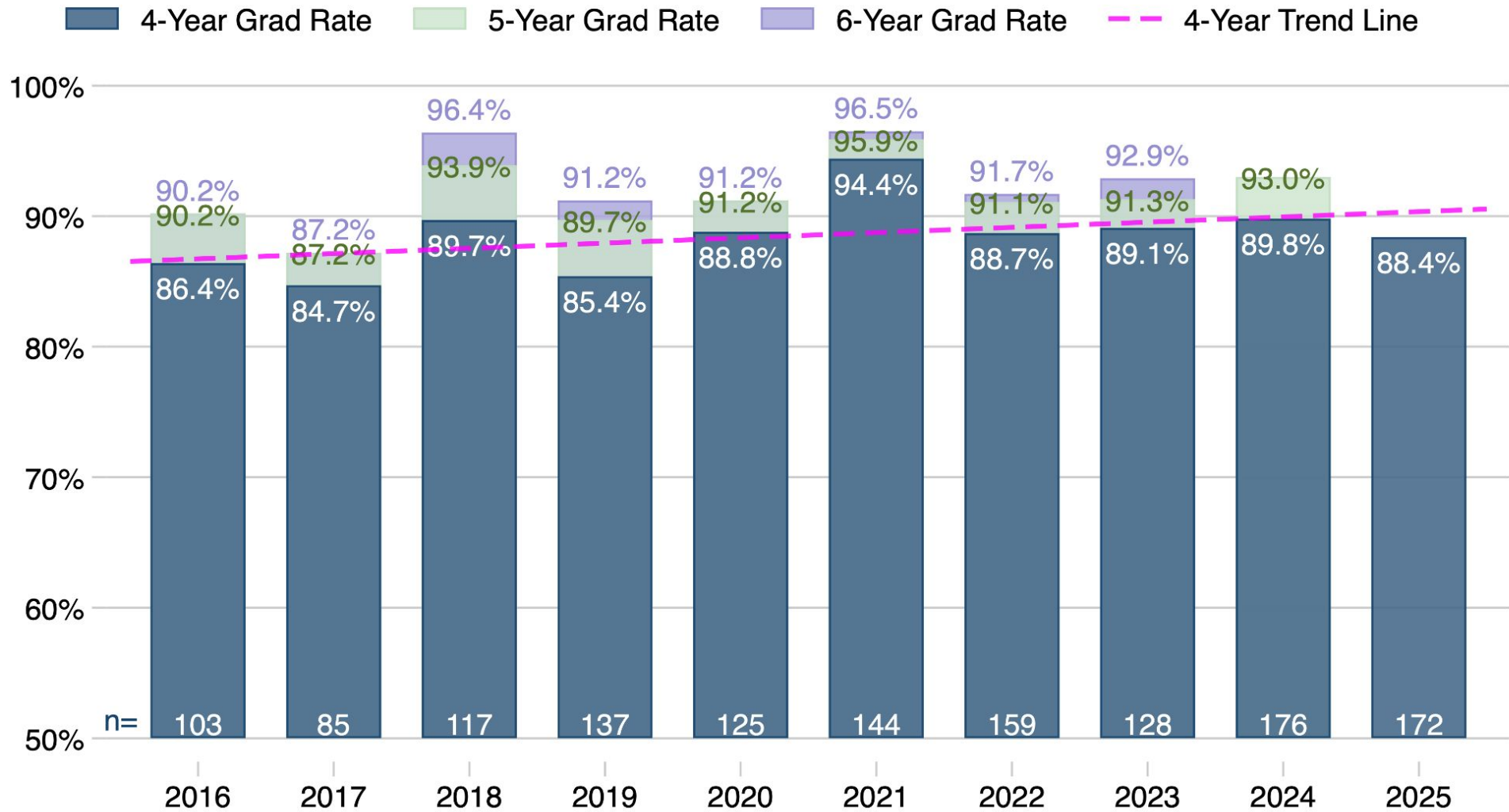


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AAPS 4- 5- and 6-Year Graduation Rates Over Time

