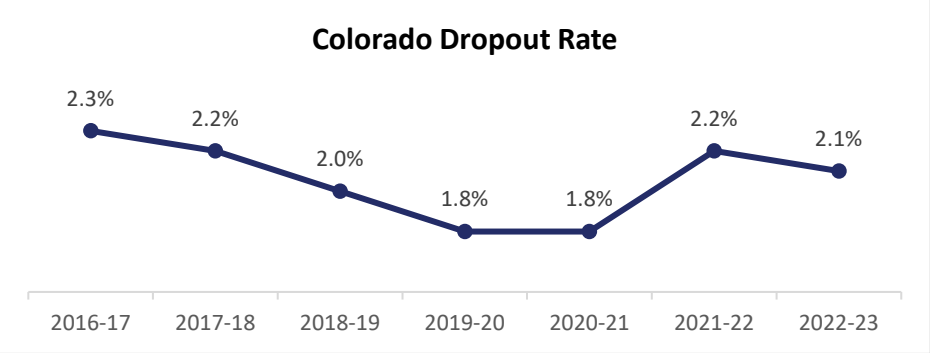
COLORADO
Department of Education

Summary of 2022-23 dropout release

Statewide dropout rate improved in 2022-23

Overall, dropout rates in 2022-23 improved in comparison to 2021-22. This included:

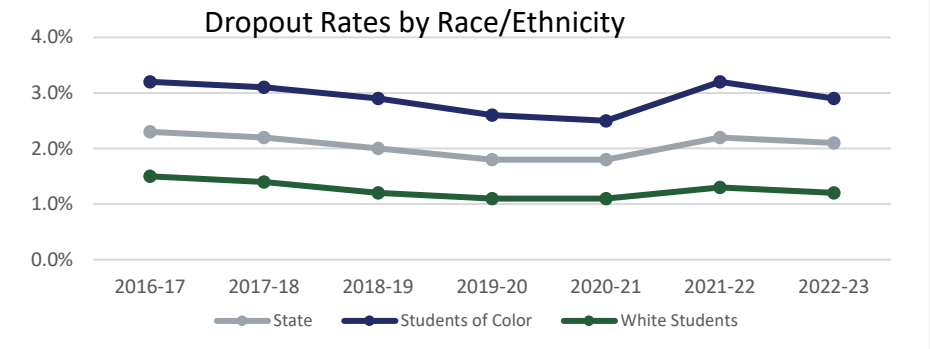
- An improvement in the state dropout rate from 2.2% to 2.1%. This is a reduction of 0.1 percentage points and represents 859 fewer students in grades 7-12 who dropped out.
- About 80% of districts had dropout rates that were the same or better than the prior year (148 of the 185 local education agencies or BOCES).
- The dropout rate in 2021-22 increased substantially over the previous year. With the reduction in 2022-23, the rate is now similar to 2017-18.



Race/Ethnicity subgroups show ongoing gaps

Historically, there have been gaps between different racial/ethnic groups in the dropout rate. In the 2022-23 data, this is evident between students of color and white students with some variation between different groups within those categories.

- The gap between students of color and white students decreased but remained 2 percentage points apart. This represents 6844 students of color in comparison to 2821 white students dropping out in 2022-23 which is significant when considering students of color make up half of the total 7th-12th grade membership base this year.



Dropout Definitions:

Dropout – A student 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. Students who reach the age of 21 before receiving a diploma or designation of completion are also counted as dropouts.

Membership Base – All 7th-12th grade students who were in membership at any point during the school year.

Dropout Rate – The percentage of students who dropped out during the school year within the membership base calculated by dividing the number of dropouts divided by the number of students in the membership base.