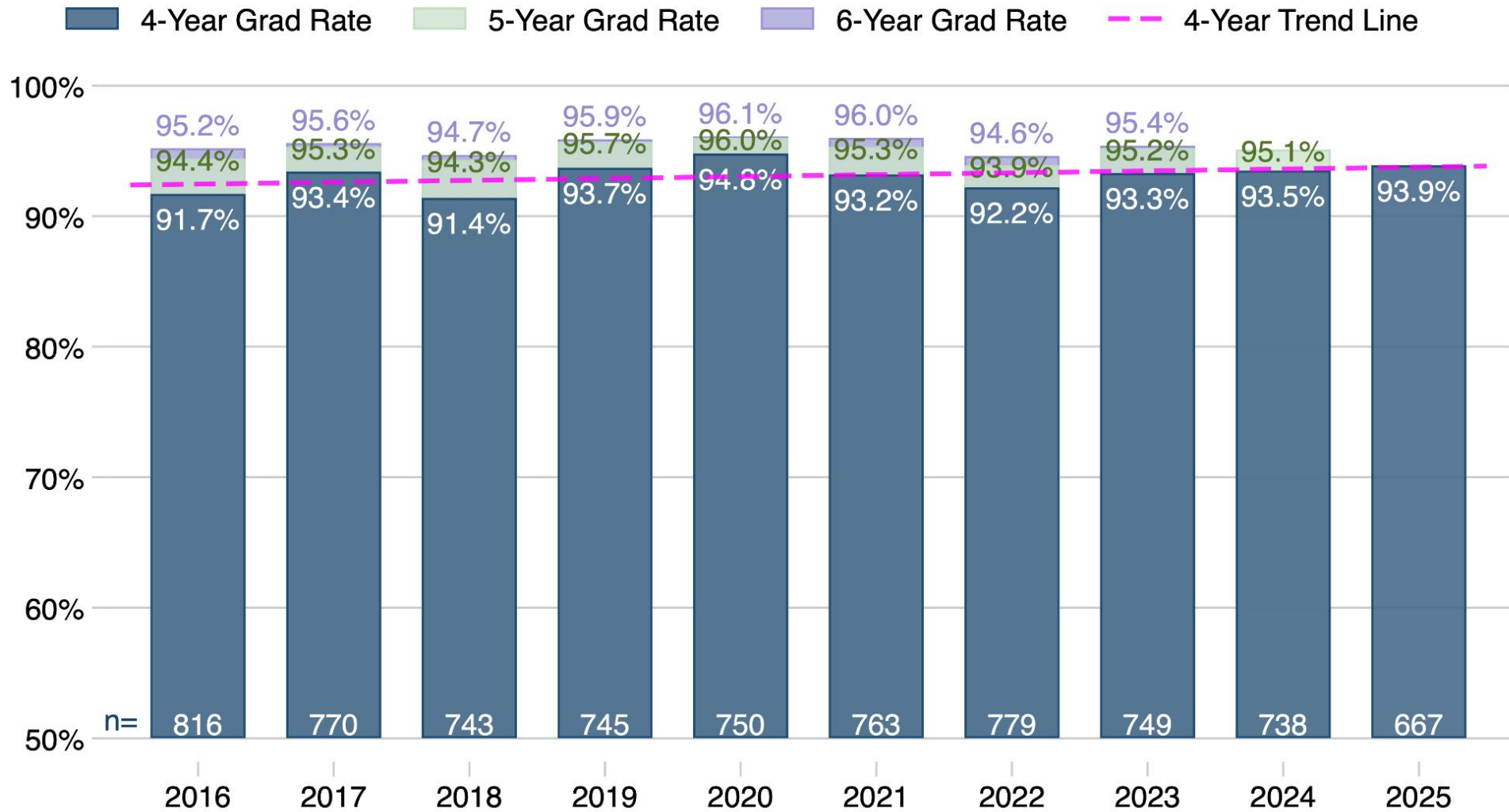
Two or More Race Students



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AAPS 4- 5- and 6-Year Graduation Rates Over Time

White Students

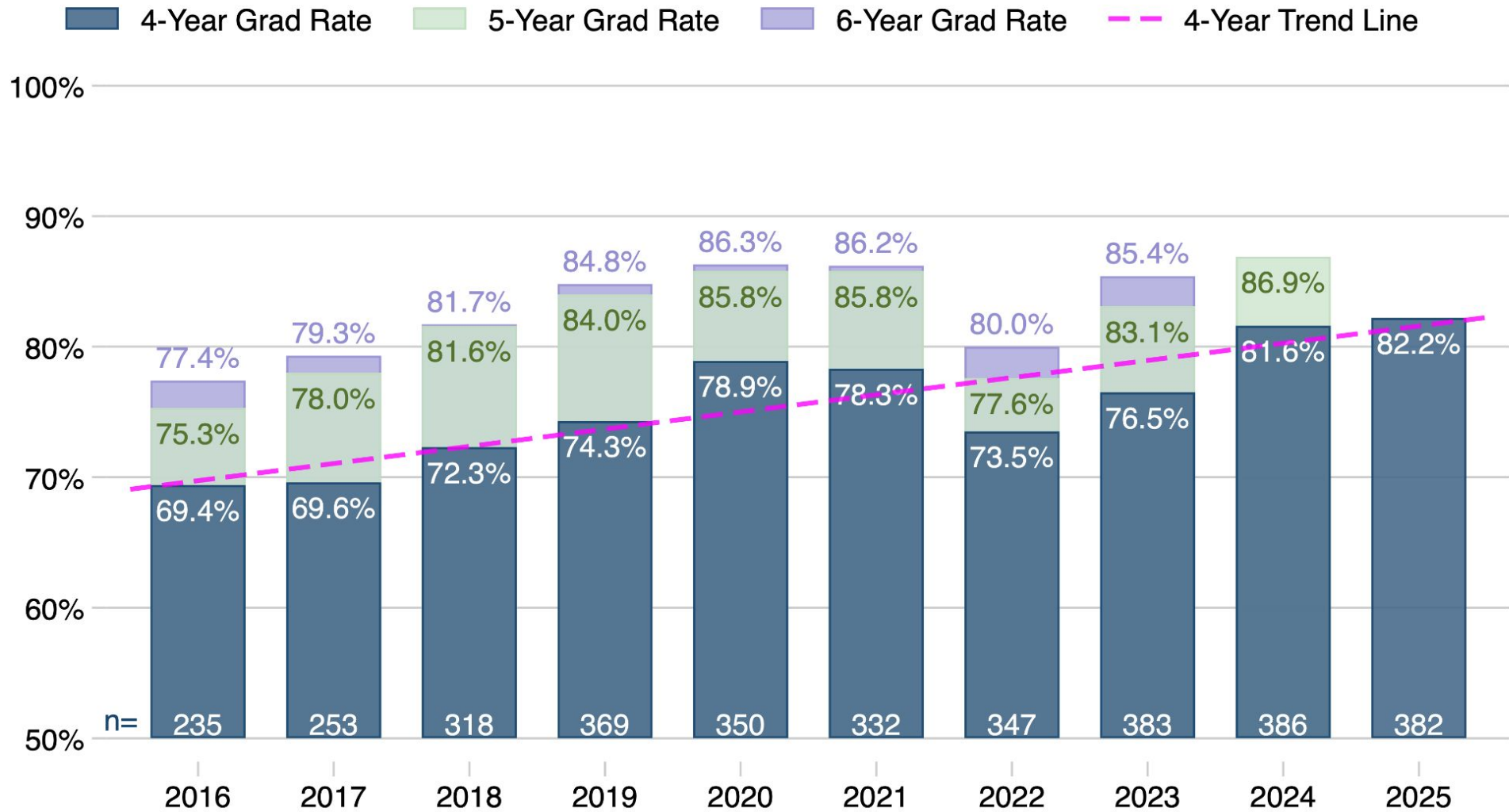


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AAPS 4- 5- and 6-Year Graduation Rates Over Time