Subgroup Dropout Rates – Dropout rate calculated for a specific group of students categorized by their gender, race/ethnicity, or instructional program service type (IPST)

- Gender
- Race/Ethnicity
- IPST
  - Students with Disabilities
  - English Learners
  - Economically Disadvantaged
  - Migrant
  - Title 1
  - Homeless
  - Gifted and Talented
  - Military Connected
  - Foster

Dropout Prevention and Student Reengagement Website

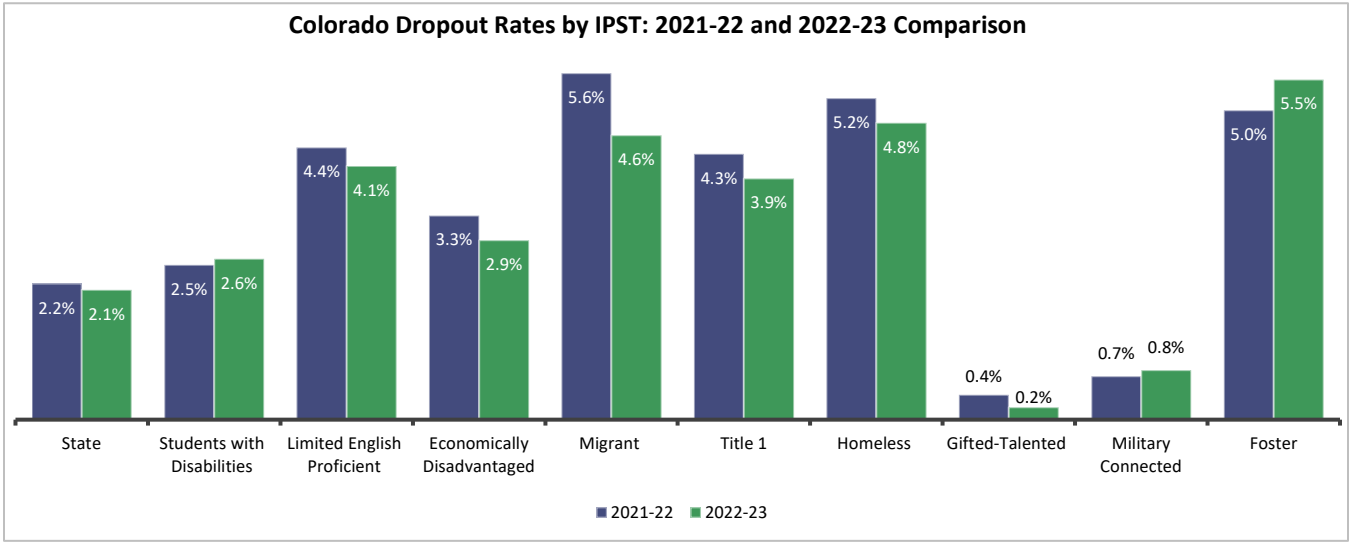
Dropout Statistics Website

JANUARY 2024

Dropout Rate by Instructional Program Service Type (IPST)

Data from 2022-23 had gaps in the rates between student groups. This is similar to trends seen in previous years.

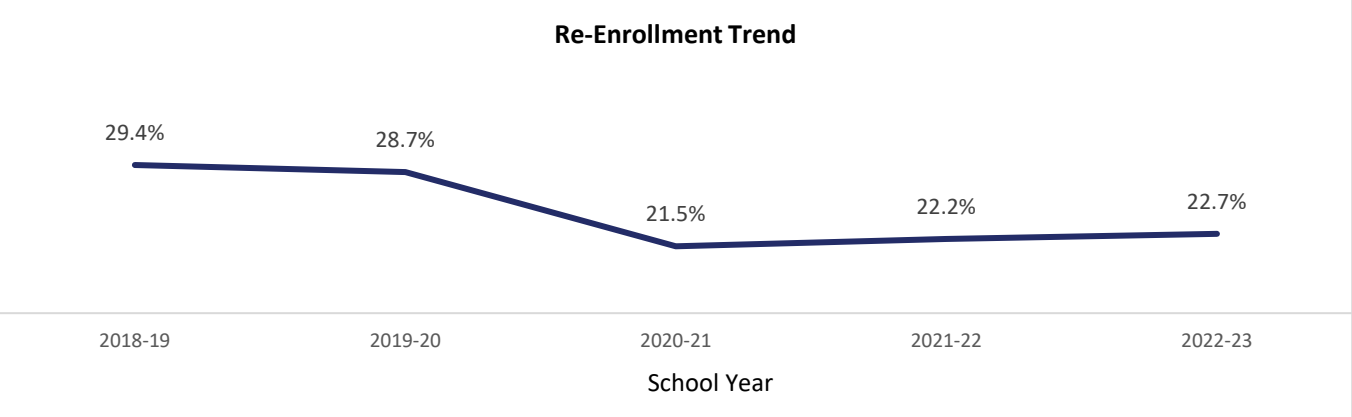
- A number of student groups improved at a faster rate than the statewide improvement; English Learners (0.3% change), Economically disadvantaged (0.4% change), Migrant students (1.0% change), students at a Title I school (0.4% change), and homeless students (0.4% change).
- Students in Foster care had a higher dropout rate than in 2021-22 and the highest rate among collected program types.