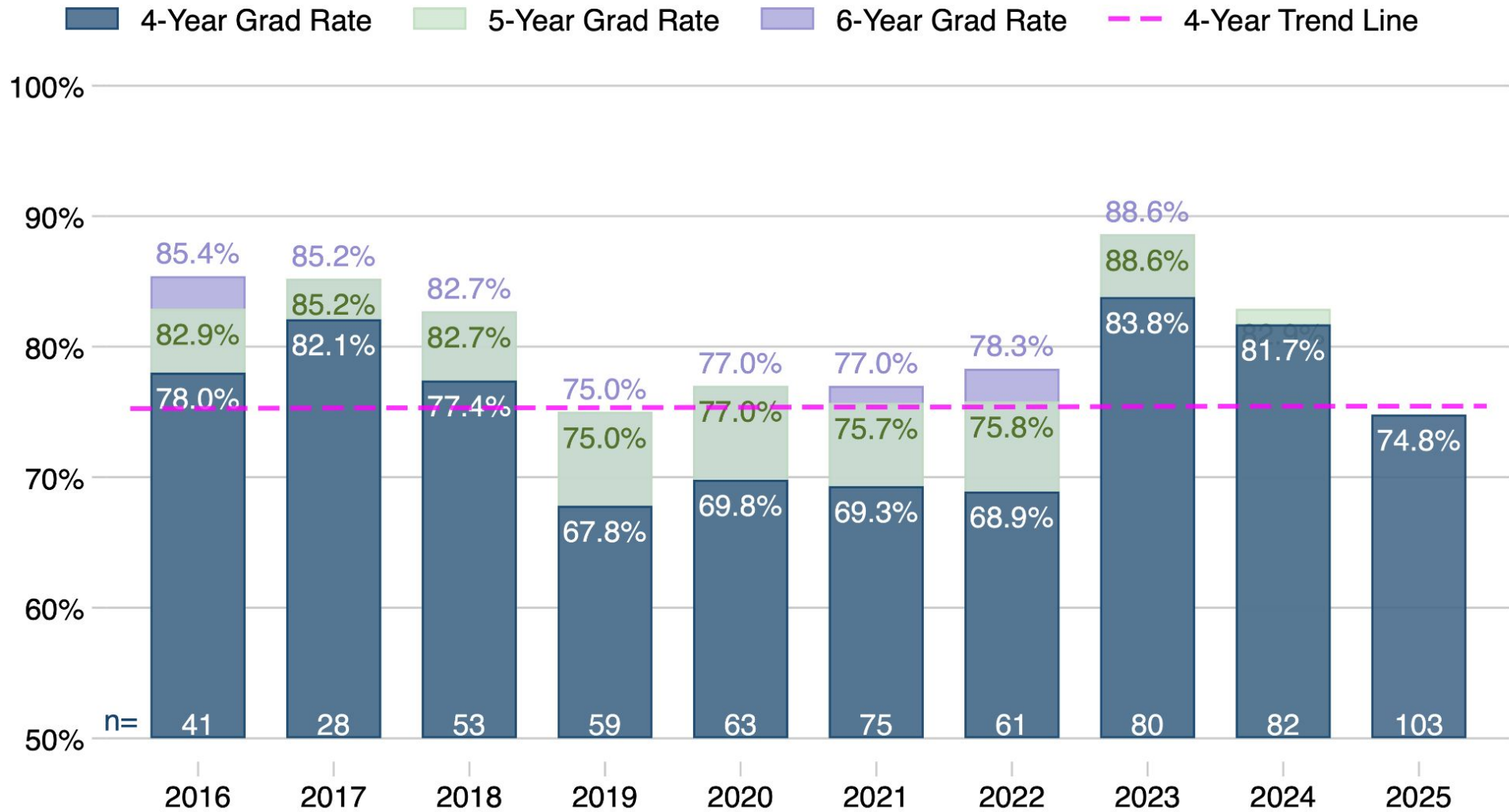
Economically Disadvantaged Students



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AAPS 4- 5- and 6-Year Graduation Rates Over Time

English Learner Students

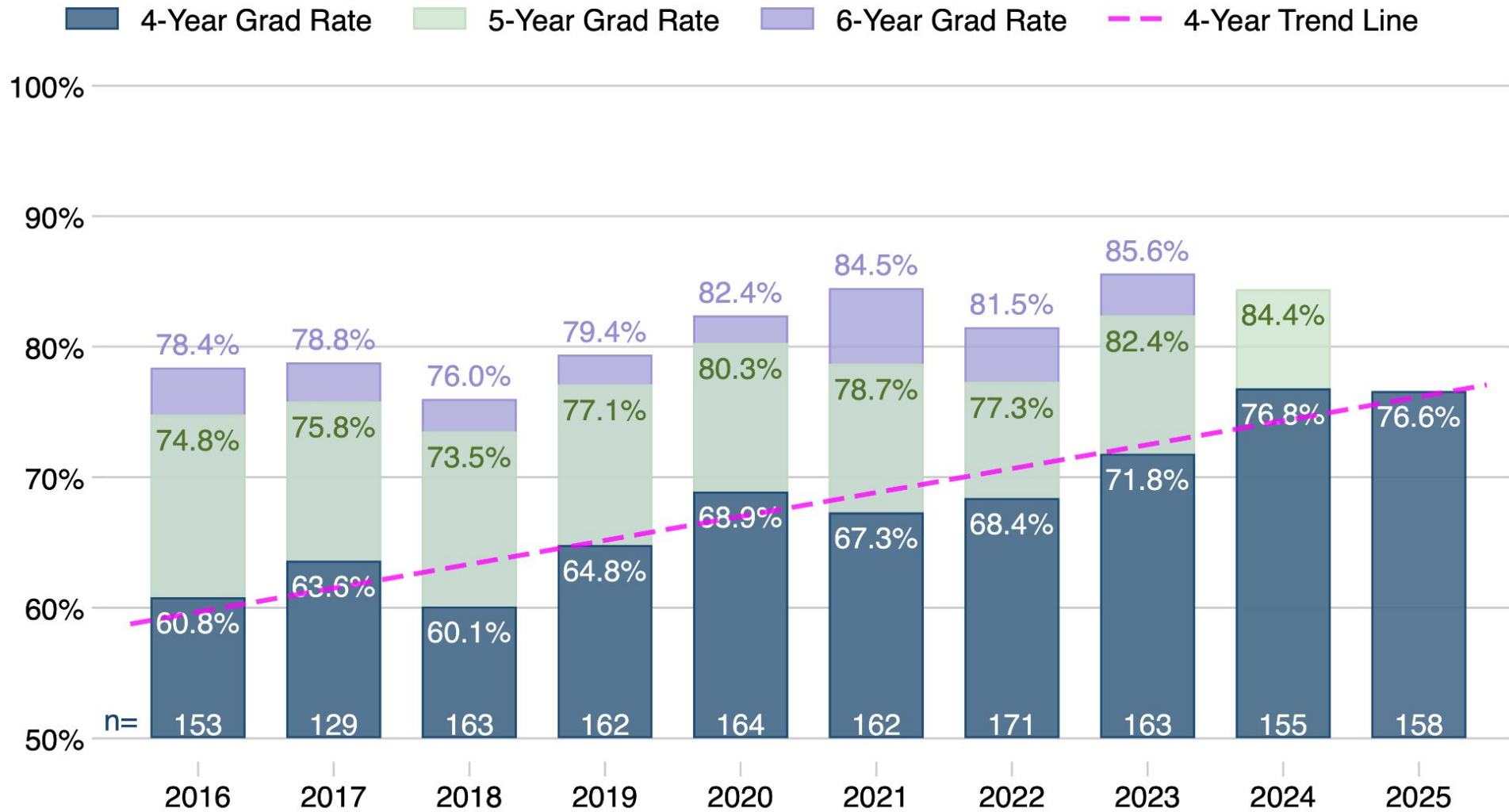


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AAPS 4- 5- and 6-Year Graduation Rates Over Time

Students with Disabilities



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