Re-enrollment and re-engagement rates

Students who drop out can re-enroll in school and continue their education within the same year or in future years.

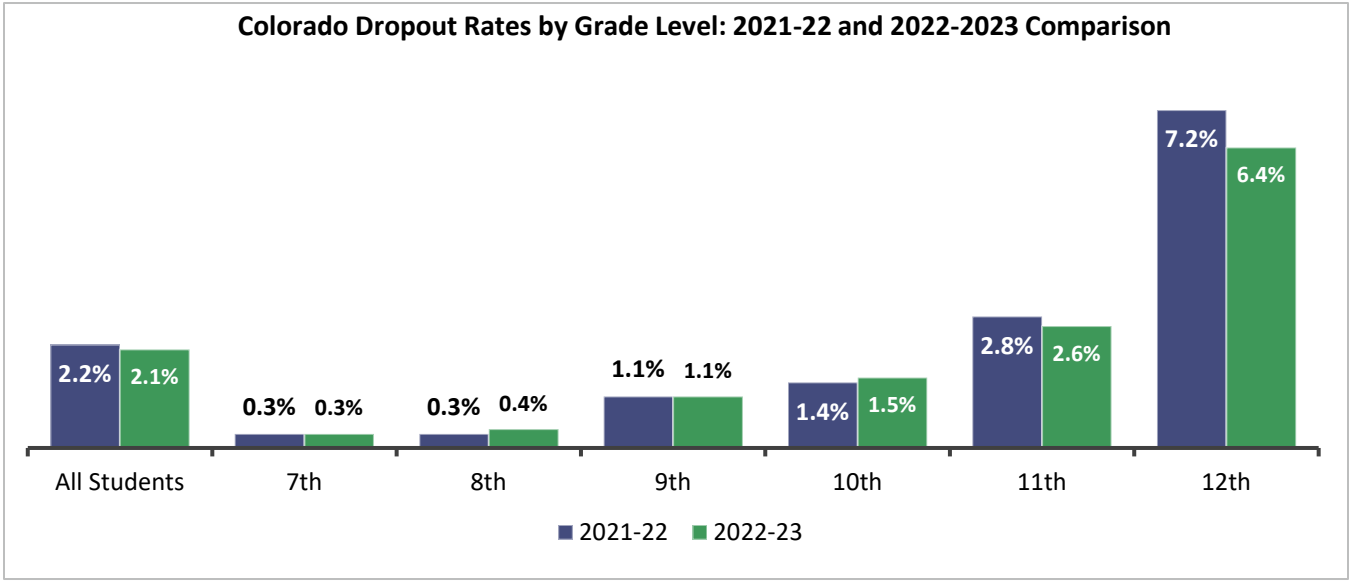
- 22.7 % of dropouts from 21-22 re-enrolled in 22-23. This was 2,385 students. Of this group of students:
  - 64.5% reengaged in their education by graduating, completing, attending an HSED preparation program, or remaining in school (1,539 students). The remainder left school again.
  - 16.6% graduated or completed in 22-23
  - 46.0% were still enrolled at the end of 22-23



Concentrations of Dropouts

While student engagement may be a challenge facing a number of districts across the state, the majority of dropouts are often concentrated in a smaller subset of regions, districts, or grade levels.

- Districts below 1,200 students have substantially lower dropout rates and given the smaller enrollment numbers, this is also a small number of students.
- About 80% of the state's dropouts last attended one of 20 districts (about 10% of the state's districts)
- Twelfth grade students have the highest dropout rate and numbers of any grade level.



Resources

- CDE's office of Dropout Prevention and Student Re-engagement has compiled resources on evidence-based practices to improve student engagement.
  - Dropout Prevention Framework: CDE has revised the Dropout Prevention Framework to provide a framework for prevention efforts to engage students in learning and provide strategies for response when students start to disengage.
- CDE's Data Services team collects and publishes annual graduation/completion data.